

July 2023
Volume 22 Number 7



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.

St. James Episcopal Church
4515 Delray Street
Roanoke, VA 24012
Phone: 540-366-4157
Fax: 540-366-2851
E-mail: stjames@rev.net
www.stjamesroanoke.org

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Submitted by Chris Criscione

The weekend of June 10-11 represented a milestone for the congregation of St. James Episcopal Church, as the Rev. Sue Bentley presided over her final service here. Early in 2023, Mother Sue advised the congregation that she would be retiring, bringing to a close 22 1/2 years of ministry to the Saints of James, a period that has encompassed many significant moments and developments for our parish.

On the Saturday prior to her final service, the church hosted a farewell reception for Mother Sue. The parish hall was overflowing with well-wishers. In addition to a large cross-section of current and former members of St. James, the affair was also attended by an assortment of former colleagues, parishioners, and friends of Sue's from the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia and Christ Church, Roanoke, where Sue had served as Director of Christian Education in the 1980's.

The reception was followed the next day by Mother Sue's last service at St. James, which culminated in the Liturgy of Leave-Taking in Thanksgiving For Our Mutual Ministry. Among those in attendance for this final service was the Rt. Rev. A. Heath Light, retired bishop of DioSWVA, who had ordained Mother Sue 33 years earlier.

Mother Sue began her ministry at St. James November 1, 2000, becoming the eighth rector to serve the parish. During her tenure, Mother Sue initiated or supported many significant spiritual programs. Among these have been Education for Ministry (EfM) for lay members of the congregation,

(continued on page 2 ...)

St. James Episcopal Church**Clergy:**

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas
Bishop, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

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

Retirement Celebration continued. . .

the Catechesis of The Good Shepherd for young children up to age 6, a St. James Chapter of Daughters of the King (DOK) for women seeking to deepen their Christian experience and relationship with the Episcopal Church, continued support for the Episcopal Boys Home in Covington, Virginia.

Among the most notable initiatives undertaken during Mother Sue's ministry at St. James was nesting the South Sudanese Christian Fellowship. As a result of the diaspora caused by the civil war that has ravaged their country, many South Sudanese came to reside in the Roanoke Valley. Under Mother Sue's guidance, St. James was able to provide a place for the community to hold weekly worship services on Sunday evenings. This important spiritual relationship would eventually lead to St. James sponsoring Samson Mamour for seminary and, ultimately, ordination to the priesthood.

Perhaps no single period of the past two decades was as challenging as the global COVID pandemic that swept the world beginning in 2019. Like many other churches, St. James was forced to abandon in-person services for the better portion of a year. For much of that period, worship, fellowship, vestry and meetings were accomplished via the ZOOM virtual platform.

Despite these and other challenges, Mother Sue and the Saints of James have managed to continue accomplishing the work of the parish both within the church walls and in the larger community -- locally, nationally, and internationally -- as well.

With Mother Sue's formal retirement, St. James Episcopal Church will -- with the support and guidance of the Diocese -- prepare to begin the process of reviewing, interviewing, and selecting candidates for the next rector. While the ensuing months will be a time of great transition and discernment for the congregation, the work the parish has done in partnership with Mother Sue Bentley over the previous 22 1/2 years has left it in a strong position to plot its next steps and a new era for our church.

St. James Cycle of Prayers

In July, we give thanks for the ministries of all those who contribute to parish life at St. James – the Hospitality Committee members who organize and sponsor our receptions and meals; the members of the parish who host coffee hours and adult suppers; and the parishioners who provide transportation for others to attend church services and activities. We pray that their ministries will continue to enhance the community life for all who call St. James their parish home.

On **July 2**, the Rev Jonathan Harris will be with us to celebrate the Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8 o'clock and Rite II at 10 o'clock.

On **July 9**, Tim Buchholtz will lead the 8 o'clock service in the Liturgy of the Word and Art Tatman will lead the 10 o'clock service in the Liturgy of the Word.

On **July 16**, Tim Buchholtz will lead the 8 o'clock service in the Liturgy of the word and Karen Martin will lead the 10 o'clock service in the Liturgy of the Word. The vestry will meet on **July 16** following the 10 o'clock service.

On **July 23**, we will celebrate St James Day with the Liturgy of the Word led by Deacon Linda Ricker. The service will be followed by a festive coffee hour to honor our patron saint, St James.

On **July 30**, The Rev. Brad Laycock will be with us to celebrate the Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8 o'clock and Rite II at 10 o'clock.

TREASURERS' CORNER . . .

By Kevin Shepherd

Financials: May 2023

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

Operating Income: \$61,655.69
 Operating Expenses: \$96,184.91
 Net (Loss) Operating Income:
 (\$34,529.22)

VESTRY CORNER . . .

By Avis Aheron

Transition Updates: Through the summer, our Sunday worship will be Holy Eucharist or Liturgy of the Word.

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 . . .

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. Camps remaining for the year are as follows:

- ✚ 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 July 16 will go to Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM) and on July 30 will go Episcopal Relief & Development.

Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM) is an interfaith non-profit that advocates for those facing or are threatened by homelessness and hunger. Founded in 1971, their doors are open for those needing care coordination, day shelter services, meals, and emergency financial assistance.

RAM House is the largest day shelter in Roanoke, and is open 365 days a year. Every day RAM provides guests with a continental breakfast and nutritious hot lunch. The safe environment is a refuge for those in need, where they can receive toiletries, clothing, and other necessities. Laundry services and a safe place to store their possessions for the day are also available. Guests in the shelter can sign up to work through RAM's day labor program which allows them to earn a small income. There is also an emergency financial assistance program which helps with rent and utility bills.

RAM strives to meet people where they are, and support them in their search for a better life.

Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) works with partners worldwide to alleviate hunger, create economic opportunities, respond to disasters, promote health, and strengthen communities. All their work to heal a hurting world is guided by the principles of compassion, dignity, and generosity--a mandate taken from the words of Jesus, found in Matthew 25.

ERD has been around for more than 75 and reaches 3 million annually. Services include:

- ✚ Bringing clean water to communities in need
- ✚ Protecting children from the threat of malaria
- ✚ Responding to disasters and emergencies
- ✚ Empowering women through microfinance

Please give generously to these worthy organizations. **Make checks payable to St. James Episcopal Church, with "outreach" on the memo line of your check.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

Communication & Community

Submitted by Art Tatman

Toward the end of the COVID pandemic Andy and I were attending a Birthday Party for a friend. There were several people there we did not know. Two of those couples (one from Roanoke and one from North Carolina) approached us and asked if we could share some

details about the success St James experienced with the Shepherding Groups during COVID. Both couples lamented how their individual congregations had lost contact with so many parishioners during the COVID lockdown.

We explained that St. James had very good participation via Zoom on Sunday mornings, but it was the Shepherds program that played a significant part in communicating with each other, looking out for each other, and making sure all were valued and missed. No one "fell through the cracks" and got lost.

For those new to St James the Shepherd Group program was based on a concept very popular back in the 1970's and early 1980's with various church communities—small groups within a congregation with names such as care groups, cell groups, shepherding groups, etc. These small groups were composed of six to 10 families in each group with a cell leader. The key words were communication and community.

With the retirement of Mother Sue, the next few months may be a trying time for St. James. During this community interruption, we will be led on Sunday mornings by supply priests, Deacons, and laypersons. During the interim period before a new rector is called, we plan to resurrect the Shepherding Ministry as a way to keep the community connected.

Basically, the Shepherd Groups would be an organized communication and care group concept. Within the small groups everyone would be communicating and watching out for each other and encouraging each other. When everyone gathers on Sunday morning as a community there will be no missing

saints! Contact would primarily be via phone and email. Each group would decide how they wish to support each other.

To be continued--stay tuned for more information to come!

Pastoral Care or Caregivers' Ministry

Submitted by Donna Frost

Pastoral Care or Caregivers' Ministry – it has been called both – defines who we are and what we do as a parish. Care forms an integral part of our ongoing fellowship here at St. James. This ministry is dedicated to serving church members who are ill, homebound, and at continuing care centers throughout the valley. Every time you send a greeting card; make a phone call out of concern or just to say, "Hey, we've missed you!"; or provide groceries and meals to our members who have undergone an outpatient procedure or one requiring a hospital stay, you are meeting the goals of this ministry. These caring gestures mean so much to those in the parish who have been the beneficiaries.

Under this ministry, a Pastoral Care Record Sheet is kept from year to year on which is recorded the dates that parishioners, as needed, receive phone calls, visits, communion at home or elsewhere in any given month. The rector and/or other designated persons deliver communion at select times to those who cannot attend regular services.

Providing drivers for those parishioners who need a ride to church on Sunday or to one of our many other church events is another function of this ministry.

I believe that pastoral care is a unique ministry in that all of you are members. Here in our St. James' community, we do what it takes to brighten the lives of those who are in need.

During the period before the long-term interim priest is in place and a priest is needed, please call the church office (540-366-4157) or Donna Frost (540-521-1242 or dzfro@cox.net) and the diocese will be contacted to dispatch a priest. For all other pastoral care needs, please contact Donna Frost.

Prayer Group and Prayer Requests

Submitted by Donna Frost

The Prayer Group meets upstairs in the parish hall once a week on Thursday mornings at 10:00. Prayer requests are to be submitted to the church office or written on the form provided on the counter in the parish hall. Prayer requests are sent out from the office by Connie to the Prayer Group, DOK, and other interested parties. The Prayer Group requests that parishioners who have asked that names be added to the church bulletin and who no longer need them to be on the list to phone the office to have the names removed.

For Prayer Group needs, please contact **Dorothy Herndon** at 540-362-0457 or djherndon@cox.net or the **church office** at 540-366-4157 or by email at stjames@rev.net.

Chrismons

Submitted by Karen Martin

As an Altar Guild member, I have been given the privilege to help decorate our Christmas Chrismon Tree for the last

couple of years. It is wonderful to see the beauty of these symbolic ornaments each year. At our last Altar Guild meeting, I asked if we could think about making new ornaments to replenish the ones that are starting to show their age. I have done some research about the history of our Chrismons that have adorned our tree for over fifty years. I have spoken to individuals asking permission to help replace some of them. We have all heard the term "Christmas in July." This July I am starting to think about making new Chrismons for this Christmas season at St. James. I know many of you are talented with a needle and thread. I have started looking at patterns and reading information about those beautiful ornaments. I am inviting all who are interested in this endeavor to help in the research, help provide instructions, locate patterns, and help with the crafting to make them. Our last group of saints that created the ornaments worked diligently 52 years ago. We are thankful for their inspiration to begin a beautiful tradition here at St. James. Thank you for the time to think about helping with this project. Please feel free to send me an email, call or just let me know about your willingness to help.

A Request from The Altar Guild

Submitted by Karen Martin

We need medium or large size cans used to send flowers home after our worship service. Please leave them in the kitchen. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

Treat of the Week

Submitted by Karen Martin

I would like to thank you for all your donations for treat of the week for each of our coffee hours. Your creativity and generosity is wonderful and appreciated. We are always welcoming donations for treat of the week.

School Supplies for Round Hill

Submitted by Karen Martin

Summer has arrived. I want to take the opportunity to let you know that I can take school supplies and box top labels anytime. I can make trips to the school during the summer or store them and deliver a bigger supply before school starts again for the students.

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.

Forward Day By Day

There are a few Forward Day By Day devotionals for the months of May, June, July still available for pick up at St. James in the Parish Hall and downstairs outside the office. The devotionals for August, September, October are also now available. Devotionals are \$1.00/each. Please place your cash in the 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.

NOTES OF THANKS . . .

Dear Avis and all the Saints of James,

There are not adequate words to articulate my gratitude for the lovely send off you gave me as your retiring Rector. The thought and care that went into the reception was evident in every

detail, from the deep cleaning of the Parish Hall, to the napkins wishing me well, and the delicious food. The gathering of the community was a joy filled time, and spoke to me of the ministry that we shared together as people of faith. I was, and still am, overwhelmed by the generosity of your monetary gift to me, as well as the cards, notes and messages. I am reminded of Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The treasure you presented me, is a reflection of hearts filled with appreciation, kindness, care, and love. For both your treasure and your hearts I give thanks to God and to you.

I look forward to what I believe is a photo album that will be coming in the near future. I will treasure the pictures and sit with them in quiet moments, as I reflect on many shared experiences with you; I know they will bring happiness as well as tears. In the meantime, I gaze at the miniature that Betsy Briggs painted with images of St. James.

Our last Sunday services together were the best of the best. I felt your presence as well as the Holy Spirit moving among us; the flow of heart felt feelings was evident. The music at the 10 am service was glorious, and reflected the interconnectedness of the St. James community. The Leave Taking Liturgy took great concentration and focus on my part, but the words and ritual were very meaningful and I find myself re-reading it, to ground me in my new reality, and yours.

I just acquired a new book entitled, *Don't Retire, Re-Wire*, by Jeri Sedlar and Rich Miners. I have more time to read now, and this book invites one to reflect

on what has been meaningful for one's life, what would be fulfilling going forward, and what it might look like to craft one's time and activities to nourish body, mind and soul, and I would add, follow God's will. As I ponder these new life questions, I do so, knowing that my time and relationships with you, will be reflected in the way I move forward. We have journeyed together and that history is part of who we all are. I hope as the St. James community, that you will reflect together on these universal questions, to discern God's will for your ministries.

With God's blessing, peace and love, Sue+

To My St. James Family,

I want to thank all of you for your cards, prayers, and support you have given me following Wayne's death. You are and have been a genuine source of consolation for me, and it is comforting to know that Wayne at long last is at peace. Wayne always enjoyed his time at St. James giving a talk now and then and enjoying the good food and fellowship of many social occasions.

Thank you all, once again for being there for me. St. James is and will continue to be a very special church home.

Sincerely,
Pam Reilly

JULY BIRTHDAYS . . .

July	1	Ann Bird
July	2	Jessica Wiegandt
July	2	Art Tatman
July	4	Linda Bryant
July	5	Billie Roth
July	5	Bill Barksdale
July	12	Katie Rucker
July	13	Andy Cochran
July	14	Rodney Plunkett
July	15	Deanie Young
July	21	Phil Wheeler
July	22	Sarah Bentley Allred
July	23	Ryan Fulton Stewart
July	25	Roman Malick
July	29	Jim McGlothlin

JULY ANNIVERSARIES . . .

July	1	Matt & Jennifer Champion Hanson
July	13	Bryan & Amanda Mattox
July	16	Barbara & Dennis Plunkett
July	18	Ken & Cam Srpan
July	25	Butch Eanes, Ordination to the Deaconate
July	29	Pat & Carl Ball

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR JULY 2023

July 2**8 AM** *Lector—Tim Buchholtz; Chalicist—Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Madalyn Linkous	Ushers	Larry Mattox, Kevin Laxton
	Acolyte	TBA	Coffee	Art Tatman, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams, Lis Turner
	Chalicist	Katie Rucker	Tellers	Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy
			Altar Guild	Danny Fainter, Gail Fields, Joan Gurniak
	Lector 1	Sabrina Mattox		
	Lector 2	Maile Armstrong		
	Prayers	JoAnn Criscione		

July 9**8 AM** *Lector—Bill Barksdale*

10 AM	Crucifer	Grant Rucker	Ushers	Kevin Shepherd, Madde Shepherd
	Acolyte	Roman Malick	Coffee	Odell James, Dottie Wrabel, Machele Huff
	Chalicist	-----	Tellers	Arby Frost, Katie Rucker
	Lector 1	Chris Criscione	Altar Guild	Linda Bryant, JoAnn Criscione, Dorothy Herndon, Sharon Miller
	Lector 2	Jackie Leonard		
	Prayers	Donna Frost		

July 16**8 AM** *Lector—Bill Barksdale*

10 AM	Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Ray Kasey, Madalyn Linkous
	Acolyte	Zenon Malick	Coffee	Doris & Larry Mattox, Joyce Brown
	Chalicist	-----	Tellers	Larry Mattox, Kevin Laxton
			Altar Guild	Lawton Kasey, Betsy Briggs, Katie Rucker
	Lector 1	Avis Aheron		
	Lector 2	Betsy Briggs		
	Prayers	Jessica Price		

July 23**8 AM** *Lector—Mary Rogers*

10 AM	Crucifer	Madalyn Linkous	Ushers	Michael Kennedy, Thomas Rucker
	Acolyte	Mercedes Malick	Coffee	Kevin & Kim Laxton
	Chalicist	-----	Tellers	Maile Armstrong, Donna Frost
			Altar Guild	Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	Lector 1	Lynn Wright		
	Lector 2	Art Tatman		
	Prayers	Daniel Toler-Pulley		

July 30**8 AM** *Lector—Phil Wheeler; Chalicist—Bill Barksdale*

10 AM	Crucifer	Jordyn Price	Ushers	Machele & Anthony Huff
	Acolyte	Yuri Malick	Coffee	Chris & JoAnn Criscione, Linda Bryant
	Chalicist	Art Tatman	Tellers	Wardens
			Altar Guild	Danny Fainter, Gail Fields, Joan Gurniak
	Lector 1	Maile Armstrong		
	Lector 2	Phil Hobbra		
	Prayers	Sabrina Mattox		

July 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
2 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	3 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	4 Independence Day <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	5	6 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	7	8 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
9 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	10 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	11 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	12 <u>6:30 PM</u> Little Church Social Club	13 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	14	15 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
16 <u>12:00 PM</u> Vestry <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	17 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	18 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	19 <u>6:30 PM</u> Little Church Social Club	20 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	21 <u>5:30 PM</u> Down Syndrome Support Group	22 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
23 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	24 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	25 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	26	27 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	28	29 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
30 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	31 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA					