

Rector's Annual Report



In my thirteen years of ordained ministry, I have never seen a vestry election. Typically we present a slate and those attending the annual meeting affirm the slate. We have been fortunate that we have had wonderful slates, which made not having a choice much more palatable. This year, we had an actual election. People want to serve, which is awesome! Because of our election, some interesting questions have come up. Who can vote? The answer is simple. You need to be a member of the church to vote. But what does it mean to be a member? I can give you the answer that is prescribed by the canons of the Episcopal Church. The canons are essentially church laws. According to our canons, you have to be a confirmed communicant who attends regularly (that means more than a few times a year). There is an official process to becoming a member, but I will not go into that right now. While it is important that we follow the church canons when electing a vestry, I am not actually all that concerned about what it means to be a member of St. John's. My concern is what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We're not a club, which is why I don't worry too much about what defines membership. The role of the church is to form disciples.

Being a disciple of Christ is both the hardest thing and the simplest thing we can do in our lives. Normally when we think of what it is to be a disciple, we associate it with following. There is more to it than that. The original disciples had God in the flesh whom they could literally follow. Alas, we do not have God in the flesh, which means in order to follow, we must first learn. The other definition of disciple is a learner. It is my hope that this year we will have more opportunities to learn about our faith so that we can be better followers, so that we can be more than just members of a club, but followers of the one true God. This year, our new vestry will be looking at different initiatives that might help us deepen our faith.

Several studies and polls have recently researched why people attend church. The answer will shock you. People come to church so that they can be closer to God. We desperately want to help you with that. We can search for the perfect program, but I fear that there is no program that will help us be better disciples, and thus a more faithful community. There is only hard work, and trial and error. We have already done a lot of hard work over the last few years. We have worked on evangelism and newcomers ministry with our Come and See Program. We have continued our longstanding outreach offerings (like Night's Welcome and the summer lunch program) while adding Rise Against Hunger, Habitat for Humanity and our Music Academy. The disciples in our parish have given their time, their talent and treasure to each of these endeavors. It is so important that we be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Yet we should also work on ourselves and help one another grow in our faith. The clergy, staff and volunteers of St. John's will continue to provide the learning opportunities we already have (like Bible study and adult forum) as well as provide new ways to learn and grow. One of the new worship and formation opportunities I would like to begin this year is house church. We tried this in September when a small group gathered in one of our member's backyard and talked about scripture and shared communion. House church is a wonderful opportunity to worship in a more intimate way. Obviously, I love our Sunday morning worship, but we must continue to try new things and offer new ways for people to draw closer to God.

Our faith is one that demands growth and transformation from within. We cannot transform our world without allowing transformation within ourselves. That is how we become better Christians---better disciples of Christ. I am fairly certain that Jesus never told anyone, "Just stay exactly like you are." We are called to love ourselves for who we are, but also push ourselves to live for something other than ourselves. I look forward to continuing this journey with all of you. Faithfully, Samantha



Assistant Rector's Annual Report

First, I want to thank you all for the generous hospitality, support and love you continue to show to Laura and me. It is an honor to be able to serve with you in the ministries of St. John's. In 2018 my prayer was that working together WE can make 2018 a year filled with visible signs of God's LOVE as we strive to be God's hands and feet in the world. Given the volume of work the programs required, I was admittedly a little nervous that we might fall short in completing all that we had planned. This is one time where I am happy to report how WRONG I was!

I remain humbled and amazed at the wide variety of ways you serve. When I began to add up the service and volunteer hours to this church, the community and the world, I quickly passed hundreds of hours into thousands. You share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in ACTION; the love and service you freely give to others *energizes and inspires me!*

As assistant, I support Samantha's ministry as rector to meet needs of the church. As well, I have been able to work side by side with you on outreach projects, like Stop Hunger Now, Come and See, Nights Welcome, and this year we added being the LEAD SPONSOR of a Habitat for Humanity – Building on Faith house! St. John's partnered with other churches to offer both physical and monetary support to provide the Lane family a house they could make their home! Once again, like the dozens of volunteers who support all our other projects, we had 80 people complete waivers to support the project, including making and bringing lunches and refreshments on the hot days of summer. These are only a few of the many ways you support this church and the community.

I continue to seek creative solutions to meet the needs of individuals who come to our door as part of our outreach ministry. It is here, in these sometimes "hopeless situations," where I have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit moving most powerfully! In the midst of all the noise of the world, God's "still small voice" came through and revealed those in truly dire need. It is always a risk to step into the uncomfortable, but time after time God always shows up. Please step out, take those risks, and listen for God.

Outreach, Bible study, Christian formation, and evangelism remain my areas of focus. In 2019 I hope that you will continue to support the valuable programs at St. John's. The Bible study group remains steady in our study, and we continue to pray for the needs of so many each week. Stay tuned for new opportunities to engage in the Holy Scriptures, and please contact me if you want to join or start a group.

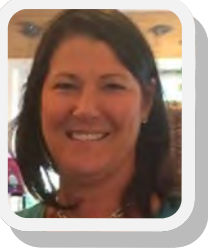
I hope also to seek ways where we can be a welcoming and supportive asset to of all the exciting programs that the City of Hampton has planned for 2019. I witnessed how hard Samantha has worked to engage in community programs and she has truly taken the lead in making sure the local pastors meet and plan community worship events on a regular basis. I believe that, as we continue to seek and serve each other and the city of Hampton, there are ways we can expand our connections as a beacon of light and hope to this community and beyond. I have been investigating ways we can expand our outreach projects and combine our efforts with other churches and community service organizations to be a meeting place of love, action, and worship in downtown Hampton.

Finally, evangelism is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is something we are all called to do as Christians. In the coming year I encourage each of you to continue to share the wonderful experiences you have had at St. John's with your friends, family and anyone who may be looking for a wonderful group of loving and caring people; then invite them to join you. Remember, YOU ARE the best evangelist for St. John's, and with God ALL things are possible.

Grace and Peace,

Mark+

2018 Christian Formation Annual Report



Shannon Olson, Christian Formation Coordinator

Christian Formation classes meet at 9:15AM on Sunday morning September – May
Classes – Adult Forum, Men’s Group, Young Disciples, Youth

FEBRUARY – St. John’s hosted the first Lenten Dinner/Program of the Season

MARCH – First Communion celebrated, participants were Morgan Devlin, Ahalya Lowrey, James Klotz and Parker, Charlie and Sarah Moore. There was a class and dinner with the participants and parents and cake during coffee hour after the service

APRIL – Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Confirmation officiated by Bishop Rt. Rev. Herman (Holly) Hollerith. Baptized and Confirmed-James Green

Confirmed-Michelle Fuller, Yasmine Harrison, William Klotz, August Olson, Darius Rowe

MAY- last month of CF classes until September

JUNE- Book Club, what started as a Summer Book Club has continued through Fall and Winter. We have approximately 15 attendees Monday evenings at 5:30 for discussion and refreshments

The Youth and Children served approximately 90 guests at the DHLP

JULY- CF worked along with Deborah Carr to host St. John’s first Music Camp. Students attended the 5 day program which ended with a closing program and lunch

SEPTEMBER- Kick-off Sunday, Parish Breakfast and Stewardship Ministry Fair

Youth and Young Disciple CF classes were combined for 6 weeks to learn about the very first Christians with a program called Rome: Paul and the Underground Church .

An Outdoor service on the water was held on Chesapeake Avenue

NOVEMBER- Out-Reach Project – the children and youth met to make fleece blankets for Furry Friends at the shelter. Blankets and dog food were donated to Animal Aid Society of Hampton Roads

DECEMBER – Advent Yoga – 9-12 Saturday morning, led by a certified instructor in yoga and meditation, a lunch of soup, salad and bread was served after the class St. Nicholas visited during the Children’s sermon at the 10:30 service Children and Youth prepared for the annual Pageant held on Christmas Eve at the 5:30 Family service.

Pastoral Care



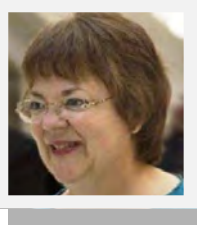
Jane Price, Lay Pastoral Associate

St. Augustine said: "You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

Spiritual Direction is a means of deepening our spiritual journey by awakening us to God's presence in the everyday events of life. It is identifying places of joy and pain and asking questions: "Where is God stirring in my life? Where are my struggles? To what am I being called?" It is about seeking; it is about discernment. It is prayerfully listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

If you are interested in knowing more about Spiritual Direction or forming a small Spiritual Direction group,

Music Ministry Overview for 2018



Deborah Carr, Organist & Music Director

The Music Ministry at St. John's Church remains an active ministry dedicated to making opportunities for the congregation to offer their God given talents in all areas of music and drama. I thank the congregation and community for supporting the ministry with their attendance, monetary support and continued appreciation as we continue the rich heritage at St. John's. Our newly formed St. John's Academy of Music continues to grow as we add students in guitar, piano, voice, violin and trumpet. Our handbell Choir has become very active this season playing for service every month.

The major events of the past year are listed below:

Sunday, Jan. 7th— St. John's Choir returned to Choir leadership duties after the holiday break.

Tuesday, Feb. 13th— St. John's Choir offered entertainment based around strange love songs for Tuesday evening follies.

Wednesday, Feb. 14th— St. John's offered two Ash Wednesday services to begin Lent.

Sunday, March 25th— St. John's Choir offered the annual Lenten Choral Concert combining with Hampton Baptist Church Choir to sing John Rutter's Requiem with orchestra.

March 29th and 30th— Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

Sunday, April 1st — Easter services with brass and St. John's Choir

Sunday, May 20th— St. John's Church hosted the Organ Swell concert and reception with Brad Norris, organist and Anne Epperly, flute

Sunday, June 10th— St. John's Choir celebrated Music Sunday by offering a Festival of Christian Hymn anthems through the Liturgical Year from Advent to Pentecost

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Mon, Tues, Wed., Thurs. Fri., July 16th-20th— Organized & taught Music Camp for Children of Hampton

Sunday, October 14th— Celebrated Sunday worship with the Dixieland Tom Cats for our Ministry Fair Sunday

Sunday, October 28th— Phantom of the Organ program and reception for church and community

Sunday, November 4th—All Saints Evensong Choral Program featuring the Faure Requiem

Sunday, December 16th—St. John's Choir offered a service of Lessons and Carols for Advent

Wednesday, December 21st—A service for the Longest Night

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day services

Monthly Taize services the third Sunday of the months of Jan – May and September-Dec

Our NEW Vestry Members



Greg Brauer



Charlie Edmonson



Emily Klotz



Denine Miller



Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take council for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach them in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide them to perceive what is right, and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Outgoing Vestry Members:

Duncan Garnett, Bill Brown, and Rosemary Hobart



*Thank You for
Your Service*



St. John's Hosts 2019 Commemorative Event

St. John's has been asked to hold an event in commemoration of the August 1619 arrival of the first documented Africans to the colony of Virginia. This CommUNITY Service will take place on Sunday afternoon, February 17, at 4 P.M.

The City of Hampton in 2015 asked citizens with connections to this event to serve on the Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission. The mission of this group was to plan various activities throughout the year to better inform and educate the public about the historical significance of this arrival. The first event will occur February 1 from 5:30-7:30 P.M. in the Queen Street Baptist Church Worship Center.

Two members of St. John's served on the special commission: Billie Einselen represented Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, and Hugh Harrell represented They Weyanoke Association. Both are helping to plan the event at St. John's on February 17, to which everyone is invited.

A Piece of History: First Africans in 1619



St. John's, founded in 1610, is the oldest church in continuous service in English-speaking North America. As the church was in the community when the first documented Africans arrived at Point Comfort in 1619, the church would play a part in their history too.

In late August of 1619, a Dutch ship the *White Lion*, docked at Point Comfort, which gradually became Old Point Comfort and then Fort Monroe in 1834, after President James Monroe. The ship carried some “20-and-odd” Africans that the captain had captured from a Spanish ship in the Caribbean. These Africans had been first seized in Angola, on the western coast of Africa, and placed on a slave ship headed to Central and South America. Of the 300 plus who left Africa, these few remained unsold. As the captain needed food and supplies for his return to England, as well as space for cargo, likely tobacco, he traded these Africans “for victuals” to colonists.

Although we do not know where everyone went, we do know about Anthony and Isabell were taken by Captain William Tucker, whose plantation was in the area of today's Bluebird Gap Farm. William Tucker had come to the colony of Virginia in 1610 as a young man seeking his fortune. A hard worker, he had acquired land and was eventually named a commander for the Borough of Kecoughtan, for which he was given the rank of Captain. Active in the Church at Kecoughtan, part of the Church of England and the ancestor of our church today, he had been asked to plan a new church building to the east of its presumed first location near LaSalle Avenue and Church Creek. (He also later brought the communion silver to the new church from Jamestown in 1627.) As Kecoughtan became the Borough of Elizabeth City in 1620, this second church, completed in 1624, was called the Elizabeth City Parish Church.

Anthony and Isabell married and had a son, who was presumably baptized in 1624. It is noted that the three at that time were the only African servants of the Tuckers, who also had 14 white servants and one Indian servant. As Captain Tucker was so active in his church, the child was most likely baptized in the new Elizabeth City Parish Church as possibly were also Anthony and Isabell. The couple named their son William Tucker. This William Tucker is considered the ancestor of the historic Tucker family, recognized as the oldest documented African family in English-speaking North America, some members of whom live in Hampton today.

In 2015 the City of Hampton appointed a group of citizens to the **Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission** to plan events commemorating the arrival in 1619 of these first Africans to English-speaking North America, right here in our community. One upcoming event, a **CommUNITY Service**, will occur at **St. John's on Sunday, February 17th, at 4PM** Dr. Chester Brown and Dr. Jeffery Smith will speak, with music by the Weyanoke Singers and the Joynes Road Church of God Praise Ministry. A reception will follow. All are invited to be a part of this service and to share in this part of St. John's and Hampton's history.

(Historical information is from *How Firm a Foundation* by James Tormey)



EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE
of Southern Virginia

Celebration of the Ministry of the Rt. Rev. Herman Hollerith IV

February 8, 5 p.m.

Williamsburg Lodge

The Transition Committee invites you to join them at the 127th Annual Council for a reception and special presentations as we honor Bishop Hollerith and give thanks for his ministry in Southern Virginia. Friday, February 8, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Colony Room at the Williamsburg Lodge, 310 S. England Street, Williamsburg. If you are NOT registered for Annual Council and plan to attend RSVP to sallen@diosova.org by January 28. Council registrants need not RSVP.

Absalom Jones Celebration

February 16, 12 p.m.

St. James', Portsmouth

Absalom Jones was an African American abolitionist and clergyman and the first African American ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church. Bishop William White ordained Absalom a deacon in 1795 and a priest on September 21, 1802. Absalom Jones' life and work is commemorated in the Episcopal Church each year on February 13. He faithfully served the people at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia, a church which remains a vibrant congregation today. Please join the African American Episcopal Churches of the Diocese of Southern Virginia as we celebrate this great man. The keynote speaker will be the Very Rev. Dr. Ronald Ramsey, rector of St. Cyprian's, Hampton. The celebration will be followed by a reception in the parish hall. St. James' is located at 928 Effingham Street in Portsmouth.

Safety for Faith-Based Organizations

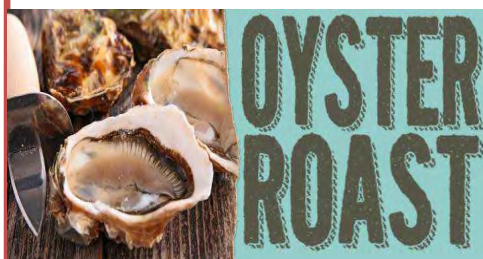
March 23, 10 a.m. to noon

St. Martin's, Williamsburg

Often people view places of worship as safe zones and get lulled into a false sense of security. However, our faith communities can be extremely vulnerable, and violence can occur. The Diocese of Southern Virginia in conjunction with the Virginia Fusion Center is providing a conversation starter presentation to offer guidance to help our faith communities balance the need to be both welcoming and safe at the same time. First Sergeant Austin White, Deputy Director of the Virginia Fusion Center will facilitate the training and will discuss the following topics: Threats and vulnerabilities to houses of worship; Addressing potential threats; Policy and planning; Safety in outreach settings; Civilian response to active shooter; Mitigation strategies; Developing a mindset of preparedness to respond to threats. Please join us on Saturday, March 23 from 10 to noon for this important discussion at St. Martin's Episcopal Church (Miles Hall) 1333 Jamestown Rd., Williamsburg. This event is free. Contact Sue Allen at sallen@diosova.org Deadline to register is March 18.



Night's Welcome is fast approaching, Feb. 9-16th. Please consider helping! There is still a need for volunteers as all the slots are not filled on the signup sheet. Meals have already been planned. If you can help serve a meal, that would be awesome! The overnight volunteers are desperately needed. You come in at 8:30pm and can leave by 6:30am the next morning. Air mattresses are provided for you to sleep on. The night's are quiet. Step out of your comfort zone and try something that will be very rewarding and good for your soul! Questions, call Bettyrene Pope at 879-4625.



St. John's Oyster Roast, hosted by the Men of St. John's on January 19th, was a huge success. A big Thank-You goes to all the oyster lovers (as well as non-oyster lovers) who braved the cold weather to enjoy good food and great fellowship. Also, a special Thank-You to all the men who worked the event and made it possible. They handled every task that needed to be done from the initial setting up of tables and chairs to the final clean-up afterwards. Thank You! Frank Edgar Jr., Frank Edgar Sr.



**THE
GOOD BOOK
CLUB**

ADULT FORUM AT 9:15AM: The Good Book Club during Epiphany 2019.

The Good Book Club is an invitation to all Episcopalians to join in reading Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans during Epiphany 2019. Episcopalians started reading Romans on January 7, 2019 and read a section every day (except Sundays) through the Epiphany season. Each Sunday we will meet in the Library/Stage area to discuss the readings. Contact Mark for more information or go to: <http://www.goodbookclub.org> to learn more. ALL are welcome, please join us!

Mahem, Mystery, Murder and Mirth!

St John's Book Club members met at Dex's Place on the Lakeside of Chicago, (also known as the McMahon's home) to apply their detective skills towards solving the murder of Dexter Doyle, the bar's owner. Was it the bartender *Phil Muggs* (aka Scott Curtis) who was really in the Federal Witness Protection program; the "innocent" looking *barfly* (aka Lynn Kirkland); the novel writer *Ginny Tonick* (aka Val Bowen); the mysterious, German speaking *Marlena* (aka Linda Curtis); the pilot *Willy Krash* (aka Jan Vincent), who thinks it is just fine to stop in for a few BEFORE flying his plane to remote locations; or the Army Veteran *Marshall Hartz* (aka Linda Serwatka), who now runs a martial arts school that is loosing money and taking contract "hits" to make ends meet; the Sex Therapist *Dr Rita Book* (aka Margot Rous); the waitress *Delores Delgado* (aka Nancy Adams) who was secretly still married to the victim; or the country singer *Dwayne Pokem* (aka Emily Klotz) who was attending on an undercover assignment? Needless to say, plenty of suspects were on hand with motive for wanting Dexter dead. After all our questions and revelations, the book club sleuths narrowed the list down to Phil and Delores. Unfortunately, it was neither and another murderer got away. Curious to know who "did the deed"? Just ask one of the players and see if they can keep from laughing. Book club meets Monday evenings at 5:30, usually on stage.



BOOK CLUB The next book we are reading is *Post Traumatic Church Syndrome: One Woman's Desperate, Funny, and Healing Journey to Explore 30 Religions by her 30th Birthday* By Reba Riley. We will meet on Monday February 4 at 5:30 on the stage in the Parish House. Please read sections Summer and Autumn through page 139 for discussion. For more information please contact Shannon Olson at formation@stjohnshampton.org

St. Anne's Guild



"St. Anne's Guild will meet in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 10:30. This is the annual gathering to assemble Valentine goody bags for the residents of Boys Home. The Guild has lovingly remembered these boys on Valentine's Day for many, many years.

All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. "



On Tuesday, January 8th, members of St. John's joined with St. Anne's Guild to participate in a Hampton Community Development "Road Show". St. John's was the first stop on the tour which seeks input from residents concerning future plans for Hampton.

February Birthdays

03 Frank Fortuna Jr.
08 Carl Burgdorf II
09 The Rev. Samantha Vincent-Alexander
09 Linda Serwatka
09 Eleanor Brown
12 Will Klotz
12 Margot Rous
12 Rick Bagley
12 Frank Edgar Jr.
13 Betty Jo Blanchard
14 Bill Beach
14 Jim Harrison
14 Nick McMahon
17 Pamela Martin
17 Pat Dennehey
20 Vestal Lewis
20 Nancy Adams
22 Danny McFarland
24 Deborah Carr
26 Frank H. Cowling
29 Penelope Robinson

February Anniversaries

08 Bill & Nancy Beach
14 Buddy & Peggy Alligood
15 Carter & Martha Barrett
22 Fred & Erma Bockoven
23 Andy & Sally Andrews

*Please contact the office
if we have missed your
birthday or anniversary:*

757-722-2567

office@stjohnshampton.org

Prayer for the Bishop Search

Almighty and most gracious God, source of all wisdom and guidance, send your Holy Spirit to guide us as we seek and discern a shepherd for the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Inspire us with hope, hearts to love you and a desire to serve one another. Grant us grace to entrust you with the future of your Church and all things. We ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**



St. John's Episcopal Church

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St. John's Staff

The Rev. Samantha Vincent– Alexander, Rector

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The Rev. Mark Riley, Assistant Rector

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Deborah Carr, Organist and Music Director

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Jane Price, Lay Pastoral Associate

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Shannon Olson, Christian Formation Coordinator

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Jenn Devlin, Parish Administrator

office@stjohnshampton.org

Darlene Jackson, Communications Assistant

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Vestry

Greg Brauer (2021)

Whiting Chisman, Jr. (2019)

Patrick Dennehey (2019)

Charlie Edmonson (2021)

Bob Harper (2019)

Emily Klotz (2021)

Denine Miller (2021)

Stephen Rous (2018)

Ruth Simmons (2020)

Office Hours

Monday through Friday

9am-4pm

In case of Pastoral Emergency,

please call 757-504-3504.

Sunday Worship

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:15am Christian Formation

10:30am Holy Eucharist

Nursery Provided
for Christian Formation
and for the 10:30am service