



# SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL



119<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 21, 2024

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## FINANCIAL APPENDIX

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
 301 PINEY MOUNTAIN ROAD  
 GREENVILLE, SC 29609  
 864.244.6358  
[WWW.STJAMESGREENVILLE.ORG](http://WWW.STJAMESGREENVILLE.ORG)

## ST. JAMES MINISTRY STAFF



The Very Rev. Daniel P. Richards, Bishop  
Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina



The Rev. Kellan Day  
Rector  
Oct. 2023 – present



The Rev. John S. Nieman  
Interim Rector  
July 2022 – Sept. 2023



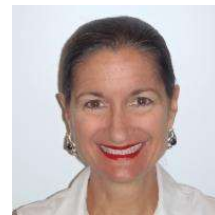
The Rev. Lathrop H. Mosley  
Curate  
July 2021- Oct. 2023



Dr. Karen A. Eshelman  
Director of Music and Organist



Mrs. Dena Veazey  
Parish Administrator



Mrs. Katie Allen  
Day School Director

## ST. JAMES VESTRY 2023

Cindy Luthi, *Sr. Warden*  
Luke Mitchell, *Jr. Warden*  
Nancy King, *Clerk*

Tracy Alewine  
Dan Coe  
Kris Cox

Lance Estep  
Claudia Hart  
John Kaup

Tripp Scott  
Catherine Talley  
Becky Walters

## *Candidates for Vestry 2024*



### **David Bernardy**

David Bernardy is an artist, a teacher and a father. He and his wife Joni have attended St. James since they moved to Greenville in 2008. His daughter Caroline, now 13, was baptized at St. James when she was twelve days old. David earned an MFA and a PhD in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Houston. He has taught writing and literature in a number of colleges and universities, including the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, North Carolina State University, and Furman University. He is currently in his last year of student teaching to complete his certification to teach elementary school. David has been active at St. James as a lector and as a teacher in the Sunday School program.



### **Victoria Chance**

A member of St. James for 32 years, Victoria Chance currently serves as a lector and Eucharistic Minister. Over the years she has sung in the choir, coordinated the Oyster Roast, led Sunday School classes, and Lenten Quiet Retreats. She is a retired high school English/Theatre teacher in the International Baccalaureate Programme, a graduate of Furman University, and has her Masters in Contemplative Education from Naropa University in Boulder, CO. Presently, Victoria is the co-founder and the executive director of the nonprofit My Neighbor's Voice. She is honored to be asked to serve the St. James Parish community at this particular time.



### **Randy Cook**

Randy Cook first came to Greenville in 1992 from Charleston to start a career with SC DHEC. He spent his last twelve years in Charleston, then returned to Greenville in 2020 after retiring. He came from the Presbyterian church where he served as an Elder, on the property committee, on and chaired the nominating committee, and helped write policy. He also sang in the choir, cleaned the communion silver and took out the trash, among other things. While a member at St. Francis Episcopal Church in the mid 2000s, he served on the vestry, as a lector and Eucharistic Minister, as well as sharing Junior Warden duties. He first visited St. James in 2007, found his way back in recent years, and joined in 2022. Currently, he serves as a lector, as coordinator for the Feed Thy Neighbor ministry, has helped out with men's group projects, and has assisted the Junior Warden with handyman jobs around the church.



### **Kent Satterfield**

Kent, a Greer native, retired in 2017 after a 40-year career in public accounting, the last 35 years of which were spent with a predecessor firm to Forvis, the 8<sup>th</sup> largest CPA firm in the US. He held numerous roles at the firm including Chief Operating Officer and Chair of the Executive Board. Five days after his retirement he went to Mepkin Abbey as a Monastic Guest where he spent 30 days living and working with the monks on their mushroom farm. He spent the summer of 2018 as a volunteer chaplain intern at Greenville Memorial Hospital. In May, 2019 he completed a two-week backpacking, paddling and climbing expedition to become a North Carolina Outward Bound School field instructor.

Kent has served on many non-profit boards over the years including serving as Board Chair of the PhD Project, the NC Outward Bound School, and the Greenville Free Medical Clinic. At St. James he's served on the Stewardship and Outreach Commissions, and he served a term on the Commission on the Diocese. At a former parish he served on Vestry and as Senior Warden.

Kent and his wife Linda are avid travelers, runners and outdoors-people. They live with their two dogs, whom Linda considers to be furry humans.

### ***Candidates for Diocesan Convention Delegates***

Boyd Cater, Rick Hope, Alice Littlejohn, Lavinia Plumlee

### ***Candidates for Diocesan Convention Alternates***

Dan Coe, Kathy Walsh

## **AGENDA FOR THE 119<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

1. Call to Order: The Rev. Kellan Day, Rector
2. Opening Prayer
3. Certification of Quorum & Appointment of Tellers
4. Review and Approval of Agenda
5. Review and Approval of Minutes of 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting
6. Nominations of Vestry Members
7. Nominations of Diocesan Convention Delegates and Alternates
8. Voting
9. Senior Warden's Report: Cindy Luthi
10. Final 2023 Treasurer's Report: Jim Ghrist
11. Presentation of the 2024 Budget
12. Rector's Report
13. Report of Elections
14. Recognition of Lay Leaders and Retiring Vestry Members
15. Old Business
16. New Business
17. Closing Prayer
18. 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting date: January 26, 2025
19. Adjournment



# MINUTES FOR THE 118<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JANUARY 22, 2023

Call to Order: The Rev. John S. Nieman, Interim Rector, called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

Certification of Quorum: A total of 68 parishioners were in attendance at the beginning of the meeting, fulfilling the number required for a quorum by the By-Laws. The following Vestry members were appointed as Tellers for the meeting: Leesa Brotherton, Cindy Luthi, Kris Cox, and Claudia Hart.

Agenda: Fr. John requested that a report from the Search Committee be added to the Agenda. Katie Allen moved that the agenda be approved as amended. Cindy Luthi seconded. Passed.

Review and Approval of Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting: Tracy Alewine moved that the Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting be approved. Christi Jones-McNeill seconded. Passed.

Nominations of Vestry Members: Many thanks for the good work of the Nominating Committee: Richard Wright, Leesa Brotherton, and Tom Bergin. The four Vestry nominees are Dan Coe, Lance Estep, Nancy King and Catherine Talley. There being no nominations from the floor, Clay Allen moved that the four candidates be approved by acclamation. Reece Blackwell seconded. Passed.

Nominations of Diocesan Convention Delegates: Four delegates are needed, each to serve a one-year term. These delegates will attend the annual diocesan convention in November in Greenville. Six parishioners were listed on the ballots. There were no nominations from the floor. Fr. John instructed members to vote for only four. The four who receive the most votes will serve as delegates and the other two will be alternates. Ballots were collected and counted by the tellers.

Voting: The four persons elected to serve as Delegates are Claudia Hart, Rick Hope, Sherry Sponseller, and Marian Strobel. The alternates will be David Doscher and Michael Thomas.

Reports of St. James Commissions and Ministries: Fr. John encouraged parishioners to review the Annual Report Book.

- Dena Veazey gave a summary of her Parish Administrator's written report, thanking the many volunteers who helped in the office through the year. She also thanked Fr. John for his support during the transition and for making it possible to hire a Financial Administrator, and Rick Veazey for helping with several aspects of technology support after Fr. Stephen's departure.
- John Kaup, Chair of the Outreach Commission, reported that much of the hands-on work of the commission had slowed during the pandemic and asked for parishioners to reflect on how they might be able to serve and even provide leadership.
- Rick Veazey asked Servants in Worship who had stepped back from their roles during Covid to consider returning and to update their profiles in Ministry Scheduler Pro. Volunteers are also needed to help with the livestreaming ministry.
- The Rev. Lathrop Mosley thanked everyone for their support and encouragement during the seven weeks that she was the only priest at St. James.



Final 2022 Treasurer's Report: Jim Ghrist serves on the Finance Committee and has agreed to serve as Treasurer during 2023. He summarized the reports which are printed in the Financial Appendix. The financial position of St. James is strong, having ended 2022 with a sizeable operating surplus. Pledges for 2023 are higher than last year at this time.

Presentation of the 2023 Budget: The budget for this year is very similar to the 2022 budget, except that the income line "Cash on Hand Contribution to Budget" was omitted. Actual expenses will depend, in part, on when a new rector begins. There is a projected deficit of around \$45,000. Jim thanked the other members of the Finance Committee and assured the parish that they would continue to oversee and scrutinize the finances of St. James with the goal of being good stewards of the pledges and offerings given to God for his work at St. James.

Search Committee Report: Clay Allen reported that the Search Committee finally got started in October, working with the Office of Transition Ministries. The position of Rector of St. James is now listed with an updated parish profile. Clay detailed the process which the Committee will follow and asked the parish for patience and understanding going forward.

Senior Warden's Report: Tracy Alewine acknowledged that when she agreed to be Senior Warden, she had not expected Fr. Stephen to leave a few months later. She thanked the Search Committee, the staff, Junior Warden Cindy Luthi, and especially Fr. John for their hard work and support during the transition.

Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members: Fr. John thanked the outgoing vestry class: Tom Bergin, Leesa Brotherton, Ron Kelley, and Richard Wright. He will make a donation in their honor to a charitable organization yet to be decided.

Wardens: Fr. John thanked Tracy Alewine and Cindy Luthi for their service as Senior Warden and Junior Warden respectively. The three of them met about monthly for counsel, advise and to shape the Vestry meeting agenda. Cindy has agreed to be Senior Warden in the coming year. The Vestry will elect a Junior Warden.

Interim Rector's Report: Fr. John explained that his role as interim is to lead the parish to be ready to call the next rector by providing stability and asking good questions. He has observed the parish's many gifts in ministry and financial generosity. As the parish emerges from the reality of Covid, we have the opportunity to restructure our existing ministries, let some go, and add new ones. He encouraged all members to ask themselves to what one or two ministries would they commit, and would they also provide leadership in those ministries?

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Closing Prayer: Fr. John closed the meeting with the Collect of the Day.

119<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 21, 2024.

Adjournment: Reece Blackwell moved to adjourn the meeting. Kris Cox seconded. Passed.

Respectfully submitted by Dena Veazey, Parish Administrator

## RECTOR'S REPORT

It's been three and a half months since we've begun our official pilgrimage together as priest and people, as disciples in community trying to follow the Way of Jesus. First of all, thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to pilgrim with you, to share in the life of God together, to be companions on the road of resurrection. Thank you for your kindness, your welcome, your grace, your patience as I learn to be a Rector for the first time in a new state, a new diocese, and a new community.

I owe my gratitude to the Vestry and the staff of this parish, as well. The Vestry faithfully stepped up during the transition, especially Junior Warden, Luke Mitchell, and Senior Warden, Cindy Luthi. Thank you, on behalf of this entire community. The staff of St. James are quite literally the most skilled, competent, thoughtful staff I have ever had the privilege of working with before – though you already knew that. I could tell from day one that Dena, Karen, and Katie see their work as an offering and a ministry. Our administration, music ministries, and Day school are in such good hands. Their commitment to the mission of the church and the Gospel of Christ have been a steady foundation in this place for countless years. Thank you to each of you for your remarkable dedication.

You all began this past year, 2023, under the cure of Fr. John and Mtr. Lathrop. We are always indebted to those who came before us in the church, and I'm certainly indebted to those who have ministered in this place in the years past.

As most of you know, right after accepting the call to be your Rector, I flew to Spain with Kai to walk part of the way of St. James, better known as the Camino. I quite literally felt what it was like to be a pilgrim: some days, it was grueling. On other days, it was sublime and rewarding. Many times it was quite dull and ordinary: literally one foot after another all day long. I was acutely aware of my thirst and my hunger. The climate was out of my control, the temperature rising to 98 degrees some days. But the further along we got, the more I felt in rhythm with myself, with Kai, with God.

St. James is the patron saint of pilgrims and St. James is our patron saint of this community. And so I want to spend just a bit of time fleshing out this metaphor of pilgrim, as a way of understanding our work and ministry in this place. To be a pilgrim is to be walking toward something, or in our case, someone. Being a pilgrim on the Christian journey is learning to walk toward God, and to do that with the companionship of Christ, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and the comradery of our fellow disciples. There are all sorts of questions that pilgrim needs to be asking:

Are we prepared for the grueling days of faith – those seasons of doubt and darkness and exhaustion? Have you taken the time to notice how sublime and beautiful the walk can be? Can we name our own spiritual hungers and thirsts? Are we ready to help out fellow pilgrims who find themselves in need? How do we learn to rest well so that we can continue our pilgrimage? What disciplines and community structures do we need in place to make sure no one is left to journey alone?

We can and should spend years of our lives pondering these questions and risking our answers. But there are a couple of important pieces of being a pilgrim that I want to draw our attention toward.

Pilgrims, above all, are people of prayer. We are to be a people of prayer, St. James. If we are not connecting with the source of life and love, with the living God, our various pilgrimages become monotonous and tedious. They become unmoored and shallow. The most important journey we can make every week is to this altar, where we are given everything we need for our lives and our discipleship. Here, we are caught up into the communion of God, the unity of Christ's body, the fullness of God's kingdom. Here, we do not strive and hustle, we can rest and receive nourishment.

As I did in my introduction letter, I invite you to make prayer and worship a priority this next year, for you and your family. Come here as often as you can, on Wednesdays and Sundays and even if you're driving by and need a quiet space to breathe and pray. God has given us grace upon grace for this pilgrimage of life; God has given us his very self, if only we learn to ask for it and receive it.

Second, pilgrims do not walk alone. One of the things said to me over and over again about St. James during the search process was that this is a community that loves each other. I have found that to be true. You are a warm community of faith. I want us to build on this strength – to commit to each other in a more profound way. In order to do this, we need to spend time together: at Men's Group, on Sunday mornings during Formation, at Coffee Hour, around tables in our homes, at EYC, ECW, in Sunday School, at fellowship events, in book groups, etc.. Can we foster such a love in this place that it would then spill out into the community beyond us? How can we continue to walk with those who are alone, who are neglected by our society, who feel as if they are getting left behind? In the coming year or two, I'm eager to see how some discernment around our Outreach efforts might focus our mission and strengthen our impact. Pilgrims do not walk alone.

As a pilgrim people, St. James, we have to leave somewhere in order to go somewhere. Will you commit to prayer and worship, drawing near to God as God has drawn near to you? Will you commit to each other and our neighbors, sharing Christ's love with all you encounter? I invite your companionship on this road of resurrection, on this journey toward God. I invite your labor as we co-labor for the kingdom (please read the non-verbal addendums attached to this report – there are many ways to participate in our ministry at St. James and we need your involvement and gifts. I need your involvement and gifts). In the coming year or two, there will be staff transitions – Dena Veazey will retire in December of 2024 after 25 years of service. Following the 2024/25 school year, Katie Allen will retire after 10 years of service. I hope to hire a part-time youth and children's minister, and we've already welcomed a Youth Ministry Intern. There is change coming, but that is always true in the Christian life. Together, with God's help, we continue our walk toward that heavenly city where we will dwell with all the saints in the fullness of God's life and love.

