

the st. james



May 2023
Volume 22 Number 5



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

The 10 a.m. Worship Service is live streamed weekly and recorded for later viewing through the St. James YouTube Channel. The link is in the weekly e-announcements sent to your email and also on our website.

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RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Saints of James,

During Easter week I was listening to a podcast by Emily P. Freeman, called *The Next Right Thing*, and she talked a bit about liminal space, and how we are most open to learning, when in this space. "Liminal" is a term that describes the space between two realities. The Cambridge Dictionary defines it as "between or belonging to two places, states, etc", and it comes from the word "limin" which means "threshold". Both liminal and thresholds are in-between moments. One of my wise spiritual guides, Franciscan priest Richard Rohr says this about liminal time: "Liminal space is where all transformation takes place...where we are betwixt and between the familiar and the completely unknown. There alone (in liminal space) our old world is left behind, while we are not yet sure of what our new existence will look like...Liminal space," Rohr concludes, "is sacred space, where the old world is able to fall apart and a bigger world is revealed."

Jesus was in a liminal space for 40 days, between his Resurrection from the dead, and his Ascension into heaven. He was in that space between two realities and he saw it as a teachable time for the disciples. Into this circumstance, (of the crucified Jesus, resurrected, and appearing to the disciples), an openness seemed to have settled on the disciples; their Lord appeared to them. First to Mary Magdalene outside the empty tomb; then in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, on the Road to Emmaus, where they did not recognize Jesus, but their eyes were opened at the evening meal in the breaking of bread; Jesus appears on the beach, and has breakfast with his hungry disciples. Jesus gives Peter the chance to

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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, Machele Huff
† 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

Rector's Message continued. . .

affirm three times his love for Jesus, to compensate for his three-fold denial. The apostle Paul is the only New Testament writer that mentions that Jesus appeared to over five hundred brethren at one time after his resurrection (1Corinthians 15:6). Jesus meets with the disciples on the Mount of Olives (Acts 1). He gives them, just before his ascension, what is referred to as the Great Commission. He also tells them to wait ten more days, in the city of Jerusalem, so that they may receive the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18 - 20, Mark 16:15 - 18, Acts 1:4 - 5). And Jesus ties loving him, to caring for his sheep. In his appearances, Jesus brings a message of peace, with instructions, "Do not be afraid." The Scripture lessons we hear during the season of Eastertide, reveal God's relationship of love and care, as we are reminded that faith is lived out in our bodies. Contemplation must be accompanied by action; the Gospel calls us to get our hands dirty. During Jesus's liminal time, on the threshold between death and eternal life, between the familiar and the completely unknown, Jesus appears.

On the threshold of my retirement, the Saints of James and I are in a liminal space. Neither I, nor you, have been in this precise reality, this specific moment before. I am not certain how best to navigate this time, so I am talking with a Clergy Coach, who is a conversation partner, to encourage and gently challenge, during times of imminent change. This commitment provides dedicated space for the vulnerability and

reflection that is needed for me during this time of transition, and is hard to come by, amongst the many tasks and details necessary for a good leave taking. In one of our conversations, I started to say I needed to “dismantle my office,” but when I heard those words, I realized that what I wanted to do was “prepare the way for the next Rector.” That shift of thought made me feel hopeful, and positive, that I could leave in a way that would be welcoming to the next priest; I would do the “next right thing,” as the podcast talked about.

Still, it is not easy; I lean into God, and look for Jesus to show up, making his unannounced appearance, with a peace that passes all understanding, and assuring me that I do not need to be afraid. I have learned from past experience, that liminal space invites a posture of openness to God and listening for his voice. It’s where we sit in God’s presence to hold anxious feelings, resist impulsiveness, to live with “not knowing,” and breathe deeply, inhaling God’s life giving Spirit, and exhaling fear and anxiety. So, Saints of James, we are now moving toward that sacred and holy space of allowing the familiar world to fall apart, so new life can emerge. It is the cycle of life, and God is with each and every one of us, in this liminal space. My focus is to be fully present and appreciative of our time together, in the here and now, and leave the wondering of what comes next, in God’s loving hands, for I trust that God has plans for us, which are better than we could possibly hope or pray for.

