



SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL



**114TH ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2019**

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ST. JAMES VESTRY 2018

Laura Brown, *Sr. Warden*

Ed Winkler, *Jr. Warden*

Clay Allen

Moira Allen

Monte Hudson

Neal Kanipe

Alice Littlejohn

Sam Lyons

Reb Mitchell

Ileana Shaner

Kathy Walsh

ST. JAMES MINISTRY STAFF



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



The Rev. Stephen J. Rhoades, Rector



The Rev. Al Hipp, Deacon



Ms. Tina Boyd, Youth and Children's Minister



Dr. Karen A. Eshelman, Director of Music and Organist



Mrs. Katie Allen, Day School Director

ST. JAMES OFFICE STAFF



Mrs. Dena Veazey, Parish Administrator

Ms. Carol Clark, Office Assistant

AGENDA FOR THE 114TH ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1. Call to Order: The Rev. Stephen J. Rhoades, Rector
2. Opening Prayer
3. Certification of Quorum & Appointment of Tellers
4. Review and Approval of minutes of 113th Annual Meeting
5. Nominations of Vestry Members
6. Nominations of Diocesan Convention Delegates
7. Voting
8. Reports of St. James Commissions and Ministries
9. Parish Administrator's Report
10. Final 2018 Treasurer's Report
11. Presentation of the 2019 Budget
12. Rector's Report
13. In Memoriam
14. New Member Welcome
15. Report of Elections
16. Recognition of retiring vestry members
17. Old Business
18. New Business
19. Closing Prayer and Doxology
20. 115th Annual Meeting date: January 26, 2020
21. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE 113TH ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January 21, 2018

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

Certification of Quorum & Appointment of Tellers – A total of 125 persons, including 84 voting members, were in attendance. A quorum was reached. Fr. Stephen appointed Dena Veazey and the retiring vestry class as tellers for voting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – George Lafaye moved that the minutes of the 112th Annual Meeting held on January 22, 2017 be approved as printed. Pauline Kelley seconded. Passed.

Nominations of Vestry Members – A slate of four candidates was presented to serve three-year terms and one to fill the final year of a vacated term for Vestry. Katie Allen moved to open nominations from the floor. Christi Jones McNeill seconded. Passed. No names were offered. Kate Kaup moved that nominations be closed. Kathy Walsh seconded. Passed.

Nominations of Diocesan Convention Delegates – A slate of three names was presented to fill the four Diocesan Convention Delegate positions for 2018. Jerome Gorman moved to open nominations from the floor. Reb Mitchell seconded. Passed. Jerome Gorman volunteered to fill the fourth slot. Christi Jones McNeill moved that nominations be closed. Kathy Walsh seconded. Passed.

Voting – Judy Armandroff moved that the voting be done by acclamation. Rick Veazey seconded. Passed. The five candidates for Vestry were elected by acclamation. They are Moira Allen, Al Geiger, Monte Hudson, and Sam Lyons for three-year terms and Alice Littlejohn for one year to complete the vacated term. The four candidates for Diocesan Convention were elected by acclamation. They are Clay Allen, Laura Brown, Gail Burch and Jerome Gorman.

Parish Administrator's Report – Dena Veazey reported that St. James membership grew in 2017 despite the large number of faithful, longtime parishioners who had passed away over the past year. Seven of the ten categories in the breakdown of parishioners by age had increased.

Reports of St. James Commissions and Ministries – Complete reports from the Staff, Wardens, Commission Chairs and other leaders of St. James' ministries are printed in the Book of Reports. These give a snapshot of what has been happening at St. James.

- St. James Men's Group – Ron Kelley reported that the men were attempting to revitalize the group which had been so active in years past and thanked those who had kept things going. He asked all the men to complete a survey to help them plan for the future and more clearly define the role of the Men's Group at St. James. He also invited the men to attend the next meeting.
- Sam Lyons introduced himself, because his biographical information was not printed in the report book with the other vestry nominees. Sam has been Episcopalian since 1957 and a member of St. James since 2016. He spent 32 years working in Human Resources.

- The Gathering – Gail Burch reported that this group which ministers to parishioners and friends age 60 and better meets for lunch and a program on the first Tuesday of the month. Pamphlets outlining the program topics for the next four months were made available. There was also a survey to provide feedback on other topics of interest.

2017 Treasurer's Report – Fr. Stephen thanked the Finance Committee for their work throughout the year monitoring the finances of the church and making recommendations to the vestry. Income in 2017 exceeded what was projected and expenses were lower which produced a surplus of \$42,714. The church continues to make monthly payments to replace the money borrowed from several of the restricted funds in 2016. That comes to \$9,000 a year which should be subtracted from the surplus.

Presentation of the 2018 Draft Budget – The preliminary budget for 2018 was based on historical trends and actual expenses. Pledge Income was raised to \$500,916. The Diocesan Contribution expense was kept at 80% of the asking and the amount set aside for Strategic Reserve was raised in anticipation of several expensive projects. Some of the HVAC units are nearing the end of their life expectancy.

Rector's Report – Fr. Stephen expressed what a blessing it is to be at St. James and what a year it has been! In December he celebrated his 50th birthday and his 10th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. This year also marked the 10th anniversary of the installation our Gober pipe organ. He recognized each member of the staff and thanked them for their contributions to the life and ministries at St. James. His complete report is printed in the book of reports.

In Memorium – Fr. Stephen presented a video slideshow remembering the many parishioners who had passed away in 2017.

Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members – Fr. Stephen thanked the outgoing vestry class—Gail Burch, Jennifer Jerina (in absentia), Christi Jones McNeill and George Lipscomb—for their faithful leadership and service. He announced that a donation in their honor had been made to Education Equals Hope for scholarships to children in Ecuador. Senior Warden George Lipscomb thanked Fr. Stephen for his ministry among us this past year and the parish expressed their appreciation. Fr. Stephen thanked Anna and their children for the sacrifices and demands which are placed on them daily as the family members of a priest.

Old Business

Stephen Mitchell Porch – In 2017 the renovation of the front entrance was completed. The St. James Memorial Garden was renovated and the columbarium installed. At his Episcopal Visitation on July 31, 2017, Bishop Waldo blessed the Stephen Mitchell Porch and the St. James Memorial Garden.

New Business

- Tina Boyd thanked the adult volunteers who have helped with the children's ministry.
- Ileana Shaner, vestry liaison to St. Francis, reported that the relationship between our two congregations was renewed by the shared meal and service on the first night of Las Posadas and hoped it could become a tradition. On behalf of the St. Francis congregation she expressed their gratitude for the financial, emotional and spiritual support which St. James offered during Fr. Robert Taylor's recent surgery and recuperation.

Closing – Fr. Stephen closed the meeting with prayer and the singing of the Doxology.

Meeting Date for 114th Annual Meeting will be January 27, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Dena Veazey, Parish Administrator

2019 VESTRY NOMINEES

GIGI BLACKWELL



Gigi Blackwell (Johanna DuBose Blackwell) has lived most of her life in Greer and Greenville. She is a Furman graduate with a degree in education and ran a store for teachers for 10 years. She has been a free-lance writer specializing in creative non-fiction that includes a church history. She spent several years on the Greer Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Greer Main Street program, and Greer Auditorium Board. She ended her professional career as a seminar presenter on writing grant proposals. In retirement, she and Reece have been Bridge teachers and directors.

They first visited St. James in 2002 and were confirmed as Episcopalian within two years. They are faithful attendees of the early service. Gigi served a term on Vestry [class of 2010] and has been active on the ECW board, Hospitality Commission, and the Gathering ministry for senior adults. She is a member of St. Mary Elizabeth Chapter, a Lay Eucharistic Minister (chalice bearer), lector, and helps in the office. She has a passion for people and enjoys making newcomers welcome and comforting the bereaved.

JIM GHRIST



Jim works part time at Utility Technology, Engineers-Consultants in Spartanburg and has lived in Taylors since 1996. He is recently widowed, having lost his loving wife Sandi last February.

A cradle-to-grave Episcopalian, Jim has been a member of St. James since 1996 and attends the 10:30 service. He and Sandi tried a couple of parishes before settling into St. James because of the friendliness of the congregation and the location. They were initially doubtful because at the time, there were no pews, just folding chairs, and they had recently moved from Alexandria, Egypt where one of their tasks at the English Church was cleaning folding chairs every week.

Jim served on the Vestry [class of 2003] and for several years on the Finance Committee. In 2002, he and Tommy King developed the structure for the Endowment Fund of St. James. He has been active in the Men's Group, served on the Facilities Maintenance Task Force in 2005-2006 and until recently, was a lector. In Alexandria, Egypt, he was on the Church Council of All Saints, Stanley Bay, and also published the newsletter.

He is passionate about his spiritual life and has joined the contemplative class on Sunday mornings. He also admits to a passion for golf. He believes that his analytic and problem-solving skills would be of value to the Vestry as well as his experience with financial matters.

ALICE F. LITTLEJOHN *(to complete last two years of vacated term)*



Alice, a Library Media Specialist at Stone Academy, is originally from Gastonia, NC. She and Ken have lived in Greenville and attended St. James since 1993 (26 years), most often the 10:30 service. She joined St. James when she married Ken, who was already a member. It was a good fit then and has remained a good fit. They enjoy the inviting atmosphere and the traditional style of worship and music that they both grew up with in the Episcopal church. She kept nursery before and while her daughter was of nursery age and taught Sunday School during Charlotte's elementary years.

She is a member of the Order of the Daughters of the King and participates in 5th Saturday Lunches for Southernside Community Center. She has served as facilitator for sponsoring Frazee kids to Camp Bob at Kanuga from 2010-present, Vestry from 2009-2012, and previously co-chaired Stewardship. She participates in Parish Fellowship Weekends at Kanuga. She currently serves as Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Coffee Hour Host, and on the Mission and Outreach commission; she recently joined the Hospitality Commission. Alice served on the Vestry in 2018, completing a term which had been vacated.

Alice writes, "I am passionate about making a difference in children's lives and helping to make memories that children will cherish. In my job, I get to introduce wonderful books to children and spark their desire for learning. Many of the children I work with at Stone are also served by the Frazee Center. I have seen firsthand what a difference the Camp Bob experience makes in the lives of children that St. James sponsors each summer. By combining the financial resources of St. James with the programming and facilities at Camp Bob at Kanuga, we can provide a significant outdoor and spiritual experience that children from our community will cherish. I have been part of this parish under the leadership of four rectors. Each of those rectors has had a unique gift and has made a positive impact on the life of the church. The experience I bring is a historical perspective for what has changed, when and why. The changes that have been made at St. James have been thoughtfully considered and communicated. I am willing to be part of the thoughtful and prayerful process that the Vestry undertakes in leading the church forward."

MARIAN E. STROBEL



Marian is a native of Rochester, New York, and has lived in Greenville since September 1981. She is William Montgomery Burnett Professor of History and Chair of the Faculty at Furman University. A cradle Episcopalian, she has attended St. James since September 1981 and loves Rite I at the 8:00 service.

She enjoys the people of St. James, especially their dedication to the many ministries that serve those in need. She also deeply appreciates the silent members who make the church function smoothly, from the

vestry to the altar guild, to those who wash dishes after social events. Our ministers are enlightened, caring, compassionate, and preach excellent sermons!

Marian served on the vestry [class of 2007] when the vestry authorized purchase of the new organ and also dealt with the septic tank, lightning protection, and real estate issues. Currently she serves as a lector at the 8:00 service.

She is passionate about worship and private prayer as well as about the importance of family and friends. She frequently visits her hometown of Rochester, NY to be near her beloved Lake Ontario and her many friends there. She is also passionate about her students at Furman and finds it a privilege to have helped shape so many young minds over so many years.

Marian would bring to the vestry clear thinking, fairness, a careful sense of organization, and a lifetime of experience in the Episcopal Church.

JEREMY L. WILLIAMS



Jeremy and his family—wife, Jaclyn, and two sons, Holden (age 5) and Foster (age 3)—moved to Greenville from Atlanta in January of 2017. St. James was the first and only church they visited in the area—they immediately felt welcomed and at home. They generally attend the 10:30 a.m. service. Also, Holden and Foster are students at the Day School. Jeremy serves as a Coffee Hour Host, on the Hospitality Commission, occasionally pops in on the Men’s Group Thursday night socials, and helps out with some of the activities with which they are tasked.

Jeremy currently works for Hemophilia of South Carolina, where he does public policy and advocacy work. The organization serves the hundreds of people with bleeding disorders in the state. Before that, for about a decade, he was a senior policy analyst at the Council of State Government in Atlanta, where he worked with state lawmakers throughout the southeast region on a variety of policy issues, including public health and corrections. He also staffed the Border Legislative Conference, a forum for lawmakers from the four U.S. and six Mexican border states.

Jeremy studied political science at Mississippi College, and received a Master of Divinity degree (which he uses only “pro bono”) from Wake Forest University. He enjoys hiking, especially finding new waterfalls around the Upstate with Holden and Foster; cycling (he recently began serving as advocacy chair for the Greenville Spinners board of directors); reading; writing; and brewing espresso. In addition to policy matters, Jeremy is passionate about social justice issues and non-profit advocacy. He looks forward to learning more about the functions of St. James through service on the vestry and hopes to bring some measure of theological insight and stewardship to the group.

PARISH LEADERSHIP REPORTS

RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

One of the things that I love most about ministering with you at St. James is your heart. St. James is a parish that cares about people. You care about the underprivileged, the poor, and the oppressed. You welcome the stranger and love them unconditionally. There are so many people in the world, and in this part of the world especially, who have been wounded by their experience of the Church. They see the Church as judgmental, exclusive, hypocritical, and unwelcoming. And yet, they are drawn to an experience of the living God and keep seeking a safe place where they can encounter the holy. St. James is such a place. There is an energy and a vitality at St. James that draws people here. However, if we don't invite them to engage the faith and join the family in an intentional way, we are not fully living into our calling.

The Christian church, in all denominations, is seeing a drop in weekly church attendance. Part of this is due to entering a post-Christian age. Part of this is generational in that we are losing the older generation that was raised on weekly church attendance while our younger families have not been. Part of this is cultural in that while Sundays used to be sacrosanct for Church and family, they are often now treated as just another day of the week for work, sports activities and the like. We also have seen a slight drop in average Sunday attendance at St. James. While not as drastic as other parts of the Church, it is something that bears reflection and intentional action.

I believe that part of the change in average Sunday attendance at St. James is partially attributable to the change in service times enacted this fall. After careful consideration by the staff, Wardens and Vestry, and after consulting widely with the parish and getting an overwhelmingly positive response, the decision was made to consolidate St. James' Sunday morning service schedule in 2018. We began our program year in September of 2018 with a new service schedule going from three services at 7:45, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. to two services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. When I presented this decision to the parish, I made clear that this change would be undertaken on a trial basis to determine if the new schedule better met the needs of the parish and those that serve the parish.

Although we have seen a slight dip in average Sunday attendance during this introductory period, I am convinced that it was the right decision. I believe that the slight dip in average Sunday attendance in 2018 is attributable to a number of factors. First, the dip is almost exactly the same percentage as those who strongly opposed changing the service times. Second, we lost an unusually high number of our most faithful parishioners in 2017. Third, Christmas Eve was on a Sunday in 2017 and positively affected the average Sunday attendance in 2017 disproportionately.

I think it is important to be upfront and honest about the numbers not as something to be worried about at this point, but as something to be aware of and an opportunity to be seized.

St. James is a very busy, healthy, and lively place – if you have any doubt, just look at our online parish calendar. God is worshipped at St. James in three regular services per week plus special services throughout the year. Bible studies, Vacation Bible School, adult and children’s education series, EYC, the St. James Day School, all fulfill our call to engage scripture and deepen our understanding and appreciation of the faith. We live into our call to offer hospitality by opening our doors to the community: church league basketball, high school sports boosters, music programs and recitals, twelve-step programs, counseling services and student groups all call our facilities home. We live into Christ’s call to love our neighbor as ourselves by continuing to expand our outreach through Rise Against Hunger, our work with the St. Francis Community, Kairos prison ministry, St. James giving tree, St. James Christmas Angel Tree, Feed thy Neighbor, and many other outreach efforts.

In the coming year, I am asking you to spread the word about St. James and join me in doing a better job of welcoming the stranger, inviting them to the family, and getting them engaged at St. James. St. James has a strong leadership team in place, a talented and dedicated staff, solid finances, a wonderfully diverse congregation, a heart for the community and a desire to go deeper in the faith. We can and must do better to not only welcome the stranger, but to shepherd them to join the flock. Jesus said there is to be one shepherd and one flock: let’s work together to grow the family and the Kingdom of God.

A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by a plus sign (+). The signature is stylized and appears to be 'S. James'.

SENIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Dear St. James Congregation and Family,

Thank you for the honor and blessing to serve on the Vestry for three years and as the Senior Warden for the past year. In March of 2018, the Vestry met at a one-day “retreat” to brainstorm ideas of what we are doing now, what we should be doing, and what we need to stop doing using the lens of *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Bishop Robert Schnase. As a result, the following are the priorities that became our focus during the year:

1. The Practice of Radical Hospitality:

Newcomer Ministry – Develop and conduct a Newcomer’s Class, sponsor a Newcomer’s Reception, identify sponsors for each new person and/or family, conduct a greeter’s training session. Fr. Stephen offered a Sunday School Class Episcopalian 101, we recognized newcomers during a church service, introduced their sponsors, and honored them at a reception during coffee hour. We also provided training for current and new greeters.

Foyer – Identify ways to make the foyer warmer and more inviting. We identified ways to improve the look and feel of the foyer. Next a small group will meet to scope the work and craft a budget for the changes proposed.

2. The Practice of Passionate Worship:

Intentional Integration – Continue to intentionally integrate the liturgy, music, sermons and lessons in God-centered worship.

3. The Practice of Intentional Faith Development:

Grief Support Ministry – Collaborate with Canterbury Counseling Center to develop training and provide support for those in grief, train team members on an 8-week program. The Canterbury Counseling Center is drafting a training plan that will be implemented during the first of the year.

4. The Practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service:

Education Initiative – Build on the Cura Foundation’s work with Lakeview Middle School to support teachers, mentor school children, and provide supplies for students and teachers. Mentors (7) were identified and oriented; the school assigned students to mentors in the Fall. Currently seeking additional mentors and tutors.

5. The Practice of Extravagant Giving:

Event Giving – Create ways to give additional funds for someone in need. Gathered subsidized funds at the BBQ & Bluegrass event that allowed Interfaith Hospitality Network guests to attend the event.

Estate Planning – Develop a plan to encourage members to name St. James in their estate planning. George Lafaye facilitated an excellent learning session on “Leaving a Legacy to St. James”.

Again, thank you for the honor of serving. I also want to thank Father Stephen, Dena, Junior Warden Ed Winkler, and each member of the Vestry for the focus, effort, and time given during the past year.

In the name of Christ,

Laura Keith Brown (lkb54@live.com)

JUNIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Following our renovation of the entrance and the memorial garden last year, we have concentrated on doing things on a somewhat smaller scale.

- We had the front doors refinished and repainted with Father Stephen's paint selection of "Rapture Red."
- The parking areas were restriped with the traffic flow rerouted.
- We added a kitchenette off the foyer to make life easier for those hosting coffee hour and other receptions.
- The rose garden, maintained by Pauline and Ron Kelley, was improved with the removal of overly mature shrubs and addition of new grass to better define the garden.
- We attempted to provide more storage by eliminating some of our old, seldom used equipment in and around the Parish Life Center (PLC).
- Christina Harrell donated a storage shed to keep oyster roast equipment protected, which in turn helped to clean up the area around the PLC.
- A Parish member continued efforts to improve our lighting.
- The Men's Group contributed with cleaning and other maintenance needs.
- We repaired many things including commodes, water heaters, light switches, door locks and several other tasks that only Dena could suggest.

Last year, I thanked the Mitchell family for their support through the Stephen Mitchell Foundation. I'm thanking them again this year. Without their help, much of what we accomplished would remain on our list of things to do.

As I complete my three-year term as a member of your vestry, the last two years as Junior Warden, I want to express my thanks to everyone who gave of their time to help improve and maintain the buildings and grounds of St. James. We have accomplished a lot, but we cannot rest. Our property requires us to be vigilant to the needs of St. James. We have the prettiest property of any church in Greenville, and it should be maintained to keep it that way.

Ed Winkler (winkofsc@gmail.com)

ST. JAMES STAFF REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION

Membership: As of December 31, 2018, St. James had 575 active members and 66 other active persons. We added 36 new members in 2018—14 by baptism, four by letter of transfer, and 18 by request, as well as four previous members who were restored to active status. St. James’ active membership decreased by 14 members who moved away or transferred and 16 who were moved from active to inactive status; five members who were listed as inactive were transferred to other churches. St. James recorded two weddings and ten funerals in 2018.

Attendance: St. James had an average Sunday attendance of 187 in 2018. A total of 548 people attended the Easter services, including the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday. 489 people attended services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Lay Eucharistic Visitors made 60 visits taking communion to our homebound members.

2019 Pledges: As of January 21, 2019, St. James had received 147 pledges for 2019 which total \$477,632. This is an average pledge of \$3,249. We have received pledges from 11 new households; only 25 households who are still involved at St. James and who pledged last year have not yet submitted a pledge at this time. It’s not too late to submit your pledge.

Thanks: I would like to express my gratitude to all those who volunteer their time and talents throughout the year to answer phones during staff meetings, to count weekly offerings, to enter data into the computer, to collate bulletins and other tasks which arise. If you are interested in helping in the office with activities like these, please contact me.

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

	Age Range	# of Parishioners	
		<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
	0-10	60	58
	11-17	72	65
	18-29	46	48
	30-39	40	36
	40-49	79	67
	50-59	65	78
	60-69	94	94
	70-79	84	86
	80-89	40	33
	90+	8	10
	Other Active Persons	56	66
Total	Total	644	641

MUSIC MINISTRY

Choirs and Musicians at St. James

1. The congregation is a great big choir.

The people of St. James form the largest and most important choir at St. James. Our congregation is known around Greenville for our enthusiastic and joy-filled singing of the hymns and service music. Singing together is a way to pray; it brings us together to create and celebrate the liturgy. The poetry of the hymns fills us with images and truths about the faith we profess. Even those who hesitate to sing can join by praying and meditating on words ancient and new, written by our Christian brothers

and sisters across the ages. The use of the hymnal, whether for congregational singing or for prayer and meditation, 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 is an important part of our worship.

In addition to regular Sunday musical offerings, there were special musical offerings of praise and thanksgiving during Lent, Easter and the Advent-Christmas seasons. Our choir and organist, along with Fr. Stephen, made their annual trip to lead worship at Faith Memorial Chapel in Cedar Mountain, N.C. Another highlight was this year's tenth annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols, presented by the St. James Choir and the Youth Choir on Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. An in-house recording was made for our homebound parishioners.

3. Music education is 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.

4. Youth and children's choirs provide friendship, belonging, and leadership skills along with music education.

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! Contact Karen Eshelman (music@stjamesgreenville.org) to sign up and request a registration form.

***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 young children and less-experienced singers in K-5 through 5th grade. This choir has been rehearsing on Wednesdays 3:15 – 4:00 p.m. The group's membership this year is mainly younger students who are beginning to find their singing voices and learning to match pitch. As they progress, they will be exposed to other topics based on the 'Voice for Life' choir curriculum from the Royal School of Church Music: the basics of music (melody, rhythm, and harmony), reading music, and becoming familiar with the hymnal. I encourage **all** children to 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 occasionally at the beginning of the 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service, and sometimes with the Youth Choir and/or St. James Choir. New choir members may join at any time during the year.
- The **Youth Choir** is for all students in grades 6-12 and for experienced singers in grades 4 and 5. This choir has been rehearsing on Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m. Our current membership is

six singers, and we are actively seeking new members. This group sings several times a year at the 10:30 service, often singing the main anthem at the offertory. Their music includes regular choir anthems 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.

5. The St. James Choir enjoys fellowship while learning about music, Scripture, theology and spiritual writings.

The St. James Choir is for high school and adult singers who enjoy rehearsing weekly and singing each Sunday as a regular part of the liturgy. In addition, this choir 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 has grown to 27; average Sunday attendance is 16-20. Three of our choir members are Furman students who have been awarded positions as Choral Scholars. These students earn a small amount to assist with their music study, and by participating at St. James they learn the basics of church music as part of their total music education. The St. James Choir also sends financial support to Education=Hope for schoolchildren in Ecuador.

The choir continues to enjoy their gift of new choir vestments, which they received at Christmas, 2016. Proper choir vestments have made a big difference in our worship, one that impacts the entire congregation.

St. James Choir welcomes new members of all voice ranges (soprano, alto, tenor, bass). We are a friendly and supportive group, and we make it easy to learn new music. In fact, most of the choir members are not trained singers, so everyone is assisted with the learning of their 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).

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

6. Instrumentalists and Vocal Soloists share in creating worship.

- Our youth played and sang carol arrangements for the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service in 2018.
- During the summer months, anyone who can play an instrument or sing is invited to offer a solo or duet as a prelude or at the offertory. All are welcome, youth and adults alike. Karen Eshelman can help you find a hymn or something special to play or sing.

Volunteer help needed: *adults needed to help with student rehearsals of Christmas Eve music; preparation begins a week or two before Thanksgiving.*

7. The Gober pipe organ has a role both in worship liturgies and in concert.

In addition to its role in the hymns and anthems each Sunday and for the additional services of Advent Lessons and Carols, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter, our organ was also featured in concert on two occasions during its tenth birthday year. On March 12, immediately after the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, several members of the American Guild of Organists (myself included) presented an organ recital for a large and enthusiastic audience that included many first-time visitors. A second important performance was presented by SC Bach and guest organist Brennan Szafron on October 21. (It was rescheduled from Sept. 16 due to Hurricane Florence.) Entitled “Fireworks for Organ and Orchestra,” the program showcased virtuoso instrumental music from J.S. Bach’s great cantatas. A pre-concert talk was offered 30 minutes prior to the concert, and our guest musicians were honored at a reception following the concert.

As for our organ itself: the organ requires little repair work and maintenance but does require ongoing preventative care. During the winter months, the humidity of the nave is monitored and maintained by a humidifier system that works with the nave’s HVAC system. (Humidity is provided for the benefit of people as well as the organ.) The reed stops are tuned before major feasts of the church year. About every three years, a major tune-up and repair week is scheduled with the organ builder, Hal Gober, who works on the instrument in person. We will be scheduling Hal Gober’s next visit sometime this coming fall.

8. Choral Scholars add to St. James’ connection with Furman University.

The St. James Choir Choral Scholars program connecting Furman music students with St. James was established in 2002. Students who receive this scholarship rehearse and sing in the St. James Parish Choir, and their award includes opportunities for solo singing and conducting. They earn a small stipend to put towards music lessons and musical scores.

The Vestry has authorized that as many as four scholarship singers may be funded. Scholarships are awarded upon an audition and on the basis of talent, teacher recommendation, dependability, and attitude. Benefits for the music student include observing the teaching of music and singing to non-professionals in a smaller choir; these experiences will serve them well in future church employment. Our current Choral Scholars are Sariah Warth, Mary Jo McCormick, and Emma Mehigan.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

Year 4. Hard to believe that I’m in my 4th year of ministry here at St. James! I have learned so much, and been stretched and challenged in new ways across the various ministry areas I am involved in.

Over the last year, we’ve increased our participation in the ministry offerings of the Diocesan Youth Leadership Committee (DYLC)—sending a youth to a 5th grade overnight retreat, and a youth to Happening #80. I myself also serve on DYLC as an adult, allowing me the privilege of working regularly throughout the year with an incredible group of teenagers from across the diocese to design, plan, and run various retreat offerings.

EYC continues to evolve and change around the needs of the youth, grounded in play, food, and prayer. I've seen the passing of time through realizing my former middle schoolers are now high schoolers, and my former high schoolers are seniors and college-aged. Time flies.

The overarching theme for this year has been the Creed. Each time we meet for EYC our conversation is formed around a difference concept or idea mentioned in the Creed.

As the semester kicked off this year with Epiphany Sunday, we went “off-book” and had a community night, with prayer stations reflecting on the New Year that flowed into the Burning of the Greens.

This past Summer, three St. James parishioners and I joined up with 30 other youth, college students, and adults from the diocese to return to Ecuador. We partnered with an Episcopal church there (On Facebook: Misión Cristo Liberador) that allowed many members of the team to reunite with our friends there. It was incredible to see all that the church was doing for its people, and to come alongside them as partners in ministry. We had the blessing of being able to have the Vivanco family join us throughout our visit and were able to structure our time around Education Equals Hope families and sites.

I continue to look forward to seeing what all God has in store for this community, 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 and Children's 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. 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, please contact Ileana Shaner (ileana.shaner@gmail.com, 864-325-8358) to arrange a training session.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Christian Education has had many well-attended offerings this past year.

In the Spring of 2018, Albert Blackwell led a series on our beautiful stained-glass windows brought from the old sanctuary in downtown Greenville. Margaret Oakes also led a two-week study of the development of the English Bible.

Throughout the year, Fr. Stephen has led the Rector's Monday Night Bible Study which has been focused on Paul's Epistles. This is a group of 10-15 parishioners who meet weekly to delve deeply into Paul's letters and his theology. There is often debate and lively discussion as we engage with Paul's theology and that of the early Church.

On Sunday mornings in the fall of 2018, Fr. Stephen taught an Episcopal Church 101 class as well as a class on the Book of Common Prayer. Deacon Al led a study of the Old Testament and Jerome Gorman led a class on the contemplative tradition in the Church. George Lafaye also presented a program on Estate Planning and the Church.

This spring will see some new offerings in Adult Christian Education.

In addition to the Rector's Monday Night Bible Study, Fr. Stephen will be leading a Wednesday evening Lenten study examining Jesus' final words from the cross, their context and application for our lives today.

Fr. Stephen will also begin confirmation classes for our youth and adults to prepare them for the Bishop's visit on August 25th.

A new adult education series for the fall of 2019 will be announced over the summer.

ALTAR GUILD

In 2018, the Saint James Altar Guild participated in over 160 regular church services, in addition to special services throughout the year, including Christmas and Easter. The Altar Guild members did an excellent job. These dedicated members polish brass and silver, hang altar hangings, clean up and setup for and between services, clean and press linens, prepare communion, and set up for baptisms.

Our teams serve on a rotating basis. The Altar Guild schedule is published by the beginning of the year, giving members an opportunity to make arrangements for a substitute if they cannot serve when scheduled. We welcome new members at any time during the year, and 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 or 864-414-8871).

AV TEAM

St. James Audio Video Team members are Randy Burch, Michael Foster, Monte Hudson, Jeff Petty, Stacy Pirrone, Chris Sauerbrey, and Ed Snape. Members record Sunday 10:30 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 may 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 St. James Services and Parish Life activities. – Ed Snape

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Youth and Children's Christian Education meets downstairs on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m. (except for summer and other school holidays). We have classes for children from age 3 through 5th grade. We have an excellent team of adults who collaborate together to implement a lectionary-based curriculum that allows us to invite young people to step into the liturgical seasons and life of the church. We are celebrating a successful Advent and Epiphany where we stepped away from our usual lessons and created our own events and activities that helped to engage the whole family. I look forward to generating some similar but different creative energies around the season of Lent (which will be here before we know it)! We welcome anyone who is interested in facilitating curriculum or acting as a classroom assistant to speak to any of the current Y&C Christian Education Team members, 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 our campus for a week of fun, food, friends, and fellowship. This past year we transformed our property into an undiscovered island (complete with a straw and bamboo hut, and light up waterfall) where we found ourselves Shipwrecked! Four generations of people came together, to make VBS a success! We had some special visitors that came throughout the week—Jim Nolan and Worrywort Wanda muddled their way through the shipwrecked life, and learned new important lessons about God each evening. This past summer, for the first time we had the added advantage of a paid VBS intern! Ellery McNeill went above and beyond to help everything flow seamlessly. We look forward to another exciting VBS next summer! Vacation Bible School takes many hearts and hands to come together

successfully (especially when, as during last summer, we have 53 kids!). 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. This summer we'll be going on a special journey to Athens, Greece and learning about Paul! Please contact Tina Boyd at youthminister@stjamesgreenville.org to find out how to get involved in this great ministry!

CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL FOR YOUTH (CLBBY)

This year St James has one middle school team and one men's team. Special thanks to coaches Lee Plumblee, David Williams and Lance Plumblee. We are also represented on the CLBBY board by Rob Weber. St James hosts regular season games on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings. Thanks to everyone who participates as gym reps and those who keep score or keep the books at the games. Our gym is a popular host sight and a great ministry opportunity for people to witness our wonderful and friendly church community. If you would be interested in helping with hosting please contact Butch Blair (Butchblair61@gmail.com, 864-982-5649).

COFFEE HOUR

In 2018 we experienced a vast improvement in the Coffee Hour ministry in the form of a new kitchenette right next to the church lobby. No more trundling a heavily laden cart back and forth to the Parish Life Center. Now we prepare coffee, lemonade, and goodies right next to the foyer and, when done, whisk them off to the sink just feet away. We are very grateful for the vision and hard work of the Mitchell family, who saw the need and built the kitchenette. It makes such a difference! We have a great group of volunteers who prepare Coffee Hour for the 10:30 service. Thanks to all of them for their faithful service. If you would like to be involved, please contact Sarah Britt (sarahsbritt@aol.com, 864-370-2341).

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The Communications Commission continues to strive to improve communications to the parish through print, website, email and social media. A survey regarding the effectiveness of our communications was sent out by email in December. If you would like to provide input, you may contact Dena Veazey. Please "like" us on Facebook and "follow" us on Instagram—thanks to Tina Boyd and Mary Dunlap for social media posts. An app is available for your smart phone called "Instant Church Directory." It provides quick and easy access to our online church directory; only church members have this access. If you would like to be a part of the communications team, please contact Christina Harrell (ctharrell96@gmail.com) or Dena Veazey (admin@stjamesgreenville.org).

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, 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 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 10:30 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 (boydcater42@gmail.com), 864-414-5760)

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW), as always, have had a very active and productive year. In April our ECW dues letter was sent out to all women of the parish, and our generous women responded with \$1,510. From this we contributed \$300 toward 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 16, and after a long week with many workers helping we made a profit of \$5,500.78. At least sixty percent of this money goes outside of the church to support local agencies.

The Pastoral Food Response ministry continues to be successful under the direction of Dianne Posey. Thirty-five members on six teams provided many meals for families this year.

In October the ECW Board hosted a Fall Social 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. The event was sponsored by Greenville Women Giving which is a philanthropic organization awarding grants for various community needs. Country Boys also gave a demonstration of fall decorations. It was a fun event and a way to get to know each other better.

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. – Sherry Sponseller (sherrysponseller3@gmail.com)

St. Mary Elizabeth Chapter

This chapter of the Episcopal Church Women meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. 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.

ECW Distribution of Gifts

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

\$ 200.00	World Mission – Education Equals Hope
\$ 200.00	National Mission – Bishop's Public Education Initiative
\$ 200.00	Diocesan Mission – Fresh Start
\$ 100.00	Bishop's Discretionary Fund
\$ 100.00	Church Periodical Club
\$ 250.00	Bena Dial Scholarship Fund
\$ 100.00	Diocesan Seminarian Book Fund
\$ 25.00	Altar Guild
\$ 500.00	Cameron Graham and Roberto Vivanco
<u>\$ 300.00</u>	Diocesan Pledge
\$ 1,925.00	Total

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

\$ 200.00	Daughters of the King – 5 th Saturday Lunches
\$ 449.62	Sunday Inserts
<u>\$ 107.82</u>	Bible for Graduates
\$ 757.44	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
\$ 300.00	GAIHN
\$ 800.00	Greenville Free Medical Clinic
\$ 500.00	Greer Community Ministry
\$ 500.00	Education Equals Hope in Quito
\$ 300.00	Finlay House, Columbia, SC
\$ 300.00	Jasmine Road
<u>\$ 500.00</u>	Episcopal Relief and Development
\$ 4,400.00	Total

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 2018 budget, and fashion a budget for 2019. Through close monitoring of our income and expenses, we were able to realize a modest budget surplus in the 2018 fiscal year.

At the end of fiscal 2018, we had \$155,907 in cash available for operations and total deposits of \$490,319. St. James is completely debt free with a comfortable cushion for operations.

The preliminary budget for the 2019 church fiscal year is approximately \$632,737. This represents an increase of approximately 1.96% over the 2018 budget. We are grateful to the people of St. James who continue to pledge generously and give faithfully. We decided to keep the same estimate of plate and pledge income from 2018 for the 2019 budget. On the expense side, St. James anticipates several large expenditures in the next few years, including work on the parking lots and eventually replacing several HVAC systems which are approaching the end of their projected life span. We have banked \$70,955 in our strategic reserve fund for these purposes and have budgeted an additional \$28,726 to be banked this year. We have also increased our diocesan contribution to 85% of the asking for this year, up from 80% in 2018.

We thank the members for their diligent work throughout the year: Rick Hope (chair), Monte Hudson, Bill Nicholls-Wozniczka, Linda Satterfield, and Stephen Sperling. Your Finance Committee 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: Sherrie Foster, Gay Gaston, Christi Jones-McNeill, Reb Mitchell, Lavinia Plumblee, Lynn Vines and Hope Winkler. Last year we welcomed Ann Gorman to the Guild. 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 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 also introduce newcomers to the Rector 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. In interested, please contact me. – Alice Littlejohn (864-906-4150, alicelittlejohn6@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 2018, we served at the reception following Burning of the Greens, the Agape Meal, and the reception following the late Christmas Eve service. Our Commission also supported other ministries such as the Bluegrass & Barbeque Benefit, the Oyster Roast, the Parish Breakfast, the Newcomers Reception, and receptions following funerals.

We currently have 18 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 at 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).

OUTREACH COMMISSION

Established in 2015, the current members of the commission include: John Kaup (currently serving as chair), Janet Atkins, Ben Freeman, Al Hipp, Marie Hovland, George Lafaye, Alice Littlejohn, Kent Satterfield and Clay Allen (vestry liaison). 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 are involved and considering additional outreach opportunities. In 2018, 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 Men's Group continues to support Saint James' portion of the costs for Feed Thy Neighbor, which is approximately \$1500 per year. 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 encouragement and academic assistance to needy children in our community. The Center adjusted their focus and moved to a new location during 2018. We plan to continue this ministry and to encourage other members to join us in this rewarding activity. With the new developments, we are exploring ministry opportunities at the new location and hoping to reengage with the program in 2019. Stay tuned for more details and, if you are interested in supporting this ministry, contact Marie Hovland (864-235-4259, tomar617@hotmail.com).

KAIROS

The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities. There are many opportunities to serve in Kairos Prison Ministry. All that is required is that you have a willing heart and a spirit of obedience and you can play a crucial role in God's ministry of Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives and Impacting the World. – Janet Atkins (janetatkins@charter.net, 864-497-0162)

Rise Against Hunger

As a congregation, we hosted our ninth meal packaging events in November 2018. With well over 100 individuals volunteering, we packaged over 30,000 meals that were boxed, stacked on pallets, shrink wrapped and shipped off to those in need. The budget for 2019 will again enable us to host this event in 2019 and we anticipate hosting a 30,000+ meal packaging event in Fall 2019. Funds generated through the Oyster Roast, as well as from the sale of hams, turkeys and salmon support this ministry. John Kaup has helped lead this effort over the past several years. Feel free to contact him (john.kaup@furman.edu) if you would like to contribute toward the leadership of this ministry.

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 2018 gifts for boys and girls went to Salvation Army, Vanessa Vestergaard coordinated the distribution of gifts to Mental Health America of Greenville County and additional gifts went to the children of the St. Francis congregation. St. James provided nearly \$1,5000 in Jingle Bills! Some of that was used to purchase gifts and the balance was shared with the Vivanco Family through their ministry in Peru. Thanks to Beate Kindervater and John Kaup for coordinating this ministry in 2018; to Sherry Sponseller and the ECW Board who helped with wrapping the gifts; and many thanks to everyone who shared the love of the Christ child with those in need.

OYSTER ROAST

Typically held the Saturday before Ash Wednesday, The Oyster Roast is a great opportunity for fellowship among St. James members and the wider Greenville community. The event requires about 30 volunteers with responsibilities including set-up, ticket takers, chili servers, roasting pit hands, bucket runners and clean up. Help is also needed cooking chili and other behind the scenes efforts. We welcome your interest and your help!

Want to volunteer for the 2019 Oyster Roast on Saturday, March 2? Contact Christina Harrell (ctharrell96@gmail.com, 864.420.3137) or Ileana Shaner (Ileana.shaner@gmail.com, 864.325.8358).

PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION

Eucharistic and Pastoral Care Visitors 2018: 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, two parishioners are visited each Sunday. There were seven regular recipients and others who desired visits after hospitalization or illnesses. Visits were made by Eucharistic visitors: Janis Bandelin, Marian Blackwell, Martin Darby, Frances Funderburk, Rick Hope, Anne Shelley, and Pam Snape. Pastoral Care Volunteer, Marjorie Davenport at times accompanied Eucharistic visitors to share communion. In addition, Eucharistic and Pastoral Care visitors may be involved in a variety of organized ways as their schedules allow:

- Transportation and Respite Care: Coordinated by Pam Snape (864-360-5620). Transportation to church and short-term respite visits have helped parish families in the past. Thankfully when asked to join Pastoral care volunteers, many of our St. James members volunteer.

- 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 2019: We encourage more St. James members to 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 are in particular need of Pastoral Care visitors to accompany the Eucharistic Visitors. We also ask St. James members to encourage St. James family members to notify the church office when in need, so we can organize a response team. Our volunteers do experience over and over the promise "It is more blessed to give than to receive!" Acts 20:38

Pam Snape (864-360-5620 or pamsnape@bellsouth.net)

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

"Never be lacking zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. (*Romans 12:11*)

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*)

Serving the Lord characterizes the mature, spiritual Christian. We serve Him in prayer, praise, worship, and the Word of God. We serve Him in loving and serving others. And we serve Him in commitment to His Church and its multifaceted ministries. Spiritual men and women hear from God through the Holy Spirit. This type of sensitivity to the Lord's voice requires an active prayer life.

In 2017, I prayerfully accepted Fr. Stephen's request to lead the Prayer and Spirituality ministry. A website page had previously been created for members of St. James and was waiting to be developed. I have slowly made some progress on this website page and invite you to visit it at <https://www.stjamesgreenville.org/prayer-and-spirituality.html>. There you will see our Mission Statement and informative and encouraging messages on Prayer and Spirituality. At the bottom of the page are two links. One of the links directs you to a prayer request form. The other link is the Praise & Thanksgiving Blog. This latter link is still in the development stage. My intent for this link is to provide you with a place to share with others your personal praise and thanksgiving for events God has graced you with. It gives us joy to share and celebrate our blessings with one another!

The prayer request link allows you to submit your personal prayer requests, for others or for yourself.

In 2019, a prayer chain group will be established. We are looking for "prayer warriors" to be a part of this group! The group will be open to men, women, and mature youth with a desire to pray on behalf of others. The structure and guidelines for this group will be determined with the blessing of Fr. Stephen. Your opportunity to be a part of this group will be announced at services and in the church bulletin in February. Another goal for this year is to plan prayer and spirituality events. Your ideas, support, and prayers for this ministry are appreciated!

Claudia Hart (cloudhart@gmail.com)

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began in the fall of 2017. Members knit and crochet prayer shawls of various designs and colors to provide warmth and comfort through the Holy Spirit to those who need special compassion during trying times of illness, loneliness, or dementia. All completed shawls are blessed by Father Stephen and then donated to individuals who have been identified in need of comfort or to hospice for patients who are terminally ill. Our members are a loving, caring, compassionate group, willing to share our talents. We have created and donated over 100 prayer shawls. We meet every third Monday at 10 a.m. in the Parish Library. Those who cannot attend the meetings are invited to work on projects at home and then deliver the completed prayer shawls to the church office. For more information, contact Nancy Gammons (njgammons44@gmail.com, 864-834-1940).

ST. FRANCIS LIAISON MINISTRY

St. Francis is our sister parish whose worship space is housed in St. James' Parish Life Center. Led by Father Robert Taylor, St. Francis ministers to Spanish-speaking members of the Greenville community. On December 16, 2018, St. Francis and St. James collaborated in the second annual International Latin American Dinner celebrating the first night of Las Posadas, a tradition practiced in various Spanish-speaking cultures commemorating Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. St. James and St. Francis work together to provide school supplies and Christmas gifts for the children of St. Francis. The two parishes traditionally worship together in the St. James sanctuary on Maundy Thursday and the Feast of Pentecost. St. Francis worship times are at 8:00 a.m. (English) and 10:00 a.m. (Spanish) on Sunday mornings.

Want to get involved with the St. Francis Ministry? Please contact Ileana Shaner at ileana.shaner@gmail.com or 864-325-8358.

ST. JAMES MEN'S GROUP (SJMG)

All men, by virtue of being a part of St. James, are welcome to have a voice in any St. James Men's Group meetings, present potential projects or programs, fund expenditures and are encouraged to bring ideas, propose projects or any concerns to the Men's Group at large. The St. James Men's Group is not a membership club and there are no dues or fees to participate, only Christian spirit and passion to serve. Among the activities of the St. James Men's Group is the sale of smoked turkeys, hams and salmon for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, church maintenance projects, prayer meetings, social activities and various dinners throughout the year. The Men's Group donates money raised to local charities and causes. All men are welcome to participate. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Please like us on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mensgroupstjames/>.

SMALL GROUPS COMMISSION

The Small Group Commission formed two (2) new FEAST Groups in 2018 to strengthen fellowship within our church community. 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 six (6) FEAST Groups at St. James with a total of 71 members. The Small Group Commission's focus in 2018 was on maintaining existing and adding new FEAST Groups. On a longer-term basis, additional small groups may be formed for study, prayer, service, spiritual growth and fellowship.

Laura Brown (lkb54@live.com)

USHERS

The group of parishioners 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 of our church family. They also help facilitate a smooth worship service. There are currently 28 parishioners who participate in this ministry. The good news is there's room for more, so if you would like to become an Usher, please contact Luke Mitchell (864-421-5797 or luke.mitchell@jacobs.com).

WELCOMING COMMISSION

The Welcoming Commission continues to promote the radical hospitality of greeting and welcoming newcomers to our parish. We have a protocol for contacting visitors and help with the Newcomer Reception in the fall. If you would like to become involved in this commission, please contact Alice Littlejohn (864-906-4150, alicelittlejohn6@gmail.com).

YOUTH MINISTRY INNOVATION TEAM

About a year ago, I was introduced to the idea of exploring innovation in youth ministry—and honestly, the idea felt just as terrifying as it did exciting. After conducting some research and information gathering on innovation, design thinking, practical theological reflection, and ways people have worked to cobble all those things together, I drafted a 2-year innovation process that has since been approved and began in September 2018. I have an excellent team of youth and adults who have committed to being a part of this team and are passionate about generating, creating, and adapting practices of youth ministry that work together to make life-long disciples of Jesus Christ. We meet every 8 weeks, give or take, as is needed to execute the process well. If you are interested in learning more or joining this team, please contact Tina Boyd at youthminister@stjamesgreenvile.org.

ST. JAMES COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

Commission	Chair	Phone	Vestry Liaison	Phone
Adult Formation	Fr. Stephen	864-907-6565	Fr. Stephen	864-907-6565
Buildings & Grounds	Ed Winkler	864-238-7050	Neal Kanipe	864-430-6569
Columbarium	Ed Winkler	864-238-7050	Clay Allen	864-906-7298
Communications	Dena Veazey	864-244-6358	Neal Kanipe	864-430-6569
Day School	Kathy Walsh	864-567-1537	Kathy Walsh	864-567-1537
Education Initiative	Sam Lyons	864-993-4360	Sam Lyons	864-993-4360
Finance	Rick Hope	843-200-3155	Monte Hudson	864-784-7559
Hospitality	Reb Mitchell	864-293-0968	Reb Mitchell	864-293-0968
Newcomer / Welcome	Alice Littlejohn	864-906-4150	Alice Littlejohn	864-906-4150
Outreach	John Kaup	864-607-2985	Clay Allen	864-906-7298
Pastoral Care	Pam Snape	864-360-5620	Fr. Stephen	864-907-6565
Prayer & Spirituality	Claudia Hart	864-616-5963	Ileana Shaner	864-325-8358
Senior Adults	Gail Burch	864-567-4010	Moirra Allen	214-546-1732
Small Groups	Laura Brown	704-965-0073	Laura Brown	704-965-0073
St. Francis	Fr. Stephen	864-907-6565	Ileana Shaner	864-325-8358
Youth & Children's	Tina Boyd	770-361-8469	Kathy Walsh	864-567-1537



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