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A Word from the Vicar

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen. (General Thanksgiving, BCP p. 836)

The prayer above is one of my favorites. To rest in the abundance and gracious gifts of God orients our entire lives in ways that offer hope, peace and generosity. Recognizing the many gifts we have been given, and the amazing things God is accomplishing in us and through us propels us to even more generosity. This has been made very clear in the capital expenditure portion of our capital campaign. We have very nearly met our goal of \$190,000 and quite possibly will exceed it!

THANK YOU! Thank you for your prayers, your willingness to dig deep, and your commitment to the work God is doing through all of us here at St. James. Every pledge, every dollar, moves us closer to our goal. The signs of God's bounty are already evident in the stonework, the stained glass windows and most recently the new landscaping.

The Bishop's Committee is planning a celebration with a catered meal following the service on September 16.

At that time we will not only celebrate what has been but also update everyone on the progress of the Legacy portion of the campaign. Remember, 'Ministry for Today, Multiplied for Tomorrow.'

The campaign committee has been very diligent with their work. In addition, the Bishop's Committee is also engaged in updating our strategic plan as we envision the future. Save the date and plan to be present because each one of you is helping to make this happen!

"Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us."

Blessings,



DIOCESAN PICNIC AT WALDAMEER
Sunday, June 17th



The Diocesan Picnic at Waldameer is just around the corner! This great opportunity for worship, fellowship and fun will be held on Sunday, June 17, 2018. It is hoped and expected that those coming to the picnic would also attend the worship service at 11:00 AM. Bishop Sean will preach and celebrate.

On the day of the picnic, registration will be from 10:00 AM until 10:50 AM, and it is there that you will exchange your tickets for wristbands. There will be no registration during the service. Registration will resume and the food lines will open after the worship service is completed. Food will be available until 4:00 PM. You must have a wrist band to eat.

HOPEFULLY you were able to purchase your tickets as NO sale of tickets will be permitted at the park. If you did get your reservations in, your tickets will be mailed out to you before the event.

BE SAFE
&
ENJOY
YOUR
DAY
AT
WALDAMEER!

Get Ready For a
Busy Summer at
St. James!

June 10th
Church picnic
at
Drake Well

June 10-16
Camp
Nazareth!

June 17th
Diocese Picnic
at Waldameer

August 10-12
Oil Festival
Parade

Notes from the Bishop's Warden

Spring has finally arrived and for that we are all grateful!

A couple of weeks ago, I decided it was time to clean out the shed, get the mower tuned-up, prepare flower boxes for planting, have mulch delivered and spread it, etc. Even though there is much yard work to do, I am blessed to be surrounded by the shades of green that seem to be more bountiful than usual this spring. Several trips have been made to local greenhouses in the past couple of weeks to pick out flowers for planting and hanging baskets. When I go to the greenhouses, it seems as though I spin around in circles with all the beauty that surrounds me. Just when we think winter is hanging on to long, God blesses us with the glorious change of season's spring into summer!

Enough about what I have been doing, onto what is happening at St. James this Spring/Summer. We began the season of Pentecost on Sunday, May 20. Even though there were no baptisms this year, we were fortunate to have Robert Orner portray Peter for us during

the service. Robert has made several visits to St. James over the past couple of years and will be back for more in the future.

On Sunday, June 10 we will have our annual Drake Well service/picnic day. This will be held at the large pavilion at the Park. Please bring a dish to share. This will be a busy day for parents and youth of our Parish. The kids will be packing up and going to Camp Nazareth for the week June 10-16.

Sunday, June 17 is Waldameer Day. The worship service is held at 11 AM and Bishop Sean will preach and celebrate. A picnic is provided following the service and food is available until 4 PM. The kids and adults will then ride the rides, enjoy the water events, etc.

The Oil Festival Parade will be held on Aug. 10-12 this year. In the past few years, during the Parade, we have sold hot dogs, cotton candy, etc. We will be looking for volunteers to help out with this event.

The date for a kayak trip and picnic at Vicar Martha's house has not yet been decided. The date for this event will be decided at the June Bishop's Committee

meeting. If you have not participated in the past, please consider participating this year. It is a great float down the Allegheny to Martha's house. Your reward for completing the float is a meal furnished by our parishioners. Our Vicar will be busy cooking hot dogs and hamburgers on her grill.

More information about all of these events will be announced during church and will be posted on our Website. Mark your calendars for another busy summer at St. James!

Love,

Nani



*Be a flower in someone's garden.
Pray for others.*



SOUP KITCHEN NEWS!

The Soup Kitchen continues to be an important ministry for those who cook, serve, come to enjoy a meal, have conversations with friends, and receive spiritual guidance, etc. We have been blessed with receiving food products from our affiliation with the local Giant Eagle store, participation in the VAP program through Wal-Mart, parishioners who shop for items we need in our Food Pantry, monies received from other businesses in the community as well as individuals who support this program. On the second and fourth Tues. of each month, we give out food bags with perishable items along with packages of frozen meat. As of late, Giant Eagle has been "over-the-top" in supplying us with so much meat that we are now giving out "meat only" the first and third Tues. of the month when the supply is overflowing! No doubt our number of patrons on Tuesday will be rising now that school will be out for the summer.

God's love surrounds each and every one of us as we continue our work at the Soup Kitchen! If Soup Kitchen is not your calling, there are many other ministries available at St. James where you can use your talents! God has a place for all of us to use our talents at St. James or other volunteer organizations within our community. In conclusion, thanks to all who give of themselves to help others in need.

**HELP!
Birthday
and
Anniversary
Information
Needed**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

I'm so sorry I have been neglecting to put birthdays and anniversaries in the bulletin, but I have yet to find a current list that seems accurate.

SO... I'm sorry to bother everyone...but could you please email me the birthdays and anniversaries for you and your family. I want to recognize these important events, however, I can't seem to put my hands on the information. Some of you may have new additions to your families and I don't want to miss anyone! Even just slide a little note under the office door with the info as well as any address changes! I'd greatly appreciate it!

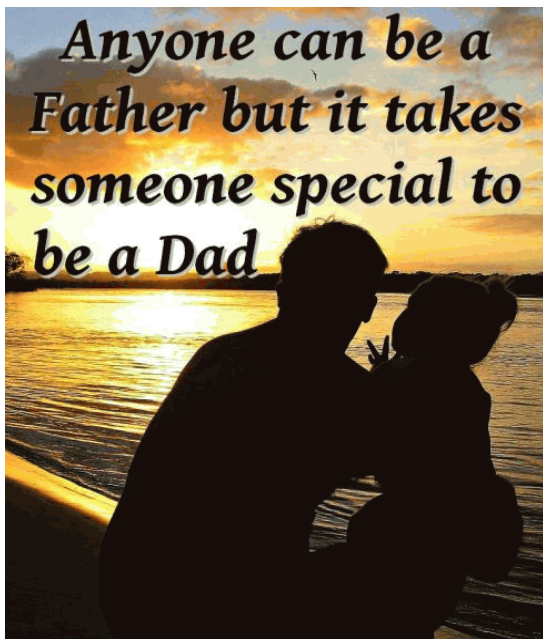
THANKS so much for your help and patience over the past month with calendars, bulletins and schedules. I know it's been crazy!

Bobbie, Admin Assist.

HAPPY FATHERS DAY!

Fathers are the best role model of their children. Even a thousand advice and suggestions are not equal to imitating the father. Hence it is crucial that fathers behave in the best way possible to raise good children. It is not the biological aspect or the blood and flesh that make the father; it is the heart that makes the father. They have to give their unparalleled and abundant love to their children which are their primary duty. As with mother, fathers are gifts offered by god to children, children tend to learn more from their father than from their school and George Herbert rightly says, "one father is more than a hundred school masters". The guidance of fathers is essential for the child during childhood, adolescence and even after they have grown into an adult.

Be the Dad who leads by example... show them God's love.



Walk With Me, Daddy

Walk alongside me, Daddy
and hold my little hand.
I have so many things to learn
that I don't yet understand.

Teach me things to keep me safe
from dangers every day.
Show me how to do my best
at home, at school, at play.

Every child needs a gentle hand
to guide them as they grow.
So walk alongside me, Daddy.
We have a long way to go.

Helen Bush

The Gift of Diversity

This article first appeared on the [A Positively Poetic Priest](#) blog on May 22, 2018.

I want you to take a look at your hand. Right or left, it doesn't matter. Every day our hands do impressive amounts of work. They influence our experience of the world.

Look at your fingers. You probably don't think about them often. They are very similar in nature to each other, yet each is different. Each is unique from the others. Even our fingers have diversity! Each of our fingers have different purposes and gifts.

The fact that our thumbs are at an angle and move slightly differently than the other fingers... opposable thumbs! What a gift our thumbs are in our daily lives! (Especially when you consider animals without opposable thumbs, we have all seen those internet memes.)

We may look at our hands and think they are all the same. In fact, we have diversity right in our hands.

The word diversity really means a range of different things.

Not that it has a range of different meanings, it quite literally means, "a range of different things."

Having a collection be diverse means that there are different things in the collection. So speaking about diversity in the context of people requires two things: community and different gifts.

This is where we go to the passage from acts, the bedrock of Pentecost. The passage starts with the community. "The disciples were all together in one place."

Here we have a collection of people, already diverse in nature. Tax collectors, fishermen, carpenters, all gathered together in a room because of the same glue.

It's quite obvious that the only reason the disciples ever managed to stay together was because of Jesus. Together, this little community of men has an amazing experience. A rush of wind and tongues of fire, a change of heart and feeling of presence, and a sudden new knowledge filling each of them.

Diversity is one of the first gifts the Holy Spirit ever gives to the church, simply by giving the disciples the ability to speak different languages.

When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples that day of Pentecost, it didn't tell the disciples to go only to the Aramaic speaking good Jews to spread the good news of Jesus. No, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples new languages, the gift of speaking to people wholly different from them.

With the gifts of the Holy Spirit there were going to be Egyptian followers of Jesus and Parthian followers of Jesus and Mesopotamian followers of Jesus.

People from all over the known world who didn't all have the same background or the same ideas.

The Holy Spirit came and made the disciples more diverse, even than they had been before.

I love the fact that someone thinks this rush of speaking in languages from Jews is because of wine. As if having some wine could give us the ability to speak a new language.

The work of the Holy Spirit in this way was so new, so amazing, so profound, no good excuses could be made to justify the event away.

Someone in the crowd tried to blame it on wine, but we all know that was simply out of fear. You can see the bystanders trying to push the idea away, out of fear, out of wanting to stay away from the unknown.

Unfortunately, for many the gift of diversity looks like a threat. The unknown quality of people being different from one another leads to fear.

Thankfully, this fear can be overcome. Recognizing and accepting diversity does put us outside our comfort zones.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit, and God doesn't call us to be comfortable.

In a world increasingly separating into groups of like minded people who do not play well with people or groups who are differently minded, the world asks the grace of living into our gifts as diverse people.

However, everyone is different in this world. Everyone deserves the dignity and respect which we each crave for ourselves. Everyone is different and has different gifts.

One of the greatest gifts we can give another person is acknowledging them as uniquely themselves.

It is only by working together, using all the gifts which we bring to the table, can we really ever accomplish anything.

The Gift of Diversity (continued)

The world is worth working with other people who are extremely different than us. Not everyone can speak Spanish or German or Hindi or Swahili, but the Holy Spirit has given us the gifts that we need in order to work together.

Many people feel that the church is, and has always been, a place for people who all think, feel, believe, and look the same. You have to be and act and speak in a particular way in order to be a part of the church. Unfortunately, there are many parts of the church in which this is true. There are rules governing what you can wear, what you can eat or drink, who you can talk to, and so forth. By no means am I advocating a standard of lawlessness or anarchy, there are standards for being a follower of Jesus however none of them are based on what clothing you wear or what you can eat or drink. In fact, Jesus would probably have broken any and all rules given to him by the religious authorities of his own church in order to be involved and part of the lives of the people who needed him.

Diversity is a strength, not one of the church's greatest strengths, though thankfully one that we are more and more recognizing the need for.

Here in this community, we have a range of diversity Episcopalians, Lutherans, a few Catholics, we have people who speak languages other than English, we have people who are differently abled, we have people who can program electronic devices, and people who stay as far away from such devices as they can, and all these diversities make for a better community..

We come together today to join our diverse hands to be together as a community with different gifts experiencing the Holy Spirit in this time and in this place, so that when we go out into the world we can meet God at work through the Holy Spirit in all the diverse places and people we experience. God sends us out to find ourselves and Him in all the beautiful diversities of His creation.

Amen.

The Rev. Elizabeth Yale is Priest in Charge at St. John's, Franklin.

Having a collection be diverse means that there are different things in the collection. So speaking about diversity in the context of people requires two things: community and different gifts.

Diversity is a strength God has given his people.



2018 Capital Campaign Update

The Capital Campaign Committee has worked very hard over the past several months discussing strategies and mapping out plans that would ensure that the "Ministry Today, Multiplied for Tomorrow" Campaign was a success. We are very pleased to report that we have reached nearly 96% of our initial goal of \$190,000 and we anticipate that within the next few weeks additional funds or pledges will be received that will bring us well above that goal.

The success of this campaign has been bolstered by the commitment of the church leadership, grants received, past church members who have relocated to other areas around the country, children who were raised in the church and still have a place in their heart for St. James and other key stakeholders with a connection to St. James. However, most of all, it is the current members of our congregation who have stepped up in support of this campaign and without the support of our parishioners the campaign would have fell well short of the fairly aggressive goal.

The Campaign Committee also has finished writing a St. James Endowment and Gift Acceptance Policy as a part of the newly created St. James Legacy Giving Program. This policy was adopted by the Bishop's Committee at its May 6, 2018 meeting. This gift acceptance policy will serve as a guideline to staff members of St. James Episcopal Church who may be involved in the acceptance of gifts, to outside advisors who may assist in the gift planning process, and to prospective donors who wish to make gifts to St. James Memorial Episcopal Church.

In order to provide for the long-term sustainability of St. James in Titusville, a Legacy Planned Giving Program was established so that funds contributed from interested individuals will grow the church endowment fund. The short term goal of the Legacy Planned Giving Program would be to raise \$2,000,000.00 for the Endowment Fund in order for St. James to be in position to hire a full-time rector. In the long term Planned Giving is one expression of the wise use of the personal resources God entrusts to us. Planned Giving gives the donor a means to thoughtfully transfer resources to the next generation, and helps the church to gather the resources necessary for its mission and ministry.

As you can see there is much work that still needs to be accomplished over the next several months and even few years. However, it is important that we take the time to reflect and celebrate what has been accomplished since January. Please plan to attend our celebration on Sunday, September 16, 2018 following the church service. The committee will have a presentation prepared that will update the status of the 2018 Capital Campaign and detail the next steps of the Legacy Giving Program.

As has been stated before, this is an exciting time in the life of St. James. The world is changing and so is the church. The challenges that have been outlined are very real. However, out of challenge comes growth and blessing

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We're on the Web!

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