Easter Resurrection Blessings,
SEB+

St. James Cycle of Prayers

In the May, we give thanks for the services of those participating in the Little Church Social Club, the Audiovisual Ministry and the Outreach Ministry. We pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will continue to work through those who readily serve the needs of others.

TREASURERS’ CORNER . . .

By Kevin Shepherd

Financials: March 2023

(These are Year-to-Date actual amounts not budgeted amounts)

Operating Income: \$34,038.32
Operating Expenses: \$61,952.24
Net (Loss) Operating Income:
(\$27,913.92)

One way 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.

YOUTH NEWS . . .

Diocesan Youth Summer Mission Trips at Grace House

Join with other Diocesan youth this summer for a week of service and fellowship at Grace House on the Mountain. Grace House is a non-profit organization owned and operated by The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Virginia perched on Sandy Ridge near Norton and St. Paul in Wise County, Virginia. Grace House seeks to be a place of social justice and advocacy for the welfare of the Appalachian people.

Grace House on the Mountain endeavors to extend the love of Christ by reaching out into communities showing mercy and compassion, through responsiveness by "working with, not for" the families in the surrounding area. Our work projects center on helping families in need to have safe, warm, and dry homes. In addition to the work projects, Grace House on the Mountain extends outreach services to the surrounding community by offering financial assistance with essential services such as electricity, water, and medicine.

The mission of Grace House is to provide our visiting groups with the experience of a lifetime, learning about the culture and ways of life here in the Appalachian Mountains.

The Diocesan youth mission trips this summer offering a separate trip for middle schoolers (current 6-8th graders)

and high schoolers (current 9-12 graders) to make the experience even more close-knit and meaningful for our youth participants. Registration is now open: **June 18-24 for middle schoolers and June 25-July 1 for high schoolers.**

The cost is \$200.00. For more information and to register, go to: <https://dioswva.wufoo.com/forms/zss3dmx0r6ccke/>.

Phoebe Needles Summer Camps:

Registration is now open for camps at Phoebe Needles. For all the details and to register for camps go to: <https://phoebeneedles.org/>

Residential Camps: Residential (overnight) camps @ Phoebe Needles are designed for rising 5th through 12th 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 rock-climbing, 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.

- ✚ Middler Camp: June 18 – June 24 (rising 7th to 8th graders)
- ✚ Senior Camp: June 25 – July 1 (rising 9th to 12th graders)
- ✚ Outdoor Expedition: July 2 – July 7 (minimum age 13)
- ✚ First Year Camp: July 2 – July 7 (rising 5th to 6th graders)
- ✚ Rock Climbing Camp: July 9 – July 15 (minimum age 13)

- ✚ Art Camp: July 16 – July 22
(minimum age 11)
- ✚ Nature Camp: July 16 – July 22
(minimum age 11)
- ✚ Outreach Camp: July 23 – July 29
(rising 7th – 12th graders)

For more information, and to register visit:
<https://phoebeneedles.org/>

OUTREACH NEWS...

The plate and loose offering received on **May 21** will go to the **St. James Youth Scholarship Fund**. These funds will help the youth defray the cost of Youth @ Council, YMT training and retreats, Spring Youth Event, summer camp, Fall Youth Event, and the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE).

Currently, our Youth Scholarship fund has been depleted and overdrawn. Due to Covid 19, we did not have a Youth Scholarship offering for two years. In 2022 youth programs resumed at Camps and Conference Centers, and our St. James youth are actively participating. St. James has been committed to encouraging our youth to grow in their faith through camps, conferences, and retreats, and that finances would not be a barrier to these opportunities.

Please give generously to the **Youth Scholarship Fund** to help our youth attend these events. Please **make checks payable to St. James Episcopal Church, with “Youth Scholarship Fund” on the memo line of your check.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

St. James’s Website

Visit our St. James website, <https://stjamesroanoke.org>, which has been redesigned and updated. When the Diocese did not renew their contract with Digital Faith, that hosted our website, we had to find another web provider and transfer our website to a new platform. The Vestry hired Teresa Martin, owner of StudioThought Marketing & Design, LLC, of Floyd, to work with us to redesign and set up our new website. Gerald Gordon is our webmaster and he has worked diligently with Teresa on the layout, content, and the collecting of photos to update our Photo Gallery. The website is still a work in progress, as not all of the content is complete, but do take a look, and enjoy the new pictures.

