

# the st. james



March 2024  
Volume 23 Number 3



### 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](mailto:stjames@rev.net)  
[www.stjamesroanoke.org](http://www.stjamesroanoke.org)

### Film event at Hollins University: *The Philadelphia Eleven* Submitted by Donna Frost

The Sunday of February 25 saw a wonderful coming together of St. James' parishioners, deacons, priests, rectors, a bishop, a Presbyterian minister, Hollins students and faculty, and the public in The Visual Arts Center of Hollins University with the common purpose of experiencing a film that documents a contentious time in the history of the Episcopal Church in the early seventies. The viewing of the film, entitled *The Philadelphia Eleven*, was made possible by a partnership between St. James DOK members, who purchased the film rights, and Hollins University with the help of a collaboration between The Reverend Susan Bentley, an alumna of Hollins, and Erin Carney, Director of HU Connect and International Student Engagement.

This documentary film is the story of eleven women trailblazers who acted as participants in breaking the glass ceiling as they fought hard to overcome the gender biases and moral objections that they encountered within the Episcopal Church and society in general to the ordination of women to the priesthood. Their brave determination and courage culminated with their ordination in Philadelphia on July 29 of 1974.

Following the film, The Reverend Deborah Hunley highlighted the history leading up to her ordination to the priesthood. She was the first woman to be ordained in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia on December 3, 1977 by the Right Reverend William

**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, Carla Spencer  
† Clerk, Machele Huff  
† Treasurer, Kevin Shepherd  
† Ass't. Treasurer, Avis Aheron  
† Rec. Treasurer, Danny Fainter  
Avis Aheron  
Chris Criscione  
Danny Fainter  
Donna Frost  
Kim Laxton  
Jessica Price  
Katie Rucker  
Carla Spencer  
Phil Wheeler  
( † - Not Vestry members)

**Standing Committees & Chairs**

**Finance:** TBD  
**Property:** TBD  
**Hospitality:** Kim Laxton  
**Stewardship:** TBD

\* \* \* \* \*

**Episcopal Church Women:**  
Dorothy Herndon

**Daughters of the King:**  
Carla Spencer

**Continued from page 1 . . .**

Marmion at St. James. In her remarks to the audience, Deborah told of her struggles in being hired as a priest up until she was called to begin her leadership at St. James. She went on to introduce a special guest and friend, the Reverend Betty Powell, who was among the four women who were ordained in Washington, D.C. after the original eleven in 1976.

A generous reception was held after the question/answer period for further discussion of the film for all in attendance.

**St. James Cycle of Prayers**  
In March, we recognize and give thanks for the ministry of the Caregivers Group, the priests, and all who provide pastoral care. May they, through the power of the Holy Spirit, bring comfort and support to all whom they serve.

**VESTRY CORNER . . .**

**March Schedule for Priests, Deacons,  
and Lay Leaders Serving**

**March 3, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.**  
Holy Eucharist, Rite I and  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
The Rev. Brad Laycock

**March 10, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.**  
Service of Morning Prayer  
Lay led

**March 24, 10 a.m., Palm Sunday**

Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Visitation of the Bishop

**March 28, 7:30 p.m., Maundy Thursday**

Holy Eucharist  
The Rev. Deacon Jonathan Harris

**March 29, 12 noon, Good Friday**

The Good Friday Liturgy  
The Rev. Deacon Jonathan Harris

**March 31, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Easter**

Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
The Rev. Deacon Jonathan Harris

**AROUND THE DIOCESE . . .**

**Good Friday  
and  
Easter Vigil Services**

**Evening Good Friday Services** will be held as follows:

6:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church  
7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**Easter Vigil Services** will be held as follows:

8:00 p.m. Saturday, Christ Episcopal Church  
8:00 p.m. Saturday, St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church  
6:30 a.m. Sunday, St. John's Episcopal Church

**TREASURERS' CORNER . . .**

By Kevin Shepherd

**JANUARY FINANCIALS**

Total Income: \$16,790.19  
Total Expenses: \$5,637.80  
Net Gain(Loss): \$11,152.39

**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](http://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 March 17 will support St. James Youth Scholarship Fund. On the fifth Sunday, March 31, this offering will support the Boys Home of Virginia.

