

SEPTEMBER 2016

My dear friends,

Jesus told parables about growing things. He healed people and made them new. St. Paul reminds us that we are new creations—that everything old has passed away, and everything has become new. I really love some old things. I don't want to get rid of something (or someone) just because it is old. But that's not Paul's point. He is telling us that each one of us is made new in Christ, we all have opportunities to grow, change, develop and thrive because of the love we are given.

As Fall approaches, we see leaves turn color and fall to the ground. We pull old summer plants out of our gardens. But so much is new! We also start back to school; rev up many other activities that take a summer break. St. James is no exception. It is with joy and a renewed sense of energy and commitment to our beloved parish family we start our program year. We are once again "made new in Christ." We'll continue old, beloved programs. We'll start new things. This is a great time to think about how you support St. James. How exciting it would be to begin a new ministry, join a new group, or help out in new ways?

How can you add your gifts and talents? How can you learn new things or meet new people? Here are just a few ways: choir, acolytes, ushers, greeters, ECW board, fish fries, altar guild, Sunday school, nursery, telephone chain, property committee and maintenance team....the opportunities abound! Our wardens are also putting together an "Adopt-a-Project" list. There are many small-to-medium repair and improvement projects in our buildings and grounds. You might want to adopt a project because you are good with a paint brush, with a hammer or at weeding. Or maybe you can't do the work, but will be glad to help pay for the supplies.

Explore how Christ is making you new each and every day!

Your sister in Christ,
Mother Bonnie+

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

2 Corinthians 5:17-18