Altar Flowers

There are a few more Sundays available for you to give altar flowers. 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. The current study is on the Fruits of the Spirit. All are invited to participate; For more information contact John Whitcomb, 540-563-1708 or Bob Canova, 540-819-7255 (mobile), bob.canova@cox.net.

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 May, June, July 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 non-perishable foods in **unopened** containers, personal care items and paper goods.

MAY BIRTHDAYS. . .

May 2	Cael Goldberg
May 2	Remington Goldberg
May 4	Tricia Champion
May 6	Deidre Mattox Franey
May 7	Helen Campbell
May 8	Tim Buchholtz
May 10	Yuri Malick
May 13	Cole Mattox
May 16	Bruce Plunkett
May 16	Laura Anderson
May 17	Zenon Malick
May 19	Ryan Kasey
May 23	Danny Price
May 26	Will Burks
May 26	Joan Gurniak

MAY ANNIVERSARIES . . .

May 11	Kristen & Butch Johnstone
May 12	Rose Marie & Michael Townsend
May 15	Kate & Darryl Perry
May 20	Kim & Kevin Laxton

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	2 <u>8:30 AM</u> Williamson Road Clergy <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	3 <u>3:30 PM</u> Atrium <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	4 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	5 Cinco De Mayo	6 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
7 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	8 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	9 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	10 <u>3:30 PM</u> Atrium <u>6:30 PM</u> Little Church Social Club <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	11 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	12	13 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
14 Mother's Day <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	15 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	16 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	17 <u>3:30 PM</u> Atrium <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	18 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	19 <u>5:30 PM</u> Down Syndrome Support Group	20 Armed Forces Day <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
21 <u>12:00 PM</u> Vestry <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	22 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	23 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	24 <u>3:30 PM</u> Atrium <u>6:30 PM</u> Little Church Social Club <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	25 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	26	27 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
28 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	29 Memorial Day <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	30 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	31 <u>3:30 PM</u> Atrium <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study			

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2023

May 7**8 AM** Lector—*Bill Barksdale*; Chalice—*Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Larry Mattox, Ray Kasey
	Acolyte	Peyton Morant-Frost	Coffee	Odell James, Dottie Wrabel, Machele Huff
	Chalicer	Kevin Shepherd	Tellers	Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy
			Altar Guild	Danny Fainter, Gail Fields, Joan Gurniak
	Lector 1	Maile Armstrong		
	Lector 2	JoAnn Criscione		
	Prayers	Donna Frost		

May 14**8 AM** Lector and Chalice—*Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Yuri Malick	Ushers	Chris & JoAnn Criscione
	Acolyte	Mercedes Malick	Coffee	Art Tatman, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	Chalicer	Katie Rucker	Tellers	Arby Frost, Katie Rucker
	Lector 1	Lynn Wright	Altar Guild	Linda Bryant, Dorothy Herndon, Sharon Miller
	Lector 2	Daniel Toler-Pulley		
	Prayers	Jessica Price		

May 21**8 AM** Lector—*Phil Wheeler*; Chalice—*Bill Barksdale*

10 AM	Crucifer	Madalyn Linkous	Ushers	Kevin Shepherd, Madde Shepherd
	Acolyte	Grant Rucker	Coffee	Doris & Larry Mattox, Joyce Brown
	Chalicer 1	Lawton Kasey	Tellers	Larry Mattox, Kevin Laxton
	Chalicer 2	Art Tatman	Altar Guild	Lawton Kasey, Betsy Briggs, Katie Rucker
	Lector 1	Michael Bentley		
	Lector 2	Art Tatman		
	Prayers	Chris Criscione		

May 28**8 AM** Lector—*Bill Barksdale*; Chalice—*Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Yuri Malick	Ushers	Michael Bentley, Madalyn Linkous
	Acolyte	Roman Malick	Coffee	Kim & Kevin Laxton
	T Bearer	-----	Tellers	Maile Armstrong, Donna Frost
	Chalicer 1	Kevin Shepherd	Altar Guild	Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	Chalicer 2	Katie Rucker		
	Lector 1	Phil Hobla		
	Lector 2	Jessica Price		
	Prayers	Sabrina Mattox		

If you are unavailable to serve as shown, please find someone to fill in for you and let the church office know.