

the st. james



October 2023
Volume 22 Number 10



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

Celebrating and Sharing God's Grace

Every Sunday before leaving the sanctuary, the celebrant proclaims these words, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!" The intention behind this seemingly last-minute declaration is a reminder that the nourishment we receive in worship is just the beginning of our call to a faithful life. The bread and wine, the music, the company of saints who have gathered – they are all to nourish us for the life of discipleship we encounter every day of the week. We celebrate collectively, so that we might be inspired to share the many blessings we have received. We gather together so that we might see with new eyes the opportunities before us to share God's grace. It's a simple phrase, and one that is easily overlooked at the end of a full service. But, consider the impact St. James has had on your life. Consider the power of sharing that impact with one another and beyond our doors, celebrating and sharing God's abundant grace!

Each year during the Fall, like clockwork, we start to think about our annual pledge with gratitude for the blessings of the past year and how we are to share those blessings anew to the greater glory of God. But is stewardship and pledging our first fruits to God just a seasonal offering? At St James, stewardship and pledging our first fruits to God happens every Sunday as we celebrate collectively, as we gather for Sunday school, choir rehearsals, evening Bible study, midweek prayer group, bimonthly Little Church Social Club, and other activities too numerous to list. Your support for St James, through your financial contributions and contributions of time and talent, make it possible for our parish to continue to fulfill our Baptismal Covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

(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

Senior Warden's Message Continued from page 1 . . .

Blessed in the past and present, we now look to the future. During this time of transition, as we seek to discern next steps in the spiritual journey of our parish, we wait patiently and prayerfully to hear what our Lord, Jesus Christ is calling us to do. If we want St James to continue as a strong and vibrant parish, we must strengthen our financial foundation by asking everyone to prayerfully consider a pledge for 2024 that is right for you and your household. Our shared goals of worshiping God and nurturing our spirit, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and cultivating and sharing generously God's abundance will bear fruit with your support and commitment to St James. To that end, we kick off our stewardship season. Members of the vestry are eager to enter into conversation about celebrating this moment in the parish and to answer any practical questions you may have. Please plan to make your pledge by Gratitude Sunday, Nov. 19, which will conclude our season.

Thank you for your generosity. St. James is a stronger community because of your presence and gifts.

“Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”
(BCP Page 827)

Gratefully, Avis Aheron, Senior Warden

FROM OUR SUDANESE COMMUNITY
Submitted by
The Rev. Samson Mamour

In Sudan, when someone says "God is good," people respond, "He is good all the time." God will never abandon His people, regardless of life's challenges. We are grateful for what God has been doing in our community since we left our home country and came to the United States. We owe the St. James congregation a lot of gratitude for their generosity and loving kindness towards our community.

We consider St. James a sanctuary for all Sudanese residents in Roanoke, regardless of their religion or denomination. Whether in times of joy or sadness, we assemble and find comfort here at St. James. This place has become the home and glue that binds the community together. God is good. By holding onto our faith, we are reminded that God is always good - no matter what happens. Trusting in His goodness can provide us with the strength to face any challenge that comes our way. After the COVID-19 pandemic, our attendance has decreased. However, we remain committed to coming together, expressing thanksgiving, and worshiping God. "When two or three are gathered together, I am present among them," as Christ said. We have come a long way and still have a long way to go. Thanks to the leadership of Mother Sue. Although her retirement has left a gap in our fellowship, nothing can pull us apart because she put us on the proper foundation.

We congratulate her on her three decades of dedicated service and wish her a happy and well-deserved retirement. Mother Sue's tireless efforts have fostered our faith and nurtured a strong and vibrant community. She was there as a pastor, friend, and mentor when we needed her.

St. James is our home, and we trust God to provide for us, as He did for Abraham and Isaac on their way to sacrifice. We want to thank the vestry and congregation of St. James for their prayers. We will continue to pray for the arrival of someone to serve here. South Sudanese at St. James

St. James Cycle of Prayers

In October, we give thanks for those participating in our Stewardship programs and our annual pledge ingathering. We request your prayers for the members of the Stewardship Committee and for all members of the parish as they joyfully and prayerfully consider their pledges of time, talent, and treasure for the coming year.

VESTRY CORNER . . .**October Schedule for Priests,
Deacons, and Lay Leaders Serving**

- Oct.1: Mr. Tim Buchholtz
Liturgy of the Word
8 a.m. service
Mr. Art Tatman
Liturgy of the Word
10 a.m. service
- Oct. 8: The Rev. Jonathan Harris
8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Oct.15: The Rev. Deacon Linda Ricker
8 a.m. Liturgy of the Word
10 a.m. Liturgy of the Word
- Oct. 22: The Rev. Brad Laycock
8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Oct. 29: The Rev. Jan Fuller
8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

TREASURERS' CORNER . . .

By Kevin Shepherd

August Financials:**(These are Year-to-Date actual amounts not budgeted amounts)**

Operating Income: \$122,665.35
Operating Expenses: \$121,049.77
Net (Loss) Operating Income: \$1,615.58

**Another way to help fundraise for
St. James:**

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.

OUTREACH NEWS...

Our October benevolence offerings will go to Local Environmental Agriculture Project (LEAP) on October 15 and to Total Action for Progress (TAP) on October 29. Please give generously to these two very worthy organizations. Make checks payable to St. James Episcopal Church with "outreach" on the memo line of your check.

LEAP is a nonprofit centered in Roanoke, VA, that supports farmers and fresh, local food for all. LEAP nurtures our food community.

LEAP began in 2009 as a new kind of farmers market -- one that encouraged sustainable growing practices, where vendors sold food they grew themselves, and young farmers could find a foothold. Grandin Village Farmers Market was an immediate success, and the values shared by vendors and shoppers grew a slow and steady movement to provide local food for all.

Soon, LEAP opened West End Farmers Market, then a Mobile Market, to bring more fresh produce into food insecure communities. For the last 14 years, LEAP has identified barriers to feeding Roanokers nutritious food and searched for paths around them. Along the way, the nonprofit created a statewide network of partners, became a model for how communities can work together to feed their residents, and started conversations with stakeholders from business leaders to governmental agencies to community activists. LEAP is excited to nurture a community centered around fresh, local food for everyone.

Today, LEAP is set to grow like a garden after summer rain. One recipient of Roanoke City's share of American Rescue Plan funding, LEAP is creating a centralized food hub in the West End neighborhood that houses LEAP's offices, Mobile Market, food distribution center, and a newly expanded West End Farmers Market. A community room is available as meeting space and a retail store is expected to open in 2024, inside the renovated building. LEAP is working with partners across the city to connect and enhance community garden and urban agriculture spaces. Additionally, the funds are being used to help families struggling with food insecurity afford more fresh fruits and vegetables.

For more information visit their website:
<https://www.leapforlocalfood.org/>

TAP is a community action agency that serves eleven localities in the Roanoke Valley and adjacent communities: the

counties of Alleghany, Bath, Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke, and Rockbridge, and the cities of Buena Vista, Covington, Lexington, Roanoke, and Salem. A community action agency is an anti-poverty organization that was originally enabled by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Most community action agencies, including TAP, are private, non-profit corporations run by a community-based Board of Directors. TAP is **not** a federal agency.

All the normal stresses that threaten the stability and security of every family are greatly magnified for low-income families who may find it difficult to get by, especially in emergencies like loss of a job, eviction, illness, or a family member is incarcerated.

Community action is about getting people involved in their own lives and enabling them to help themselves – not about fixing things for now or providing hand-outs.

Because people can't begin to solve their long-range problems of poverty until their immediate physical needs have been met, all of TAP's programs give priority to helping either directly or by referral to other local agencies and resources.

TAP offers direct services, working with individuals and families, to help them overcome their problems and improve their lives. TAP's goal is to help them assert themselves as advocates for their own needs.

For more information visit their website:
<https://tapintohope.org/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

Future issues of St. James Connection

There are on-going conversations about how to best continue our monthly issues of The St. James Connection. Is our traditional method of snail mail best? Is posting on our website sufficient? Would a digital format be best? What about some combination of methods? As with most of life, there are advantages and disadvantages to all these methods.

Our traditional method, for example, of snail mail requires a team of volunteers to do the collating, assembling, sorting, and delivering to the post office. And is becoming more expensive in today's economy. And it allows everyone access to the newsletter without access to email or the internet.

Each month's newsletter is and would continue to be posted on our website. Is this sufficient? Is emailing best? This method requires the collection of email addresses from some who currently receive our newsletter. And would require a few copies to be mailed first-class to those who have no access to email or the internet.

Your feedback, as loyal readers of our newsletter, is greatly needed as we continue to research and talk about our options. Please send us your thoughts either by email to stjames@rev.net or by calling the church office at 540-366-4157. If we miss your call, please feel free to leave your thoughts on our voice mail. Or simply leave us your name and a phone number so we may return your call.

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.

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.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening is coming to St. James Episcopal Church on Wednesday,

December 20, 2023. This organization uses "advanced ultrasound technology" to look inside arteries for signs of plaque buildup. If you are an adult age 50+ or age 40+ with one or more risk factors for cardiovascular disease you might want to consider being screened. If so, please call 1-800-640-6307 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC for pricing and to schedule an appointment.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS . . .

October 2 Dorothy Herndon
 October 2 Jennifer Fitzpatrick
 October 5 Rachel Ostrom Smith
 October 7 Jay Frost
 October 7 Pat Whitcomb
 October 10 Allyson Fulton Nichols
 October 10 Peyton Alexander Morant-Frost
 October 12 Emily Goldberg
 October 13 Carol Eanes
 October 15 Brian Smith
 October 17 Nan Mallen Kister
 October 18 Kate Perry
 October 20 Bryan Mattox
 October 22 Alexandra Mariah Herren
 October 24 Mary Hughes McGlothlin
 October 25 Rick Stevens
 October 30 Carl Ball

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES . . .

October 12 Katie & Marc Rucker
 October 14 Jonathan Harris & Darla Schumm

**Is your birthday or anniversary
missing?**

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

Thanks bunches!!

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2023

Oct 1**8 AM** *Lector – Phil Wheeler*

10 AM	Crucifer	Yuri Malick	Ushers	Kevin Laxton, Larry Mattox
	Acolyte	Mercedes Malick	Coffee	Odell James, Dottie Wrabel, Machele Huff
	Lector 1	Chris Criscione	Tellers	Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy
	Lector 2	Sabrina Mattox	Altar Guild	Linda Bryant, JoAnn Criscione, Dorothy Herndon, Sharon Miller
	Prayers	Phil Hobrla		

Oct 8**8 AM** *Lector – Phil Wheeler; Chalicist—Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Jessica Price	Ushers	Ray & Lawton Kasey
	Acolyte	Zenon Malick	Coffee	Daniel Toler-Pulley, Robb Pulley, Lis Turner
	Chalicist 1	Art Tatman	Tellers	Arby Frost, Katie Rucker
	Chalicist 2	Kevin Shepherd	Altar Guild	Betsy Briggs, Lawton Kasey, Katie Rucker
	Lector 1	JoAnn Criscione		
	Lector 2	Lynn Wright		
	Prayers	Betsy Briggs		

Oct 15**8 AM** *Lector—Mary Rogers*

10 AM	Crucifer	Grant Rucker	Ushers	Michael Kennedy, Thomas Rucker
	Acolyte	Grant Rucker	Coffee	Doris and Larry Mattox, Joyce Brown
	Lector 1	Daniel Toler-Pulley	Tellers	Kevin Laxton, Larry Mattox
	Lector 2	Jessica Price	Altar Guild	Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin Debbie Williams
	Prayers	Maile Armstrong		

Oct 22**8 AM** *Lector and Chalicist—Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Machele & Anthony Huff
	Acolyte	Roman Malick	Coffee	Kim & Kevin Laxton
	Chalicist 1	Art Tatman	Tellers	Maile Armstrong, Donna Frost
	Chalicist 2	Katie Rucker	Altar Guild	Danny Fainter, Gail Fields, Joan Gurniak
	Lector 1	Avis Aheron		
	Lector 2	Chris Criscione		
	Prayers	Donna Frost		

Oct 29**8 AM** *Lector—Phil Wheeler; Chalicist—Bill Barksdale*

10 AM	Crucifer	Yuri Malick	Ushers	Kevin Shepherd, Madde Shepherd
	Acolyte	Mercedes Malick	Coffee	Chris Criscione, JoAnn Criscione, Linda Bryant
	Chalicist 1	Lawton Kasey	Tellers	Wardens
	Chalicist 2	Katie Rucker	Altar Guild	Linda Bryant, JoAnn Criscione, Dorothy Herndon, Sharon Miller
	Lector 1	Sabrina Mattox		
	Lector 2	Betsy Briggs		
	Prayers	Carla Spencer		

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	2 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	3 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	4 <u>3:30 PM</u> Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	5 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> Vestry <u>6:30 PM</u> AA (downstairs)	6	7 <u>9:30 am</u> AA
8 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	9 Columbus Day <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	10 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	11 <u>3:30 PM</u> Catechesis of the Good Shepherd <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	12 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	13	14 <u>9:30 am</u> AA
15 <u>12:00 PM</u> Vestry <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	16 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	17 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	18 <u>3:30 PM</u> Catechesis of the Good Shepherd <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	19 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	20 <u>5:30 PM</u> Down Syndrome Support Group	21 <u>9:30 am</u> AA
22 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	23 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	24 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	25 <u>3:30 PM</u> Catechesis of the Good Shepherd <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	26 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	27	28 <u>9:30 am</u> AA
29 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	30 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	31 Halloween <u>6:30 PM</u> AA				