

the st. james



November 2023
Volume 22 Number 11



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

Do not forget!

Change your clocks before
bed on Saturday. Fall Back
one hour for end of Day light
Savings Time

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
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E-mail: stjames@rev.net
www.stjamesroanoke.org

A MESSAGE ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

On Sunday, October 22, the Rev Brad Laycock was our celebrant and preacher. With his permission, an excerpt from his sermon is being shared as it relates to stewardship. May Father Brad's words resonate with you as you prayerfully consider your support of St James in 2024 with your gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure.

Avis Aheron,
Senior Warden

"So, when Jesus says to give to God the things that are God's, he means what he says. We are to give ourselves. How do we do that? Here's the part that will sound familiar – we are to give to God our Time – we are to give to God our Talent – and we are to give to God our Treasure.

Many of us give of our Time. We do so when we come to worship. And you do so when you give your time to any number of other causes that uplift God's creation, and not just those that are church-related.

We give of our Talent when we serve in any of the ministries of this church as a Eucharistic Minister, as an acolyte, a choir member or organist, a teacher, an usher, as a participant in an outreach ministry, and any number of secular activities that benefit humankind and God's creation.

OK. Dear friends, take a deep breath. We also give of ourselves when we give of our Treasure. Ah. There it is, the big "T" – Treasure. We are entering stewardship season. For this worship service to continue, for the various ministries that make St James what it is in your life and the life of others, St James needs a portion of what God has already given to you.

(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 . . .

The only way it can continue to be the church you want it to be and to have the resources to attract a permanent clergy person is to maintain or increase your receipts. You can do that by increasing your attendance, bringing new people to St James, and attending more regularly. Many people who do not pledge give generously when they attend, but don't consider the needs of the church on Sundays they are not present. In the last several years, most churches have lost many parishioners to death, in some cases to movement to other churches or to relocation to other areas of the country. Some of your congregational friends may have chosen to leave in response to Mother Sue's retirement. Each loss has an impact on your ability to continue your ministries, and to respond to new needs. Each additional dollar, each additional volunteer in one of your ministries helps to brighten the light of God in your lives, in your community, and in the world.

Time, talent, treasure – the 3 T's of stewardship. There is a fourth "T" however. Tithe. If there is a word that strikes fear in hearts more than Treasure, it's probably "Tithe." The tithe is the Biblical standard. It refers to returning to, a pittance, a mere 10%, of what God has ALREADY given us. The fact that the Jews of Jesus' day had to pay the tax to the emperor and several other taxes, did not excuse them from their obligation to tithe to the Temple. So, too, today, the fact that we pay taxes to the state does not excuse us from our obligation to

return to God a portion of what God has ALREADY given us. I often point out that the biblical world was a world of scarcity, and that same thinking is perhaps in your mind this morning. Let me reintroduce a biblical term, "first fruits." That was the concept that the "first" son and the first 10% of a crop was dedicated to God. Indeed, at least figuratively, the first Son, Jesus, was dedicated to God.

If I asked you to give 10% today, you might not be able to do so; it might be too much of a strain on your budget. But maybe you could take a step in that direction. If you are now giving 2% or 5%, maybe you could increase by 1% this year, and another percent next year, and so on. Given both the time and a willingness, almost all of us can adjust our financial lives to give more abundantly.

We need to change our thinking. In a time when we are so focused on scarcity, we need to refocus our thinking; we need to re-member how greatly God has ALREADY blessed us. We need to think not in terms of scarcity, but in terms of abundance, of the abundance of God's blessing. You have a few weeks, I believe, until your stewardship ingathering, but when the time comes, I hope you will respond out of your faithfulness and your thankfulness for all that God has given you. Give to God a portion of what God has ALREADY given you. Amen."

St. James Cycle of Prayers

In November, we give thanks for all who assist with our liturgies: acolytes, crucifers, torch bearers, lay readers, chaliceists, ushers, and altar guild members.

VESTRY CORNER . . .

Priest-In-Charge Appointed

The Wardens and Vestry of St. James are excited to announce that the Reverend Joseph G. Butler has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge* to St. James by Bishop Mark Bourlakas, with the unanimous consent of the Vestry. Father Joseph+ will be joining us in August 2024**.

Father Joseph+ impressed us with his warmth, intelligence, energy and dedication to the needs of his parishioners, as well as the community at-large. He is currently serving as Interim Rector at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Harrisonburg, VA (2022-present). Previously, Father Joseph+ served as curate and Associate Rector at Christ Episcopal Church, Blacksburg, VA (2019-2022), and Associate Rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Collierville, TN (2018-2019).

Father Joseph+ holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with a Minor in History

(2014) from The University of the South and a Master of Divinity (2018) from The University of the South School of Theology.

Father Joseph's spouse, Katherine Mustafa, DO, will be working at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital as an endocrinologist. We are so excited to welcome Father Joseph+ and Katherine to St. James in August 2024.

*A Priest-in-Charge has all of the responsibilities and authority of a rector and is eligible to be called as rector at the conclusion of the agreed upon contract period, which in this case is 2 years. An interim priest assists a parish in the transition and search for a rector; however, the authority within the parish lies with the wardens and the vestry. The interim priest may not be called as rector at the conclusion of the contract period.

**Father Joseph+ is committed to his current parish through June 2024. His wife, Katherine will complete her fellowship in endocrinology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine in June 2024. They plan to move to Roanoke, VA shortly thereafter.

November Schedule for Priests, Deacons, and Lay Leaders Serving

November 5, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word
Lay Led

November 12, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word
The Rev. Deacon Linda Ricker

November 19, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word
The Rev. Deacon Linda Ricker

November 26, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word
Lay Led

TREASURERS' CORNER . . .

By Kevin Shepherd

September Financials:

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

Operating Income: \$131,054.35
Operating Expenses: \$125,92.54
Net (Loss) Operating Income: \$5,861.81

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 November benevolence offering will go to United Thank Offering (UTO).

What if your personal spiritual practice of gratitude could impact thousands of people in lifegiving ways? UTO is a way to practice gratitude and change the world. Notice the good things that happen each day. Give thanks to God for your blessings. Make an offering for each blessing. Your blessing becomes a blessing for others.

GRATITUDE: UTO invites individuals to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude.

GRANTING: UTO distributes 100% of thank offerings made to the Ingathering to ministries throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

LEADING: UTO is made up of a collection of lay and clerical members across the world, and our organization is made possible through this wonderful, grass-roots leadership.

Make a contribution to your UTO Blue Box every time you feel grateful or contribute a check or cash designated for UTO in the Sunday offering this month. See the UTO display in the parish hall and take a handout of November Gratitude activities for you or your family.

You can see the real-life results of people's gratitude on the UTO Website by going to

<https://unitedthankoffering.com>

Scroll to the bottom of the home page to watch Presiding Bishop Michael Curry 's video on why he supports United Thank Offering.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

Do Not Forget!

Change your clocks before bed on Saturday. Fall Back one hour for end of Day light Savings Time

Adult Potluck Social December 9

It's time to get together to do what we love: socialize!! Doris and Larry Mattox with Joyce Brown are hosting an Adult Social on Saturday, December 9 at their home in Troutville from 3-6pm. The plan is to start early to end before dark. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board to list who is coming and what you will bring. We will begin with hors d'oeuvres and beverages (BYOB) and eat supper around 4:30 or 5pm. Hope to see you there! Directions will be on the bulletin board.

Future issues of St. James Connection

Conversation about how to best continue our monthly issues of The St. James Connection have progressed thanks to the feedback received since our last issue of The St. James Connection. Based on that feedback, the consensus seems to be a digital format in

combination with a few snail mail copies to those who have no access to internet is the best option as we move forward.

We anticipate the December 2023 issue to be the final snail mail issue.

Please know your feedback continues to be greatly appreciated. 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.

If you wish to continue receiving The St. James Connection in 2024 and do not have access to internet, please call the church office before December 15. If you are a friend of our parish, please call before December 15 to ensure we have the correct email address for you. We will be happy to add anyone's email to our newsletter listing.

Choir Members Past and Present Submitted by Renee Toth

Several of the various small choir books are missing. Please look and see if there are any of these books amongst your music at home. If you find any, please return them in the choir cart in the Parish Hall. Thank you for your continued support of the St. James Choir.

Treat of the Week Submitted by Karen Martin

I am constantly amazed with your generosity, enthusiasm and creativity with

your Treat of the Week contributions. We are always collecting these wonderful treats that you provide. As a reminder, the proceeds of our ticket purchases are given to support the needs of our building.

School Supplies for Round Hill Submitted by Karen Martin

We continue to support Round Hill Elementary school by providing school supplies and Box Tops for education. Items needed: glue sticks, pencils, paper, folders, etc. Thank you for your donations.

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, continues on Wednesday evenings at 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.

Angels for Sudanese Children Submitted by Karen Martin

It has been our privilege to join with Raleigh Court Presbyterian church and others throughout the past several years to provide Christmas gifts for the Sudanese children in our area. Through a coordinated ministry, the children are given the opportunity to share their Christmas list. A list for each child is sent to cooperating churches to provide the gifts for the children listed. An angel for each child will be placed on our small Christmas Tree in the Parish Hall. This ministry is in progress for this Christmas season.

Last year we were able to provide gifts for several children. We are pleased to be a part of this ministry again this year. We will be providing more information after the children have presented their request and angels are shared with each church.

For more information, please contact me at 540-632-8487.

Planning Ahead Submitted by Donna Frost

“A new “Sacred Ground” course will be offered from January 7-March 17. Some of our parishioners have already completed and benefited from this course on racial injustices and how they have played out in the history of our country. Look for further details in the announcements each week and in the weekly church bulletin. There is a flyer about the course offering on the bulletin board between the nave and parish hall.”

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.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS . . .

November 4	Jessica Price
November 8	Eva Nicole Mattox
November 11	Dottie Wrabel
November 12	Grant Rucker
November 12	Selden Frissell
November 13	Spencer Plunkett
November 13	Evan Plunkett
November 14	Jeannie Lake
November 14	Elizabeth Stevens
November 15	Samson Mamour
November 17	Michael Terry
November 21	Kim LaPrade
November 24	Francis Magdalen
November 24	Amanda Mattox
November 24	Dakota Powell
November 26	Chuck Cohen
November 26	Madeline Ariel Sea

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES . . .

November 26 Chuck and Cathy Cohen

**Is your birthday or anniversary
missing or incorrect?**

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

Thanks bunches!!

**Fall Ramblings
Submitted by Jessica Price**

The daylight has diminished as the sun rests longer throughout the night leaving us in darkness a little bit longer. The leaves from the trees are turning. They are clothing themselves in vibrant oranges, reds, and yellows, and some are fading into brown as one by one they stop clinging to their branches and swirl

in one last dance to the ground. It is only natural to embrace and despise Autumn at the same time. She takes away the sun and gives us cool, crisp air, which can invigorate but at the same time remind us that darker colder days are near. She also leads us into discussions of Thanksgiving and harvest, with decorations of the horn of plenty bumping the Jack O' Lantern away in favor of pumpkin pie and turkey. It is within this time of year, Fall, that I myself feel like I am falling.

Yet, as I contemplate the stark contrasts of life and death mingling together during this season, I also contemplate Thanksgivings, blessings, and overall gratitude. It can be difficult to find things to be grateful for. Certainly, I am always grateful for Taylore with her sharp mind and musical gifts, Abby for her huge heart and generous and loving spirit, Jordyn for her playfulness and excitement, and of course James Michael for his utter honesty and I must say cuddles. There are certainly none better.

I am grateful for having a job that is a vocation full of service and meaning. I am grateful to have a roof over my head even if not for the roof itself. These blessings are easy to claim and shout out.

I find it much more difficult to find gratitude in the darkness of life. I struggle to see the bright hues of Hidden Blessing's vestments as I see that of the trees. It is difficult to be grateful for financial struggles. It is difficult to be grateful when students are hitting and cursing rather than studying and learning.

It is difficult to be grateful for the student's parent who is mentally ill and dragging everyone around her into her illness. I think the most difficult thing to be grateful for are the lies that people tell that are designed to harm and not protect. Most would probably agree that in these situations, gratitude can be hard. Yet, God has told me that even within these struggles, like Job, there will be blessings.

One fall drizzly morning as I was driving to work, enveloped in my own pain. As typical, I was driving in silence, lamenting my thoughts to God. I began climbing the mountain with my vehicle. Something wondrous happened—a true mountaintop experience. As I climbed the mountain, the fog stayed kissing the valley of the earth and I rose above it and the rain. Above me was the most beautifully painted sky I had ever seen. So bright were the shades of purple, pink, red, orange, and yellow that I could not breathe. In that moment God spoke to my soul. He reminded me that while I was seeing only the rain and darkness, he was ever present at work and there would be something better to come. He said that he is always working above the storm.

This was the day that the sky captured me. Before this day, I spent most of my time walking with my head down, looking at my feet. I don't know if I had ever truly noticed a sunrise before. This was the day that I started to take pictures of the sky. That was the fall before the world shut down. It was also during one of the worst periods of my life. While I have not yet come to the other side of that

figurative mountain, I remember that day. I remember to look for the rainbows God has given me. In this, I look for the blessings. Somehow, every pain I experience has a blessing attached even if it is simple wisdom. For every student that curses or hits, there is at least one that I possibly touched in some positive way, maybe even making a difference. For the mentally ill parent that makes my work tough, it reminds me to temper my own interactions with James Michael's school. For the financial struggle, I am reminded that as hard as it can be, there are many without anything.

Some days it is hard to remember these things. Some days, I just want to let go and give up. I forget that for everything there is a season. I forget that Fall is dressed in vibrancy, and I stop looking up and look down. Then I remember that God is still up there working for me above the storm. I do not know if I will ever get to the other side of this figurative mountain I am climbing. I do not know, if I will experience the blessings of Job. What I do know is that as the days turn colder, during these long months, I need to dig my nails into the earth and make sure that the soil stays fertilized. I make sure that the covered roots are watered with nutrients. I do this in communion with the Saints of James. I feed my soul and wait out the drought of winter and I remember John 1:5 God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.

2024 Time & Talent Stewardship Form

Please turn in by Nov. 19th - Tray in Parish Hall, Plate, or the Office

Even if you just want to continue what you're doing, please return Survey so we will know.

Keeping in mind that all gifts are from God, I pledge my time and talent to the service of God in the following activities:

Name: _____					
Standing Committees, Task Forces, and Ministry Groups:	Serving, will continue	Will Serve		Serving, will continue	Will Serve
Christian Education					
Liturgy					
Membership					
Outreach					
Hospitality Committee					
Pastoral Care					
Property Committee					
Stewardship Committee					
Finance Committee					
Steering Committee					

Other Ministries:

Adult Education leader					
Bible Study leader					
Sunday School teacher					
Nursery attendant					
Acolyte/Crucifer/Torchbearer					
Altar Guild					
Lay Reader					
Choir/Music					
Usher					
Teller					
Bus driver					
Little Church Social Club volunteer					
Coffee Hour Host/Hostess					
Newsletter assembly & mailing					
Gardening worker					
Property maintenance worker					
Sidewalk Snow removal worker					
Social Media/Website Assistance					

Please note that volunteers are needed for both committee membership and for other ministries.

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2023

Nov 5**8 AM** Lector—*Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Jordyn Price	Ushers	Larry Mattox, Kevin Laxton
	Acolyte	Zenon Malick	Coffee	Danny Fainter, Gerald Gordon, Gail Fields
	Lector 1	Phil Hobrla	Tellers	Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy
	Lector 2	Donna Frost	Altar Guild	Betsy Briggs, Lawton Kasey, Katie Rucker
	Prayers	Daniel Toler-Pulley		

Nov 12**8 AM** Lector—*Bill Barksdale*; Chalicist—*Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Chris & JoAnn Criscione
	Acolyte	Roman Malick	Coffee	Art Tatman, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	Chalicist 1	Katie Rucker	Tellers	Arby Frost, Katie Rucker
	Chalicist 2	Lawton Kasey	Altar Guild	Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin Debbie Williams
	Lector 1	Art Tatman		
	Lector 2	Maile Armstrong		
	Prayers	Sabrina Mattox		

Nov 19**8 AM** Lector—*Mary Rogers*; Chalicist—*Bill Barksdale*

10 AM	Crucifer	Yuri Malick	Ushers	Ray & Lawton Kasey
	Acolyte	Mercedes Malick	Coffee	Steve & Beth Wiegandt
	Chalicist 1	-----		
	Chalicist 2	-----		
	Lector 1	JoAnn Criscione	Tellers	Kevin Laxton, Larry Mattox
	Lector 2	Keith Leonard	Altar Guild	Danny Fainter, Gail Fields, Joan Gurniak
	Prayers	Lynn Wright		

Nov 26**8 AM** Lector—*Phil Wheeler*; Chalicist—*Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Zenon Malick	Ushers	Michael Kennedy, Thomas Rucker
	Acolyte	Madde Shepherd	Coffee	Odell James, Machele Huff, Dottie Wrabel
	Chalicist 1	-----	Tellers	Maile Armstrong, Donna Frost
	Chalicist 2	-----	Altar Guild	Linda Bryant, JoAnn Criscione, Dorothy Herndon, Sharon Miller
	Lector 1	Jessica Price		
	Lector 2	Chris Criscione		
	Prayers	Avis Aheron		

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>3:30 PM</u> Catechesis of the Good Shepherd <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	2 Newsletter Mails <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	3	4 <u>9:30 am</u> AA
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	6 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	7 Election Day <u>6:30 PM</u> AA (downstairs)	8 <u>3:30 PM</u> Catechesis of the Good Shepherd <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	9 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	10	11 Veterans Day <u>9:30 am</u> AA <u>12 Noon</u> Sudanese Sewing Group
12 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	13 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	14 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	15 <u>3:30 PM</u> Catechesis of the Good Shepherd <u>6:30 PM</u> Little Church Social Club <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	16 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	17	18 <u>9:30 am</u> AA
19 <u>12 Noon</u> Vestry <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	20 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	21 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	22 <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	23 Thanksgiving Day <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	24	25 <u>9:30 am</u> AA
26 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	27 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA	28 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	29 <u>3:30 PM</u> Catechesis of the Good Shepherd <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	30 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA		