# the st.james (COM) (COM) (COM)

#### February 2023 Volume 22 Number 2



#### 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

#### **Prison Ministry Program**

The Rev. Linda Ricker Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:00 AM

Adult Ed: Green Burial
Sunday, February 19, 2023
11:45 AM
following coffee hour
Dr. Michael Bentley

Shrove Tuesday Supper February 21, 2023 5:30 to 7:30 PM Build your own Potato

Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023
12:15 PM & 7:30 PM
Holy Eucharist and
Imposition of Ashes

St. James Episcopal Church 4515 Delray Street Roanoke, VA 24012 Phone: 540-366-4157 Fax: 540-366-2851

E-mail: <u>stjames@rev.net</u> www.stjamesroanoke.org

#### **DEACON'S MESSAGE**

Dear Saints of James,

It's been three years since Central Virginia Correctional Unit in Chesterfield County has been open for a Kairos weekend, but we are finally planning for April 13-16, 2023.

The first time I went into a prison was in 2004. I had never been inside a prison. I had no prior experience, but I was curious, and so attended the closing ceremony on Sunday evening.

At the end of a weekend, the women are given a chance to speak. One woman came to the microphone. She was young, maybe in her forties, and was visibly shaking. She talked about being resistant to doing a Kairos weekend, said she wanted no part of "jail house Jesus," but that some friends had encouraged her to try it. And she was transformed.

One after another spoke, but she is the one I remember. I think it was the words "Jail house Jesus," because cynical as I am, that is exactly what I thought this was all about. But the talks, the witness, one after another, were genuine. And I realized that when you have nothing else, Jesus is still there waiting patiently for us all.

We are not therapists. All we can offer is our presence, our ear. For whatever time we are there, we listen and offer them a sacred space where they can feel loved and accepted for who they are, which I believe is what Jesus Christ would want us to offer them.

(continued on page 2 ...)

#### 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, Avis Aheron
Junior Warden, Tim Buchholtz
† Clerk, TBA
† Treasurer, Kevin Shepherd
† Ass't. Treasurer, Avis Aheron
† Rec. Treasurer, Danny Fainter

Avis Aheron
Tim Buchholtz
Donna Frost
Jessica Price
Katie Rucker
Carla Spencer
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

#### Deacon's Message continued. . .

In Kairos our mission is clear . . . to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ with incarcerated men and women and to help them develop their own community, so that when we are gone, they support one another.

Other ministries are easier than prison ministry. When we go into the prison, we carry nothing in our pockets. We place our car keys and prison ID in a plastic bag that is kept at the guard gate.

We also leave behind those traditions that distinguish our individual religious denominations. This is an ecumenical ministry. We find common ground in the unity of the love and hope of Jesus Christ.

Prison ministry is not for everyone, but there are other ways to participate in this ministry. First, of course, there is prayer. There are also financial donations. And there are cookies. I'll let you know more about all of this in the coming weeks. And thanks for letting me share a little "Jail house Jesus."

> Blessings, Deacon Linda Ricker

#### St. James Cycle of Prayers

In February, we give special thanks for the attentiveness of our members to enhance the experience of visitors and newcomers and to welcome them into our church family.

#### **LENT 2023...**

#### **Shrove Tuesday: Baked Potato Bar**

The annual pre-Lent Shrove Tuesday meal is returning as a Baked Potato Bar, on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 pm to 7 pm. The "loaded" Baked Potato Bar will include butter, sour cream, shredded cheese, chili, salsa and bacon, as well as a fruit salad, beverage and dessert.

Our Shrove Tuesday supper at St. James is a time to gather as a faith community to share in the communion of eating together, a time that former members often join us, and a time for friends, neighbors, and co-workers to come and be among us, to break bread together and share fellowship.

Please bring someone with you who would appreciate a good meal, contributing to a worthy cause, and a hospitable welcome by the Saints of James.

The proceeds from the supper will be given for outreach needs in the community through the Williamson Road Clergy Association Emergency Relief Fund, which we support each year through a \$800.00 contribution.

The meal is \$6.00 per person; a signup sheet is in the Parish Hall and reservations are needed by Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. You may also call the parish office, 540-366-4157 to reserve your meal and indicate your preference for a white potato or a sweet potato.

Tim Buchholtz will be coordinating this event, assisted by Doris Mattox. Help is needed for set up, cooking, serving, and clean up, so please sign up to help on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

#### Lent as a Time of Self Examination

Lent begins this year on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and we will mark this liturgically with our Ash Wednesday services at 12:15 pm and 7:30 pm.

