



SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL



**112TH ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2017
12:45 P.M.**



Contents

ST. JAMES VESTRY 2016	3
ST. JAMES MINISTRY STAFF	3
ST. JAMES OFFICE STAFF	4
ST. JAMES ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA	5
MINUTES OF ST. JAMES 2015 ANNUAL MEETING	6
VESTRY MEMBER AND DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATE NOMINEES	8
2017 VESTRY NOMINEES	8
Clay Allen.....	8
Neal Kanipe	8
Reb Mitchell.....	8
Ileana Shaner.....	9
DIOCESAN DELEGATE NOMINEES	9
PARISH LEADERSHIP REPORTS	10
RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT	10
SENIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT	12
JUNIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT.....	13
2016 VESTRY RETREAT – VISION AND ACTION	14
ST. JAMES STAFF REPORTS	16
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR.....	16
MUSIC MINISTRY	17
YOUTH MINISTRY.....	20
DAY SCHOOL MINISTRY	20
LAY MINISTRY REPORTS	21
ACOLYTES	21
ALTAR GUILD.....	21
AV TEAM MINISTRY	21
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMISSION	21
CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION.....	22
CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL FOR YOUTH (CLBBY)	22
COFFEE HOUR.....	23



COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION	23
THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING.....	24
EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN.....	24
<i>St. Mary Elizabeth Chapter</i>	26
FINANCE COMMITTEE.....	27
FLOWER GUILD.....	27
GREETERS	27
HOSPITALITY COMMISSION.....	28
PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION AND LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS.....	28
OUTREACH COMMISSION	29
<i>Feed Thy Neighbor</i>	29
<i>Frazee Dream Center</i>	30
<i>St. James Angel Tree</i>	30
<i>St. James Giving Tree</i>	30
<i>Stop Hunger Now</i>	30
PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION	31
SMALL GROUPS COMMISSION.....	31
USHERS.....	32
WELCOMING COMMISSION.....	32
YOUTH COMMISSION.....	32
ST. JAMES COMMISSION LEADERSHIP.....	33

FINANCIAL APPENDIX



ST. JAMES VESTRY 2016

Laura Brown
Gail Burch
Sherrie Foster
Christina Harrell

Jennifer Jerina, *Sr. Warden*
Christi Jones-McNeill
George Lipscomb
Lee Plumblee, *Jr. Warden*

Susan Preusse (*moved*)
Kathy Walsh
Ed Winkler
Karen Wolfe (*moved*)

ST. JAMES MINISTRY STAFF



The Rt. Rev. W. Andrew Waldo, Bishop,
Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina



The Rev. Stephen J. Rhoades, Rector



Ms. Tina Boyd, Youth Minister



Dr. Karen A. Eshelman, Music Director and Organist



Mrs. Katie Allen, Day School Director

ST. JAMES OFFICE STAFF



Mrs. Dena Veazey, Parish Administrator

Ms. Carol Clark, Office Assistant



ST. JAMES ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

12:00 p.m.

Registration and lunch

12:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order: The Rev. Stephen J. Rhoades, Rector
2. Certification of Quorum – Dena Veazey
3. Appointment of Tellers for balloting
4. Review and Approval of minutes of previous year
5. Nominations of Vestry Members
6. Nominations of Diocesan Convention Delegates
7. Voting
8. Reports of St. James Commissions and Ministries
9. Senior Warden's Report
10. Treasurer's Report
11. Presentation of the 2017 Draft Budget
12. Rector's Report
13. Report of Elections
14. Recognition of retiring vestry members
15. Old Business
16. New Business
17. 113th Annual Meeting date: January 21, 2018
18. Closing Prayer and Doxology
19. Adjournment



MINUTES OF ST. JAMES 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

111th Annual Meeting - December 13, 2015

MINUTES

Call to Order – During a catered lunch, Father Stephen Rhoades called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

Registration – A total of 126 persons, including 100 voting members, were in attendance. A report book and financial appendix had been printed and made available to all. Copies of those documents are filed with the original of these minutes.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Eric Harrell moved that the minutes of the December 14, 2014 meeting be approved as printed. Tom Hovland seconded. Passed.

Elections for Vestry and Diocesan Convention Delegates – A slate of four candidates was presented to fill the four Vestry positions. Christina Harrell moved that nominations be opened. No additional names were offered. Ben Freeman moved that nominations be closed. A slate of four names was presented to fill the four Diocesan Convention Delegate positions. George Lafaye moved that nominations be opened. No additional names were offered. Ed Snape moved that nominations be closed. Both slates were approved by acclamation.

Reports – Ministry, Staff and Wardens' reports are included in the Book of Reports and give snapshots of what has happened at St. James over the past year and where we are headed in the coming year. Fr. Stephen acknowledged each member of the staff and thanked them individually for faithful, good service.

Financial Appendix – Treasurer's Report as of November indicates a positive balance and careful budgeting by the Finance Committee and Vestry. The cash balance report shows that St. James has \$388,878 in the bank. Of that, most is held in restricted funds. Cash available for operations was \$88,785. The 2016 budget includes an increase in the mission line and in the percentage of the diocesan asking which St. James pays. Special thanks go to Bob Dillon and Bill Wells for their part in getting the church's HVAC and other systems converted from propane to natural gas. We are seeing immediate cost savings. Thanks also to Ed Winkler for his research and expertise leading to sound financial investments. Another improvement this fall was an upgrade to the playground, replacing and painting equipment and adding a border and mulch. The finances of St. Francis have been completely separated from those of St. James. Thanks to Nicki Dillon and the Episcopal Church Women for making space for St. Francis to have storage near their worship area.

Rector's Report – Fr. Stephen encouraged the parish to grow into the best St. James we can be. This year two new commissions were added to increase the ministries of St. James: Welcoming Commission and Senior Adult Commission. A daytime class for Faith Seeking Understanding is now



being offered on Tuesdays. Stephen thanked Anna and his family for the sacrifices they make which allow him to be available to the parish.

Report of Elections – New Vestry members are Laura Brown, Kathy Walsh, Ed Winkler and Karen Wolfe. Diocesan Convention Delegates are Boyd Cater, John Kaup, Margaret Oakes and Susan Preusse. Fr. Stephen thanked the retiring vestry class of Marjorie Davenport, Luke Mitchell, Travis Wagner and Drew Walker for their years of service and dedication.

Old Business – None.

New Business – Father Stephen announced that St. James was working on a proposal for renovations to the front entrance to the church building to repair or replace buckling sidewalks, crumbling brickwork and more. Funding is coming through the generous gifts from the Stephen Mitchell Foundation. Plans will be posted on the church's website.

Meeting Date for 112th Annual Meeting is set for December 11, 2016.

Adjournment – Fr. Stephen closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Dena Veazey, Parish Administrator



VESTRY MEMBER AND DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATE NOMINEES

2017 VESTRY NOMINEES



Clay Allen

A life-long Episcopalian, Clay and his family have been members of St. James since 2006. Born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina, Clay graduated from Wofford College and the University of South Carolina School of Law. After serving four years with the Army, Clay returned to South Carolina to practice law. He is now the Seventh Judicial Circuit Public Defender. He and his wife, Elisabeth, have lived in Greenville since 1987, and they have two children, Victoria and Robbie. He is currently a lector and member of the choir, and he has previously served on the Rector Search Committee.



Neal Kanipe

Neal is a native South Carolinian. He grew up in Hendersonville, NC attending St. James Episcopal Church and serving as an acolyte. He is an Eagle Scout. He has a Master of Architecture degree from Clemson University. Neal and his wife, Heather, have been married for 23 years and have two sons: Alex is a senior at Wade Hampton HS and Will is a magnet student at Greenville Middle Academy. Neal has been a member of St. James since early 1999. He has been active with the St. Joseph Society (Men's Group), has helped with GAIHN and has provided some design feedback and direction regarding the church over the years. Most recently he has been a part of the committee overseeing the redesign/improvement of the church entry and connected retaining walls and new columbarium.



Reb Mitchell

Reb was born and raised in Greenville. She has been a member of St. James for twenty years. She joined before marrying her husband Luke Mitchell. They have one son, Lucas, who is a sophomore at Wade Hampton High School. Reb serves on the Flower Guild, as a Coffee Hour Host and helps with the Feed Thy Neighbor outreach ministry, as well as other behind-the-scenes projects. She is employed by the Salvation Army Kroc Center.



Ileana Shaner

Ileana was born to a family of Cuban immigrants who fled Castro's regime; she is the only American born of her six siblings. She received a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Music from the University of Virginia, as well as a Master of Music in Piano Performance and one year of her doctoral program in Piano at University of Maryland, College Park. She and her husband, David, have three children: Chase (18), Jackson (17) and Alina (14), all of whom attended St. James Day School. It was through the Day School that Ileana came to St. James. Ileana has served in the nursery, taught Christian education and played piano for Day School and for St. James Choirs. She serves as Acolyte Master, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Greeter and co-hosts the annual St. James Oyster Roast. As of September 2016, she manages the ministry scheduling software that schedules our Servants in Worship. Her newest ministry is Liaison to St. Francis.

DIOCESAN DELEGATE NOMINEES



Janet Atkins



Boyd Cater



John Kaup



Margaret Oakes



PARISH LEADERSHIP REPORTS

RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

It is hard to believe that I am in my fourth year of ministry with you, the people of St. James. It seems like yesterday when my family left Winter Park, Florida, piled in the van and headed for South Carolina.

We gather today for our annual meeting to look back and give thanks for what we have accomplished together in 2016 and to lay the groundwork for ministry in 2017. As any new Rector does, I came to St. James with dreams of what we could do together. As I look back over the past three years, and the past year in particular, I am proud of how much we have accomplished together.

For the past three years, your vestry and I have taken a hard look at where St. James has been, where it is now, and where we would like to go as a congregation. In the past year we have looked at St. James' liturgy, facilities, staff, and programming with fresh eyes. We have renovated portions of our facilities, reroofed our main building, expanded our children's ministries and added new members, children and families, expanded our outreach budget, invested in our youth program, invested in our Day School, hired a fantastic new Day School Director in Katie Allen, began a ministry to seniors, increased our giving to the diocese, began new teaching and discipleship series, sent a mission team to Ecuador, and invited members of the congregation to put their faith into action.

Financially, St. James is solid. We have strengthened lay management of the church's finances, worked toward more transparency in decision making, budgeting and financial reporting, and retired our mortgage. Through conservative budgeting of our income and expenses and careful management of our finances, we have realized a budget surplus for the last two years, finishing this year with a surplus of \$38,665.45 and total cash deposits of \$549,580.81. Please join me in thanking the vestry and finance committee for their fantastic stewardship of St. James' finances.

There is an old joke among Episcopalian clergy that goes like this, "How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb? - Change it? Why change it! But if you must, first find out who gave it and how long it has been there." Episcopalians normally don't like change (just ask anyone who survived Prayer Book revision). However, St. James has not resisted changing and evolving, but instead has welcomed change wholeheartedly. People are excited about what is going on and are looking forward to the future. While many things have changed, some things have not and never will change: the nature of St. James as an open, welcoming, affirming, comfortable community which values Christian education, the beauty of the liturgy, the profound mystery of the sacraments, inspiring music, thoughtful preaching, intentional fellowship, intellectual diversity, and putting our faith into action. These attributes are sewn into the very fabric of this place and they are why we all call St. James home.



I am excited to continue my ministry among you and to continue to be a part of the leadership that will guide St. James into the future. More renovation of our facilities, a major rebuilding of the front entrance to the church and memorial garden thanks to the Stephen Mitchell Fund, new Christian education programs for adults, an inquirer's class, and expanded opportunities for fellowship and service are all on the docket for this year.

Whether it's supporting public education through donating school supplies, coats or shoes, leading Christian discipleship, feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, visiting those in prison, taking a mission trip, leading Bible study, using your musical gifts, working with children or youth, visiting the sick and lonely, organizing small groups, arranging flowers, caring for the altar, reading from scripture, bearing a chalice in the liturgy or even picking up trash on Piney Mountain Road, there is a ministry for you at St. James! I invite you to minister with me as we worship God in the beauty of holiness, deepen our faith, open our doors and hearts to welcome all those who seek the living God, and reach out our hands to serve as Christ served. I am blessed to serve with you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by a plus sign (+).



SENIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

I have been a member of St. James since 2001. I have served in a few ministries during my years here—mainly dealing with children and youth. I was anxious to learn how to best help support our clergy and staff. I have learned so much during my year as Senior Warden. Your Vestry works very hard to “support each other and clergy in the service of our parish family...We are called to lead and empower the community of St. James” (taken from our Vestry Covenant).

We had a very busy year here at St. James. I can't imagine that I am the first to say that, and I know I won't be the last! I would first like to say that I was ELATED to learn that we have a Finance Committee!! They are such a blessing to our vestry and our parish. Let me assure you that much time is devoted to make sure that we are good stewards of gifts and to the financial life of the church. Hours upon hours go into careful consideration for the annual budget, not to mention, hiccups along the way.

In 2016, we replaced the roof, repaired and replaced light fixtures and alarms, updated the nursery and paid off our bank loan! We hired Katie Allen as our fabulous new Day School Director and she was pivotal in the improvements to our downstairs rooms and playground. She is a wonderful addition to the staff, not to mention, a blessing to the children and families of our Day School.

Ed Winkler, Gail Burch and their committee have worked tirelessly on the Stephen Mitchell Porch and Memorial Garden renovation that will begin soon. Many hours of planning, discussing design and finding contractors has taken place over the course of the entire year. Much thanks to all involved with this project, especially for the generosity of Luke and Mary Mitchell and the Stephen Mitchell Foundation. We all look forward to seeing the results of all the planning.

In May, the Vestry gathered at Kanuga to discuss the results of the US Congregational Life Survey. So grateful for the leadership of d'Rue Hazel from the diocese. She has experience with churches of all sizes and demographics and was able to guide us through the process. Lee Plumblee prepared a detailed narrative of our discernment and how we plan to move forward with what we learned. Please take time to read it, following the wardens' reports, and discern how you would like to be involved in the plan.

Out of that weekend, we confirmed we had many commissions in place that we feel are vital in our little corner of God's kingdom. The Welcoming Commission, which was established out of our 2015 retreat, continues to do a great job and hosted a reception for all new members which included a tour of the sanctuary led by Father Stephen. We added some new commissions which are already hard at work: Day School, Prayer and Spirituality, Small Groups, and Communications. We hosted a ministries Open House in the fall where some of the fruits of much labor were able to showcase opportunities to serve here at St. James. A big goal is how to communicate what we have to offer. Communication is key and we are working on that! Whether it's through a new announcement format or social media. Dena (what a treasure) worked hard, with the input of all of our laity leaders to compile our Mission and Service Opportunities booklet. It is a wonderful resource for new



members and for those of us who may want to try serving in other areas—not to mention a great way to showcase to visitors what all we have to offer here at St. James.

It was brought to our attention that St. Francis would like to have a more interactive relationship with St. James, so the vestry asked Ileana Shaner to serve as a liaison to both parishes. We look forward to planning more parish-wide events throughout the year where we can all gather in fellowship to learn more about each other and how to continue to expand our corner of God’s kingdom together.

I have enjoyed my year as Senior Warden and working alongside such gracious and generous brothers and sisters in Christ. We are so blessed to have Father Stephen, Tina, Karen, Dena and Carol as a team that works so tirelessly to make St. James the place we treasure. I would like to sincerely thank those who have served on the Vestry for the past three years and will rotate off upon the election of new vestry members. Please join me in thanking Sherrie Foster, Christina Harrell and Lee Plumblee for their outstanding service and sharing of their time and talent in ministry leadership during these past three years. We extend a special thanks to Lee Plumblee, who has also served as our Junior Warden this past year. I look forward to another busy and exciting year in the life of St. James in 2017. I hope to serve alongside some of you in some way in the coming year.

Peace and Blessings,

Jennifer Jerina

JUNIOR WARDEN’S ANNUAL REPORT

In 2016, the church received a new roof which was paid for by our insurance carrier as a result of old hail damage. Additionally, the interior of our main building underwent a “facelift” which included painting, the replacement of carpet in the administrative wing hallway with faux wood flooring to better match our entranceway, and an upgrade in our lighting.

After extensive planning, we presently are in the process of contracting with Clayton Construction Company, Inc. for construction on the outside entrance area and Memorial Garden area. This work, which is being paid for by the Steven Mitchell Fund, and which will bear the name of the “Mitchell Porch,” addresses structural and aesthetic issues that have arisen from the passage of time. It will incorporate the placement of our new columbarium and will enhance the beauty, stability and durability of our entranceway and memorial garden. Construction is anticipated to take approximately three months. A beginning date for construction is being determined.

Lee Plumblee



2016 VESTRY RETREAT – VISION AND ACTION

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh,
Your sons and daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men will see visions,
And your old men shall dream dreams.
Joel 2:28

INTRODUCTION

The Vestry, along with Father Stephen, Dena Veazey, and Deacon d'Rue Hazel from the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, met at the Kanuga Conference Center May 13-15, 2016 for the purpose of discerning a long-term action plan designed to equip the saints who are the people of St. James to live into our Baptismal Covenant and to accomplish God's mission in our community and throughout the world.

Through the process of praying, examining the results of the U.S. Congregational Life Survey, and participating in vigorous and lively discussion regarding Worship, Prayer, and Dialogue at St. James, as well as examining our Witness, Mission, and Service, the vestry have formulated a long-term action plan and a time-table for implementing this plan. The work of visioning never is complete, and the vestry is committed to continued work for building up disciples in our midst; however, we have created a plan to establish of a series of commissions, led by laity with direction and support from the vestry, whose mission will be to implement a strategic plan designed to make St. James a place where the people of God connect with the calling of God, a place where we knit together our varied gifts, talents, and resources and grow into the full body of Christ providing His light, His hope, and His love to the world.

WHO WE ARE / WHERE WE ARE GOING – THE U.S. CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SURVEY

St. James is a mature parish filled with dedicated disciples committed to personal and parish-wide spiritual growth. A majority of our parishioners engage in regular, and often daily, personal study, meditation, and devotion. A majority of our parishioners attend worship weekly, and a substantial majority attend at least two to three times each month. St. James is an active parish whose members regularly volunteer for service to the larger community and who contribute the fruits of their life and labor, not only to our parish, but, in the case of 81% of respondents to the U.S. Congregational Life Survey, to charitable causes outside of our faith community. We are diverse theologically yet unified in a love of liturgy, music, and the Anglican traditions. We seek to understand better how Holy Scripture, as the Lively Word of God, informs and inspires our lives in this day and age.

Our parishioners are blessed with abundant gifts of talent and of treasure.

At the same time, St. James faces challenges that provide us with unique opportunities for growth and service. A substantial number of our parish are over the age of sixty-five, a demographic which includes many long-time, dedicated servant leaders.



At the same time, some 48% of survey respondents are interested in, but not presently involved in, specific ministry.

The Life Survey information reveals that our long-term life together needs to involve better communication within our parish regarding our ministry opportunities, our accomplishments, and the events of our common life, as well as better communication with the broader community in Greenville regarding who we are and how we serve God' Kingdom. We need to mentor and to encourage a new generation of leaders and servants in our midst, while continuing to acknowledge, to use, and to honor the gifts of those whose long-term commitment of faithful service has inspired us to become the parish that we are.

We need to preserve our deep traditions of liturgy, music, and worship yet find ways to keep those traditions relevant in the lives of an ever diversifying community and in an ever-changing world. We need to use effectively the blessed gift of our Book of Common Prayer.

Against this backdrop of our common identity and our unique opportunities, the vestry have created, and are committed to implementing, the following plan of action.

THE COMMISSION STRUCTURE

Recognizing that we can accomplish far more together than we can as individuals, the vestry have identified a series of commissions who will be charged with implementing our plan of action. The commissions will consist of approximately 8 to 10 members, two of whom will be the commission chair and a vestry liaison. The vestry is aware that a successful commission structure involves continuous communication with, and support from, the vestry and the clergy. Accordingly, the commissions will have broad latitude to put into action our vision, while the vestry will provide to the commissions the resources and direction necessary to support implementation of the long-term plan.

THE CONTINUING VISION

The process of discerning God's will for us is never-ending, and ever-evolving. The vestry is committed to doing those things necessary to remain attuned to the voice of God in our midst. While we made great progress toward envisioning a future of promise and a plan with purpose at our retreat, we recognize that we still must address other opportunities such as providing for adequate and appropriate physical space for worship, Christian formation, and fellowship. We must continue and grow our rich history of outreach and service to those in need in our community and throughout the world. We must provide more and better avenues for planned and sustained giving for the support of our ministries.

The vestry is devoted to continued prayer, dialogue, and action in support of our vision. We look forward to working with our brothers and sisters to make St. James a place where all are welcomed, nurtured, and supported in their life in Christ, where all contribute generously of their varied and diverse gifts and resources, where God's Great Love and the world's great need come together.

Lee Plumblee



ST. JAMES STAFF REPORTS

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Membership: As of December 31, 2016 St. James had 570 active members and 38 other active persons. We added 55 new members in 2016—13 by baptism, 16 by letter of transfer, 24 by request and 2 restored to active status. St. James also lost 28 members—20 who moved to another church or town, 2 who transferred, 6 who died.

	Age Range	# of Parishioners	
		<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Attendance: We reported an average attendance of 200 in 2015. A total of 545 people attended services on Easter in 2016, including the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday.	0-10	46	61
	11-17	71	66
	18-29	18	34
	30-39	29	33
	40-49	72	74
	50-59	59	56
	60-69	98	91
	70-79	80	75
	80-89	35	38
	90+	8	12
		516	540
	DOB Unknown	27	30
	Total	543	570

2017 Pledges: As of January 13, 2017 St. James had received 135 pledges for 2017 which total \$429,223. This is an average pledge of \$3,179. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. We are pleased that each year more parishioners are paying their pledges using the recurring payment options of bank draft and credit cards to simplify their pledge commitments. If you are interested in adding one of these options, please contact me in the parish office.

Financial: In 2016 St. James enlisted the help of Bookkeeper, Alan Kirk, for monthly payroll and other journal entries. St. James has also started using online bill payments through our bank. Last summer St. James returned two older Ricoh copier/printers and leased a new Xerox copier/printer.

Thanks: I would like to express my gratitude to all those who help out each week to answer phones during staff meetings, to count weekly offerings, to enter data into the computer, to collate bulletins with announcement sheets and scripture inserts and other tasks which arise. If you would like to help in the office with activities like these, please contact me.

Dena Veazey, Parish Administrator (admin@stjamesgreenville.org)



MUSIC MINISTRY

Choirs and Musicians at St. James

1. The congregation

Our congregation is the largest and most important choir at St. James, and we are known around Greenville for our enthusiastic and joy-filled singing of the hymns and service music. Singing together unifies us and brings us together to create and celebrate the liturgy. In addition, the poetry of our hymns fills us with images and truths about the faith we profess. Even those who hesitate to sing can pray the words, ancient and new, written by our Christian brothers and sisters. Our hymnal is a wonderful source for prayer and meditation, and its use helps us take on an active role in learning about our faith and in teaching the process of prayer and worship to our children.

2. Music education for all ages

St. James offers the 'Voice For Life' music and choir education program of the Royal School of Church Music (with which St. James is affiliated) as part of the youth choir curriculum. The Voice For Life program, which involves a series of workbooks, is also available to adults who want to learn more about music and singing. Contact Karen Eshelman for more information.

3. 2016 Events

In addition to regular Sunday musical offerings, there were special musical offerings of praise and thanksgiving during Lent, Easter and the Advent-Christmas seasons. Again this year, our choir and organist joined with the clergy in June to lead worship at Faith Memorial Chapel in Cedar Mountain, N.C. Another annual highlight was the service of Advent Lessons and Carols, presented by the Adult Choir and the Treble Choir on Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. (The Treble Choir was formed for this event by joining the youth choir with the older members of the children's choir.) An in-house recording was made for our shut-in parishioners.

4. Youth and children's choirs

If your child enjoys singing at home, he/she will do well in any of the following groups. In our music activities, we learn all kinds of things about music and about church, and we have fun doing it. Don't miss out!

Volunteers are needed to assist in this ministry: *At least one adult (in addition to the choir director) must attend each rehearsal in compliance with Safe Church guidelines. Volunteers are occasionally needed to play the piano during rehearsals and on Sundays. Volunteers are also occasionally needed to measure, label, and hem robes. For the younger children, volunteers are needed to help with putting on choir robes and lining up the children when they sing in church; often a parent will need to sit with the children in the chancel (near the organ) during church.*

- The **Children's Choir** has a flexible structure designed to accommodate all boys and girls in K-5 through 5th grade. In the fall of 2016, the choir rehearsed on Wednesdays 3:15 – 4:00 p.m. An example of this flexible nature of this choir is shown in the creation of the Treble Choir: this year, for the first time, the older singers in the Children's Choir joined with the Youth Choir to create a larger group – the Treble Choir – to sing at the annual Advent Lessons and Carols service. There were a total of ten singers in the Treble Choir this year.



The topics covered in the Children's Choir are based on the 'Voice for Life' choir curriculum from the Royal School of Church Music, of which St. James is a member. The children learn to find their singing voices, match pitch, and learn about the basics of music (melody, rhythm, and harmony). They start to read music, and become familiar with the hymnal. Parents are encouraged to have their children join the Children's Choir: in addition to singing, children in choir learn about teamwork and about participating in worship – and most importantly, children learn to live their faith when they sing about it together!

The Children's Choir sings for the 9 a.m. Sunday worship service about once a month, and on occasion joins with the Youth Choir and/or Adult Choir. New choir members may join at any time during the year. Contact Karen Eshelman (music@stjamesgreenville.org) to sign up and request a registration form.

- The **Youth Choir**, for grades 6-12, is open to all young men and young women in middle and high school. As our current membership is down to 4, we are actively seeking new members. The Youth Choir meets for an hour Wednesdays 5:15-6:15 p.m.; the later rehearsal time enables these students to participate in after-school activities before coming to church for choir. This group sings for the 9 a.m. service about every 3 weeks and occasionally at 11 a.m., sometimes joining with the Adult Choir for special anthems. The music they sing includes regular choir music as well as a variety of new and traditional hymns and spirituals. These students also study the music curriculum from the Royal School of Church Music. New choir members may join at any time during the year; parish members and friends are invited to join. Contact Karen Eshelman (music@stjamesgreenville.org) to sign up and to request a registration form.

5. Adult Choir

The Adult Choir sings every Sunday at the 11 a.m. service, and in addition learns and provides special music for the annual Advent Lessons and Carols service, Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Day. Being in the choir and learning music is therapeutic and uplifting, and making new friends at rehearsal is just plain fun! Current membership is 26, with an additional 3 members on temporary leave. Three of our choir members are Furman students who have been awarded a small scholarship to assist with their music study (Scholarship Singers). Again this past year the Adult Choir sent financial support to Education=Hope for schoolchildren in Ecuador.

The choir is thrilled and grateful to have received, from an anonymous donor, the gift of brand new Episcopal choir vestments. Our vestments arrived on December 19, Fr. Stephen blessed them at a short and lovely service of blessing during our choir rehearsal on December 21, and we wore our new vestments for the first time on Christmas Eve. We, the choir, are so thankful for this gift!

The St. James choir is especially in need of additional alto singers, but we have room for additional singers in all sections. We are a friendly and supportive group, and we make it easy to learn new music. If you have previously sung in a choir and would like to pick it back up, please come up to the organ after the postlude and speak with our music director, Dr. Karen Eshelman, or send her an e-mail (music@stjamesgreenville.org). High school students who enjoy singing with school or community groups are also invited to join the St. James Adult Choir.



Volunteer help needed: *music library assistance - file music, stamp new copies, update folders, and update library spreadsheet.*

6. Instrumentalists and Vocal Soloists

Our student instrumentalists played carol arrangements for the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service in both 2015 and 2016, and plan to do so again in 2017. During the summer months, anyone who can play an instrument or sing is invited to offer a solo or duet as a prelude or musical offering. Students and adults are welcome; Karen Eshelman can help you find a hymn or something special to play or sing.

Volunteer help needed: *organizational and rehearsal help for student Christmas Eve rehearsals; preparation begins a week or two before Thanksgiving.*

7. The Gober pipe organ

In October 2016 the Gober pipe organ turned nine, and each season continues to bring more beautiful sounds and musical offerings to our worship. Our organ requires a minimum of maintenance, but requires ongoing preventative care. During the winter months the humidity of the nave is monitored, for the benefit of people as well as the organ. In September of 2016, the organ was wrapped in plastic to protect it from falling debris while the church roof was being replaced. At the end of September, a complete tuning of the organ, with additional maintenance work, was completed by Halbert Gober, the designer and builder of the organ. Both of these major efforts in September were funded from the organ maintenance fund.

A committee is forming to discuss plans for the tenth anniversary celebration of our new pipe organ, taking place in the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018.

A Collect for a New Pipe Organ

God, whose transcendent harmony speaks to us in the thunder of ocean waves, the jubilation of mountain cataracts, and the still small voice of calm: Grant that the manifold voices of this organ may likewise proclaim the beauty of your holiness, so enlivening us for your service, that we may increase in justice, mercy, and humility, faith, hope, and love, in the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

– *Prayer for the Dedication*, by Albert Blackwell

Karen Eshelman, Director of Music and Organist (music@stjamesgreenville.org)



YOUTH MINISTRY

It has been another great year for the Youth Ministry at St. James!

Over this last year, with the help of my amazing volunteer team, I've been able to launch new programs, maintain familiar traditions, and even take a first retreat with a group of youth! High school girls now gather once or twice a month to eat, catch up on life, talk about where we've seen God at work, and share prayer requests. Youth of all ages are invited to gather once a month to help bake desserts for the folks at Project Host. And with the addition of several teenage guys into the ministry, some new fun and formational guys-specific ministry opportunities are in the works!

I've solidified primary communication avenues: bi-yearly paper newsletters for parents and youth, weekly emails to parents, and Instagram and text for youth. The Youth pages of the website also continue to be a great bank of resources, as well as a hub for registration. Coming up this year we will make online payments for trips and events incorporated in to the registration process to continue to make the process as streamlined as possible.

The bulk of my accomplishments this past year came out of recognizing that youth formation starts when youth are children. Over the past year I built up an incredible team of Children's Ministry and Formation volunteers, and together that group built a vision, as guided by the Holy Spirit, for Children's Formation. From that vision, we've selected a new set of Sunday School curriculum that is dynamic, developmentally appropriate, theologically sound, and teacher friendly!

As we begin this year, the goal is to take this new foundation, compile a group of youth and children's folks (accommodating both current and future youth), and brainstorm through what it could look like to build out a youth discipleship pathway in light of what a child will learn about before coming in to the ministry.

I am excited to see what all God has in store for St. James in this next year, and I continue to be thankful to all of you in your support of the Children's and Youth ministries of St. James.

Tina Boyd, Youth Minister (youthminister@stjamesgreenville.org).

DAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

The St James Day School serves almost seventy 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.

Katie Allen, Day School Director (school@stjamesgreenville.org)



LAY MINISTRY REPORTS

ACOLYTES

Acolytes are children, youth and adults who assist the clergy in weekly worship services and special services. They serve as crucifers (carrier of the cross), torch bearers and thurifers (incense bearer). Parishioners who are nine years old and older are invited to participate in this ministry. A roster of 37 acolytes currently serve our St. James worship services. Interested in becoming an Acolyte? Contact Ileana Shaner (ileana.shaner@gmail.com, 864-325-8358).

ALTAR GUILD

In 2016, the St. James Altar Guild participated in over 200 regular church services, in addition to special services, Easter services, Christmas services, weddings, and funerals. Dedicated members polish brass and silver, hang altar hangings, clean and press linens, prepare communion, set up for baptisms, and prepare for weddings and funerals.

Our members are divided into seven teams which serve on a rotating basis. The Altar Guild schedule is published at the beginning of the year, giving members an opportunity to make arrangements for a substitute if they cannot serve when scheduled. We have lost several members this year and added a few. Many thanks to all members, past and present, for their dedication to this ministry. We welcome new members at any time during the year. Training is provided. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, please contact Fr. Stephen or the Altar Guild chair, Marjorie (Margie) Davenport (margiedavenport@charter.net, 864-288-9096).

AV TEAM MINISTRY

St. James Audio Video Team members are Chris Sauerbrey, Michael Foster, Monte Hudson, Randy Burch, Stacy Pirrone, Bob Saacke, and Ed Snape. Members record Sunday 11:00 AM services for reproduction on audio CDs and on the St. James website. Approximately 416 CDs are mailed annually to St. James members who would otherwise be unable to hear the words and music of our weekly services. Parishioners wishing to receive CDs should notify the office. Special services are videoed and Blu Ray discs are published. Videos are also posted to St. James YouTube channel.

We continue to seek to expand and improve our video coverage of Saint James Services and Parish Life activities. – Ed Snape

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMISSION

In 2016 we continued to provide basic maintenance services to our facilities such as changing light bulbs and doing minor repairs. Our biggest project was replacing our roof which was paid for by our insurance company due to hail damage. We installed a new vinyl floor in the main hallway and one office and made electrical repairs on the lower level of the building. A few of the projects scheduled



for next year will be sealing and striping our parking lot and renovating the main entrance to the church and the memorial garden. – Bill Wells

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

Children's Christian Education is the heart of our children's ministry at St. James. Sunday School meets downstairs on Sunday mornings from 10:10-10:55 (except for summer and other school holidays). We have classes for children ages 3 through 5th grade. We are excited about our brand-new, teacher-friendly curriculum that makes it easier than ever to be a part of ministering to the children of our parish. We welcome anyone who is interested in teaching or shepherding to speak to any of the Sunday School teachers, or to contact Tina Boyd at youthminister@stjamesgreenville.org.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School at St. James is an important part of both our children's ministry and our community outreach. Each summer we welcome children age 3 through 5th grade to the Parish Life Center for a week of fun, food, friends, and fellowship. This past year we transformed the PLC into Ancient Egypt, and many adults from the congregation led crafts and activities in the Grand Marketplace. We even had a special visitor every night—Joseph (who looked markedly similar to Father Stephen)! We look forward to another exciting VBS next summer! We hope to have another great group of adult volunteers to join us in this ministry to our children. We need help with everything from registration, to shepherds, to activity leaders. We also need help in the kitchen to prepare and serve a light meal before the program each evening. Please contact Rebecca Wagner (864-346-0561, becca.wagner@gmail.com) to find out how to get involved in this great ministry!

CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL FOR YOUTH (CLBBY)

Participating in the 2016-17 Church League Basketball for Youth (CLBBY) in Greenville, SC (20 -30 member churches), St. James and St. Francis fielded teams and provided participants from school ages K-4 to 12th grade (ages 5 - 18). All total, approximately 40-50 players from St. James and St. Francis participate annually in the CLBBY. This season we have 3 Junior boys' teams and one Senior boys' team. We also have three Junior girls, two Mites and one I-mite representing us and playing for other churches.

Special thanks to the 2016-17 volunteer Coaches: Butch Blair, Drew Walker, and Lee Plumblee, for their service, guidance, assistance, and leadership with the St. James Youth Sports. Rob Weber serves on the CLBBY Governing Board. Their time, patience, and ministry is much appreciated.

Each season, St. James and St. Francis plan to register at least four teams to participate in the CLBBY and support other member churches, as necessary, based on interested participants and coaches. We have had anywhere from 30 to 60 annual youth participants in past years.

Opportunities in ministry include: Coaches, Assistant Coaches/Team Parents, St. James Adult Representation (CLBBY), St. James Director (CLBBY), and Game-day Staff (Scoreboard Operator,



Official Score-book Administrator and Adult Representative). We welcome any willing volunteers and interested members to join us in this very rewarding and fun ministry.

Participant registrations and CLBBY team registrations are conducted in July/August/September, team practices start in early October (usually on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday or Thursday evenings); games run from early November through late February, with teams playing 8 - 10 regular season games and an end-of-season single elimination tournament.

During the season, St. James hosts at least 60 CLBBY games annually (4 - 8 games/Saturday and 3 - 4 games/Monday evening). Facility preparation and management for these games includes setting up the Parish Life Center gym for contests (chairs, tables, goals, signs, scoreboard, etc.), securing/scheduling and managing game-day staff and facility, staff, and crowd management/safety during contests, and breaking down and cleaning up PLC after contests are completed. Management of registrations, teams, coaches, schedules, facility, game-day staff, game-days, inventory, budget, and CLBBY correspondence are all aspects of duties necessary in this ministry.

Butch Blair is the current St. James CLBBY Representative. As he is in his first year in this capacity, he is looking for assistance, as we strive to continue and serve the St. James Youth Sports Program.

For more information, contact Butch Blair (706-325-9926, butchblair61@gmail.com), Rob Weber (864-979-3884, robweber12@gmail.com) or visit the CLBBY website www.clbby.org.

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour needs additional hosts! Hosts make coffee and lemonade and provide snacks for the 9 and/or 11am services. We serve in two shifts. The 9am host makes coffee and lemonade (provided by the church), and puts out snacks (cookies, donuts, coffee cake, fruit, crackers, etc.). The 11 am host replenishes snacks and cleans up. If you would like to join us in Coffee Hour hospitality, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Sarah Britt (sarahsbritt@aol.com, 864-370-2341).

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

St. James continues to work towards improving communication to the parish through print, website, email and social media. The eNotes are being sent monthly in a redesigned mobile-friendly format. This year we added a new quarterly publication called *Go Forth...and Serve the Lord* which is focused on the outreach ministries of the parish. Many thanks to Susan Englert for designing and editing this publication and to Mary Dunlap for her guidance in social media. Please “like” us on Facebook and “follow” us on Instagram. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Tina Boyd (youthminister@stjamesgreenville.org), Christina Harrell (ccharrell96@gmail.com) or Dena Veazey (admin@stjamesgreenville.org).



THE 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 Gail Burch, Boyd Cater, Sherri Foster, Frances Funderburk, Robyn Harmon, Kimberly Hudson, Carolyn Jones, Alice Littlejohn, JoAnne McLean, Elaine Paine, Dianne Posey, Susan Preusse, Pam Snape 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 those who wish their prayers confidential. We have a box and cards in the Narthex where prayer requests can be placed. We meet the 3rd Sunday of every month after the 11:00 service. Our projects include sending grief books to a member of the parish who has lost a loved one and providing Baptismal towels as keepsakes for babies and small children being baptized 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 fund raisers but we contribute to the different funds of the order: Self-denial, Masters, Alpha and Endowment.

One of our projects is 5th Saturday lunches. Every month that has a 5th Saturday we work with St. Philips Church in downtown Greenville to provide a simple bagged lunch—a sandwich, a drink, a piece of fruit, a bag of chips and cookies—for the hungry and those in need at the Southernside Community Center. Currently we provide 80 lunches but the need keeps growing.

We invite any woman who is interested in this ministry to speak to one of our members for more information. A new study group is being started after the first of the year. – Boyd Cater

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Episcopal Church Women, as always, have had a very active and productive year. Recognizing a need to serve our senior church members, the ECW sponsored a January luncheon for those men and women 65 and over. The event with entertainment was well attended and successful. A senior ministry in conjunction with the Vestry was then formed to continue these get-togethers.

In April our ECW dues letter, to all women, was sent out with 51 generous women responding. \$1515 was contributed, \$300 of this was sent in as our Diocesan dues and the rest supported our World, National, and Diocesan Missions. We were also able to support other ECW Diocesan projects.

Our Annual Attic Sale was held June 18th and after a long week with many workers helping we made a profit of \$5,595.98. At least sixty percent of this money goes outside of the church to support seven local agencies.

The Pastoral Food Response ministry continues to be successful under the direction of Dianne Posey and Jane Luthi. Thirty-five members on 6 teams provided over 38 meals for families this year.



In October the ECW Board hosted a Wine and Cheese Party for all the women of St. James in appreciation for their generous gifts of time, talent and treasures throughout the year in support of ECW ministries and projects. It was a very successful event and those attending expressed a desire for it to be repeated.

Our ECW Board meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at noon. I would like to invite anyone, who wants to get more involved in the ECW and its activities, to come to one of these meetings or contact me. – Nicki Dillon

ECW Distribution of Gifts

Episcopal Diocesan Gifts - From monies given by ECW members, Chapters, and proceeds from the Attic Sale

\$ 200.00	World Mission - Campaign for Cange
\$ 200.00	National Mission - National Cathedral
\$ 200.00	Diocesan Mission - Bishops' Education Fund
\$ 100.00	Bishop's Discretionary Fund
\$ 100.00	Church Periodical Club
\$ 200.00	Bena Dial Scholarship Fund
\$ 100.00	Diocesan Seminarian Book Fund
\$ 10.00	Altar Guild
\$ 500.00	Cameron Graham and Roberto Vivanco
<u>\$ 300.00</u>	Diocesan Pledge
\$ 1,910.00	Total

Gifts within St. James - From proceeds collected from Cookbooks and Attic Sale

\$ 114.76	Teacher bags for Day School
\$ 200.00	Daughters of the King- 5 th Saturday Lunches
\$ 140.95	Sunday Inserts
<u>\$ 100.00</u>	Senior Lunch entertainment
\$ 555.71	Total

Donations to the Community and Beyond - From proceeds from the Attic Sale, Cookbooks and Notecards

\$ 400.00	Triune Mercy Center
\$ 300.00	Palmetto Boys Shelter
\$ 500.00	United Ministries
\$ 600.00	GAIHN
\$ 700.00	Greenville Free Medical Clinic
\$ 300.00	Greer Community Ministry
\$ 350.00	Education Equals Hope in Quito
<u>\$ 300.00</u>	Finlay House, Columbia, SC
\$ 3,450.00	Total

Total 2016 Gifts:	\$ 5,915.71
2016 Attic Sale Proceeds	\$ 5,595.98



ST. JAMES ECW ANNUAL REPORT 01/01/2016 – 12/31/2016

ECW ACCOUNT				
Beginning Balance	Income		Expenditures	Balance
ECW Dues 14.00	1,515.00	Member Donations	300.00 Diocesan Pledge 200.00 World Mission 200.00 National Mission 200.00 Diocesan Mission 100.00 Dioc. Sem Book Fund 10.00 Altar Guild 100.00 Bishop's Desc Fund 350.00 Education = Hope <hr/> 1,460.00	69.00
Church Periodical Club 0.00	40.37 41.88 <hr/> 82.25	Offerings - St. Mary Eliz. attic sale proceeds 60%	82.25 Church Periodical Club	0.00
Bena Dial 0.00	40.38 141.87 <hr/> 182.25	Offerings - St. Mary Eliz. attic sale proceeds 40%	182.25 Bena Dial Scholarship Fund	0.00
DONATIONS (Restricted) 530.88				530.88
ATTIC SALE 40% 1,965.09	2,238.39 93.00 <hr/> 2,331.39	Attic Sale cookbooks/notecards	100.00 Sr. Lunch 140.95 Church Inserts 112.80 Postage 114.76 Teacher bags 239.04 fellowship celebration 200.00 Daughters of the King 500.00 Vivanco Gift 53.00 ECW Christmas Tree <hr/> 1,460.55	2,835.93
ATTIC SALE 60% 1,070.10	3,173.84 0.63 <hr/> 3,174.47	Attic Sale interest	500.00 United Ministries 700.00 Grnvl Free Clinic 600.00 GAIHN 400.00 Triune Mercy Center 300.00 Greer Community Ministry 300.00 Miracle Hill 300.00 Finlay House <hr/> 3,100.00	1,144.57
TOTALS:				
Beginning Balance	Income		Expenditures	Balance
\$3,580.07	\$7,285.36		\$6,285.05	\$4,580.38
FUND RAISING SUMMARY				
	Income		Expenditures	Proceeds
2016 ATTIC SALE	5,688.55		92.57	\$5,595.98

St. Mary Elizabeth Chapter

This chapter of the Episcopal Church Women meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30am in the Church Library. We start with prayer and have a program, followed by a time of fellowship. The Chapter supports the Sunshine Fund, Memorials and the Bena/Dial scholarship program.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Your finance committee has worked closely with the staff and vestry of St. James to oversee the finances of the church, administer the 2016 budget, and fashion a budget for 2017. Through close monitoring of our income and expenses, we were able to realize a budget surplus of approximately \$38,665.45 in the 2016 fiscal year.

The draft budget for the 2017 church fiscal year is approximately \$591,273.98. This represents an increase of approximately 2.35% over the 2016 budget. Although we are cautiously optimistic that pledges will increase in the coming year, we chose to include no projected increase in pledges and plate income in the draft budget. The 2017 budget has slightly higher expenses due primarily to increasing our diocesan contribution to 80% of the diocesan asking. Due to these factors, the draft budget currently shows a \$15,877.98 deficit for fiscal 2017. The finance committee will review the draft budget at a joint meeting of the finance committee and vestry in February and adjust and finalize the budget for 2017 based on pledges in-hand at that time and those that can be reasonably expected. If you haven't yet submitted your pledge, we ask you to do so as soon as possible so we can make the appropriate adjustments to the 2017 draft budget.

Your committee, Ed Winkler, Linda Satterfield, Monte Hudson, Bob Dillon, Bill Nicholls-Wozniczka, Rick Hope and Stephen Sperling will continue to oversee and scrutinize the finances of St. James with the goal of being good stewards of pledges and offerings given to God for his work at St. James Episcopal Church. We covet your prayers and solicit your input concerning budgetary items for St. James in the upcoming year.

FLOWER GUILD

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who serves on the St. James Flower Guild: Harriett Ennis, Sherrie Foster, Sandra Miller, Reb Mitchell, Lynn Vines and Hope Winkler. Last year we also welcomed two new members: Calista Bockenstette and Lavinia Plumblee. Our busiest times are Christmas and Easter. At those times, we need extra hands and help, especially from a few men. If you are interested in serving—training is provided—please contact Kaye Greene (864-908-1270, justweddings@bellsouth.net).

GREETERS

St. James Greeters welcome both members and newcomers 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 help grow our community by introducing new and prospective members to the Rector and other parishioners, ensuring a warm welcome to our church home. This ministry is light, weighing in at only 18 volunteers, and could really use some additional help. Please consider volunteering in this capacity by contacting Gail Burch (864-363-3387, gailaburch@gmail.com).



HOSPITALITY COMMISSION

This group is involved almost any time food is served at St. James. The Hospitality Commission plans, sets up, serves, and cleans up following events. During 2016, we served at the Reception following the Burning of the Greens, the Agape Meal, New Member Reception, the Ministries Open House and the late Christmas Eve Service. Our commission also supported other ministries such as the Bluegrass & Barbeque and the Oyster Roast.

We currently have 19 members. We enjoy working together and offering hospitality to our church family and guests, and we welcome anyone who would like to join our group at any time. Volunteers are always appreciated to assist in set up, clean up, or providing a plate of cookies, sandwiches, etc. for a specific event.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful cooks of St. James who have so graciously assisted in our ministry by baking all those wonderful cookies and making delicious salads, and those who have helped us wash all those dishes!

Please contact Hope Winkler (864-240-5377, hwinkler23@aol.com).

PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION AND LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Lay Eucharistic Visitors share communion with homebound, hospitalized, and nursing home residents at scheduled frequencies and times convenient for the recipient. Most visits occur on Sundays. On an average, 1 or 2 parishioners are visited each Sunday. There were 7 regular recipients and others who desired visits after hospitalization or illnesses. 98 visits were made by Eucharistic visitors: Janis Bandelin, Marian Blackwell, Martin Darby, Frances Funderburk, Robyn Harmon, Rick Hope, Anne Shelly, Pam Snape, Henry and Judy Warnock, and Janet Atkins.

Pastoral Care Volunteers, Marjorie Davenport, Beth Seawell, Harriett Ennis, at times accompanied Lay Eucharistic Visitors to share communion. In addition, Lay Eucharistic and Pastoral Care Visitors may be involved in a variety of organized ways:

- Transportation for those in need of a ride to church, health facility, or store: Coordinated by Marian Blackwell (864-246-8206). Presently we are transporting one of our parishioners regularly to church. Laura Brown joined our Pastoral Care volunteers, Marjorie Davenport, Marian Blackwell, and Pam Snape to accomplish this.
- Respite Care: Coordinated by Pam Snape. Presently 11 short-term respite visits have helped one parish family. Thankfully when asked to join Pastoral Care volunteers, some of our St. James members stepped up to the plate
- Communication by phone calls and cards: Coordinator Frances Funderburk (864-608-5308) leads Daughter of the King and other volunteers to call members on the prayer list and those who have been hospitalized.



Priorities for 2017: My dream is to see more parishioners who will help with these efforts. We accept short or long term commitments. Please prayerfully consider the crucial role you can play in helping your St. James family. We also ask St. James members to encourage their St. James family members to notify the church office when in need, so we can organize a response team.

Our volunteers experience the promise “It is more blessed to give than to receive!” Acts 20:38

Coordinator: Pam Snape, 864-360-5620 or e-mail pamsnape@bellsouth.net

OUTREACH COMMISSION

Established in 2015, the current members of the commission include: John Kaup (currently serving as chair); Marie Hovland, Alice Littlejohn, Ben Freeman, George Lafaye, Kent Satterfield and George Lipscomb (vestry liaison). In 2016 we have formally met on two occasions assessing the health and effectiveness of our current outreach efforts, providing updates on the outreach ministries with which each of us are involved and considering additional outreach opportunities. *Go Forth*, the new quarterly outreach magazine, will provide opportunities for members to share their experiences and also alert all of us to upcoming opportunities. In 2017, we will continue to provide oversight for the variety of mission and outreach activities, provide direct reporting to the vestry about the state of our missions and outreach activities and work toward raising up members of the congregation to lead both current and proposed outreach activities. If you would like to serve on this commission, please contact John Kaup (864-607-2985, john.kaup@furman.edu).

Mission Statement

The mission of the St. James Outreach Commission is to plan and provide for opportunities for local and international outreach by the St James community. Among its tasks are to raise up members of the community to serve in outreach ministry, assess the needs and effectiveness of existing outreach programs at St James and make recommendations and changes as necessary, make decisions as to which outreach ministries to support financially using the funds allocated to the Commission by the Vestry, and work cooperatively with the St James clergy, staff and vestry to support an active and vital outreach ministry.

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 and is centered at Saint 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. It serves approximately 70 meals each week or 3,500 meals each year. Saint James prepares and serves the food on one Saturday every month. The Saint Joseph's men's group funds Saint James' portion of the costs for Feed Thy Neighbor, which is approximately \$110 per month. There are about 25 Saint James members of all ages currently involved. On average, each volunteer helps one Saturday every two months.

Additional volunteers are always welcome and can join this beneficial and rewarding ministry by contacting Ben Freeman (864-419-6590, bjfenterprise1@gmail.com).



Frazee Dream Center

The Frazee ministry provides one-on-one help with homework involving reading, math, and projects such as collages for the children at Frazee. The encouragement which we provide enables the children to know that we care about them and are willing to help them. Reading and math are fundamental skills that they may not have help with at home. We can provide instant feedback to aid their learning process. Our plans for the future are to continue this ministry and encourage other members to join us in this rewarding activity. Our volunteer days are first and third Thursdays each month of the school year. This works well for first and second grade classes because their homework is due on Friday. People who are interested may contact Marie Hovland (864-235-4259, tomar617@hotmail.com).

St. James Angel Tree

Every 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 with the generous parishioners of St. James by setting up trees in the foyer decorated with tags naming favorite toys, clothing and personal items. St. James parishioners then purchase these Christmas gifts for the children and families and bring them back to the church. They are then delivered in time for Christmas. In 2016 about 150 gifts for boys and girls went to Salvation Army. Vanessa Vestergaard coordinated the distribution of over 100 gifts to Mental Health America of Greenville County. Other gifts went to the children of the St. Francis congregation. St. James provided over \$900 in Jingle Bills! Some of that was used to purchase gifts and the balance was sent to Miracle Hill Shepherd's Gate, a local women's and children's shelter. The Daughters of the King helped with purchasing and wrapping the gifts. Many thanks to everyone who shared the love of the Christ child with those in need.

St. James Giving Tree

The St. James Giving Tree sprang from an idea to help a local Title 1 elementary school. The school social worker gives a list of needed items and St. James members fill those requests once they have taken a tag from our giving tree. We have requested shoes, sweatpants, socks, underwear and athletic shorts. This year, the elementary school served was East North Street Academy, just a few minutes' drive from the church. ENSA is a Title 1 Magnet Academy of Math and Science serving over 750 students. They have an A rating with a poverty level of over 85%. Students, faculty and staff are incredibly appreciative of the help St. James offers. In 2016 we donated over 100 shoes in addition to clothing items. — Nikki Thompson

Stop Hunger Now

As a congregation, we hosted our 6th Stop Hunger Now (SHN) meal packaging event in November 2016. With well over 100 individuals volunteering and support from members at St. Andrews and St. Philips, we packaged over 20,000 meals that were boxed, stacked on pallets, shrink wrapped and shipped off to those in need. The budget for 2017 will allow us to host two events in 2017 (March



5th will be our first, and the second will again be held in November). At \$0.29/meal – our congregation will collectively provide over \$10,000 toward this outreach ministry with a goal of packaging over 40,000 meals in 2017! John Kaup has helped lead this effort over the past several years. Feel free to contact him if you would like to contribute toward the leadership of this ministry.

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

Prayer is conversation with God. It is a way to strengthen our relationship with our Father. As we grow in our love for Jesus we will desire to increasingly and unceasingly talk to Him. In 2016 an online prayer request page was added to the St. James website. Found under the Formation tab, it is available for the St. James community to share praise and prayer requests. Prayer requests are forwarded to a confidential email account which is accessible to the Daughters of the King, Father Stephen, and to those who have expressed a desire to pray specifically for the prayer requests. Current members of the prayer group, in addition to our Daughters of the King and Father Stephen, are Jennifer Jerina, Christopher Brotherton, Christi Jones-McNeill, and Karen Wolfe. We are always looking for expansion to this prayer group. We have received via email over a dozen requests for prayer since the September launch of the website.

It is our prayer that God will continue to uphold the members of St. James to pray for one another. I leave St. James with a heart that has been enriched with the grace and love that God and the community here have so freely given. St. James will always be family to me wherever our Lord directs my journey. — Karen Wolfe

SMALL GROUPS COMMISSION

The Small Group Commission formed five (5) new FEAST Groups in the fall of 2016 to strengthen fellowship within our church community. The new FEAST Groups include 37 members. A FEAST Group is a group of 8-12 people who gather frequently (monthly or bi-monthly at the convenience of the members) to share a meal and fellowship and respond to the spiritual needs of the members. Overall, there are eight (8) FEAST Groups at St. James with a total of 73 members. The Small Group Commission’s focus in the Fall of 2016 was on forming new FEAST Groups. On a longer-term basis, additional small groups will be formed for study, prayer, service, spiritual growth and fellowship. — Laura Brown



USHERS

Serving as an Usher is a fun and easy way to meet, greet and seat visitors and members of your church family, as well as facilitate a smooth worship service. Currently, 22 men and women participate in this ministry. If you would like to become an usher, please contact Bob Dillon (864-297-9770, bnd9770@charter.net).

WELCOMING COMMISSION

The Welcoming Commission continues to promote the radical hospitality of greeting and welcoming newcomers to our parish. In 2016 we set up a protocol for contacting visitors and hosted a Newcomer Reception in the fall. This commission also created St. James "swag bags" for those families attending the Newcomer Reception. In 2017 we plan to work at creating a welcome packet for those joining the St. James family. If you would like to become involved in this commission, please contact Christi Jones-McNeill (864-294-7163, cmcneill7163@charter.net).

YOUTH COMMISSION

2016 was an exciting year for our youth ministry as it grew and improved under the care and guidance of Tina Boyd. She has worked diligently to develop programs for our youth that emphasize study, service, socialization and spirituality. Youth Education and Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) programs are now held in a revitalized youth room. Providing a more comfortable environment for learning and sharing. Two new programs were developed, Break N' Bake-a monthly service project baking desserts for Project Host, and Coffee By The Book, a bible study held twice monthly for our young women in High School. In addition, we look forward to new youth ministry program opportunities for our young men to be launched this spring.

There were many opportunities for service here within the St. James family and beyond. Our youth actively helped with the Souper Bowl of Caring, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Vacation Bible School, Fall Festival and the Advent Wreath workshop here at home. Reaching out, they packed food for the needy at The Lord's Harvest for the Hungry and Stop Hunger Now. Our youth also packed care boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and one of our young men, Burke Lipscomb, represented the youth on a diocesan mission journey to Ecuador.

Our youth worked hard but also had plenty of opportunities for fun and fellowship. We hosted an evening of dinner, games and worship with other youth groups in the convocation, and were invited to St. Peter's for some meaningful study followed by "Bubble Soccer". There was snow tubing at Moonshine Mountain, a visit to Gravitopia Trampoline Park, a Murder Mystery Pool Party, tubing on the Green River, apple picking at Sky Top Orchards, a photo scavenger hunt, and an overnight youth retreat and day hike. It was a year of challenges, physical, mental, and spiritual.

2016 was a fruitful year for Tina and our youth, and we expect no less for 2017. We are building a strong foundation for this program and hope for continued growth in the years to come. Many



thanks to all of the volunteers who support Tina and our young people in their endeavors. Please continue to pray and support them as they grow. They are the future of St. James.

Sherrie Foster, Youth Ministry Vestry Liaison

ST. JAMES COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

Commission	Chair	Phone	Vestry Liaison	Phone
Adult Formation	Janet Atkins	864-497-0162	Fr. Stephen	864-907-6565
Buildings & Grounds	Bill Wells	864-907-4000	Lee Plumblee	864-420-1189
Children's Education	Rebecca Wagner	864-346-0561	George Lipscomb	864-201-7062
Communications	Christina Harrell	864-420-3137	Christina Harrell	864-420-3137
Day School	Kathy Walsh	864-567-1537	Kathy Walsh	864-567-1537
Finance	Rick Hope	843-200-3155	Ed Winkler	864-238-7050
Hospitality	Hope Winkler	864-346-8838	Sherrie Foster	864-386-0085
Newcomer / Welcome	Christi Jones-McNeill	864-630-9159	Christi Jones-McNeill	864-630-9159
Outreach	John Kaup	864-607-2985	George Lipscomb	864-201-7062
Pastoral Care	Pam Snape	864-360-5620	Fr. Stephen	864-907-6565
Prayer & Spirituality	Karen Wolfe	864-907-8546	Karen Wolfe	864-907-8546
Senior Adults	Gail Burch	864-363-3387	Gail Burch	864-363-3387
Small Groups	Laura Brown	704-965-0073	Laura Brown	704-965-0073
Stewardship	Ben Freeman	864-419-6590	Lee Plumblee	864-420-1189
Youth	Tina Boyd	770-361-8469	Sherrie Foster	864-386-0085



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