

## JULY 2018

# THE WAYFARER

A PUBLICATION OF ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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# How to Argue Like a Christian

More and more, people are finding themselves on opposite sides of a great many issues. Our society certainly seems very polarized. There are a variety of ways to approach contentious issues. One is to dig in on your particular side and fight it out, tooth and nail, with all comers. Aside from the general uncouthness of this approach, it also almost inevitably leads to citing facts not in evidence or even contrary to reality. In our zeal to support our position, we may say things that are not true, inadvertently or not. As this would be bearing false witness, Christians do not have the luxury of using this technique.

Another popular approach is "agree to disagree." This does have a veneer of Christianity to it. At least we are not openly fighting and hurling metaphorical grenades at each other. But I do not think it is an honest approach. Without discussion, there is no room for the movement of the Holy Spirit, and I believe such movement to be an important component of Christian interaction. Agreeing to disagree just leaves us in our own intransigent position with no possibility for considering alternatives. While such an approach may provide surface peace, it is not the best approach.

Of all people, two Christians should be able to come together and discuss differences of opinion. And not in a passive-aggressive, "I need to speak the truth to you in love" kind of way. When any two people disagree on an issue, and especially two Christians, there are ways to discuss the issue that are appropriate and fair. (To be clear, I am talking about discussing issues and ideas. When real harm has been caused by one person to another that is a different circumstance and requires a different approach. To my knowledge, we have mostly avoided that for the last four years, so let's keep up the good work.) So, some guidelines:

First, never use *ad hominem* attacks. This means to attack the person instead of the idea. No name calling, no bringing up personal information to use as an attack, no hitting. (*continued on page 2*)

#### **IN OUR CHURCH**

Christians love and respect all persons because they are created in the image of God, and that is sufficient reason for any Christian. Second, make sure to avoid the "straw man" fallacy. This means portraying the opposing view in an exaggerated or otherwise false way, and then arguing against that. If we are going to engage in Christian discussion, we must strive to understand the opposing view in the best possible way. This promotes understanding and respect for the other person. A third consideration is a special case of *ad hominem* sometimes called "appealing to motive." This is attacking a position because what we think the other person's reason for supporting it are. "You just think that because...." It is part of that "judge not" stuff Jesus talked about.

In addition to how we structure our own arguments, there is also the consideration of how we then express those arguments. It is best to use "I" statements. "I think," "I believe," "I know" are less likely to violate the previously mentioned unfair attacks. It is also very important to listen to the other person, rather than to be formulating one's response. And while fictional characters are able to lead their opponents down the primrose path to a logical contradiction and leave their opponent red-faced and fuming, it rarely happens in real life and attempting it almost always leads to inflamed tempers.

It is possible for two Christians to disagree. It is also possible for two Christians to disagree and still love each other and be in communion with each other while still being willing to talk about their differences. We have been working for nigh on five centuries now how to have very diverse people come together for common worship. It is part of our Anglican identity, and one of our greatest strengths. It takes effort and the willingness for delayed gratification, but it is the best way to be us. So if you find yourself on opposite sides of an issue with your brother or sister, it's all right to talk about it. Just fight fairly, okay?

Peace,

Fr. Brandt+



The Men's Breakfast on June 21 went so well that the Men of St. James have decided to meet again. On July 26 at 6:00 pm all men of the church are invited to an organizational meeting to decide what the men's group should be and when it should meet. Light hors-d'oeuvres and drinks will be served.



We will enjoy a potluck lunch on July 29 following our 10:30 service. Plan to make a dish and enjoy time together on the Feast of St. James.



July 8 immediately following the 10:30 service we will begin setting up for the Day School rummage sale. Wear comfortable clothes to church and plan to stay and help. The more folks helping the faster we finish. Pizza will be provided.



Annis' Children is collecting school supplies this summer for area foster youth. Some supplies needed include wide-ruled paper, pencils, scissors, glue and glue sticks, folders, binders, erasers, crayons, and markers. We are also accepting donations for new backpacks. Annis' Children will collect these supplies at the Blue Grass mass on Sunday, July 29.





Joey will be attending the MS Conference on Church Music & Liturgy on July 29. In her absence, we will have a Bluegrass Mass at 10:30 am. Since July 29 is the Feast of St. James, our patron saint, we will have one service only followed by a potluck in the parish hall. Plan to attend this special service and celebration and enjoy fellowship afterward with lunch.

#### **Next Dates for Baptisms**

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is appropriately administered within the Eucharist at the chief service on a Sunday. The next date for baptism at St. James is November 4, All Saints' Sunday. To schedule a baptism, please call Betsy at the Church Office or speak to Father Brandt.



The 8th Annual Giant Rummage Sale to benefit St. James Episcopal Day School will be held Friday and Saturday, July 20-21 in the Parish Hall. There will be a preview party Wednesday, July 18. Tickets for the preview party are \$10.00 and are available from Ginny Cochran, any Day school board member and in the church office. You can also purchase tickets at the door on July 18.

If you have items to contribute to the sale, you may bring them to the church between 8:00 am & Noon Monday – Thursday. The container is full so you may bring them directly to the parish hall.



We had so much fun hosting about 50 superheroes for VBS Hero Central in June!

Many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers at St. James' and First Presbyterian who helped make all the fun possible!

As we said in our daily Hero Verse at VBS, "Do good, seek peace and go after it!



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#### **OUR PARISH FAMILY**



For parishioners: Sandy Welsh, Dudley Stewart, Susan Sutherland, Doris Jones, Linda Owens, Haley Holbrook, David Lee, Shirley Mitchell, Elizabeth Smith.

For friends and family: Marcie Hale, Mark Hooker, Nancy Arrington, Glen

Fisher, Linda Doolittle, Beth Kendrick, Jana Limbaugh, Betsy Dyer, MacKenzie Holaday, Mary Stone, Joni Cannatella, Ben Meriweather, Gail Baroni, Aries Cotton, Hunter Azlin, Orman & Mary Gee, Stella Grace Cook, Maxine Harris, Johnny Utley, Julia Reed, Daisy Walsh, Suzanne Bean, Lindsey Williams, 1 un-named, Katherine Adams, Liz Workman, Edwynne Love, Andy VonAntz, Linda Hamilton, Julie Boswell, Helen Toler, Terry Burford.

For those serving in the Armed Forces: Eric Crews, Barry Crosby, Dan Gibbons, Thomas Griffin, Barry Jackson, Landon Marony, Nathan Miles, Houston Sievers, Benji Sparks, Beau Swain, Matt Williams.

For expectant couples: Maggie & Jay Bixler, Nick & Virginia Ellison, Molly & Andrew Biesemier



| Wilson Macvaugh     | 7/02 |
|---------------------|------|
| Susan Sutherland    | 7/02 |
| Lynn Schaffarzick   | 7/03 |
| Laura Buchberger    | 7/04 |
| Chris Hamilton      | 7/04 |
| Lucy Hines          | 7/04 |
| Alyce Tominello     | 7/04 |
| Thomas Jones        | 7/14 |
| Hank Chastain       | 7/16 |
| Brantley Nimrod     | 7/18 |
| Susannah Sanders    | 7/18 |
| Victor Smith        | 7/19 |
| Martha Love Bradley | 7/21 |
| Carl Cottingham     | 7/21 |
| Claire Quittmeyer   | 7/21 |
| Laura Smith         | 7/23 |
| Ashley Hines        | 7/25 |
| Jimmy Sutherland    | 7/26 |
| Rebecca Kellner     | 7/27 |
| Ned Kronfol         | 7/28 |
| Win Roulhac         | 7/28 |
| Bill Burle          | 7/29 |
| Ginny Cochran       | 7/29 |
| Barbara Stott       | 7/30 |
| Melanie Tucker      | 7/31 |
|                     |      |



Beth & Mickey Naaman7/25LaMarr & Hal Winn7/26

Check us out on facebook

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

| July 8       | Set up for rummage sale                 |
|--------------|---|
| ,<br>July 18 | Rummage sale preview party 5:30-7:30 pm |
| '            | Rummage Sale 8:00am-5:00 pm             |
| ,            | Rummage Sale 8:00-10:00 pm              |
| •            | <b>c</b>                                |
| -            | Men of St. James meeting 6:00 pm        |
| July 29      | Bluegrass Mass 10:30 am                 |

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

Martha Weissinger has graciously offered to help anyone who is interested in learning to arrange altar flowers. You don't have to buy arrangements from a florist. You can do it yourself! Check the hall bulletin board for open dates and give Martha a call for help.



#### SERVICE MINISTRIES

#### Service Ministries for Sunday, July 1

8:30 AM Worship Leader: Jim Martin Lector: Bill Burle 10:30 AM Worship Leader: Ashley Hines LEM: Noel Harris Lector: Tim Bixler Ushers: Bill Schaffarzick, Peter Nimrod Acolytes: Thomas Jones, Mike Kelly, Sophia Hines Altar Guild: Renfroe Team Vestry Assignment: Susan Sutherland, Martha Weissinger

#### Service Ministries for Sunday, July 8 8:30 AM Worship Leader: Mike Boyd Lector: Jack Lowry 10:30 AM Worship Leader: Dotti Lowe LEM: Curt Lacy Lector: John Daniels Ushers: William Owens, David Cochran Acolytes: Rebecca Jones, Brantley Nimrod, Eva Wade Altar Guild: Baird Team Vestry Assignment: Warren Harper, Bill Burle

Service Ministries for Sunday, July 15 8:30 AM Worship Leader: Betsy Alexander Lector: Bill Burle 10:30 AM Worship Leader: Ashley Hines LEM: Martha Renfroe Lector: Erica Dick Ushers: Ralph Owens, David Skelton Acolytes: Thomas Jones, Lizzie Skelton, Sophia Hines Altar Guild: Mitchell Team Vestry Assignment: Elizabeth Jones, Curt Lacy

Service Ministries for Sunday, July 22 8:30 AM Worship Leader: Jim Martin Lector: Mickey Naaman 10:30 AM Worship Leader: Dotti Lowe LEM: Sonya Bixler Lector: Ruby Edwards Ushers: Jimmy Sutherland, Dudley Stewart Acolytes: Keaton Lacy, Mac Hamilton, Gil Macvaugh Altar Guild: Egger Team Vestry Assignment: Todd Lane, Mickey Naaman Service Ministries for Sunday, July 29 – Feast of St. James – Bluegrass Mass 10:30 AM Worship Leader: Ashley Hines LEM: Finley Edwards Lector: Ed Egger Ushers: George Baird, Mickey Naaman Acolytes: Mac Hamilton, Eva Wade, Maggie Wade Altar Guild: All Teams Vestry Assignment: William Owens, Bill Schaffarzick



The church office will be closed July 4. We will re-open at 8:00 am July 5.



July 23 for the Aug. Wayfarer

| St. James Calendar for July 2018   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday                                  | Friday   | Saturday   |  |  |  |
| 1<br>8:30 AM H.E. Rite I<br>9 AM Choir<br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM H.E. Rite II<br>4:00 PM H. E. Rite II  | 2<br>10:00 AM Staff Mtg.<br>6 PM Al Anon                      | 3<br>7 AM Mission MS Prayer B'fast<br>@ City of Greenville<br>340 Main Street                   | 4 Office Closed   | 5   | 6<br>Clergy Sabbath  | 7<br>10:00 AM A.A. mtg   |  |  |  |
| 8<br>8:30 AM H.E. Rite I<br>9 AM Choir<br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM H.E. Rite II<br>11:30 AM Rummage Sale<br>set-up<br>4:00 PM H. E. Rite II               | 9<br>10:00 AM Staff Mtg.<br>6 PM Al Anon                      | 10<br>7 AM Mission MS Prayer B'fast<br>@ Church of the Redeemer<br>623 W. O'Hea                 | 11<br>10:30 AM Bible Study<br>6:30 PM Choir                                 | 12  | 13<br>Clergy Sabbath   | 14<br>10:00 AM A.A. mtg  |  |  |  |
| 15<br>8:30 AM H.E. Rite I<br>9 AM Choir<br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM H.E. Rite II<br>4:00 PM H. E. Rite II   | 16<br>10:00 AM Staff Mtg.<br>5:30 PM CPS Mtg.<br>6 PM Al Anon | 17<br>7 AM Mission MS Prayer B'fast<br>@ Maranatha Assembly of God<br>567 Cypress Lane          | 18<br>10:30 AM Bible Study<br>5:30-7:30 PM<br>Rummage Sale<br>Preview Party | 19  | 20<br>Clergy Sabbath<br>8:00-5:00<br>Dayschool<br>Rummage Sale | 21<br>10:00 AM A.A. mtg<br>8:00-10:00<br>Dayschool<br>Rummage Sale |  |  |  |
| 22<br>8:30 AM H.E. Rite I<br>9 AM Choir<br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM H.E. Rite II  | 23<br>10:00 AM Staff Mtg.<br>6 PM Al Anon                     | 24<br>7 AM Mission MS Prayer B'fast<br>TBA  | 25<br>10:30 AM Bible Study  | 26<br>6:00 PM Men of St.<br>James meeting | 27<br>Clergy Sabbath   | 28<br>10:00 AM A.A. mtg  |  |  |  |
| 29 The Feast of St.<br>James<br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM H.E. Rite II<br>Bluegrass Mass<br>11:30 AM Potluck<br>MS Conference on Church<br>Music & Liturgy | 30<br>10:00 AM Staff Mtg.<br>6 PM Al Anon                     | 31<br><b>7 AM</b> Mission MS Prayer B'fast<br>@ Washington County Ext Bldg<br>148 N. Edison St. | Conference on Chu   |   | July 24 - 29   |  |  |  |  |