Lent is one of the times of the Church year when it is particularly appropriate to make a private confession. Anyone who would like to make their confession, using the form for the Reconciliation of a Penitent in our Book of Common Prayer, page 447, may contact the Rector, to schedule an appointment.

#### **Lenten Devotional Resources on line**

Daily meditations of Scripture, Prayer and Action: www.d365.org

Episcopal Relief and Development meditations:

http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/ma nage/optin/ea?v=001f-KEXzn5tO3rDXWGxacNKg%3D%3D

Church of Our Savior, DC-Inward/Outward-meditations: http://www.inwardoutward.org

Goshen College Daily Lenten Meditations: http://blog.goshen.edu/devotions

Resources for the spiritual journey: http://www.SpiritualityandPractice.com/

Devotions and Prayers: www.explorefaith.org

Daily Prayer: http://sacredspace.ie/

Daily Prayer & Meditations: http://www.beliefnet.com/prayeroftheday/

Practices that guide our faith journey: http://www.practicingourfaith.org/

Daily Mediations: Brother Give Us a Word, Society of Saint John the Evangelist: www.ssje.org

Lenten Madness –Who will win the Golden Halo?: www.lentmadess.org
Based on March madness, this is a fun way to learn about 32 saints in a tournament like singe elimination bracket. Each saint has a biography on the Lenten Madness website, and when you subscribe, you can be a part of the voting to see who will win the Golden Halo. The

bracket score card is posted in the Parish Hall on the bulletin board.

Still like to hold a book in your hand or on your tablet....here are some suggested books that may bring new spiritual growth and awareness:

Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer, by Rowan Williams. In this simple, beautifully written book former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, explores four essential components of the Christian life: baptism, Bible, Eucharist, and prayer. Despite huge differences in Christian thinking and practice both today and in past centuries, he says, these four basic elements have remained constant and indispensable for the majority of those who call themselves Christians.

Wonderous Encounters: Scriptures for Lent, by Richard Rohr. One of today's most prophetic voices, the Rev. Richard Rohr invites us to self-disclosure and to enter the wondrous divine dialogue with clarity, insight and holy desire. These daily meditations for Lent are his gift to us for our transformation into our original "image and likeness," which is the very image of God.

Contemplative Knitting, by Julie Cicora. From a tour through the fascinating history of knitting to steps for setting up and sustaining a knitting prayer practice, this book is filled with inspiration and projects that can be used to deepen the spiritual nature of knitting.

The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World, by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. How do I forgive? The Archbishop and his daughter explain the four-step process of forgiveness—Telling the Story, Naming the Hurt, Granting Forgiveness, and Renewing or Releasing the Relationship—as well as offering meditations, exercises, and prayers to guide the reader along the way. "With each act of forgiveness, whether small or great, we move toward wholeness," they write. "Forgiveness is how we bring peace to ourselves and our world."

Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps, by Richard Rohr. Must-read for any person who recognizes the need to go "inward" on their soul's journey to examine their relationship with God, themselves, and others. The author guides one on a journey that explores the Scriptural foundation, the spiritual principles and the practicality of the 12-step human recovery process.

Let Your Life Speak, Listening for the Voice of Vocation, by Palmer Parker. With wisdom, compassion, and gentle humor, Parker J. Palmer invites us to listen to the inner teacher and follow its leadings toward a sense of meaning and purpose. Telling stories from his own life and the lives of others who have made a difference, he shares insights gained from darkness and depression as well as fulfillment and joy, illuminating a pathway toward vocation for all who seek the true calling of their lives.

Growing a Sustainable Soul, by Bob Flanagan. Written for both the religiously devout and the spiritually curious, this book inspires readers to connect their personal desire to care for the environment with divine care for Creation. Each of the 41 devotions starts with a sustainability-oriented verse from the Bible, followed by a reflection tying it to every day experiences, and ends with a question to ponder or a way to take action.

No time for spiritual reading.....add contemplative listening to your day. Listen to spiritual music while you drive in the car, work, do house chores, as your daily devotions. A few recommendations:

His Love Endures Forever: Psalms of Thankfulness and Praise, by the Gloria Dei Cantores Choir, features twenty-one beautiful psalm tunes and uplifting texts.