### **Non-Verbal Addendum:**

**Children & Youth:** We have a number of children and youth in this community who need spiritual formation. Countless lay leaders have stepped up to serve these children and youth, and I'm particularly grateful for Erin Estep, Fran Mauney, Melody Breen, Tracy Moister, and Sherry Clarkson for their coordination of Sunday School and EYC. We are also grateful for Sam Nixon's presence among us as Youth Ministry Intern. And still, these children and youth pilgrims need some extra guidance in faith. It is my hope (and is included in our 2024 budget), that we can hire a part-time person to ensure our youngest pilgrims have good footing on this first part of their Christian journey. In order to hire a full-time person, our stewardship will need to expand and our dedication to faith formation will have to grow.

**Deferred Maintenance:** Countless pilgrims within and outside of this community depend on our physical plant, the safety and well-being of our building and grounds. The St. Francis community, St. James Day School, various recovery ministries, not to mention our own parish community which gathers here multiple times a week for worship, formation, and fellowship. Thanks to the B.U.M.S. (Building Upkeep & Maintenance Squad), Richard Wright, Christopher Brotherton, Jim Ghrist, and Luke Mitchell, for drafting a plan to replace six HVAC units, pave parking lots, and monitor any large capital replacement projects over the next few years. They have stepped up to help our community plan for the future. With this good planning and proper funds management, we can make sure that

our building continues to be a place of refuge, support, and nourishment for the many pilgrims who make journeys here each week.

**Newcomers & Welcoming Commission:** We have had the gift of new pilgrims in our midst on Sunday mornings. How are we inviting these pilgrims into our life together? How are we engaging and connecting with them? Amanda Davis led this effort for a long season, and I'm grateful to her for her ministry. We are looking for someone to step up and help offer some leadership to the Welcoming Commission, ensuring that our newcomers are invited into our life at St. James. But this is not just work for one person – it is a ministry for every single member of St. James. If you see someone new, if you don't know someone's name, please welcome and introduce them. On average, it takes nine different points of contact for people to stay in a faith community! Additionally, it is my hope and dream that St. James pilgrims, the ones who have called this place home for years or months, would invite new pilgrims to journey with us. If this is where you find life and love, hope and joy, why not invite your friends and family into our fellowship?

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Kellan Day+ ([Kellan@stjamesgreenville.org](mailto:Kellan@stjamesgreenville.org))

## PARISH LEADERSHIP REPORTS

### SENIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

As I find myself coming to the end of my three years on Vestry and as Senior Warden this past year, I am filled with immense love for our parish. The church has been through so much in the past several years beginning with covid, then without a rector and we are still here for God and for each other. I am overwhelmed with joy in how we, the parish family, came together to make things work during so many challenges in the past several years. Never in my thoughts did I think being Senior Warden would strengthen my faith and help me find peace of mind with so many things. Fr. John came to us as our interim rector and he guided us in the direction we needed. I also couldn't have done it all without the wonderful vestry members and for that I am forever grateful. Another big shoutout goes to our search committee who put in a tremendous amount of time and work to find the perfect rector for us, and for this we are truly blessed to have Mother Kellan with us at St. James.

St. James hosts wonderful events throughout the year and brings our church family together and this is made possible by all our members who give their time to make it special. As we move into the new year, I look forward to seeing what will be for our parish family.

Our church staff are really our unsung heroes. Several wear many hats to keep things running smoothly, so on behalf of the vestry, we want to express our sincere appreciation for everything you all do to keep St. James in order.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for your support, encouragement, prayers and guidance this past year. My term as senior warden will be ending, but my love and appreciation for our parish will continue for a lifetime.

Prayers & gratitude

Cindy Luthi ([cindy.luthi@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.luthi@gmail.com))

## JUNIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The church had an audit of the HVAC system to determine the condition and identify issues. Several recommended minor repairs were completed. We have a Strategic Reserve Fund to prepare for the replacement of our aging HVAC system.

We had an electrical system audit which noted a few minor issues. These issues have been addressed.

The Building Upkeep & Maintenance Squad (BUMS) has been working on long term capital improvement project planning. Projects include the replacement of HVAC units when needed as well as resurfacing and sealing the parking lot.

We set up an Automated External Defibrillator management program which will maintain our AED's and keep them in working order.

Thanks to all who participated on our two workdays. Several small projects were completed including cleaning out closets, hanging window blinds, cleaning the Parish Life Center kitchen, and sprucing up our grounds.

We have a new grounds maintenance contractor who is doing a great job keeping our grass and landscaping looking great!

Several small projects were completed in 2023 including door repairs, sidewalk repairs, tree pruning, and having the septic tank pumped.

Luke Mitchell ([luke.mitchell@jacobs.com](mailto:luke.mitchell@jacobs.com))

## ST. JAMES STAFF REPORTS

### ADMINISTRATION

In 2023 average in-person Sunday attendance at St. James increased from 122 to 141. We had 375 at the Easter services and 360 at Christmas services.

St. James added six new members by baptism and 14 by letter of transfer or on request. Two adults were confirmed when Bishop Richards visited in October. Seven members passed away in 2023, and 13 individuals transferred their membership to other congregations.

Dena Veazey, Parish Administrator ([admin@stjamesgreenville.org](mailto:admin@stjamesgreenville.org))

### MUSIC MINISTRY

#### *The Importance of Singing*

The congregation of St. James loves singing the hymns of the Church, and values being immersed in their poetry and imagery. Whether used for congregational singing or for prayer and meditation, our hymns help us take an active role in learning about our faith and in teaching the process of prayer and worship to our children.

### *The St. James Parish Choir*

In the fall of 2023, we finally returned to our pre-2020 numbers. In addition to singing on Sunday (August – May) the choir sang for Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday, Easter Vigil, two services on Easter Day, Advent Lessons and Carols, and the special music before the 11 PM Christmas Eve Eucharist. If you love to sing, I encourage you to come sing with the choir! If you can't yet read music, we help singers learn their music by using online recordings when possible. The choir helps to lead worship every Sunday at the 10:30 AM Eucharist. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:30 – 9 PM, and Sundays at 9:45 AM. We continue to rehearse in the nave to take advantage of its improved ventilation.

### *Children's Choir/ Youth Choir*

I would love to restart these groups: all St. James children and youth are invited to participate. The Children's Choir (grades 2-5) provides students with basic music education and familiarity with the chancel area of the church (where altar, organ, and acolyte/choir seats are located). The Youth Choir (middle and high school) provides more advanced music education and familiarity with the Episcopal hymnal and Book of Common Prayer. The St. James Youth Choir has actively participated in leading worship each week by joining the opening procession with the Parish Choir, sitting together in the front pews, and occasionally singing a hymn or anthem during the Offertory. In addition, the Youth Choir has sometimes joined the Parish Choir for special anthems and has played a key role in the annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols.

### *St. James Choral Scholars*

Choral Scholars are Furman music students who practice and sing with the St. James Parish Choir. They earn a stipend to help with their music education (the Vestry has authorized the funding of as many as four choral scholars). Positions require an audition and are awarded on the basis of talent, teacher recommendation, dependability, and attitude. This program connecting Furman music students with St. James was established in 2002, and it adds greatly to St. James' overall connection with Furman University. Benefits for the music student include observing the teaching of music and singing in a smaller choir; these experiences teach them ways they can serve the Church after they graduate. <https://www.stjamesgreenville.org/st-james-choral-scholars>

### *The Gober Pipe Organ*

In Dec. 2023 organ builder Hal Gober visited briefly to do some maintenance and to tune the reed pipes. The organ is just over 16 years old and has required little repair work and maintenance. Regular ongoing preventative care includes occasional touch-up tunings and monitoring of the humidity in the nave (there is a humidifier system that works with the nave's HVAC system).

### *Copyright Acknowledgements*

Each week I create a list of copyright acknowledgements to include at the end of each live-streamed service on our YouTube channel; this is a legal requirement of our One License podcast (livestream) license. In addition, each week I report the required information for each musical work (everything that is not in the public domain) to One License or WorshipCast.

### *Other Music Activities and Volunteer Opportunities*

- Wanted: Parishioners who play instruments (email Karen to learn more)
- The choir and I express our thanks to our current volunteer music library assistant, Bill Allen.

Karen Eshelman, Director of Music and Organist ([music@stjamesgreenville.org](mailto:music@stjamesgreenville.org))

## DAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

The St. James Day School serves almost sixty children ages 1, 2, 3 and 4 years. With emphasis on instruction through active play in a loving environment, we offer care Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 1:00. Students enjoy hands-on lessons from the core basics of reading, math and science. Curriculum is rounded out with weekly chapel, music and French as well. This program has a legacy of more than forty years at St. James and many current teachers have more than ten years of service to the school. The Day School is committed to a holistic approach to learning; challenging and guiding the entire child – intellectually, spiritually and emotionally. We are proud to serve little ones year after year in a family-centered, healthy and challenging environment. Special thanks to an anonymous donor, whose generous gift was used for scholarship support and other special projects for the benefit of our students. Donations such as this one are put to worthy purpose as we carry out our ministry to God's children here at St James.

After prayerful deliberation, I have submitted my intent to retire as of July 31, 2025. I am thankful to have the opportunity to serve with Mother Kellan one extra year and I look forward to many more happy mornings with God's children as we do the business of Preschool ministry here at St James.

Katie Allen, Day School Director ([school@stjamesgreenville.org](mailto:school@stjamesgreenville.org))

## LAY MINISTRY REPORTS

### WORSHIP

#### *Acolytes*

Acolytes are children, youth and adults who assist the clergy in weekly worship and special services. Acolytes include crucifers (carrier of the cross), torch bearers and thurifers (incense bearer). Parishioners in second grade and older are invited to participate in this ministry. Training is provided. An acolyte is generally assigned to one service per month, arranged by our Ministry Scheduler Pro software. Subs and swaps are easy to request via this software, should you be scheduled on a day when you are unable to serve. If you are interested in becoming an acolyte or an acolyte trainer, please contact Mtr. Kellan ([Kellan@stjamesgreenville.org](mailto:Kellan@stjamesgreenville.org)).

#### *Altar Guild*

The St. James Altar Guild is made up of two groups. One group consists of six teams that rotate on a weekly basis. These teams set up for services by polishing brass and silver, changing altar hangings, filling candles with oil, and preparing wafers and wine. They also clean up after services. The second group consists of individuals who launder the linens used in the services. They rotate on a monthly basis. If you are interested in joining either group, training is provided. We are looking for new members to serve in this vital ministry. If you would like more information, please contact Marie Hovland ([tomar617@hotmail.com](mailto:tomar617@hotmail.com)) or Mtr. Kellan ([Kellan@stjamesgreenville.org](mailto:Kellan@stjamesgreenville.org)).

#### *AV Team*

St. James continues to live-stream the 10:30 AM Sunday services and other special services, allowing the faithful to participate in the services from their homes when they are unable to attend in person.

Due to some shortcomings and problems with the current camera, we are hoping to replace the system and make it more effective with multiple cameras designed to allow operation from the main level.



We are still looking for additional volunteers to operate the system once it is in place. If you are interested participating in this ministry, please contact Rick Veazey ([r.veazey@gmail.com](mailto:r.veazey@gmail.com)).

### *Coffee Hour*

The Coffee Hour hosts are scheduled through Ministry Scheduler Pro to provide lemonade and coffee along with sweet and/or savory treats after the 10:30 Sunday service. We welcome anyone who enjoys hospitality to become a Coffee Hour host! For more information, please contact Sarah Britt ([sarahsbritt@aol.com](mailto:sarahsbritt@aol.com)).

### *Eucharistic Ministers*

A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person authorized and licensed by the Bishop to assist the clergy in administering the consecrated elements at a celebration of Holy Eucharist. Training is provided at St. James. Typically, one person is assigned for 8:00 and two for 10:30. The number of Eucharistic Ministers has diminished due to covid and we would like to bolster our ranks. If you would like more information or help discerning whether you might be called to this very vital ministry, contact Mtr. Kellan ([Kellan@stjamesgreenville.org](mailto:Kellan@stjamesgreenville.org)).

### *Flower Guild*

The Flower Guild uses fresh floral arrangements to support the visual representation of the liturgical calendar, much like priest's vestments and the altar frontals. With a current roster of fourteen ladies, members can expect to create altar flowers individually twice, possibly three times, this year. The weekly flower arrangements typically take 1-2 hours to complete depending on complexity. All members are invited to participate in a group workday prior to Easter and Christmas. Workdays generally run 3-5 hours and provide a great opportunity for fellowship and continuing education as new members learn valuable tips and tricks from current members. For more information, please contact Lavinia Plumblee ([lrplumblee@gmail.com](mailto:lrplumblee@gmail.com)) or Christi Jones-McNeill ([cmcneill7163@charter.net](mailto:cmcneill7163@charter.net)).

### *Greeters*

When we come together in person, St. James Greeters welcome members and newcomers alike to services on Sunday mornings and at special services. They help familiarize visitors with the facility and take time to get to know them before and after the service. St. James Greeters also introduce newcomers to the clergy and others so that newcomers feel warmly welcomed. You may join this ministry at any time. We would be delighted for you to become a Greeter. If interested, please contact Alice Littlejohn ([alicelittlejohn6@gmail.com](mailto:alicelittlejohn6@gmail.com))

### *Lectors and Intercessors*

Lectors read the appointed scripture lessons at the liturgy, and intercessors lead the prayers of the people. At St. James, those on the roster might be assigned to either role. Training is provided. Keep in mind that children who are capable and confident readers make great lectors. For more information, contact Mtr. Kellan Day at [Kellan@stjamesgreenville.org](mailto:Kellan@stjamesgreenville.org).

### *Nursery*

St. James offers nursery every week during Sunday School and the 10:30 service for infants through age four. In addition to one staff childcare worker, our Nursery is staffed by volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helps in that ministry! We would like to increase the number of youth and adult volunteers. If you can help, please contact the parish office ([admin@stjamesgreenville.org](mailto:admin@stjamesgreenville.org)).

### *Rector's Aides / Ushers*

A Rector's Aide is assigned to each Sunday service and special liturgy to arrive early to prepare the space for worship by unlocking doors, turning on the lights, lighting candles, etc. The Rector's Aide also assists at the end of the service with locking up, etc.

The group of parishioners—youth and adults, male and female—who serve as Ushers have discovered that serving as an Usher is an easy and fun way to meet, greet and seat members and visitors who have come to worship at St. James. They also help to facilitate a smooth worship service. For more information about these important ministries, contact Luke Mitchell ([luke.mitchell@jacobs.com](mailto:luke.mitchell@jacobs.com)).

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

#### *Children & Youth*

Children continue to meet for Sunday School each Sunday from 9:15-10:15 AM. Thanks to our coordinators Fran Mauney, Melody Breen, and Erin Estep and all of our many Sunday School teachers for helping teach our children a lectionary-based curriculum. If you would like to help, please reach out to Fran Mauney ([fmauney@gmail.com](mailto:fmauney@gmail.com)) or Erin Estep ([erin99mm@gmail.com](mailto:erin99mm@gmail.com)).

Our Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) met every other week on Sunday evenings for fun, fellowship, and formation. Mtr. Lathrop led these efforts until she left, and then Sherry Clarkson and Tracy Moister stepped up to help coordinate our EYC group. Thank you to all who have volunteered with our youth this past year. This coming year, we look forward to having Sam Nixon join us as Youth Ministry Intern.

#### *Canterbury Club (College Ministry at Furman)*

Mtr. Lathrop supported Furman's Canterbury Club during 2023. Drs. George Lipscomb (2022-2023) and Margaret Oakes (2023-2024) have served as Faculty Advisors for CC, and we are grateful for their presence with those students. Additionally, Alice Littlejohn has stepped up to offer meals for college students once or twice a semester at St. James. Mtr. Kellan is committed to being with our CC once a month for Eucharist and works with our Peer Minister, Sara Powell (Furman Sophomore), to plan for the semester. Please keep our Canterbury students in your prayers, and if you would like to get involved with this ministry, please reach out to Mtr. Kellan.

#### *Adult Christian Education*

Several adult Christian education series were offered in 2023 – a study of John's Gospel, Confirmation Class, My Neighbor's Voice, and the Art of Advent. The Thursday Morning Bible Study focuses on the upcoming Sunday lectionary texts and continues to meet weekly in the library at 10:30 AM.

### DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Daughters of the King is an order of prayer, service and evangelism in the Episcopal Church. Our current members are Boyd Cater, Sherrie Foster, Frances Funderburk, Charmaine Helfrich, Kimberly Hudson, Carolyn Jones, Alice Littlejohn, Dianne Posey, Lorelle Schnatterly, Pam Snape, Luanne Thayer, and Laura Thompson. All women in the Episcopal Church are invited to join. We have a 12-week study course and then we then take vows to live by the Rule of Life which is a self-imposed spiritual discipline to be faithful at prayer, service and evangelism. We pray daily for the church, the clergy, those on the prayer list and others who wish their prayers to be confidential. We

have a box and cards in the Narthex where prayer requests can be placed. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month after the 10:30 service. Our projects include sending grief books to parishioners who have lost a loved one and providing Baptismal towels as keepsakes for babies and small children being baptized, chaplets for confirmands, and prayer necklaces for expectant parents. We read and discuss books that deepen our knowledge of the church, our faith, and how to serve God and our community more faithfully. We do not do fundraisers, but we contribute to the different funds of the order: Self-denial, Masters, Alpha and Endowment.

We invite any woman who is interested in this ministry to speak to one of our members for more information. A new study group can be started at any time.

Boyd Cater ([boydcater42@gmail.com](mailto:boydcater42@gmail.com))

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) consists of all women of the church who are 18 years or older. The ECW at St. James has always been an active ministry with the board members meeting the first Wednesday of each month.

Each Spring the ECW requests dues from the women of St. James, and in 2023 the women gave generously, collecting \$2,237. This money goes towards our Diocesan dues and supporting our World, National, and Diocesan Missions and other Diocesan projects.

Our main fundraiser is the annual Attic Sale which was held in June and raised \$6,080. This money goes toward supporting various ministries in the community and needs within the church. In 2023 we gave away a total of \$4,579. We are fortunate that this great event is supported by our parishioners and the community. It is fun working the week prior to the sale. We appreciate all those who donate items and/or their time to work the sale. Come join us for all the fun we have! The 2024 date will be announced soon.

In February we were fortunate to host a cooking demonstration. Two chefs from Italy came and prepared Risotto for us. The ECW board prepared the remainder of the lunch which was enjoyed by the limited number we were able to accommodate. A big thanks goes to Joyce Moore for organizing this fun event.

We hosted our Fall Social in October with informative speakers from United Ministries and Generations Group Home. The evening was a great opportunity to visit with our fellow members and friends.

If you would like to be more involved in the ECW and its activities, please reach out to me.

Sherry Sponseller ([sherrysponseller3@gmail.com](mailto:sherrysponseller3@gmail.com))

### *St. Mary Elizabeth Chapter*

This chapter of the Episcopal Church Women meets on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May at 10:30 AM in the Church Library. The Chapter supports the Sunshine Fund, Memorials and the Bena/Dial scholarship program. We offer a program followed by a time of fellowship. Boyd Cater ([boydcater42@gmail.com](mailto:boydcater42@gmail.com)) leads this group and invites others to join her.

## OUTREACH COMMISSION

Established in 2015, the current members of the commission include Dan Coe and John Kaup (currently serving as co-chairs), Marie Hovland, George Lafaye, Alice Littlejohn, and Kent Satterfield. Our meetings enable us to assess the health and effectiveness of our current outreach efforts, providing updates on the outreach ministries with which each of us is involved, and considering additional outreach opportunities. If you would like to serve on this commission, please contact Dan Coe ([dcoc@miraclehill.org](mailto:dcoc@miraclehill.org)).

We were thrilled to come together (in person) as a community and package 20,000 meals in partnership with Rise Against Hunger and are planning another event on April 28. (See ‘Meal Packing Event’ section). Our ministry and outreach funds continued to support the Vivanco family and their transformative work in Ecuador. Funds were also distributed to St. Francis as we continue to support their ministries in Spanish.

### *Feed Thy Neighbor*

Feed Thy Neighbor is an outreach ministry that is helping feed the hungry in the Greenville area. It is a cooperative ministry with three other local Episcopal churches, centered at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church. Feed Thy Neighbor provides a hot, nourishing breakfast every Saturday morning for the homeless and destitute, who otherwise may have nothing to eat. St. James prepares the breakfast on the second Saturday of the month, and the Men’s Group supports St. James’ portion of the costs for this ministry. Contact Randy Cook ([cook.rg@hotmail.com](mailto:cook.rg@hotmail.com)) for more information.

### *Meal Packaging Event*

Nearly 100 volunteers gathered in the Parish Life Center on April 30, 2023 to package 20,000 meals in partnership with Rise Against Hunger (RAH). To date, we have packaged nearly 300,000 meals. Mark your calendars for Sunday April 28, 2024, for our next meal packaging event. Plans are in place to begin offering two meal packaging events each year. John Kaup will co-lead the April event with Joni Tevis and David Bernardy. Joni and David will assume leadership of this ministry in the Fall 2024.

### *St. James Angel Tree*

Every November/December the St. James community reaches out in love and caring for the less fortunate in the Greenville area by ensuring that needy families are able to celebrate Christmas with dignity and joy. We connect local families in need and local charities with the generous parishioners of St. James. In 2023 we again collected both gifts (200+) and “Jingle Bills” (over \$1,300). Many thanks to Beate Kindervater for leading this ministry for nearly ten years. We need someone to step-up and lead this ministry going forward.

## PASTORAL CARE

### *Eucharistic Visitors & Pastoral Care Visitors*

Eucharistic visitors share communion with homebound, hospitalized, and nursing home residents at scheduled frequencies and times convenient for the recipients. In 2023 we made 83 visits to individuals in their homes or in nursing facilities. In addition to these regular visitations, our Visitors made phone calls, sent cards, and communicated the status of our homebound parishioners through emails to the staff and each other. This past year Janis Bandelin, Martin Darby, Frances Funderburk, Rick Hope, Lee Plumblee, Anne Shelley, and Pam Snape served as Eucharistic Visitors. We like to have a Pastoral

Care Visitor accompany the Eucharistic Visitor on each visit. We also encourage support by providing transportation to church and other important places, short respite visits, and personal communication by phone calls and cards to those on the prayer list and those recently hospitalized. If you are interested in serving in these ministries, please contact Pam Snape ([pamsnape@bellsouth.net](mailto:pamsnape@bellsouth.net)).

### *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

Thank you to the members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry team! They have been very faithful in the production of shawls, hats, lap robes, and blankets. In 2023 we produced a total of 202 items which were distributed to Pruitt Hospice and Bon Secours Cancer Center as well as by special request.

Our membership consists of eleven individuals, an increase of two this year, plus four others who contribute without attending meetings. This ministry is in its sixth year of continued growth and production. If you are interested in learning more or joining this ministry, please contact Nancy Gammons ([njgammons44@gmail.com](mailto:njgammons44@gmail.com)).

### ST. JAMES MEN'S GROUP (SJMG)

The St. James Men's Group is open to all male members of the church who are 18 years and older. We typically meet for dinner on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 in the Parish Life Center. This year's officers are Ken Littlejohn, President; Cam Walters, Vice President; and Jim Ghrist, Treasurer.

The group offered spiritual opportunities by having a Wednesday morning Bible study during Lent and taking a retreat to Kanuga in February.

The Men's Group raises money by smoking meats at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas and then uses those funds to help with various charitable efforts. One place where the funds were used this year was to pay for CPR training for the day school staff at the beginning of the school year.

Our KEYS group (Keep Empowering Youth in School) provided financial support to Lakeview Middle and Welcome Elementary schools by paying for speakers at assemblies, buying T-shirts and hoodies for choral and athletic groups, financing rewarding field trips, and bringing food to teachers, just to name a few examples.

The group also hosted parish wide events with Oktoberfest in the fall, defibrillator training in November, and a family sing-along in December called Un-silent Night. To keep up with our group, you can follow the Men's Group on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mensgroupstjames/> and on Instagram ([sjg\\_men](#)).

### WELCOMING COMMISSION

The Welcoming Commission continues to welcome newcomers to our parish. With the help of parish administrator Dena Veazey, we use the online platform *Realm* to facilitate the tracking of visitors and new members. This allows us to follow up after their initial contact and provide them with more information on St. James. If you would like to become involved in this commission, please contact Mtr. Kellan ([kellan@stjamesgreenville.org](mailto:kellan@stjamesgreenville.org)).