

the st. james



January 2024
Volume 23 Number 1



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

A Message from the Senior Warden

Christmas 2023 found us celebrating Advent IV and the Eve of the Holy Nativity within a few short hours last year because both events fell on December 24. It was a special challenge to transition from Advent IV on Sunday morning, to Christmas Eve services on Sunday evening. Following the 10 a.m. service, it was all hands on deck to change the altar frontal from purple to white, decorate the altar and nave with poinsettias, and put up the Chrismon tree up before the evening service at 8 p.m. The transformation was handled splendidly by the capable hands of the altar guild and all was ready as the first notes of the choral prelude were played.

With Christmas, we celebrated Christ's coming into the world. And on the 12th day of Christmas (January 6), we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the day the three wise men (Magi) from the East follow the star in search of the newborn king. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation or Incarnation of God coming in human flesh in the form of the Christ child. The season of Epiphany in 2024 will last six weeks, from the Feast of the Epiphany through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday (February 14). During Epiphany, we will hear the gospel stories of Christ's divinity, the Baptism of Our Lord, the wedding at Cana, the calling of the disciples, and other miracles and teachings of Christ.

May this season of Epiphany bring you insight and the revelation of Christ's presence in the world!

As we look forward to the new year, I would like to thank all the Saints of James who helped get us through the year. With everyone's steadfast commitment, we've proven that even though we might be small in numbers, we are mighty in our faith and love for our church and for one another. (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, TBA
† Clerk, Machele Huff
† Treasurer, Kevin Shepherd
† Ass't. Treasurer, Avis Aheron
† Rec. Treasurer, Danny Fainter
Avis Aheron
Donna Frost
Jessica Price
Katie Rucker
Carla Spencer
Phil Wheeler
New Member TBA
New Member TBA
New Member TBA
(† - 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 . . .**

At the beginning of 2023, a deficit of more than \$52K was projected; however, at the close of the year, there is no deficit and we are showing a net balance of approximately \$28K. The main reason for this is because we did not have to pay the rector's salary and benefits for 6 months. Pledged and unpledged support remained strong at 92% and actual expenses were 28% less than what was budgeted.

During the 2023 stewardship campaign, you were asked to increase your financial commitment to St James, if possible, to strengthen our financial position and carry the church through the transition. You heard the message and the response was overwhelmingly positive with increases in 67% of the pledges received. We knew that revenue from pledges would be down since some members have not returned post-Covid; some members have transferred their membership to other parishes in the diocese; and one parishioner passed away last summer. What we didn't expect, but what we hoped and prayed for, was that we could present a deficit-free budget at the annual meeting on January 14.

"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you and of your own have we given you."

1 Chronicles 29:14

Avis Aheron, Senior Warden

St. James Cycle of Prayers

In January, we give thanks for the work of the Vestry. We pray that all Vestry members, wardens, and other vestry officers will be guided by God's grace in their deliberations and decisions throughout the coming year.

VESTRY CORNER . . .

January Schedule for Priests, Deacons, and Lay Leaders Serving

January 14, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Liturgy of The Word

The Rev. Deacon Linda Ricker

January 21, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, Rite I and

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Rev. Brad Laycock

January 28, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, Rite I and

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Rev. Jan Fuller

February 4, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, Rite I and

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Rev. Canon Jonathan Harris

TREASURERS' CORNER . . .

By Kevin Shepherd

December Financials:

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

Operating Income: \$171,491.56

Operating Expenses: \$143,216.79

Net (Loss) Operating Income: \$28,274.77

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...

The benevolence offering for January 21 goes to the Rescue Mission. With a mission statement of "helping hurting people in Jesus' name," the Rescue Mission of Roanoke is a comprehensive crisis intervention center for men, women, and children. They offer life-saving services aimed at transformation and restoration.

Here is how donations to The Rescue Mission help in the Roanoke Valley:

- ✦ Breakfast (6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.), lunch (11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.), and dinner (4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) are served at the Rescue Mission daily, 365 days a year, to anyone.
- ✦ Manna is a weekly grocery box distribution program serving struggling families in the Roanoke region. Each food box contains approximately 60 pounds of food including, non-perishable food staples, fresh produce and frozen meats. Dog and cat food is available for the pets in the family.
- ✦ Emergency Shelter
- ✦ The Fralin Free Clinic serves individuals experiencing homelessness and those transitioning into permanent housing in the Roanoke Valley.
- ✦ The Way Forward Residential Recovery Program is for men and women seeking to break free of the bondage of drug and alcohol addiction.

To support this worthy organization, please make your check payable to St. James Episcopal Church, with The Rescue Mission on the memo line of your check.

For more information, visit their website at: <https://rescuemission.net/>

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 school teachers and others working with children, youth group leaders, volunteers working with vulnerable adults, church staff and parish key holders. Over the next 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), mailearmstrong@verizon.net, at church, or leave her a message at the church office with any questions.

In 2023, 8 parishioners (vestry, youth/children workers) have taken the training. If you are interested in taking this training or have started but not yet completed it, just contact Maile to get set up for either the on-line version or the in-person session.

Maile Armstrong 540-354-6016 or mailearmstrong@verizon.net

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

Building Usage: Please remember when you plan any event and would like to reserve any portion of the church for use, you need to contact the church office as far in advance as possible. Ideally, at least three weeks. This ensures we can stay within any letters of agreement with outside groups.

Monthly Serving Schedule: The February Serving Schedule is being planned. If you regularly serve on Sunday mornings and know there are dates you are not available in February, please let Katie Rucker know as soon as possible. Katie may be reached at 540-793-2856, katierucker76@gmail.com, or by leaving her a message with the church office.

Neighborhood Clothesline Submitted by Maile Armstrong

Our winter clothesline continues to be popular. We can provide warm hats, gloves and scarves for those neighbors who often pass through the church parking lot. Thanks to all who have contributed!

Please continue to help by providing new or gently used hats, gloves and scarves

for children and adults. Socks are also a welcome addition for folks.

In the Parish Hall you will find a basket. Bring your donations in a zip lock bag-to keep items dry-or you will find zip lock bags in that basket along with clothespins. Feel free to hang your contributions on the clothesline or leave them in the basket and Maile will make sure the items are hung out there!

Thank you for your contributions to help keep neighbors warm and comfortable. Questions?? Check with Maile at 540-354-6016 or mailearmstrong@verizon.net



THANK YOU

**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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS . . .

January 1	Marjorie Taylore Price
January 4	John Bird
January 5	Carla Spencer
January 8	John Whitcomb
January 12	Daniel Toler-Pulley
January 14	Sarah Perry
January 16	Lynn Wright
January 16	Pam Reilly
January 17	Ian Johnstone
January 20	Gina Wellford
January 24	William Ostrom
January 25	Grace Aheron
January 25	Sara Ostrom
January 25	Evan Lee Miller
January 26	Darryl Perry
January 30	Brittany Frost
January 30	Tom Orville
January 30	Julio Morant

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES . . .

January 1	Sharon & Jerry Miller
January 17	John & Pat Whitcomb

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

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

Thanks bunches!!

NOTES OF THANKS . . .

Dear Saints of James,

Thank each of you for the generous Christmas gift I received in Decembers. St. James Episcopal Church is truly a special group; a group I am delighted to work with. My prayer for you is that 2024 will be joyous year with many blessings to you and yours.

Blessings,
Connie Bierly
Church Secretary

Thank you to the Saints of James for the monetary Christmas gift. It is a thoughtful reminder of the kindness and warmth shown to me throughout the year. I'm truly grateful for your generous gesture and the joy it brings to my holiday season.

Peace,
Deacon Linda

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2024

February's schedule is being planned now, if you know dates you are NOT available, please let Katie Rucker know as soon as possible: 540-793-2856, katierucker76@gmail.com, or leave her a message in the church office.

Jan 7

8 AM *Lector and Chalcist—Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Yuri Malick	Ushers	Anthony & Machele Huff
	Acolyte	Mercedes Malick	Coffee	Beth & Steve Wiegandt
	Chalcist 1	Lawton Kasey	Tellers	Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy
	Chalcist 2	Kevin Shepherd	Altar Guild	Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	Lector 1	Lynn Wright		
	Lector 2	Betsy Briggs		
	Prayers	Daniel Toler-Pulley		

Jan 14

8 AM *Lector--Phil Wheeler*

10 AM	Crucifer	Jordyn Price	Ushers	Kevin Shepherd, Madde Shepherd
	Acolyte	N/A	Coffee	Art Tatman, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	Lector 1	Chris Criscione	Tellers	Arby Frost, Katie Rucker
	Lector 2	Jessica Price	Altar Guild	Linda Bryant, JoAnn Criscione, Dorothy Herndon, Sharon Miller
	Prayers	Chris Criscione		

Jan 21

8 AM *Lector—Mary Rogers; Chalcist—Bill Barksdale*

10 AM	Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Chris & JoAnn Criscione
	Acolyte	Yuri Malick	Coffee	Odell James, Machele Huff, Dottie Wrabel
	Chalcist 1	Katie Rucker	Tellers	Kevin Laxton, Larry Mattox
	Chalcist 2	Art Tatman	Altar Guild	Danny Fainter, Gail Fields, Joan Gurniak
	Lector 1	Avis Aheron		
	Lector 2	Keith Leonard		
	Prayers	Sabrina Mattox		

Jan 28

8 AM *Lector—Bill Barksdale; Chalcist—Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Zenon Malick	Ushers	Kevin Laxton, Larry Mattox
	Acolyte	Grant Rucker	Coffee	Daniel Toler-Pulley, Robb Pulley
	Chalcist 1	Kevin Shepherd	Tellers	Maile Armstrong, Donna Frost
	Chalcist 2	Lawton Kasey	Altar Guild	Lawton Kasey, Betsy Briggs, Katie Rucker
	Lector 1	JoAnn Criscione		
	Lector 2	Donna Frost		
	Prayers	Carla Spencer		

Note: If you can't meet your scheduled time shown above for the month of January, please find a substitute and let the Office know: 540-366-4157; stjames@rev.net

January 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day 5:30 PM Women's NA	2 6:30 PM AA	3 3:30 PM Atrium 7:00 PM Bible Study	4 10:00 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM AA	5	6 9:30 AM AA
7 2:30 PM AA	8 5:30 PM Women's NA	9 6:30 PM AA	10 3:30 PM Atrium 7:00 PM Bible Study	11 10:00 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM AA	12	13 9:30 AM AA
14 11:15 AM Parish Annual Meeting 2:30 PM AA	15 Martin Luther King Jr. 5:30 PM Women's NA	16 6:30 PM AA	17 3:30 PM Atrium 6:30 PM Little Church 7:00 PM Bible Study	18 10:00 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM AA	19 5:30 PM Down Syndrome Support Group	20 9:30 AM AA
21 12:00 PM Vestry 2:30 PM AA	22 5:30 PM Women's NA	23 6:30 PM AA	24 3:30 PM Atrium 7:00 PM Bible Study	25 10:00 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM AA	26	27 9:30 AM AA
28 2:30 PM AA	29 5:30 PM Women's NA	30 6:30 PM AA	31 3:30 PM Atrium 7:00 PM Bible Study			

The 2023 Christmas Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God by~

The white poinsettias on the altar are given by:

Andy Cochran and Art Tatman in loving memory of John and Mable Cochran and in thanksgiving for Eddie and Alma Tatman.

The red poinsettias are given by:

Avis Aheron in thanksgiving for Sarah and Grace.

Maile S. Armstrong in loving memory of The Rev. Robert and Jane A. Sheeran.

Joyce Brown in loving memory of my parents: Doris and Percy Sharpe

Danny Fainter in loving memory of Elizabeth Dudley and Jesse Fainter.

Gail Fields, Kevin and Madde in loving memory of Madde's mother, Missy.

Gail Fields, Kevin and Madde in loving memory of Deena Marie Shepherd.

From her family in loving memory of Olivia Goldberg.

Arby and Donna Frost in thanksgiving for Julio, Brooke, Peyton, Sophia; Brittany; Jay and Tiffany.

Donna and Arby Frost in loving memory of our parents Leon and Esther Zastrow and James and Ruth Frost.

Gerald Gordon in thanksgiving for Sr. Warden Avis Aheron and the Vestry for their leadership during the transition.

Joan Gurniak in loving memory of Theodore Gurniak.

Joan Gurniak in loving memory of John and Anna Gurniak and Ken and Evelyn Ottaway.

Odell James in loving memory of Bill James.

Odell James in thanksgiving for my children and grandchildren and my St. James family.

Doris and Larry Mattox in thanksgiving for our grandchildren: Cole, Will, Brayden and Eva.

Pam Reilly in thanksgiving for our sons, Steve and Peter, and their families.

Cam Srpan in thanksgiving for the wonderful people at St James.

Art Tatman in loving memory of Frank and Lucy Cochran, Milton and Zella Kirkland.

Art Tatman in loving memory of Ida and Jake Alsip.

Lynn Wright in thanksgiving for her daughter and husband Rachelle and Brian Smith and grandchildren Spencer, Alana and Sophia Smith.

***Donations were made to the
2023 St. James Building Fund by:***

Dorothy Herndon in loving memory of Bob Herndon and Betsy Herndon Clark.

Lynn Wright in loving memory of Robert James (Bob) Wright.

***A Donation was made to the Glory of God for the
2023 St. James Endowment Fund by:***

Ann Bird in loving memory of J R and Loreta Bird, Paul and Marian Duxbury and Robert Harold Bird.

Ann Bird in thanksgiving for John, Beth, Kevin, Amber, and Hunter.

Danny Fainter in thanksgiving for Avis Aheron and Vestry for leadership during transition.

Carol and Bob Killinger in thanksgiving for Joyce Brown, Doris and Larry Mattox, and Connie Bierly.

Todd Killinger in loving memory of Lonnie Bower and Joan Blakemore.



LOCAL OFFICE ON AGING



Give a senior a hot meal on a cold day.

WHY: Thousands of seniors in our community live at or below the poverty line. Help provide a hot meal on a cold day and remind seniors in need we have not forgotten them.

HOW IT WORKS: Start collecting non-perishable food in January through your church, business, school or other organization. Then deliver your collected food to our main collection site on February 5-6, 2024: **The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, 4909 North Lake Dr, Roanoke, VA 24019.**

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

IN COLLABORATION WITH



What is Needed Most?
LOW-SALT, NUTRITIOUS ITEMS ARE PREFERRED

- Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Meats
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Crackers
- Oatmeal
- Boost or Ensure

No glass containers; please check expiration dates.

COLLECTION DATES FOR THIS ORGANIZATION:

Bring to St James anytime in January
Deadline: Feb 5
Call Maile for help carrying



SCAN ME

Monetary contributions are also accepted and gratefully appreciated to buy more shelf-stable food items to support the nutritional needs of older adults in our area. Please visit www.loa.org/soup-for-seniors or call **540-345-0451** to make a monetary contribution.



We are dedicated to our mission of helping older persons remain independent for as long as possible.