

the st. james



June/July 2008

Volume 8 Number 6

Sunday Schedule

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:15 am Coffee & Fellowship

St. James Day
July 20, 2008
(observed)

**10:00 AM festive Eucharist
with Baptisms**
11:30 PM Potluck Lunch

St. James Episcopal Church
4515 Delray Street
Roanoke, Virginia 24012
Phone: 540-366-4157
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www.stjamesroanoke.org

Rector's Message

Dear Saints of James,

At Community School, the final day of the school year there is a Celebration Night program where all the children have an opportunity to be recognized for how they have grown and what they have learned during the year. We conclude the program by singing together Joni Mitchell's classic, "*The Circle Game*," that reminds me about how time goes so quickly. Remember the words: "And the seasons they go round and round, And the painted ponies go up and down. We're captive on the carousel of time; We can't return we can only look behind, From where we came, And go round and round and round In the circle game."

So the seasons have gone round and it is summer again, and time for me to take stock of my summer reading list, and figure out when I can submerge myself in the pages that are calling to me. Here's what I have stacked by my bed. What are you reading this summer?

Blessings, SEB+

What is the What, by Dave Eggers, and *They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky*, by Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng, Benjamin Ajak, are two books written by Lost Boys from Sudan. Across Sudan between the years of 1987 and 1989, tens of thousands of young boys took flight from the massacres of Sudan's civil war. They became known as the Lost Boys. These books tell the story of their trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers and wild animals, crossing deserts of three countries to find freedom.

Losers, Loners, and Rebels, the Spiritual Struggles of Boys, by R. Dykstra, A. Cole, D. Capps. The early years of adolescence are a tumultuous time, full of challenges and opportunities that can shape one's whole life. These three seminary professors contend that 11-14 year old boys often experience themselves at various times as losers, loners, and rebels. Through these common experiences of life, boys learn important lessons that help shape the spirituality that will last a lifetime.

A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of Quick Fix, by Edwin H. Friedman. Friedman's thesis: there is a "failure of nerve" in American civilization today. "There exists," he says, "throughout America today a rampant sabotaging of leaders who try to stand tall amidst the raging anxiety-storms of our time. It is a highly reactive atmosphere pervading all the institutions of our society -- a regressive mood that contaminates the decision-making processes of government and corporations at the highest level, and, on the local level, seeps down into the deliberations

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St. James Episcopal Church

Clergy:

The Rev. Susan E. Bentley, Rector
seb@rev.net

Staff:

Mrs. Connie Bierly, Secretary
 Mrs. Sharon Capps, Choir Director
 and Organist
 Mrs. Donna Park & Ms. Sandi Hudson,
 Sextons

The Connection:

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The St. James Vestry:

Senior Warden, Doris Mattox, 992-3088,
 Junior Warden, Maile Armstrong, 947-5016
 † Clerk, Lynn Wright, 992-5615
 † Treasurer, Matt Cordani, 362-3016,
 † Ass't. Treasurer, Avis Aheron, 774-0010
 † Rec. Treasurer, Bob Bird, 366-0996
 Helen Campbell, 489-4536, Jed Doak, 354-4164,
 Butch Eanes, 992-5195, Chuck Cohen, 366-3178,
 Michael Kennedy, 389-1003
 Bob Ostrom, 265-3771, Peter Hannon, 986-0778
 († - Not Vestry members)

Standing Committees

Christian Education:

Liturgy: Helen Campbell, 489-4536
Membership: Pat Ball, 725-8730
Outreach: Ray Kasey, 562-1956
Parish Life: Tricia Champion, 563-9554
Property: Maile Armstrong, 947-5016
Stewardship: Avis Aheron, 774-0010
Finance: Glen Lake & Gail Fields

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#### Episcopal Church Women:

Sharon Capps, 362-8016

#### Daughters of the King:

Esther Williamson, 366-3177

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of neighborhood church, synagogue, hospital, library, and school boards." This reactivity leads to what he calls a "leadership-toxic climate" that makes it exceptionally difficult for clear, decisive, well-defined leadership to function effectively. The book, he says, "is about leadership in the land of the quick fix, about leadership in a society so reactive that it cannot choose leaders who might calm its anxiety."