**St. James Youth Scholarship Fund, March 17:** For many years our St. James family has been committed to

ensuring that all our youth who wish to attend Diocesan camps and conferences would not be excluded due to the expense. Please give generously to our Youth Scholarship Fund so we may continue this annual tradition. Checks are payable to St. James Episcopal Church with "Youth Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. You may mail your check to the church office at 4515 Delray Street, NW, Roanoke, Va 24012; drop it off at the office; or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

### **Boys' Home of Virginia, March 31:**

Over the course of its history, Boys Home has grown and changed to best serve their population, while at the same time remaining true to their mission to help each young man become a successful member of society.

At the turn of the last century, southwest Virginia was a remote, rugged, and poor place. The Rev. George Floyd Rogers was serving as the rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in tiny Covington at the time. Reverend Rogers saw a need for education and religion in this rural area, and in 1906, he began conducting roadside church services. Later, he started a school and Sunday school in an old log cabin.

He left the Emmanuel parish in 1911 to serve a parish in Lynchburg. By that time, a schoolhouse and chapel had been built, and he named the humble institution "The Industrial School and Farm for Mountain Children and Home for Homeless Boys." C.C. Thurber became the

superintendent, with Rev. Rogers still active as the president of the Board of Trustees, and 40 youngsters called this home by 1916.

The coming of World War I saw a host of social upheavals, and with times hard, many locals were unable to support their families. Under a new superintendent, Dr. Reinhold Rogers, appeals for contributions and borrowed funds allowed significant expansion and a move to a new village of six cottages and a dining hall. During the depths of the World War in 1919, there were 140 students at the school. Dr. Rogers led the school through more hard times during the Depression and World War II. Robert F. Burrowes became director in 1946, and he oversaw the completion of the first modern cottage and a building program that lasted over 20 years.

In 2018, Boys Home established an independent school serving grades 1-12 with small class sizes so students could receive the academic attention they might need.

Today Boys Home continues to provide care and education for young men from ages 6 to 17. Some have no suitable home. Others have challenges that might best be solved away from their immediate home. The Boys Home program offers caring emotional support and guidance, on-campus schooling, a religious life program focused on building a boy spiritually, and vocational or technical training.

Your financial support helps to ensure Boys Home of Virginia can continue this invaluable program in the coming years.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS ...**

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



**Gertie the Goat:** is standing on the counter in The Parish Hall ready to accept funds this Lent. Funds will be used to purchase goats for families in South Sudan. Each goat purchased through Episcopal Relief & Development costs \$80. (We purchased 37.2 goats in 2023.) Your investment multiplies by providing, milk, cheese, baby goats, and income for families. Please contribute your change, bills, and checks to feed Gertie. Funds will be collected during Eastertide. See Betsy Briggs with questions or more information: 540-344-4567. Checks need to be made payable to

St. James Episcopal Church with "Gertie" written on the memo line of your check. Checks may be dropped in the offering plate, dropped into Gertie, or mailed to the office at 4515 Delray Street, NW, Roanoke, VA 24015. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Planning Ahead  
2024 Christmas Bazaar  
December 8, 2024  
Submitted by Dottie Wrabel**

Find your needles, brushes, glue guns, or whatever you need to create your crafts and arts. Maybe casserole dishes or baking pans. We need whatever you can contribute to our Christmas Bazaar in December. Please take time to plan. Contact me for more information: 203-525-8454.

**Neighborhood Clothesline  
Submitted by Maile Armstrong**

Thank you for your continued support of our neighborhood clothesline. Donations of hats, gloves, and scarves, for our neighbors are still needed. The box in the Parish Hall is ready to be replenished. This ministry will continue until late March.

**Treat of the Week  
Submitted by Karen Martin**

During Lent we have decided to take a break of our traditional Treat of the Week activity. It will resume after the Easter season. I welcome any ideas that you may offer and your variety of donations to continue this tradition during our coffee hour.

## School Supplies for Round Hill Submitted by Karen Martin

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the donation of school supplies for Round Hill Elementary School. The staff, parents and children are always appreciative of the school supplies donated. Items of paper, glue sticks, scissors, pencils, erasers, etc. are always needed. A donation box is available in the Parish Hall.

### 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 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](mailto: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.

### NOTE OF THANKS . . .

Dear Saints of James,

I don't know how folks that don't have a church family get through times like this. Please know that I feel so comforted by your prayers, cards, and hugs. You have created special memories that I will always cherish.

Carol

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS . . .

March 6	Ashley Nelson Eanes
March 7	Alex Bentley
March 9	Jim Williamson
	Terri Curley
	Chris Criscione
March 10	Sophia Morant-Frost
March 15	Cam Srpan
March 16	Mike Kennedy
March 21	Alicia Baxter
March 24	Ben Bosworth
March 25	Lawton Kasey
March 26	Butch Johnstone
March 29	Boots Ingram

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

**Please let the church office know:  
540-366-4157 or [stjames@rev.net](mailto:stjames@rev.net)**

## REFLECTIONS

### **From Jessica Price:**

The 2024 Diocesan Convention proved to be a time of inspiration, introspection, and motivation. The theme of this year's event was Showing Jesus to All People. Bishop Hector Monterroso from the Diocese of Texas was able to attend in person. In his address to the congregants, he reminded me that we do not have to share Jesus in the physical walls of the church, but instead, true evangelism happens within our relationships with others, most often outside the church building. Sharing Christ's love begins with connections. It is incumbent upon us in our journey with Christ, to make connections with those who have not yet met Jesus. Since Jesus resides in us all, our relationships with others are what will either call or push away another person from our Lord.

I was particularly intrigued that the church this bishop built in the middle of a jungle was built by the game of basketball. As a former basketball player, I can only imagine how those connections helped to build the walls of the church. The friendly competition, sweat, and laughter building connections with people who had not been inside a church was the introduction to the growth of a whole church community. This is an example of meeting people where they are and not where we think they should be. The idea of meeting people where they are has been an ever-occurring theme in my life since the nation reopened from COVID. Meeting people where they are with the tools we have rather than putting

them on a shelf somewhere to expire. Bishop Monterroso, through his basketball analogies, reminded me that when something is left unused, it will rot or cease to be useful for its creation. In this way, we should use our tools and not try to keep them untouched and shiny.

These stories also led me to the thought of service and building relationships with people I do not know. It is easy to put off service until tomorrow. However, putting it off until tomorrow can lead to never building it into one's schedule. Life gets in the way if something is not prioritized. The chances we have to serve God can fade into nothingness, until one day we wake up and think that we could have done more. It is also easy not to build relationships with people we do not know. It is uncomfortable to go beyond what or who we know into a different group of people. Yet, I believe, it is within the stretching, the uncomfortableness of meeting new people, people who are not in our typical social circles, even in the people with whom we are angry that we grow into our purpose. I have had some very difficult times within the past few years. These times have shaken my foundation at times, but remarkably, as only God can do, these relationships that were fraught with angst helped me grow into a stronger purpose. With God's help, I have also not allowed these experiences to shadow how I treat those people. I stand tall in God's strength and treat these people with love and respect. This has turned the fabric of the relationship. I hope that within these relationships, even plagued by pain on my part, I have been

able to exhibit a face of God's love and mercy in such a way that these people have grown closer to God as they view him.

As I reflect on these thoughts, thoughts of connection, and meeting Jesus, I found that one of the strongest inspirations I had during the convention was when I joined in with the youth as they worked together for their service project Rise Against Hunger. The joy of service was palpable and tangible as we worked together to construct bags of food filled with nutrition and rice to send to those in need. The youth sang and worked with joy. There was so much joy packed in each meal that I am hopeful that the recipients will feel the joy poured into their stomachs as they consume their meals. While we cannot know how these people will feel, I know that in some ways, these people will have met Jesus through this service work. Meeting Jesus is accepting love.

Nowhere during the convention did Jesus shine through more than through the youth as they climbed on the stone wall at the conference and sang for all who were there. The love and joy they had for Christ shined through so much that I was moved to tears. I saw Jesus in their faces, I heard his love in their voices, and I was motivated to share his love through their service and their joy. In all of these things I kept hearing Bishop Michael Curry's words ringing through: "If it's not about love, it's not about God." In all these things they were allowing others to meet Jesus.

### **From Jordyn Price:**

This year's Youth at Convention was one of the best I've attended throughout my time as a participant and YMT. I love that I have the opportunity to plan these events for the youth of our diocese. My personal favorite thing about the event this year was our service project. We did Rise Against Hunger. In this project, we put together food bags for people who need them.

Besides doing the service project we also had a lot of fun with worship, music, and other activities. We had a lot of fun at the dance party too. I don't think there is a single combination of words that describe how much fun this event was. I feel as if this was the most "normal" event since COVID. We have come a long way since then. I believe this was also one of the most successful events we've had.

In conclusion, I had so much fun not only participating in this event but also in planning it. It was spectacular and I can't wait for the next event to come. Thank you so much for the support and opportunities you have given me to grow closer to God.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
3 <u>2:30 PM</u> AA <u>5:30 PM</u> South Sudanese Worship	4 <u>5:30 PM</u> NA	5 Election Day <u>6:30 PM</u> AA (downstairs)	6 <u>3:30 PM</u> Atrium <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	7 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	8 Int'l. Women's Day	9 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
10 Daylight Saving Begins <u>2:30 PM</u> AA <u>5:30 PM</u> South Sudanese Worship	11 <u>5:30 PM</u> NA	12 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	13 <u>3:30 PM</u> Atrium <u>6:30 PM</u> Little Church <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	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 St Patrick's Day <u>2:30 PM</u> AA <u>5:30 PM</u> South Sudanese Worship	18 <u>5:30 PM</u> NA	19 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	20 Start of Spring (Spring Equinox) <u>3:30 PM</u> Atrium <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	21 <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Prayer Group Program and Potluck <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	22	23 Earth Hour <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
24 Palm Sunday <u>10:00 AM</u> Visitation of Bishop <u>2:30 PM</u> AA <u>5:30 PM</u> South Sudanese Worship	25 <u>5:30 PM</u> NA	26 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	27 <u>6:30 PM</u> Little Church <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	28 Holy Thursday <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA (downstairs) <u>7:30 PM</u> Maundy Thursday Service	29 Good Friday <u>12:00 PM</u> Good Friday Service	30 <u>9:30 AM</u> AA
31 Easter <u>2:30 PM</u> AA <u>5:30 PM</u> South Sudanese Worship						

## SERVER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2024

**Mar 3****8 AM** *Lector and Chalcist—Tim Buchholtz*

<b>10AM</b>	Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Kevin Laxton, Larry Mattox
	Acolyte	Yuri Malick	Coffee	Chris & JoAnn Criscione, Linda Bryant
	Chalcist 1	Katie Rucker		
	Chalcist 2	Art Tatman	Tellers	Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy
	Lector 1	Lynn Wright	Altar Guild	Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	Lector 2	Betsy Briggs		
	Prayers	Jessica Price		

**Mar 10 – To Be Determined****8 AM****10 AM****Mar 17****8 AM** *Lector—Bill Barksdale; Chalcist—Tim Buchholtz*

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Zenon Malick	Ushers	Michael Kennedy, Thomas Rucker
	Acolyte	Mercedes Malick	Coffee	Daniel Toler-Pulley, Robb Pulley, Lis Turner
	Chalcist 1	Lawton Kasey	Tellers	Kevin Laxton, Larry Mattox
	Chalcist 2	Kevin Shepherd	Altar Guild	Danny Fainter, Gail Fields, Joan Gurniak
	Lector 1	Chris Criscione		
	Lector 2	Keith Leonard		
	Prayers	Sabrina Mattox		

**Mar 24 Palm Sunday**

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Kevin Shepherd	Ushers	Ray & Lawton Kasey
	Acolyte	Madde Shepherd	Coffee	Kim & Kevin Laxton
	Chalcist 1	Katie Rucker	Tellers	Maile Armstrong, Donna Frost
	Chalcist 2	Art Tatman	Altar Guild	Lawton Kasey, Betsy Briggs, Katie Rucker
	Lector 1	Jessica Price		
	Lector 2	Avis Aheron		
	Prayers	Daniel Toler-Pulley		

**Mar 28 Maundy Thursday**

<b>7:30 PM</b>	Crucifer	Tim Buchholtz	Ushers	Machele & Anthony Huff
	Acolyte	Betsy Briggs	Altar Guild	Lawton Kasey, Betsy Briggs, Katie Rucker
	Chalcist 1	Kevin Shepherd	Prayers	Art Tatman
	Chalcist 2	Lawton Kasey		
	Lector 1	JoAnn Criscione		
	Lector 2	Phil Hobria		

**March 29 Good Friday**

<b>12:00 PM</b>	Crucifer	Tim Buchholtz	Ushers	Michael Kennedy, Ray Kasey
	Acolyte	Betsy Briggs	Lector 1	Sabrina Mattox
	Chalcist 1	Katie Rucker	Lector 2	Jessica Price
	Chalcist 2	Art Tatman	Prayers	Avis Aheron

**Mar 31 Easter Sunday****8 AM** *Lector—Mary Rogers; Chalcist—Bill Barksdale*

<b>10 AM</b>	Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Kevin Laxton, Larry Mattox
	Acolyte	Grant Rucker	Coffee	Doris & Larry Mattox, Joyce Brown
	Chalcist 1	Kevin Shepherd	Tellers	The Wardens
	Chalcist 2	Lawton Kasey	Altar Guild	Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	Lector 1	Maile Armstrong		
	Lector 2	Carla Spencer		
	Prayers	Lynn Wright		