Taize: Music for Unity and Peace, recorded by the ecumenical Taize community in Burgundy.

Angelis, Voices of Angels, Metro Label

Lent at Ephesus, recorded by Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles

Voices, Chant From Avignon, recorded by the Benedictine Nuns of Notre-Dame Del'Annonciation

Vision, The Music of Hildegard Von Bingen, by Richard Souther, Angel Records The Way of the Heart: Treasuring the Freedom Within, by Karunesh, Music of the Spirit, Oreade Music recording

#### **VESTRY CORNER...**

What is a Vestry? Most Episcopalians would say that the Vestry is the governing body of the local congregation of the Episcopal Church. This is so, and it has specific responsibilities that are set out by the National and Diocesan Constitutions & Canons. Though the Vestry has some similarities to a board of directors, it is different, in that a parish is a covenant community and Vestry members practice a servant leadership. The success of a congregation is not measured in terms of numbers of members or size of the endowment, but rather in the degree to which it is working toward the fulfillment of the mission of the Church, which is stated in the Book of Common Prayer as: "The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." To this end, the Vestry has both leadership and management responsibilities.

Leadership involves: provide spiritual leadership to lead the congregation in the mission of the Church, envisioning & creating vision for how to fulfill the mission of the Church; engaging the congregation to live into this vision; empowering the congregation to make the vision real both inside and outside the Church, by modeling the vision and the values & behaviors of Jesus.

Management involves: planning, budgeting, allocating resources, establishing policies and procedures, maintaining property, select and support the Rector.

Congregations today often participate in a "shared ministry" where the clergy and laity function as part of an interdependent team and seek to engage a large number of people in a variety of leadership roles. Leading a congregation in an increasingly secular world is difficult and requires the support and efforts of many. Its foundation is a faithful dependence on God's guidance and power. Your Vestry is an important part of the ministry team and looks forward to hearing your thoughts and idea. As Saints of James we are all responsible for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and participating in the mission and ministry of St. James, with God's help.

<u>Property update:</u> the parking lot fence has been replaced after a section was randomly torn down one night. After the wood has cured, the fence will be stained to match the section on the east end of the parking lot.

To assist in surveillance of our property, the Vestry voted to install security cameras. There are 7 cameras outside the Church, and three inside, in the upstairs and downstairs hallways. The cameras are activated with motion; the ones outside are turned on 24/7. The inside cameras are there to give us information if there is a break in, and they are turned off during the day and on during the night hours. The video footage will be reviewed if we have an incident.

Signs for outside on our property are being ordered. If you have any questions, please contact one of the Vestry members or the Rector.

#### TREASURERS' CORNER . . .

By Kevin Shepherd

Financials: December 2022 (These are Year-to-Date <u>actual</u> amounts not budgeted amounts)

Operating Income: \$185,289.07 Operating Expenses: \$198,763.62 Net (Loss) Operating Income: (\$13,474.55)

#### **ECW NEWS...**

Everyone is invited to a program on Prison Ministry for Women, presented by the Rev. Linda Ricker, who has worked in this ministry for a number of years. This will be on Thursday, February 16th, at 11:00 am following the 10:00 am Prayer Group, which is open to everyone also. The program will be followed by a potluck luncheon, so bring your favorite dish and come expecting to learn about how God's love is being shared with incarcerated women, living behind walls and bars. For more information, contact Dorothy Herndon.



#### **YOUTH NEWS...**

#### 2023 Diocesan Youth Events

- Youth Confirmation Retreat -March 4-5, Camp Bethel
- Spring Youth Event 5th through 8th graders, April 14-16
- Summer Mission Trip-Middle School, June 18-24, Grace House
- Summer Mission Trip-High School, June 25-July 1, Grace House
- Episcopal Youth Event, July 3-8, University of Maryland

#### **OUTREACH NEWS...**

The benevolence offering for February 19 goes to The Phoebe Needles Center. This is the camp and conference center in the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, and as such, a Christian organization which invites and welcomes groups and individuals of all ages and faith backgrounds who seek:

- an environment, facilities, and programs that nurture and challenge in a setting that is safe spiritually, emotionally, and physically;
- an opportunity for transformative growth and the creative experience of God's presence;
- to build community and further relationships by actively living love, forgiveness, and service.

#### Programs offered include:

- ♣ Day Camps designed for rising 1st through 4th graders. Typically, children are dropped off at the Center between 8:30 and 9:00 AM, and are picked up each day between 3:30 and 4:00 PM. Typical activities include arts and crafts, games, nature studies, and swimming instruction. Lunch and all program materials are provided by the Center.
- Residential Camps designed for rising 5th through12th graders. Certain camps have specific age requirements, such as First Year Camp, which is designed specifically for rising 5th-6th graders that have never been to camp before. Whether it be rockclimbing, rappelling, camping, improving the community, or learning through creative artistic expression, each of the week-long residential camp programs offer a unique and memorable experience for our campers.
- ♣ Leadership Development: One of the real needs of most groups – whether they be vestries, corporate management teams, youth groups, men's or women's groups – is learning how to communicate and work together as a team. Is a cooperative team worth four to eight hours of your time?
- Few things build relationships faster and more effectively than experiential activities that focus on trust, cooperation, risk taking, communication, creative problem-

- solving, listening, critical thinking and teamwork.
- The Phoebe Needles Center offers programs on the HIGH and LOW TRUST CHALLENGE COURSE, to all types of groups. Your group will spend several hours working together on a series of challenges and reflecting on your experience as a group. All of the learning, whether for an individual or a group, we experience in this process, parallel those in our everyday living. It is a great way to build a team, or enhance the cooperative skills of an existing group. It is also a lot of FUN!
- Center for Lifelong Learning offers monthly programs with various topics for members and nonmembers.

To support this worthy organization, please make your check payable to St. James Episcopal Church, with Phoebe Needles on the memo line of your check.

For more information, please visit their website at:

https://www.phoebeneedles.org

## Becoming Beloved Community EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

Well, John says it all when he writes, "I am the vine and you are the branches." Our Beloved Community of churches is certainly proving how together WE are the branches.

We continue teaching ESL, tutoring our children, taking our pregnant mother to

now weekly appointments as she is a high-risk pregnancy, transporting and caring for one of our young boys with serious dental needs, and taking our eighty one years old grandmother to hearing aid appointments. Amidst all this we are having fun with our families as we celebrate their birthdays. We also have been spontaneously invited to dinners at their homes.

Asylum interviews for all eleven members of our two families are near completion. We are arranging interviews with the second brother's two college aged young women to learn about beginning studies this fall at Virginia Western. That has been their dream since arrival in America. The Taliban has now prohibited girls at any educational level to attend schools in Afghanistan.

The winter months are upon us as are rising gas and power bills. Both families are maintaining their financial responsibilities but barely. Saving any money for extras is not possible Because we have a new baby arriving in February and also have multiple expenses facing one of our young boy's dental emergencies, we are suggesting how appreciated financial contributions to Afghan Resettlement Ministry will be. We will also be needing any and everything for new babies as our younger family has nothing for this new family member.

We have begun to describe our ministry as one filled with unexpected expectations. We have many branches continuing to grow on the vine. God is dancing with us in this ministry. Our Afghan families and our Roanoke Convocation family members have grown

into one common family. With your continued support we will grow this community and the incredible love, commitment, and passion it holds within its ever-expanding boundaries.

Blessings, Peace, and Love for this New Year. May we each, in our individual ways, bring light into this hurting and needy world.

Chaplain Jan Therien, Ministry Coordinator Joe Mott, Co-coordinator and the Afghan Advisory Team

## Helping the Newest South Sudanese Family

A new family of South Sudanese refugees has arrived in Roanoke, from the Kakuma Refugee Center - a Mother and 7 children. Here is information on some of the items that the family still needs: cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, shampoo specifically for thick textured hair; deodorant; soap; female hygiene products, body lotion; clothes hangers; books, gift certificates for shoes and jeans. If you can contribute, contact the Rector.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS ...**

## Evolution Sunday: Green Burial: Our Last Best Act

What happens to the body after death is big business. Caskets cost thousands of dollars and the land and concrete vaults they are deposited into cost more. Every year we bury enough caskets to cover 4 million square acres of forest. Enough to build over 90,000 homes. Every year. The body will decompose (just more slowly if it's embalmed) but the lacquered wood with brass and steel adornments takes generations to break down.

More than half of the US population chooses cremation, sold as a greener option, but really, it's just a different kind of bad. Every year North Americans use enough fossil fuels in being cremated to drive halfway to the Sun and back. So what is the alternative? That will be the topic of the Adult Education presentation on Sunday, February 19, about 11:45, after a short coffee hour. This continues what had been annual "Darwin Day" Adult Education presentations offered by Dr. Michael Bentley, that explore intersections of science and faith.

#### **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.) 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 Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 8; Pentecost, Sunday May 28; 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. The Altar Flower chart is 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, by Tuesday, prior to the Sunday you will be giving flowers.

#### **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. (Please note that there is no Bible Study on Ash Wednesday, April 22 or on Wednesday, March 1.)

#### **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 the months of February, March and April, are available for pick up at St. James in the Parish Hall and downstairs outside the office. The devotionals are \$1.00/each; 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 nonperishable foods in **unopened** containers, personal care items and paper goods.

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

(1) Kroger. 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). St. James' exclusive community rewards organization number is VM990. If you need assistance with signing up, please contact Avis Aheron (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, designate St. James as your charity of choice and let the shopping begin.

This program is ending February 20<sup>th</sup> so if you have online shopping to do, now is the time. Amazon stated that their program has for 10 years touched many eligible organizations, but their ability to have an impact was spread very thin. They will now invest in specific areas and focus their philanthropic efforts in the communities where their employees live and work.

Thank you to all those who have supported St. James through the Amazon Smile program.

#### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS...

February 2	Alana Lynn Smith
February 2	Sophia Rachelle Smith
February 5	Allison Eanes
February 5	Caitlin Witz
February 5	James Michael Price
February 6	Madeline Clouser
February 8	Donna Frost
February 10	Owen Wilson
February 10	Jessica Gawor
February 10	Jessica Hart
February 12	Sarah Aheron
February 13	Joyce Brown
February 13	Anthea Tuggle
February 15	Madalyn Linkous
February 22	Machele Huff
February 22	Dakota Hensel
February 23	Gail Fields
February 24	Wayne Reilly
February 26	Barbara Plunkett

#### **ANNIVERSARIES...**

February 27 Allison Chan & Evril Smith

#### **NOTES OF THANKS...**

What a pleasant surprise to receive a check in a Christmas card from St. James. Your thoughtfulness is cherished, as is my being a part of the St. James family. Thank you for your generosity. I look forward to our next year together when I'm not supplying.

Father Bob

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous gift.

Since I first walked into St. James, I have felt at home. And I look forward to sharing the blessings of 2023 with all of you.

Again, many thanks.

Linda Ricker

#### **SERVER SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2023**

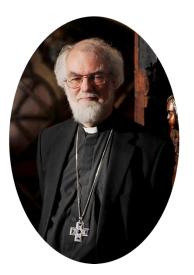
Feb 5 8 AM 10 AM	Lector—Phil Wheeler; Chalicist—Bill Barksdale Crucifer Zenon Malick Acolyte Mercedes Malick T Bearer  Chalicist Katie Rucker Lector 1 Donna Frost Lector 2 Chris Criscione Prayers Carla Spencer	Ushers Coffee Nursery Tellers Altar Guild	Michael Bentley, Madalyn Linkous Kevin & Kim Laxton Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
Feb 12 8 AM 10 AM	Lector—Bill Barksdale; Chalicist—Tim Buchholtz Crucifer Jordyn Price Acolyte Grant Rucker T Bearer	Ushers Coffee Nursery Tellers Altar Guild	Larry Mattox, Ray Kasey Art Tatman, Karen Martin, Debbie Williamson
Feb 19 8 AM 10 AM	Lector and Chalicist—Tim Buchholtz Crucifer Thomas Rucker Acolyte Peyton Morant-Frost T Bearer Chalicist Art Tatman Lector 1 Jessica Price Lector 2 JoAnn Criscione Prayers Donna Frost	Ushers Coffee Nursery Tellers Altar Guild	Kevin Shepherd, Madde Shepherd Odell James, Dottie Wrabel, Machele Huff Larry Mattox, Jim McGlothlin Linda Bryant, Dorothy Herndon, Sharon Miller
Feb 22	Ash Wednesday		
12:15 PN	<ul><li>Acolyte Tim Buchholtz</li><li>Chalicist Lawton Kasey</li><li>Lector Lynn Wright</li></ul>		
7:30 PM	Crucifer Madde Shepherd Acolyte Madalyn Linkous Chalicist Katie Rucker Lector Chris Criscione	Ushers	Jim & Mary McGlothlin
Feb 26 8 AM 10 AM	Lector—Phil Wheeler; Chalicist—Bill Barksdale Crucifer Yuri Malick Acolyte Roman Malick T Bearer	Ushers Coffee Nursery Tellers Altar Guild	Michael Kennedy, Thomas Rucker Doris & Larry Mattox, Joyce Brown Maile Armstrong, Donna Frost Lawton Kasey, Betsy Briggs, Katie Rucker

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

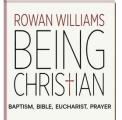
St. James Connection			February 2023		Page 15	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			3:30 PM Atrium 7:00 PM Bible Study	2 Groundhog Day  10:00 AM Prayer Group 4:45 PM Service Dogs 6:30 PM AA	3	4 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
5 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	6 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	7 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	8 3:30 PM Atrium 7:00 PM Bible Study	9 10:00 AM Prayer Group 4:45 PM Service Dogs 6:30 PM AA	10	11 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
12 Super Bowl  2:30 PM  AA	13 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	14 Valentine's Day 6:30 PM AA	15 3:30 PM Atrium 7:00 PM Bible Study	16 10:00 AM Prayer Group 4:45 PM Service Dogs 6:30 PM AA	17 5:30 PM Down Syndrome Support Group	18 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
19 12:00PM Vestry 2:30 PM AA	20 Washington's Birthday  5:30 PM  Women's NA	21 Shrove Tuesday 5:30 to 7:00 PM Make your own Potato bar 6:30 PM AA	22 Ash Wednesday  12:15 PM & 7:30 PM  Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes 3:30 PM  Atrium	23 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>4:45 PM</u> Service Dogs 6:30 PM	24	25 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
26 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	27 5:30 PM Women's NA	28 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA				

## St James Lenten Study Being Christian

The St James Daughters of the King invite you to join us for a Lenten Study based on Rowan Williams' book "Being Christian". Previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Williams is revered by many, articulating theology in an accessible manor for all. Grab your beverage of choice, put on your comfy clothes, and zoom in on Tuesday nights! Books are available at St James and in various media at other book sellers.



"Being Christian" is based on talks given by Williams in the Canterbury Cathedral during Holy Week. Written in conversation tone, each chapter is short, in length but filled with meaning that nudges and inspires you to think through your personal Christian Faith and how you wish to live it out.



Williams believes that **Baptism**, **Bible**, **Eucharist** and **Prayer** are the four foundational elements that remain constant and are indispensable for the majority of those who call themselves Christians. Ecumenical reviews praise this work calling it very accessible, compelling, moving and thought provoking.

Welsh Anglican Bishop Rowan Williams, Baron of Oystermouth, DD, PC, FBA, FRSL, FLSW is an internationally recognized theologian, poet, writer, and speaker. He served as the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 to 2012, Previously the Bishop of Monmouth, Archbishop of Wales.



February 28 Introduction

March 7 Ch. 1 Baptism

March 14 Ch. 2 Bible

March 21 Ch. 3 Eucharist

March 28 Ch. 4 Prayer



#### FROM THE BLOG OF THE REV. CHRIS YAW . . .



## To members of People Who Are Rather Fond of the Episcopal Church

It's been said that the person who belongs to a small church lives in a much larger world. Seeing the same people week after week leads to friendships, many times with folk whom we wouldn't ordinarily get to know – indeed, whom we might initially have so little in common with that we would've never met anyplace other than at church. This diversity can be rewarding. It can open our minds and make us deeper, more thoughtful and less rigid human beings.

Small congregations force us to get along with one another. They compel us to understand where other people are coming from and civilly settle our differences, which can be of immense value in the larger world.

Small congregations keep us accountable. You can't miss too many Sundays before someone calls or drops by just to make sure everything's OK. We think twice about skipping Sunday services – not just because we miss out on worship, but because of the people who will be disappointed if we're not there.

Large churches get this - as attested by their emphasis on small groups. In fact, the biggest trend in the mega-church world is multi-site congregations – the establishment of much smaller satellite campuses that promote intimacy and closer relationships.

The Episcopal Church is a small church haven. 80% of our congregations host 150 people or less on Sunday mornings. The vast majority of Episcopalians are converts (70%), and a great many of us came from much larger churches. Many of us joined because of the size. We realize we are created for relationships. We were made for deep, intimate and sacred relationship, not just with the Lord, but with each other. Christianity isn't just about me and Jesus. It's about me and Jesus and you.

In what ways has your small congregation deepened your faith?

"Promise me you'll always remember this: You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." -- From A.A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh





