

the st. james



September 2023
Volume 22 Number 9



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

Sunday School Resumes
September 10, 2023

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

We are...the Saints of James

There is a framed poster hanging in the Nave and another in the downstairs hallway of a Word Cloud created from responses from our parishioners almost 10 years ago to describe St James. A Google search defines a Word Cloud as a visual representation of information or data that shows the popularity of words or phrases by making the most frequently used words appear larger or bolder compared with other words around them. Word Clouds were popular back then. Even The Episcopal Church (TEC) created a Word Cloud and posted it on its website and social media platforms. Nowadays, Word Clouds are practically prehistoric. In fact, I myself have hardly paid attention to the posters as I sit in my usual pew (Epistle side, 5 pews back) or walk down the hallway to the church office several times a week.

Recently I took a picture of the Word Cloud and have been studying the words that described us almost 10 years ago and realized that they are just as relevant now as they were in 2014. The top 10 words are: **Community, Family, Faithful, Welcoming, Love, Comfort, Friendship, Caring, Jesus, and Inclusive.** There are of course many more words in the Word Cloud that describe our church and I invite you to take a fresh look and think about who we are as the Saints of James, especially in this time of transition as we prepare for the future. Who are we as a church community and what does the future hold for St James as a community of followers of Jesus Christ?

During my quiet moments and when I say my evening prayers, I have been giving considerable thought to

(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

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who we are as St James Episcopal Church and what is our vision for the future. Our past has given us a stable foundation built upon a diverse and spiritual community who have called St James their church home. Our present is a faithful and welcoming community that is supportive of each other as we journey through this time of transition. Everyone has been willing to pitch in when asked and to “carry on” with whatever it takes to make church happen every Sunday. Many have said, “This is how we do things at St James. Expect nothing less!” The collective love and spirit is heartfelt; patience and grace abound. Our future is ours to imagine.

“Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified. Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.”
(BCP Page 256)

Avis Aheron,
Senior Warden

St. James Cycle of Prayers

In September, we give thanks for all those participating in our Christian Education programs. We request your prayers for the learners and teachers for our children, youth, and adults involved in these programs. We also ask your prayers for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd we begin another year of instruction.

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.

VESTRY CORNER . . .

September Clergy and Deacons Serving

- ✚ September 3:
The Rev. Deacon Linda Ricker
- ✚ September 10:
The Rev. Samson Mamour
- ✚ September 17:
The Rev. Brad Laycock
- ✚ September 24:
The Rev. Deacon Linda Ricker

OUTREACH NEWS...

The plate and loose offering received on September 17 goes to the Presbyterian Center. The Presbyterian Community Center addresses homelessness and poverty of underserved families in southeast Roanoke by providing emergency financial aid, food access, after-school education, and spiritual development through direct services and community partnerships. Their vision is a vibrant southeast Roanoke, free of poverty. Established in 1967, the PCC also provides services to at-risk residents of northeast Roanoke and eastern Roanoke County, including the Town of Vinton. Please give generously to this worthy organization. Checks should be made payable to St. James Episcopal Church with "outreach" on the memo line of your check.

TREASURERS' CORNER . . .

By Kevin Shepherd

Financials: July 2023

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

Operating Income: \$95,163.24
 Operating Expenses: \$116,531.51
 Net (Loss) Operating Income:
 (\$21,368.27)

ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

Sunday School Resumes Submitted by Ann Bird

Sunday School will resume September 10, 2023. The 3- to 6-year-olds will be in the rainbow room (Room 8) with Mrs. Bird. The 2nd to 5th grade will meet in Room 16 at the end of the hall with Mrs. Sabrina and Mrs. Amanda Mattox. The older youth 6th grade and up will meet in The Cave (behind the Catechesis) with Mrs. Jessica Price.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Submitted by Carol Eanes

I feel St. James is most fortunate to have a program like this available to children. There are three age groups that this program includes: the young child (ages 3-6), the older child (ages 6-12) and there is a level for children ages 9-12.

At St. James we will have three catechists working with children ages 3-6 this year. The atrium (or prepared environment) is one of the important elements that helps the relationship between God and the child to flourish.

After a theme has been presented, the child is free to choose an activity that will make possible the inner dialogue with the "Interior Teacher."

The atrium helps to nourish this relationship by providing a place for religious life, for community and worship – not a classroom for instruction. It is also a place of meaningful work through

which the child can have a conversation with God. Finally, it is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worship community.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will begin on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 and conclude on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Questions or to sign up for your child, contact Carol Eanes 540-819-7628.

Safe Church Safe Communities Submitted by Maile Armstrong

St. James and the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia joins the rest of the Episcopal Church in its commitment to ensuring that its churches, schools, and institutions live out our baptismal promises by providing an environment free of abuse, exploitation, and harassment. The Safe Church, Safe Communities program teaches how exploitation and harassment occur, the awareness we need to prevent such occurrences, and how to respond should an incident of exploitation or harassment occur.

This program formerly known as Safeguarding God's Children and Safeguarding God's People is provided for Vestry members, church schoolteachers and others working with children, youth group leaders, volunteers working with vulnerable adults, church staff and parish key holders. Over the next two months, this program will be made available to parishioners in those

categories and to anyone else who wishes to learn about this valuable ministry. It comes in an on-line format but is also available in the face-to-face session.

The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia has a policy for *the Protection of Children and Youth* and for *Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Adults and Protection of Vulnerable Adults* which is modeled after the Episcopal Church Policy and binds all Episcopal churches, schools, camps, and institutions in the commitment to these protections. If you would like to review either of these policy documents, see Maile Armstrong to be sent the link or a paper copy.

Maile Armstrong will be coordinating this for St. James and keeping records for those required to participate. Please contact her (540-354-6016 or mailearmstrong@verizon.net) or at church with any questions.

COLLECT FOR SAFE CHURCH SAFE COMMUNITIES

Holy Creator, we offer our gratitude for the opportunity to live in community, where we can take comfort in others and be nurtured when needy, fed when hungry, and protected when threatened. Guide us as we strive to protect those in our midst who are most vulnerable and innocent, respecting the dignity of all humans, so we can more fully and appropriately love our neighbors and ourselves. Help us to be examples in the world in the likeness of your son Jesus,

who spoke truth to power, gave hope to the hopeless, and loved selflessly. We humbly ask for all this through the gift of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 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, resumes on Wednesday, October 11, 7 p.m. For more information contact John Whitcomb, 540-563-1708 or Bob Canova, 540-819-7255 (mobile), bob.canova@cox.net.

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.

Phoebe Needles Center

On September 12 from 10 a.m. to noon, "Regenesis" will be offered at Phoebe Needles. The presenter is Dr. Garry Collins whose book, Regenesis, was published in 2017 to challenge what people think they know about health and disease. Collins is a graduate of Life University College of Chiropractic, is a Fellow of The International Academy of Medical Acupuncturists, and is a Naturopathic Doctor. He has practiced holistic health care in his home of Floyd, Virginia for 26 years. To make a reservation, call Phoebe Needles at 540-483-1518 or email the center at PNCenter@gmail.com. The cost for members is \$12 and for non-members is \$20. The fee includes lunch. See the

bulletin board outside the kitchen for more details.

Music That Makes Community
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 2023
Chapel, St. John's Episcopal Church,
Roanoke, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Led by Jenny Fife

Come for an hour of paperless singing, no matter your age, whether or not you think you can sing! Join us in learning easy, beautiful songs that will lift your spirit, bring you joy, deepen your faith and build community. After a long Covid pause, we are hoping to jump-start this wonderful practice and continue monthly after Christmas in Roanoke. To learn more:

musicthatmakescommunity.org

or

call Jenny Fife at 540-797-8174.

Volunteers Needed

Promedica/Heartland Hospice needs volunteers. If you are interested, contact them at 540-200-7596 or email shawn.morrison@promedica.org. More details are the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS . . .

September 4 Brandt Gawor
September 6 Odell James
September 6 Abigayle Price
September 8 Beth Wiegandt
September 8 Josie Wiegandt
September 10 Brandon Scott Hall, Jr.
September 17 Chesley Plunkett Hall
September 18 The Rev. Linda Ricker
September 23 Rachelle Smith
September 23 Dennis Plunkett
September 27 Bill Witz
September 28 Larry Mattox
September 28 Rose Marie Townsend
September 28 Spencer Smith

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES . . .

September 15 JoAnn & Chris Criscione
September 26 Doris & Larry Mattox
September 27 Laura & Ned Anderson
September 27 Bill & Elizabeth Witz

**Is your birthday or anniversary
missing?**

**Please let the church office know:
540-366-4157 or stjames@rev.net**

Thanks bunches!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed		Fri	Sat
					1	2 <u>9:30 am</u> AA
3 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	4 Labor Day <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	5 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	6	7 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	8	9 <u>9:30 am</u> AA
10 <i>Sunday School Begins</i> <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	11 Patriot Day <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	12 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	13	14 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	15 <u>5:30 PM</u> Down Syndrome Support Group	16 <u>9:30 am</u> AA
17 <u>12:00</u> Vestry <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	18 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	19 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	20	21 Newsletter Deadline <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	22	23 Start of Fall (Autumnal Equinox) <u>8:00 AM</u> DOK Fall Assembly <u>9:30 am</u> AA
24 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	25 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	26 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	27	28 Newsletter Mails <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	29	30 <u>9:30 am</u> AA

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Sept 3**8 AM** *Lector – Phil Wheeler*

10 AM	Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Michael Kennedy, Thomas Rucker
	Acolyte	Jordyn Price	Coffee	Doris and Larry Mattox, Joyce Brown
	Chalicerist 1	-----	Tellers	Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy
	Chalicerist 2	-----	Altar Guild	Linda Bryant, JoAnn Criscione, Dorothy Herndon, Sharon Miller
	Lector 1	Maile Armstrong		
	Lector 2	Betsy Briggs		
	Prayers	Jessica Price		

Sept 10**8 AM** *Lector – Mary Rogers; Chalicerist—Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Yuri Malick	Ushers	Machele and Anthony Huff
	Acolyte	Mercedes Malick	Coffee	Kim and Kevin Laxton
	Chalicerist 1	Lawton Kasey	Tellers	Arby Frost, Katie Rucker
	Chalicerist 2	Katie Rucker	Altar Guild	Betsy Briggs, Lawton Kasey, Katie Rucker
	Lector 1	Carla Spencer		
	Lector 2	Avis Aheron		
	Prayers	JoAnn Criscione		

Sept 17**8 AM** *Lector and Chalicerist—Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Zenon Malick	Ushers	Kevin Shepherd, Madde Shepherd
	Acolyte	Grant Rucker	Coffee	Chris & JoAnn Criscione, Linda Bryant
	Chalicerist	Art Tatman	Tellers	Kevin Laxton, Larry Mattox
	Lector 1	Phil Hobla	Altar Guild	Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin Debbie Williams
	Lector 2	Daniel Toler-Pulley		
	Prayers	Lynn Wright		

Sept 24**8 AM** *Lector – Bill Barksdale*

10 AM	Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Chris & JoAnn Criscione
	Acolyte	Madde Shepherd	Coffee	Odell James, Dottie Wrabel, Machele Huff
	Lector 1	Donna Frost	Tellers	Maile Armstrong, Donna Frost
	Lector 2	Maile Armstrong	Altar Guild	Danny Fainter, Gail Fields, Joan Gurniak
	Prayers	Art Tatman		

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