

# the st. james



June 2023  
Volume 22 Number 6



### 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 on our website, listed below.

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## RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Saints of James,

Books are on my mind, as I am in the process of relocating the 4 bookcases of volumes in my St. James office. When I take a “balcony view” of my library, I see that it reveals some of who I am, and where I have journeyed through my adult years. Who remembers *I'm OK, You're OK*, written by Thomas Harris, in 1969? That's on the shelf along with *Born to Win*, and *The Road Less Traveled*. I have every book written by my professor and spiritual mentor, the Rev. Dr. John H. Westerhoff, retired Professor of Theology and Spiritual Nurture at Duke Divinity School, who was foundational in shaping and forming me as a priest, pastor, and an Episcopalian. Then there are a goodly number of books written by Frederick Buechner, American author, Presbyterian minister, preacher, and theologian, whose insights often found their way into my sermons. My books are organized by topics, so I can easily reference them; liturgical resources, Study Bibles, preaching and sermon writing, Church ministry, Christian Formation, the Episcopal Church Teaching Series, as well as handbooks to navigate the Episcopal church. Books on prayer, and devotionals take up several shelves, from Advent and Lent specific to those more general in nature, and the spirituality collection has grown as my faith deepened. The Pastoral care shelf is wide ranging from grief and loss resources, to dealing with aging parents, sexual abuse, dementia, women's issues, family systems theory, race and faith, trauma healing, and then there are a number of books on pilgrimage, reflecting the

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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. . .**

journeys I have taken to ancient and sacred places where God's people have been since the earliest of times. Two shelves hold the books I acquired about South Sudan and Sudan, as I sought to learn about the people, their personal stories, the intersection of faith, war, geopolitics, tribalism, and trauma, to be an educated presence in worship with the South Sudanese Christian Fellowship at St. James, and effective in pastoral care with the Sudanese diaspora in Roanoke.

As an exercise in self-awareness, I invite you to review the reading material, audio or print, that captures your imagination, interest, and time, to see what insights you might have into yourself and your life journey.

Needless to say, as I downsize my collection of beloved books, I have not lost my keen desire to read for pleasure and knowledge, so I share some of the books that are awaiting me in retirement.

*Rest Is Resistance: A Manifesto* by Tricia Hersey; In *Rest Is Resistance*, Tricia Hersey, aka the Nap Bishop, casts an illuminating light on our troubled relationship with rest and how to imagine and dream our way to a future where rest is exalted. Our worth does not reside in how much we produce, especially not for a system that exploits and dehumanizes us. Rest, in its simplest form, becomes an act of resistance and a reclaiming of power because it affirms our most basic humanity. We are enough. The systems cannot have us.

*Beneath A Scarlet Sky*, by Mark Sullivan. Based on the true story of a forgotten hero, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* is

the triumphant, epic tale of one young man's incredible courage and resilience during one of history's darkest hours. Pino Lella wants nothing to do with the war or the Nazis. He's a normal Italian teenager - obsessed with music, food, and girls - but his days of innocence are numbered. When his family home in Milan is destroyed by Allied bombs, Pino joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps, and falls for Anna, a beautiful widow six years his senior.

*God Is A Black Woman* by Christena Cleveland. Having seen the Black Madonna of the Monastery of Montserrat in Spain, I have been curious to learn more about Black Madonnas, and this book has been on my reading list for a year! Christena Cleveland, social psychologist, public theologian, author and activist experienced a crisis of faith that sent her on an intellectual and spiritual journey through history and across France, on a 400-mile walking pilgrimage to the ancient shrines of Black Madonnas to find healing in the Sacred Black Feminine. *God Is a Black Woman* is the chronicle of her liberating transformation and a critique of a society shaped by white patriarchal Christianity and culture.

*Queer Holiness, the Gift of LGBTQ People to the Church*, by Charlie Bell. Written by an Academic Clinical Fellow in Psychiatry at South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, and King's College London, Bell is an ordained Deacon in the Church of England. He writes a comprehensive survey of the role of scripture, tradition and reason in understanding what it means to be human and Christian, focusing on Christ

as human and divine. This books seeks to understand our theology in a way that allows us to be with each other, and not to objectify the LGBTQI community. Taking insights from the sciences and personal narratives, Charlie Bell seeks to answer the question: What does human flourishing look like at the heart of Christian faith.

*Stern Men: A Novel*, by Elizabeth Gilbert. Off the coast of Maine, Ruth Thomas is born into a feud fought for generations by two groups of local lobstermen over fishing rights for the waters that lie between their respective islands. At 18, she has returned from boarding school - smart as a whip, feisty, and irredeemably unromantic - determined to throw over her education and join the "stern men" working the lobster boats. Gilbert utterly captures the American spirit through an unforgettable heroine who is destined for greatness - and love - despite herself.

Our libraries at St. James have also been revamped, which you can read about in another article in the newsletter. *"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go,"* says Dr. Seuss. So read on my friends!

Summer Blessings,  
SEB+



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

In June, we give thanks for the ministry and service of the Daughters of the King. We pray that their active membership continues to grow as they enhance their understanding of Christian life, their service to our parish, and their willingness to aid those in need outside the parish.

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.

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

"Leadership is not about being in charge. Leadership is about taking care of those in your charge."

Quote by Simon Sinek

### **TREASURERS' CORNER . . .**

By Kevin Shepherd

#### **Financials: April 2023**

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

Operating Income: \$50,570.69  
 Operating Expenses: \$79,390.12  
 Net (Loss) Operating Income:  
 (\$28,819.43)

#### **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](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards)).



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 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders)

- ✚ Senior Camp: June 25 – July 1 (rising 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders)
- ✚ Outdoor Expedition: July 2 – July 7 (minimum age 13)
- ✚ First Year Camp: July 2 – July 7 (rising 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders)

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

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

The plate and loose offering received on **June 18** will go to the **West End Center for Youth (WEC).**

In 1979, poverty, crime, and drug trading characterized Roanoke's West End neighborhood. Vacant lots, abandoned buildings, and deteriorating rental properties were widespread. A number of children were wandering the streets without supervision, and there had been an increase in vandalism.

In response, West End Presbyterian Church, West End United Methodist Church and the Mountain View Neighborhood Alliance formed a coalition to establish West End Center as a safe haven for the neighborhood children.

Since that time, West End Center has experienced tremendous growth, both in

the number of children served and the available programs and services. Today, West End Center serves about 150 children each year. The goal of the program is to equip the students with developmental assets they need to become happy, healthy, successful adults. To accomplish this goal, WEC offers wholistic programming to support the health of our students' minds, bodies, and spirits.

The success of the young people who have attended West End Center is a testament to the ability of this grassroots, community-based program, working in partnership with loyal supporters, to make a difference in the lives of young people.

Programs offered are:

- ✚ After School Care
- ✚ Academic Enrichment (STEAM, literacy, tutoring)
- ✚ Wellness (mental, emotional, fitness, nutrition)
- ✚ Social Skill Development (social emotional learning, leadership, job readiness)
- ✚ Summer Program (an 8-week full day program)

Please give generously to this worthy organization. **Make checks payable to St. James Episcopal Church, with "West End Center" on the memo line of your check.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

### **Books, Books Books at St. James**

You may have noticed that the Library in our Parish Hall has been updated, removing some of the very old and outdated books and adding more current materials. Gerald Gordon, a retired librarian from Radford University and the Rector, have worked on this. The books are shelved by categories of Bible, biblical resources, Episcopal resources, prayer & devotionals, spirituality, Christianity, biographies, religion, and some resource books for care giving. If you wish to borrow or donate books, leave them on the bottom shelf of the book case with a note to Gerald to shelve them. The furniture in our library sitting area has been rearranged so that it is easier to browse the books on the shelf. Check out is on the honor system - borrow what you are interested in and return it when you are finished.

In the Conference room on the lower level of the Parish House, is a lending library filled with novels and nonfiction books, on the tall book shelf and window sill. You are welcome to borrow and contribute to this library - there is lots of light, enjoyable reading there.

Also in that room is a small white bookshelf for the Little Free Library donations. **We are in need of more book donations for our neighborhood library;** you are invited to either bring books to the Conference room or put them in the Little Free Library yourself. These books can be on a variety of literary works and topics, for adults,

youth, and children, whatever you think the neighbors might enjoy. Questions - check with Gerald Gordon.

### **A Generous Bequest to St. James**

In May 2023, St. James received a very generous unrestricted, bequest of \$116,886.34 from the estate of Lonnie Bower, and devoted Christian and Saint of James. A quiet and unassuming member, Lonnie was at the Church whenever the doors were open, seeing what needed to be done and serving in whatever way would be helpful. St. James was her family and her faith and service was a witness to us all.

At the May 21st Vestry meeting, the Vestry members accepted with gratitude this bequest and voted to add it to our parish Endowment Fund for the continued financial stability of St. James. Bequests have been significant in the financial well-being of the parish. The Endowment Fund was established from a gift of a loyal St. James member, through her estate. In the late 1990's a number of property maintenance and building improvements were made with the funds from a bequest. Even in their dying, these former Saints of James have given life to St. James, and continue to, through their funds being well invested and earning interest. The interest from our Endowment Fund money is part of our annual operating budget.

St. James can be designated a beneficiary in your Will, Trust, IRA, or insurance policy. Consider that your legacy to the Church, might well be a financial one, and incorporate that into your final wishes, of planned giving.

Some twenty years ago, the *Legacy Society of St. James Episcopal Church* was founded to encourage, support and celebrate gifts to God that ensure that St. James remains vibrant and vital for those who come after us. The Saint James Legacy Society is an honorary society established to acknowledge and thank those who choose to support the life and mission of this congregation through bequests and planned gifts. If you would like to be a member of the *Legacy Society of St. James Episcopal Church*, there are brochures on the counter in the Parish Hall, with a form to complete to let us know of your desire. You can also contact Senior Warden, Avis Aheron with questions.

### **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 Studio Thought 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.

### Wednesday Evening Bible Study

The weekday Bible Study, led by Bob Canova, is on summer break and will resume in the fall. 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.

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS...

June 3	Joe Hart
June 4	Robb Pulley
June 6	Jimmy Champion
June 10	James Kyle
June 11	Joseph Champion
June 12	Marc Rucker
June 14	Kim Laxton
June 16	Maile Armstrong
June 16	Danny Fainter
June 18	Sabrina Mattox
June 22	Kristen Johnstone
June 23	Gerald Gordon
June 24	Henry Schumm
June 25	Doris Mattox
June 27	Jonathan Harris
June 28	Renée Toth
June 29	Darla Schumm
June 29	Arby Frost
June 30	Matthew Bentley

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES...

June 6	Carol & Butch Eanes
June 9	Brooke Frost and Julio Morant
June 9	Helen & Sam Campbell
June 11	Mary & Jim McGlothlin
June 13	Jessica & D. W. Hart
June 16	Jessica & Brandt Gawor
June 17	Jessica & Danny Price
June 20	Beth & Steve Wiegandt
June 25	Mother Sue's 33 <sup>rd</sup> ordination as a Deacon



## Is there any such thing as fidelity?

In a culture where change is swift and common, in a world where movement is global and given, in a society where three careers and two marriages are commonplace, the very notion of fidelity stretches us to the outside edge of meaning. Is there really any such thing as fidelity now? And why?

We think of the questions as new ones, bred out of a culture of social change and limitless options, but it doesn't take much reflection to realize that change, more than anything else perhaps, makes for the very essence of the spiritual life. The soul only grows as a result of the changes that tax and test our tolerance for the present, ability to find God where God is rather than where we think God should be for us. Change of mind, change of heart, change of hopes, change of insights require us over and over again to sort through all the pseudo-certainties of our lives, keeping some things, altering others, discarding the rest of the notions that were once its convictions, its absolutes, the very staples of our souls. The question of fidelity to what and why, the clamorous questions that crowd in constantly for attention, follow at the heels of every other.

Fidelity does not lie in refusing to change. Permanence is not a synonym for constancy. Fidelity lies in making whatever changes are necessary to bring us from the ideals out of which we have always operated in order to achieve those ideals toward which we have always striven. Fidelity manifests the truest part

of us in process to the whole of us. Coming to wholeness by being faithful to the self and the inspiring ideals we steer by means that we will never make fidelity our excuse not to become what we must most be.

But if real fidelity requires steadfast commitment to those values which direct and define us, which lie at the core of the soul like a lodestone, which transcend all others and measure our authenticity then what is philosophically obvious begins to ring with a more ominous tone. "If the Church itself should become an obstacle to our salvation," Thomas Aquinas writes, "we would be required to leave the Church." That is the essence of fidelity, to be willing to forego anything that makes the best in us impossible. To make perpetual that which is not worthy of eternal pursuit and everlasting preservation is not a virtue.

It is a shocking concept, this notion that fidelity does not lie in standing in place but in consistently moving toward whatever brings us to more and more wholeness of heart, certainty of soul, clarity of mind and integrity of behavior until we finally know deep in our deepest selves what stars really guide us. Fidelity is the ability to move freely through life because of the unwavering ideals that call us on from wherever we are to where we must be if we are ever to achieve and maintain those ideals at all. Fidelity is not the state of never making a mistake. Fidelity is the state of never staying in one.

—from *The Fire in These Ashes*, by Joan Chittister

## SERVER SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2023

**June 4****8 AM** *Lector and Chalcist—Tim Buchholtz***10 AM** Crucifer Zenon Malick  
Acolyte Jordyn Price  
Chalcist Art TatmanLector 1 Jackie Leonard  
Lector 2 Maile Armstrong  
Prayers Betsy BriggsUshers Michael Bentley, Madalyn Linkous  
Coffee Chris & JoAnn Criscione  
Tellers Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy  
Altar Guild Danny Fainter, Gail Fields, Joan Gurniak**June 11****8 AM** *Lector—Phil Wheeler; Chalcist—Bill Barksdale***10 AM** Crucifer Madde Shepherd  
Acolyte Grant Rucker  
Chalcist Lawton Kasey  
Lector 1 Donna Frost  
Lector 2 Chris Criscione  
Prayers Avis AheronUshers Michael Kennedy, Thomas Rucker  
Coffee Danny Fainter, Gerald Gordon, Gail Fields  
Tellers Arby Frost, Katie Rucker  
Altar Guild Linda Bryant, JoAnn Criscione, Dorothy Herndon,  
Sharon Miller**June 18****8 AM** *Lector—Bill Barksdale; Chalcist—Tim Buchholtz***10 AM** Crucifer Yuri Malick  
Acolyte Madde Shepherd  
Chalcist Kevin ShepherdLector 1 Jessica Price  
Lector 2 Betsy Briggs  
Prayers Lynn WrightUshers Chris & JoAnn Criscione  
Coffee Daniel Toler-Pulley & Robb Pulley  
Tellers Larry Mattox, Kevin Laxton  
Altar Guild Lawton Kasey, Betsy Briggs, Katie Rucker**June 25****8 AM** *Lector and Chalcist—Tim Buchholtz***10 AM** Crucifer Madalyn Linkous  
Acolyte Peyton Morant-Frost  
Chalcist Katie RuckerLector 1 Daniel Toler-Pulley  
Lector 2 Avis Aheron  
Prayers Phil HoblaUshers Machele & Anthony Huff  
Coffee Beth & Steve Wiegandt  
Tellers Maile Armstrong, Donna Frost  
Altar Guild Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin,  
Debbie Williams

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	2	3  <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
4  <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	5  <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	6  <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	7	8  <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	9	10  <u>9:30 AM</u> AA <u>2 to 4 PM</u> Celebration of Mother Sue's Retirement
11  <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	12 Mother Sue's Retirement Begins  <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	13  <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	14 Flag Day  <u>6:30 PM</u> Little Church Social Club	15  <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	16  <u>5:30 PM</u> Down Syndrome Support Group	17  <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
18 Father's Day  <u>12:00 Noon</u> Vestry <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	19 Juneteenth  <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	20  <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	21 Summer Solstice	22  <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	23	24  <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
25  <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	26  <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	27  <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	28  <u>6:30 PM</u> Little Church Social Club	29  <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	30	