

## RECTOR'S MESSAGE

December 2022  
Volume 21 Number 12



### Sunday Schedule

8 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
10 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
11:15 AM Coffee Hour  
5:30 PM South Sudanese  
Worship

### December 18, 2022

11:30 AM Annual Meeting  
and Vestry Election

### December 23, 2022

10:00 AM

Greening of the Church

### December 24, 2022

Celebration of The Holy  
Nativity

7:30 PM Prelude Music

8 PM Holy Eucharist

### December 25, 2022

### Christmas Day Services

10 AM Holy Eucharist &  
Christmas Carols

5:30 PM South Sudanese  
Worship

St. James Episcopal Church  
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Dear Saints of James,

The first Sunday of Advent finds me turning on the individual candles that rest on the window sills inside our house, as the December night creeps in earlier each day. This is part of our Advent preparation in our family, and I remember telling our

children that we were lighting the way for the Christ child, to find us. As the days shorten and the nights lengthen, I think it is human nature, on some level, to feel that the light...life..., is fading and going. For us and our ancestors, the dark end of the calendar year often brings a feeling of unrest, uncertainty, a weighted feeling, gloomy even, and yet the culture chants: "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

I read this piece by Bridget Anna McNeil, that speaks of the value of this season of greater darkness. *"The winter solstice time is no longer celebrated as it once was, with the understanding that this is a period of descent and rest, of going within our homes, within ourselves and taking in all that we have been through, all that has passed in this full year which is coming to a close... like nature and the animal kingdom around us, this time of hibernation is so necessary for our tired limbs, our burdened minds."*

**St. James Episcopal Church**

**Clergy:**

The Rev. Susan E. Bentley, Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Copenhaver,  
Adjunct Pastoral Associate

**Staff:**

Mrs. Connie Bierly, Secretary  
Mr. Andrew Cochran, Choir Director & Organist  
Mrs. Donna Parks & Mr. Marshall Hudson, Sextons

**The Connection:**

Send copy to: stjames@rev.net

**Internet Web Page:**

www.stjamesroanoke.org  
Gerald Gordon, Web Master  
ggordonva@hotmail.com

**The St. James Vestry:**

Senior Warden, Chris Criscione  
Junior Warden, Tim Buchholtz  
† Clerk, Renée Toth  
† Treasurer, Kevin Shepherd  
† Ass't. Treasurer, Avis Aheron  
† Rec. Treasurer, Danny Fainter  
Tim Buchholtz  
Chris Criscione  
Gail Fields  
Carla Spencer  
Gina Wellford  
Phil Wheeler  
Dottie Wrabel  
Lynn Wright  
( † - Not Vestry members)

**Standing Committees & Chairs**

**Finance:** TBA  
**Property:** Tim Buchholtz  
**Hospitality:** Kim Laxton  
**Stewardship:** TBA

\* \* \* \* \*

**Episcopal Church Women:**

Dorothy Herndon

**Daughters of the King:**

Carla Spencer

**Rector's Message continued. . .**

*Our modern culture teaches avoidance of pain at this time of year by, alcohol, lights, shopping, overworking, over spending, comfort food and consumerism. And yet the natural tug to go inwards as nearly all creatures are doing is strong and the weather so bitter that people are left feeling that winter is hard, because for those of us without burning fires and big festive families, it can be lonely and isolating. Whereas in actual fact winter is kind, she points us in her quiet soft way towards our inner self, towards this annual time of peace and reflection, embracing the darkness and forgiving, accepting and loving embracing goodbye to the past year.*

*Winter takes away the distractions, the buzz, and presents us with the perfect time to rest and withdraw into a womb like love, bringing fire & light to our hearth... and then, just around the corner the new year will begin again, and like a seed planted deep in the earth, we will all rise with renewed energy once again to dance in the sunlight. Life is a gift"*

Advent, to the Church Fathers, was the right naming of the time when light and life are fading. As the sunlight fades and the heat wanes, the natural world lets go of its lushness; it strips down. All energy is directed to the essentials that ensure survival. This season encourages the faithful to set aside 4 weeks to slow down, pray, reflect, fast of our over-indulgence, and unveil an essential knowing in our soul, that beneath the fear of the darkness, is what Jesus called, "the one thing necessary". This is the One who is the

source of all light and life, the One who comes to be with us, and in us, especially in our times of darkness and death; the One who brings a new beginning. Advent is our time to strip down, so we that the coming of the Holy One into our lives, can reach our heart and soul, and bring light and life to us and the world.

In spite of feeling like a salmon swimming upstream in the cultural river of consumerism, self-gratification, and the pattern of avoiding the dark parts of life with copious colored lights and tinsel glittering 24/7, I think there is a missed opportunity for spiritual growth, when we do not fully immerse ourselves in the opportunity of Advent. To prepare and wait, stretches us and makes the awaited celebration of the birth of the Christ child, even more joyful. Without fasting, feasting may become only gluttony. As we fall prey to never-ending celebrations, we lose some of the thrill and jubilation that comes with the ending of a long wait, the season of self-germinating, a longed-for promise of our Savior. Our human experience is made up of sorrow and joy, fasting and feasting, lament and praise, and to skip the one, diminishes the richness of the other.

I encourage you this Advent season, as I do each year, to intentionally savor these four weeks of preparing and waiting, by choosing some spiritual practices that will take you deeper into the darkness of the night, away from artificial light, so you might see the gift of the star light and moon shadow. The long-suffering waiting of the birth of Jesus, like any baby, serves to heighten the wonder,

amazement, and joyful celebration when the waiting is over, new life is here, the Savior has arrived, and we can see the glory of God, in the face of the promised One.

Advent Blessings,  
SEB+

### **Advent Workshop for Children and Youth**

On Sunday, December 4th, there will be a workshop for St. James children and youth to make Anglican rosaries, and learn how the ancient practice of praying with beads, helps with focus and concentration in praying. After the 10 am service, Sabrina Mattox and Ann Bird will be in the Parish House downstairs conference room, ready to help our children and youth make their own Anglican rosary, and practice using them.

#### **St. James Cycle of Prayers**

In December, we give thanks for those who participate in our music ministries.

We ask your prayers for the Choir Director/Organist, and the members of the Adult Choir. May their talents continue to be rendered to the glory of God and their music continue to enhance our worship services.

**TREASURERS' CORNER . . .**

By Kevin Shepherd

**Financials: October 2022****(These are Year-to-Date actual amounts not budgeted amounts)**

Operating Income: \$115,286.95  
 Operating Expenses: \$169,095.85  
 Net (Loss) Operating Income:  
 (\$53,808.90)

**OUTREACH NEWS...**

The benevolence offerings for December goes to Feeding America of Southwest Virginia.

Feeding America of Southwest Virginia's mission is to nourish neighbors, engage community partners, and develop solutions to address food insecurity.

Feeding Southwest Virginia was founded in 1981 and proudly commemorates over 40 years of fighting hunger and changing lives through community partnerships.

The Food Bank is an affiliate member of Feeding America and for the last four decades the Food Bank's ultimate mission has remained the same: eliminate hunger in the region.

The primary function of the Food Bank is to secure large quantities of food for the hungry. Over \$33 million worth of food and grocery related products are channeled through a network of 380 partner feeding programs in our 26-county, 9 city region that provide food or meals to those in need. Did you know that in this service

1 in 8 people face hunger? You can help by donating generously. For more information visit their website:

<https://www.feedingswva.org>

To donate through our St. James outreach efforts, make your check payable to St. James Episcopal Church with "Outreach" on the memo line.

**WELL UPDATE . . .**

By Dottie Wrabel

We have collected \$3,011.54 toward the well. On behalf of the recipients, thank you, thank you, thank you. Gift season is almost upon us, perhaps someone on your list would be generous enough to allow you to donate in their name in lieu of a gift, and it's tax deductible--can't beat that. We now have a challenge donor who will match dollar for dollar any contributions made until the end of December. What a wonderful way to stretch your dollars and meet a great need.

**Communion Practice**

Beginning December 4th, we will resume our pre-pandemic practice of communion at the altar rail for the distribution of the consecrated bread and wine. There will be two options for receiving the blessed wine: the Chalice or a small intinction cup for intincting. Per Bishop Boursakos's instructions, people must not be dipping wafers in the same cup from which others are drinking. There will be no individual cups for distribution of the consecrated wine.

Our Episcopal practice of using one common Chalice comes from Holy Scripture. When the Lord Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to his disciples, saying, "Drink from it, all of you" (Matthew 26:27). This instruction is striking. It stresses that the disciples must drink together from the one cup. Apparently, that drinking together from the same cup is part of Christ's command; the Gospler Mark writes, "and they all drank from it" (Mark 14:23). The one cup coincides with the one bread and expresses the oneness that is central to the meal (1 Corinthians 10:16,17).

What is the purpose of sharing the one cup? It is to emphasize the unity of the believers in Christ. Our shared salvation in Jesus Christ, the only source of life, and our fellowship with one another is visibly portrayed in the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Drinking from the same cup expresses a close relationship. In everyday life you will, for example, not easily drink from the same cup a stranger has drunk from, whereas you would have no problem drinking from the same cup one of your loved ones has already drunk from. Any decision to move away from the pattern Christ set at the Last Supper, and the churches followed throughout the centuries should not be taken lightly. It is in that spirit, that the small intinction cup is offered, for those who are not comfortable receiving the consecrated wine from the common Chalice. The COVID19 pandemic challenged us in almost every aspect of our lives; we had to be conscious of our own health and safety, that of our family,

friends, co-workers, and others we might not even know. Our decisions have changed and evolved over the past 2 and a half years. We move back to our more normal communion distribution practice mindful of our Episcopal heritage, our theology of Holy Communion, the direction of our Bishop, and our own personal decisions during this seemingly unending pandemic.

### **NEWS FROM BOYS HOME OF VIRGINIA . . .**

#### **Jerimia's Story**

After several attempts to find a suitable foster home for him, Jerimia came to Boys Home at the age of eleven. His CASA worker initiated the placement at Boys Home where she thought he would receive the support, care and structure that he needed. It wasn't until years later that this woman's vision for Jerimia became a reality.

As a young child, Jerimia had been in charge of caring for his younger siblings and making his own decisions – he was a defiant, stubborn teenager that taxed the patience of many staff members at Boys Home.

As he matured, he found achievement in art, scouts and sports, later becoming an Eagle Scout from Troop 66 at Boys Home. He held an off-campus job, graduated from high school and became a responsible, dependable citizen.

After graduation, in 2001, he joined the U.S. Army as a truck driver. He remains in the armed forces today in movement control, currently on his 5th

deployment to the Middle East. J.F. maintains contact with his biological family, but he is also a close member of the Boys Home family. Jerimia is married and has a young daughter.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS ...**

### **Phoebe Needles Center for Lifelong Learning presents. . . “The Magi: Who They Were, How They’ve Been Remembers, & Why They Still Fascinate”**

Based on his recently published book, Dr. Eric M. Vanden Eykel, will explore the “the wise men” who visited Jesus in Jerusalem after his birth. This program will conclude with 30 minutes of Christmas caroling present by St. Peter’s-in-the-Mountain Church musician Fair Robey.

Join us on **Tuesday, December 12, 2022, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pre-registration required.** Member fee is \$10; Non-Member fee is \$18. Fee includes lunch. To register and for more information go to [www.PhoebeNeedles.org](http://www.PhoebeNeedles.org)

### **Sharing Warmth with our Neighbors**

Our winter clothes line has gone back up at the west end of our parking lot to provide warm hats, gloves and scarves for our neighbors who often walk through our parking lot on their way to Crossroads Mall. They are very appreciative of this neighborly kindness, during the winter weather. Thank you to all who knitted & crocheted hats and

scarves to go on the clothes line, or have purchased items. They are bringing warmth and joy to others we do not know but are now connected with threads of kindness. Drop off new or gently used hats, gloves and scarves for children and adults in the Parish Hall boxes or in the Parish Office, Tuesday-Thursday, 11 am to 3 pm.

### **St. Nicholas Day Appeal A Message from Bishop Mark**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

As we enter into Advent, one of the holiest seasons of the Christian year, our diocese’s annual St. Nicholas Day Appeal is one significant way that we can focus on the mission of love that the Son of God ushers into our world.

This year, your donations will aid Grace House on the Mountain in its mission to serve and support neighbors in Appalachia. Donations will go towards the Grace House Outreach Fund, which provides for a variety of medical, utility, food, and clothing expenses, as well as to support work projects in the community. In the wake of this summer’s devastating floods in Southwestern Virginia, the Outreach Fund was used heavily to provide flood relief and the number of work project needs in the area has increased.

Please consider giving faithfully this year. You may support this effort by donating online at [www.dioswva.org](http://www.dioswva.org) or by mailing a check payable to the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia with “St. Nicholas Day Appeal”

marked in the memo to PO Box 2279,  
Roanoke, VA 24009

### Angel Tree

This year our Angel Tree will benefit the children of the South and North Sudanese communities here in the Roanoke Valley. There are about 70 children and we are sharing the gift giving with Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church, and St. Elizabeth's. On the Angel Tree, each child/youth has 2 items on their wish list; if you would like to be a Secret Santa, please take a name tag off the Advent tree in the Parish Hall. Each child has two tags-one with information of their name, age, gender and gift request; the second tag with the child's name, needs to be returned with the wrapped packages, to St. James, by **Sunday December 11th**. Please let Karen Martin know which child you have chosen. Questions, contact the Rector.

### Baptismal Dates for 2023

"Holy Baptism is especially appropriate at the Easter Vigil, on the Day of Pentecost, on All Saint's Day or the Sunday after All Saint's Day, the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, (the first Sunday after Epiphany), and the visitation of the Bishop. It is recommended that, as far as possible, baptisms be reserved for these occasions or when a bishop is present." (*The Book of Common Prayer*, page 312.)

The Baptismal dates for St. James in 2023 are: The Baptism of our Lord, January 8; the Easter Vigil, April 8; the Day of Pentecost, May 28; and All Saints Sunday, November 5. If you would like to be Baptized or have a child you would like to be Baptized, contact the Rector.

### 2023 Episcopal Church Year Calendars

Our 2023 church year calendars are available for purchase. Calendars are \$3 if purchased from Altar Guild members or when purchased in the church office. Calendars are \$5 each if you'd prefer one mailed to you. Please make checks payable to St. James Episcopal Church with church calendar noted in the memo line.

### Altar Flowers

It is time to sign up to give altar flowers for 2023. During the month of December, the Altar Flower chart will be in on the bulletin board by the kitchen, and you are invited to sign up for the Sundays that you wish to give flowers in 2023. Flowers each week are \$25.00, and checks can be made out to St. James Episcopal Church, with a memo of "flower fund" and left in the office, or put in the offering plate. If you know what dedication you would like for the flowers, you can turn that in with your money. If you are not sure at this time, then you will need to leave the dedication information at the Church office, or email it to [stjames@rev.net](mailto:stjames@rev.net),

by Tuesday, prior to the Sunday you will be giving flowers.

If you have not paid for your flowers in 2022, or cannot remember if you paid, please contact Danny Fainter who can check our records.

### Wednesday Evening Bible Study

The weekday Bible Study, led by Bob Canova, continues to meet on Wednesday nights at 7 pm. in the Conference Room on the lower level of the Parish House. All are invited to participate; For more information contact John Whitcomb, 563-1708 or Bob Canova, 540-819-7255 (mobile), bob.canova@cox.net.

### Round Hill School Supply Collection

It is time for our annual back to school collection of classroom supplies for Round Hill Elementary School, our local neighborhood school. You can help support our partnership with the students, teachers and staff by picking up some needed items, and leaving them in the Round Hill box in the Parish Hall. This collection is part of a larger valley wide project sponsored by Congregations in Action (CIA).

Following is the list of what is needed:

- ✚ New underwear and new or gently used short and long pants, girls and boys sizes 4,5,6
- ✚ Glue sticks (large size .77 oz)
- ✚ 8 or 10 or 16 or 24 crayons
- ✚ pink erasers

- ✚ #2 pencils
- ✚ children's scissors
- ✚ small dry erase markers
- ✚ marbled composition books
- ✚ Ziplock bags (sandwich, quart, & gallon size)
- ✚ baby wipes
- ✚ hand sanitizer

### Treat of the Week Donations

Thank you to those who have donated to our weekly coffee hour, "your lucky day" event. Please continue your contributions. Items welcomed include gift cards, food items, specialty baskets, holiday themed items, and small practical gifts. The proceeds from your ticket donation, go to the Building Fund for property repairs and replacements. Karen Martin welcomes your Treat of the Week donations.

### Forward Day By Day

Forward Day By Day devotionals for November, December, and January are available for pick up at St. James in the Parish Hall. The devotionals are \$1; there is a collection jar in the Parish Hall. Feel free to share Forward Day by Day with family, friends and neighbors, or other Saints of James who may not be getting to Church.

### Little Free Pantry

Our Little Free Pantry continues to be well used and appreciated. Please continue to stock our pantry with non-

perishable foods in **unopened** containers, personal care items and paper goods.

**Two ways to help fundraise for St. James:**

(1) Kroger. In order for your Kroger grocery purchases to be credited towards St. James fundraising efforts, you will need to register online with Kroger ([www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards)). St. James' exclusive community rewards organization number is VM990. If you need assistance with signing up, please contact Avis Aheron ([avisaheron@hotmail.com](mailto:avisaheron@hotmail.com) or 540-580-9203). It will take just a few minutes to sign you up, and St. James will receive a check based on the percentage of sales, split among participating organizations.

(2) AmazonSmile. If you do any online shopping through Amazon, St. James could be receiving a percentage of your purchases. Simply log on at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), designate St. James as your charity of choice and let the shopping begin. If you have any questions about setting this up, please contact: Avis Aheron (540-580-9203).

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS. . .**

December	4	Cason Robert Nichols
December	7	Maddelena Shepherd
December	8	Elizabeth Witz
December	9	Kevin Shepherd
December	10	Holly Turner
December	11	Beth Bird Rock
December	12	Daniel Malick
December	13	Betsy Briggs
December	13	Phil Hobrla
December	14	Susan Tolliver
December	19	Sherry Powell
December	24	Thomas Rucker
December	25	Sharon Miller
December	25	Alayna Michaela Miller
December	31	Ray Kasey

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES. . .**

December	6	Kim & Dave LaPrade
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  <b>10:00 AM</b> Prayer Group <b>3:30 PM</b> Service Dogs <b>6:30 PM</b> AA	2  <b>5:00 PM</b> Service Dogs	3  <b>10:00 AM</b> AA
4  <b>2:30 PM</b> AA <b>5:30 PM</b> South Sudanese Worship	5  <b>5:30 PM</b> Women's NA	6  <b>6:30 PM</b> AA	7  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study	8  <b>10:00 AM</b> Prayer Group <b>3:30 PM</b> Service Dogs <b>6:30 PM</b> AA	9  <b>5:00 PM</b> Service Dogs	10  <b>10:00 AM</b> AA
11  <b>2:30 PM</b> AA <b>5:30 PM</b> South Sudanese Worship	12  <b>5:30 PM</b> Women's NA	13  <b>6:30 PM</b> AA	14  <b>6:30 PM</b> Little Church Social Club <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study	15  <b>10:00 AM</b> Prayer Group <b>3:30 PM</b> Service Dogs <b>6:30 PM</b> AA	16  <b>5:30 PM</b> Down Syndrome Support Group	17  <b>10:00 AM</b> AA
18  <b>2:30 PM</b> AA <b>5:30 PM</b> South Sudanese Worship	19  <b>5:30 PM</b> Women's NA <b>7:00 PM</b> Vestry	20  <b>6:30 PM</b> AA	21 Winter Solstice  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study	22  <b>10:00 AM</b> Prayer Group <b>3:30 PM</b> Service Dogs <b>6:30 PM</b> AA	23  <b>10:00 AM</b> Greening of the Church <b>5:00 PM</b> Service Dogs	24  <b>10:00 AM</b> AA <b>7:30 PM</b> Prelude Music <b>8:00 PM</b> Holy Eucharist
25 Christmas  <b>10:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist <b>5:30 PM</b> South Sudanese Worship	26  <b>5:30 PM</b> Women's NA	27  <b>6:30 PM</b> AA	28  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study	29  <b>10:00 AM</b> Prayer Group <b>3:30 PM</b> Service Dogs <b>6:30 PM</b> AA	30  <b>5:00 PM</b> Service Dogs	31  <b>10:00 AM</b> AA

**Dec 4****8 AM** *Lector – Phil Wheeler; Chaliceist – Bill Barksdale*

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Michael Kennedy, Thomas Rucker
	Acolyte	Yuri Malick	Coffee	Kim & Kevin Laxton
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	-----
		-----	Tellers	Gerald Gordon
	Chaliceist 1	Lawton Kasey		Michael Kennedy
	Chaliceist 2	Katie Rucker	Altar Guild	Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	Lector 1	Michael Bentley		
	Lector 2	Jessica Price		

**Dec 11****8 AM** *Lector and Chaliceist – Tim Buchholtz*

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Madalyn Linkous	Ushers	Chris & JoAnn Criscione
	Acolyte	Grant Rucker	Coffee	Beth & Steve Wiegandt
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	-----
		-----	Tellers	Arby Frost, Katie Rucker
	Chaliceist 1	Katie Rucker	Altar Guild	Danny Fainter, Gail Fields
	Chaliceist 2	Kevin Shepherd		
	Lector 1	Art Tatman		
	Lector 2	Carla Spencer		

**Dec 18****8 AM** *Lector—Bill Barksdale; Chaliceist—Tim Buchholtz*

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Zenon Malick	Ushers	Michael Bentley, Madalyn Linkous
	Acolyte	Mercedes Malick	Coffee	Odell James, Dottie Wrabel, Machele Huff
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	-----
		-----	Tellers	Larry Mattox, Jim McGlothlin
	Chaliceist	Art Tatman	Altar Guild	Linda Bryant, Dorothy Herndon, JoAnn Criscione
	Lector 1	Chris Criscione		
	Lector 2	Phil Hobla		

**Dec 24****Christmas Eve**

Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Larry Mattox, Ray Kasey
Acolyte	Jordyn Price		
Chaliceist	Kevin Shepherd		
Lector 1	Donna Frost		
Lector 2	Jessica Price		
Prayers	JoAnn Criscione		

**Dec 25****Christmas Day****8 AM** *Lector – Phil Wheeler; Chaliceist – Bill Barksdale*

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Tim Buchholtz	Ushers	Jim & Mary McGlothlin
	Acolyte	Tim Buchholtz	Coffee	-----
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	-----
		-----	Tellers	Maile Armstrong, Donna Frost
	Chaliceist	Tim Buchholtz	Altar Guild	Lawton Kasey, Betsy Briggs, Katie Rucker
	Lector 1	Maile Armstrong		
	Lector 2	Lynn Wright		
	Prayers	Betsy Briggs		

**Jan 1****8 AM** *Lector and Chaliceist—Tim Buchholtz*

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Thomas Rucker	Ushers	Kevin Shepherd, Madde Shepherd
	Acolyte	Peyton Morant-Frost	Coffee	Chris & JoAnn Criscione, Linda Bryant
	Chaliceist	Katie Rucker	Nursery	-----
	Lector 1	Michael Bentley	Tellers	Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy
	Lector 2	Sabrina Mattox	Altar Guild	Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	Prayers	Donna Frost		

**Note: If you can't meet your scheduled time, please find a substitute and let the office know.**