*God's Land On Loan, Israel, Palestine & the World,* by W. Eugene March. The land that so many people lay claim to in Israel, actually belongs to God, and is only on loan to us. This book discusses the history and politics surrounding this land, and how peace might come for Israel, Palestine and the rest of our world, with the knowledge that the land of Israel is God's, on loan to us.

*Wisdom from the Middle Ages for Middle Aged Women* by the Rev. Lisa B. Hamilton. Written by an Episcopal priest, this book is a combination of history and writings of the women mystics of the Middle Ages, and wisdom for the modern woman. These women have more in common than one might imagine.

*Rhett Butler's People* by Donald McCaig. To pluck a character from a beloved book and recalibrate the story's point-of-view isn't an easy thing to do. Ultimately, the new must ring true with the old, and this is where Rhett Butler's People succeeds beyond measure. In the spirit of Mitchell's masterpiece, McCaig never questions that love -- of family, lover, land, or country -- is the tie that binds these characters to life, for better or worse.

### Parish Register

Transfer in: Mrs. Bobbi Flagg, Michael Kennedy's Mother. from Christ Church, Alexandria  
 Judy Mason, St. Elizabeths, Roanoke  
 Baptized: Nicholas Andrew Simmons, May 11, 2008  
 Deaths: B. K. Turley, April 27, 2008

### St James Day

We will celebrate the Feast of St. James (July 25<sup>th</sup>) on the Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> this year. In honor of our patron saint, we will celebrate the sacrament of Baptism this Sunday with several baptisms, and a potluck luncheon. Mark your calendars now and plan to be a part of this festive day when we honor our patron saint and make new Christians.

### The Stewardship Corner

All things come from you, O Lord, and of your own have we given you.

+  
+ +  
Time + + Talent  
+ +  
+ + + + +  
Treasure

**Pledged and Unpledged Support:** April's pledged and unpledged support totaled \$9,350 which fell short of the monthly budgeted amount of \$10,970; however, the year-to-date support received still reflects a positive variance of \$7,017 due to advance pledge payments. As we approach the summer season filled with weekend activities and planned vacations, please strive to keep your pledge payments current even when you are not in church. Remember that the work at St. James goes on whether we're in town or not.

**St. James Cycle of Prayer:** In June we give thanks for the ministry and service of the Episcopal Church Women and the Daughters of the King. We pray that their active membership continues to grow as they enhance their understanding of Christian life, their service to our parish, and their willingness to aid those in need outside the parish.

In July we give thanks for the ministries of all those who contribute to parish life at St. James — the Parish Life Committee members who organize and sponsor our receptions and meals; the members of the parish who host coffee hours and adult suppers; and the parishioners who provide transportation for others to attend church services and activities. We pray that their ministries will continue to enhance the community life for all who call St. James their parish home.

**Kroger Gift Cards:** Remember to load your Kroger gift card before you pay for your groceries or gas, and St. James will receive credit for your purchases. Once the reloads reach \$5,000, we receive a 5% rebate for all reloads. Additional gift cards can be purchased for \$5.00 from Dorothy Herndon or the Rector.

**Adopt-a-Day:** For a donation of \$33.00, you can celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one on their special day. Forms can be found on the table outside the secretary's office. Forms will also be emailed during the first week of each month and can be filled out and returned to the parish secretary via e-mail. Please consider "adopting" a day in 2008.

All Adopt-a-Day contributions will be published in the monthly Connection.

***Stewardship is a way of life; stewardship is all of us working together.***

Stewardship is a ministry like no other, and, whether we realize it or not, stewardship is at the core of all that we do, both individually and collectively, in partnership with God to do His work in the world. As Christians, we are encouraged to worship, to pray and to act. All of this can be summed up as our personal stewardship, using our gifts, including our time, our faith, our intellect, and our wealth, to help enact God's vision for us and for the world.

We are a small church of generous doers and givers who have been bountifully blessed by God. We believe in sharing those blessings; sharing the abundance of spirit that is present whenever we gather in worship or fellowship; sharing the talents God has given each of us to make the world a better place; and sharing our financial resources to sustain our parish and to help others in our community.

Stewardship is what we practice every day of our lives in choosing how best to live out God's call. Stewardship is a way of life. Stewardship is all of us working together.

**ALL CHURCH MEMBERS CAN NAME THE  
CHURCH AS THE LAST BENEFICIARY IN  
THEIR WILLS**

### Liturgical Notes

We have added two Holy Water fonts to our nave, one on the wall to the right as you enter the nave from the Parish hallway, and the other to the right of the front doors in the narthex. These were custom made for us by Linda Bryant. You may find it meaningful, upon entering and leaving the Church, to dip your finger in the Holy Water and make the sign of the cross on your forehead to remember your Baptism.

Upon consulting with the Liturgy Committee, and the organist, the Rector has decided to dispense with the singing of the responses when announcing the

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beginning and concluding of the reading of the Holy Gospel. These responses, "Glory to you Lord Christ," and "Praise to you Lord Christ" were sung in the 1928 prayer book, and when we began using the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, we kept singing these responses. If the Gospel is chanted, then it is appropriate to sing the responses. Currently, it is not our custom to chant the Gospel, so you may say the responses with enthusiasm.

### **Communications Update**

St. James is in the process of revamping our communication system. For many of our parish members, e-mail is the communication of choice and we hope this development will allow us to cut down the number of actual telephone calls that need to be made by the Telephone Committee. There are those, of course, who do not have internet access and will definitely receive a call. With fewer calls we hope our telephone communication will be more efficient.

Please let the church office know which way you prefer to be contacted for church communications.

If you are a current calling captain and would like to continue or if you would like to volunteer to be a calling captain, please contact the church office and we will contact you when our new list is complete. Thanks,  
Doris Mattox, Senior Warden

### **Music News**

Thank you for contributing to our corporate worship by singing during the service. The choir is happy to lead the music, but is always thrilled to hear the voices of the congregation sing with them. Our regular Wednesday evening choir rehearsals have been suspended for the summer months. The choir will practice again on Wednesday, July 16, in preparation for our St. James' Day celebration, and continues to gather around 9:40 in the parish hall on Sundays to review our Sunday anthem.

Anyone is welcome to sing with us this summer, even if you have not sung in the past. Just let me know and we will make sure we have appropriate vestments for you to wear, and I will help you learn the anthem. If you would like to sing an anthem of your own choosing, either as a solo, or with a group,

please let me know. Many Sundays in August are still available for offertory anthems.

Thank you for submitting Hymns that you would like to sing this summer. I have received several requests, and will be happy to receive more.

One of the Anthems the choir will be singing is a request. It will be sung on June 22, and it is "Will you come and follow me?" by James Hooker, who spoke at Diocesan council a few years ago. The choir will also be singing two selections from "Voices Found", a collection of hymns and spiritual songs by, for, and about women. It is a unique compilation of contemporary and historical materials that crosses boundaries of geography, time, and culture as it represents the diversity of the gifts of women. Let's pray that our Church continues to include the voices of all, as it celebrates the love and grace of our Lord.

Peace, Sharon

### **ECW News**

#### **Ladies Night Out**

ECW will hold its spring dinner at the Szechaun Restaurant in the Townside Plaza on Monday, June 9th. All women of the parish are invited to attend. There is a sign-up sheet in the parish hall or you can make your reservation with Pam Reilly (362-9742) by Friday, June 6th.

#### **A Visit With Eva Sowder**

Sharon Lowrery has invited the St. James women to come down to her house on Sunday, June 22nd for a picnic and a visit with Eva. We will leave right after coffee hour and probably take several cars since the bus is a little hard to maneuver on some of the roads on the way to Eva's. Sharon said she would provide the hot dogs and has asked us to provide side dishes and desserts. There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall, and anyone signing up can also indicate what they plan on bringing as a side dish or dessert. Sharon would like to know how many of us are coming, so we'll make Sunday, June 15th, the final day for sign-ups. Eva is looking forward to seeing many of her old friends! Sharon encourages us to wear picnic clothes and to bring swimming suits if we like!

## Education for Ministry

Education for Ministry (EFM) is an Episcopal theological education program of the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. This program has spread throughout the United States and is international, as EFM groups seek to (1) teach how to think theologically, (2) grow in knowledge of the Holy Scripture and of our Christian heritage, (3) deepen the faith of individuals, (4) build community and strengthen the Body of Christ.

Participants commit one year at a time to meet regularly in seminar sessions led by a trained mentor. Completion of the program takes four years, during which time participants study the Bible, church history, theology and ethics.

What does EFM do for the Church? Graduates of EFM fulfill many ministries and bring to the church a laity better prepared to make decisions and fulfill the Great Commission – to bring Christ to the world – in an effective and loving way. EFM's 24,000 plus graduates have become a source of informed, committed, and prepared leadership for the Church.

Each seminar group of six to twelve students is led by a mentor. The St. James group meets on Tuesday evenings, September to June to reflect theologically, discuss the materials they have read, and to worship together. Students follow a lesson and a study guide which are read each week. Continuing Education credit is given. EFM has been offered at St. James for 4 years and this June, Helen & Sam Campbell, Jo Schultz, Susan Tolliver, Bill & Esther Williamson will complete the 4 year study. Donna Frost will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student next fall, and there are openings for 1<sup>st</sup> year students. If you are interested in EFM, talk to any of the program members and contact the Rector who is the mentor for the group in 2008-2009.

Participants must be able to commit to coming each week, and the cost is \$340.00/year. Scholarships are available.

## Grief Group

Peggy Holland, a licensed Clinical Social Worker, and certified substance abuse counselor, is offering a group for women between the ages of 18 and 40, whose mothers have passed away and who would benefit from a group approach to dealing with this difficult issue. **Women Coming Together: Working Through the Grief of Losing Our Mothers**, will begin Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and meet for 6-8 sessions.

For more information, contact the Rector, or call Peggy Holland at 774-4205.

## Adopt-A-Day 2008

Jan. 25 adopted by Esther & Bill Williamson in celebration of the birth of Evan Lee Miller.

**Jan. 25 adopted by Avis Aheron in celebration of Grace's birthday**

Jan. 30 adopted by Mimi & Bob Copenhaver in celebration of their 54th wedding anniversary.

Feb. 03 adopted by Bishop Neff & Dorothy Powell.

Feb. 12 adopted by Dorothy Herndon in celebration of Marty Herndon's birthday

**Feb. 12 adopted by Avis Aheron in celebration of Sarah's birthday.**

Feb. 13 adopted by Doris & Larry Mattox in celebration of Joyce Brown's 82nd birthday.

Feb. 23 adopted by Pam Reilly in honor of her older son Stephen on his birthday.

Feb. 24 adopted by Pam Reilly in honor of her husband Wayne on his birthday

Mar. 17 adopted by James & Doris Champion in memory of James R. Champion, Jr

**May 10 adopted by the Rev. Tom & Shirley Mustard in celebration of Marion Burks' birthday.**

**May 12 adopted by the Rev. Tom & Shirley Mustard in celebration of Karen Konrad's birthday**

**June 20 adopted by Jean Schaefer in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary**

**July 4 adopted by "the Empress" in celebration of Linda Bryant's birthday**

**July 19 adopted by the Rev. Tom & Shirley Mustard in celebration of Helen St. John's birthday**

Aug. 3 adopted by Cam Srpan in celebration of Sharon Capps' birthday

Aug. 8 adopted by James & Linda Kyle in celebration of their 38th wedding anniversary.

Aug. 15 adopted by Robert & Carol Killinger in honor of Lonnie Bower on her birthday.

**Sept. 9 adopted by Karin D. Howard in memory of S. Kenneth Howard.**

**Oct. 14 adopted by Avus Aheron in memory of Mike Aheron on his birthday**

Nov. 27 adopted by Denise & Randy Smerecki in memory of Casimer Smerecki.

***New listings are bolded***

**Baseball Game**

Take me out to the ball game, take me out to the crowd, buy me some peanuts and cracker jacks - I don't care if I ever get back, but it's root, root , root for the home team - if they don't win it's a shame, and it's one.. two.. three strikes you're out at the old ball game !

Come enjoy America's favorite past time, live at the Salem Avalanche Ball Park. Join your fellow St. Jimmies on Sunday June 8th @ 2:00 PM and watch the Salem Avalanche (Class A affiliate of the Houston Astros) take on the Lynchburg Hillcats (Class A affiliate of the Pittsburg Pirates). First pitch is at 2:05 and the gates open at 1:00.

We need 25 or more people for a group discount. Group general admission is only \$6 and kids 12 & under get a coupon for a hot dog, chips & drink. (Regular 'Kids Club Members' can use your card for admission but it will not count towards the 25+ needed). Prepayment is required to get this discount.

What a wonderful way to enjoy a Sunday afternoon, sharing with your church family, at the ball park. A sign up sheet will be posted in the parish hall and if you have any questions please see Bob Ostrom at church. You can contact him at 265-3771, 798-2415 of bobandsara1@cox.net.

PLAY BALL !!

**St. James' Grounds Becoming a Nature Sanctuary**

by Michael Bentley 5-20-08

At the May meeting the Vestry approved a proposal by the Gardeners Committee that St. James apply to have its grounds registered as a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Though our lot is fairly small, it possesses several large trees, various shrubbery and a diversity of perennial and annual plants. Further, it has the potential for such things as bird houses, bat houses, a bird feeder, small animal shelters, even a small water garden. Soon you will see a new sign on the property that

indicates that we will strive to make and keep our property friendly to wildlife.



Currently the Gardeners Committee is recruiting new members. If these ideas for turning St. James into a nature sanctuary appeal to you, please contact Lawton Kasey or Michael Bentley. We promise: no long meetings, and no particular gardening skills required. We would also welcome the skills of anyone with woodworking tools and skills so we can put up one or more bird and bat houses. Simple plans for such things are readily available on the Internet.

The Benefits of the Certified Wildlife Habitat Registration:

Well, first, the cost of registering a property that qualifies as a National Registry of Wildlife Habitat sites is only \$15 through the National Wildlife Federation. This is a real bargain because several benefits accrue to our parish. One benefit of registering is recognition we receive for our corporate effort to become "more green". To recognize our registration St. James will receive a personalized certificate and a recycled aluminum sign. We also receive a parish membership in the National Wildlife Federation, and we will get two subscriptions, one to the National Wildlife® Magazine and the other to the quarterly e-newsletter *Habitats* with tips and information on gardening and attracting wildlife. The magazine and the newsletter will be made available in the Parish Hall for everyone to enjoy and learn from.

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Among the most important benefits of registering, however, is that the conspicuous posting of our sign on the property will encourage a fresh new attitude among parishioners about the potential of our grounds. Everyone who visits St. James will have an opportunity to become more aware of the value of our grounds for watching birds, butterflies and other small neighborhood creatures that dwell in or pass through our wildlife-friendly haven. This is an educational benefit.

A final benefit of registering as a Certified Wildlife Habitat is that we will end up helping the environment when we are providing the essential elements wildlife need to survive, that is, food, water, cover and places to raise young. By using gardening practices that help wildlife, like reducing chemicals and conserving water, we'll also help to improve air, water and soil quality for our neighborhood.

#### What we will be doing

On the St. James property we will be aiming to provide elements from each of the following areas:

1. *Food Sources.* For example: Native plants, seeds, fruits, nuts, berries, nectar
2. *Water Sources.* For example: water garden
3. *Places for Cover.* For example: Thicket, rock pile, bird house, bat house
4. *Places to Raise Young.* For example: Dense shrubs, vegetation, nesting box
5. *Sustainable Gardening.* For example: Mulch, compost, rain barrels, chemical-free fertilizer

If you have ideas and/or can help with any of these elements, please let the Gardeners know.

#### The Bigger Picture

This initiative came about as a part of St. James participation over the past two years as one of several churches in the Williamson Road area meeting monthly to consider the church's role in environmental issues. This group, led by Tom Cain, a retired architect, goes by the name *Impact + Amplify*. The group evolved from a creative pre-disaster mitigation initiative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As a "civil society institution" (an NGO), Impact+Amplify participants explore the creative and the destructive potential of the edge between nature and culture. The group works with and through existing institutions (faith communities, environmental groups, government agencies, etc.) to avert disasters ("natural," health,

and social) or to mitigate their potential for harm. Floods, droughts and wildfires are each water quantity related disasters. Low-impact development of forest and farm land and of the built environment necessarily implemented to preserve, restore and enhance the hydrology of watersheds for life, safety, and property protection should simultaneously result in a cleaner environment. The benefits of low-impact development include enhanced photosynthesis and the hydrologic cycle, and cleaner air, water and soil.

Impact + Amplify, its partners and stakeholders in the Lick Run and Trout Run Watershed, where St. James resides, are working to establish a model *creation care program*. One of the goals is to mitigate the potential for flooding of downtown Roanoke and the surrounding neighborhoods. Case-studies and models of diverse successful proactions, such as St. James' certification on the National Registry of Wildlife Habitat sites, can form the core of local interfaith sustainability education.

Tom Cain consulted with the Gardeners in examining our property for rainwater collection by rain barrels. We will begin with two locations. The next step will be to select, purchase, and install the rain barrels, which will provide rain water for use in the garden plots.

#### Finally...

You might want to consider registering your own property as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. We did. For more information and to apply you can contact the National Wildlife Federation, 11100 Wildlife Center Dr., Reston VA, 20190, and by phone at 800-822-9919, by email to [info@nwf.org](mailto:info@nwf.org) or online at <https://secure.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/certify/signOrder.cfm>

### **SHARE Dates**

Share signup June 7, 12-1 PM, June 8, after church.  
July 5, 12 - 1 PM, July 6, after church

Share distribution June 21, 11 - 12 AM  
July 26, 11 - 12 AM

## Daughters of the King

In this season of Pentecost we are asked to give a Thank Offering in commemoration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. These offerings are used to fund grants/scholarships for Daughters for Continuing Education. Offerings can be given to Gail Fields. Checks should be made out to the Shepherdesses of St. James. Be sure to write Master's Fund on the memo line.

Disposition of Your Cross forms need to be readily accessible in the event of your death. Putting your copy in your safety deposit box is of no help if your family does not have access when your death occurs. It is recommended that you keep your copy with your funeral wishes and that a family member knows where those papers are located. The second copy of the Disposition of the Cross should be in the DOK files at St. James. Recently Mother Sue discovered that she only had 3 from our chapter. Please see me for a new form to be filled out and put in the files.

There will be a short meeting of the chapter after the 10:00 service on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. We will meet in the downstairs conference room.

Esther Williamson

## Our Graduates

Congratulations to our 2008 graduates:

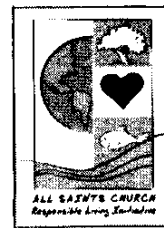
Sarah Bentley, Salem High School.

Tim Buchholtz, Master of Business Administration,  
National Business College.

Mary Leigh Capps, Associate Science, Human  
Services.

Keith Carter, Northside High School.

Brittany Frost, Cave Springs High School.



### ***Reduce your use of plastic bags.***

Use your own canvas bags at the store instead of plastic bags.

- In the US, about 12 million barrels of oil and 14 million trees go to producing plastic and paper bags each year.
- Plastic bags are meant to be used once and thrown away. They end up clogging waterways, poisoning fish and birds.

### ***Responsible Living Initiative***

### ***Small Change***

***It adds up.***