



SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL



**115TH ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2020**

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FINANCIAL APPENDIX

ST. JAMES VESTRY 2019

Clay Allen, *Sr. Warden*
Neal Kanipe, *Jr. Warden*
Alice Littlejohn, *Clerk*

Moira Allen
Gigi Blackwell
Jim Ghrist

Monte Hudson
Sam Lyons
Reb Mitchell

Ileana Shaner
Marian Strobel
Jeremy Williams

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 (April 2017 – October 2019)



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 115TH 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 114th 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 2019 Treasurer's Report
11. Presentation of the 2020 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. 116th Annual Meeting date: January 24, 2021
21. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE 114TH ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JANUARY 27, 2019

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 96 voting members, were in attendance. A quorum was reached. Fr. Stephen appointed Dena Veazey, the Senior and Junior Wardens, and the retiring vestry class as tellers for voting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Katie Allen moved that the minutes of the 113th Annual Meeting held on January 21, 2018 be approved as printed. Rick Hope seconded. Passed.

Nominations of Vestry Members – A slate of four candidates was presented to serve three-year terms and one to fill two years of a vacated term for Vestry. Moira Allen moved to open nominations from the floor. Allyson Bergin seconded. Passed. No names were offered. Ileana Shaner moved that nominations be closed. Reb Mitchell seconded. Passed.

Nominations of Diocesan Convention Delegates – Fr. Stephen would like for the Senior and Junior Warden to fill two of the four Diocesan Convention Delegate positions for 2019. Boyd Cater and Gail Burch volunteered to fill the remaining two position. Cam Walters moved that nominations be closed. Elisabeth Allen seconded. Passed.

Voting – The five candidates for Vestry were elected by acclamation with no opposition. They are Gigi Blackwell, Jim Ghrist, Marian Strobel and Jeremy Williams for three-year terms and Alice Littlejohn for two years to complete the vacated term. Boyd Cater and Gail Burch were elected by acclamation with no opposition to serve as delegates to Diocesan Convention in 2019. The new Senior and Junior Wardens will fill the other two positions.

Parish Administrator's Report – Dena Veazey reported that at the end of 2018 St. James had 575 active members and 66 other active persons. The printed report shows that 114 of our members are ages 0-17. All age groups remained fairly stable from the previous year. She encouraged members to review their information in the online church directory and to submit any updates of information and photos as needed to the office. She expressed her appreciation to the staff, wardens and office volunteers for their continued support.

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 which is available on the website.

2018 Treasurer's Report – Fr. Stephen expressed appreciation to the Finance Committee who have made some difficult decisions and exhibited careful stewardship over the past year. As a result, we finished the year with another surplus. The cash on hand for operations at the end of 2018 was \$155,907, the highest in recent memory. The parish thanked the Mitchell family for their generosity

and that of the Stephen Mitchell Fund which was responsible for installing the kitchenette and has made plans for improvements to the playground.

Presentation of the 2019 Budget – The Finance Committee and Vestry have carefully scrutinized the 2019 Budget which appears in the Financial Appendix. The Operating Pledge Income line remains the same as last year, even though it creates a slight deficit; we expect several more pledges to be submitted. We are one of a few churches in this diocese who give over \$20,000 to outreach, not counting the individual gifts from the parish through the Giving Tree, Christmas Angel Tree and other causes. We increased the diocesan contribution to 85% of the asking. If pledges and other income do not come in as expected, we will have to trim expenses.

Rector's Report – St. James is a very busy place. We have opened our doors to the community when others are closing theirs. We welcome many visitors on Sundays. In 2018 we experienced a slight dip in our average Sunday attendance due to several factors including cultural changes, service time changes, and Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday in 2017. St. James also lost a lot of faithful members over the last two years. Fr. Stephen will try to help parishioners get more involved in ministries and asked parishioners to invite others to join in ministry with them. He asked everyone to complete a ministry checklist of opportunities for involvement. Fr. Stephen recognized and thanked the staff for sharing their various talents. He thanked Anna for being his partner in ministry and their children for participating in choirs and other ministries. He thanked the parish for walking with him in ministry.

In Memoriam - Fr. Stephen presented a video slideshow remembering the nine parishioners who had passed away in 2018.

New Member Welcome - Fr. Stephen presented a video slideshow introducing parishioners who had joined or returned to St. James in 2018: 14 by baptism, 4 by transfer, 18 on request, and 4 restored to active status.

Report of Elections was completed earlier.

Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members – Fr. Stephen thanked the outgoing vestry members— Laura Brown, Alice Littlejohn, Kathy Walsh and Ed Winkler—for their faithful leadership and service. A gift will be made in their honor to Episcopal Relief and Development. Senior Warden Laura Brown expressed appreciation for being chosen to serve. She invited members to read pages 14-15 of the report book to see the list of the vestry's goals and accomplishments over the past year along with a few things yet to be done. The parish joined her in thanking Fr. Stephen for his steady, bold and passionate leadership and his gift of identifying leaders to do the work of the church.

Old Business – There was none.

New Business

- Fr. Stephen asked everyone to sign up for “Remind” and explained how so they could receive important notices such as closures due to inclement weather.
- Easter Sunday falls on April 21, 2019. On that day we will return to three services at 7:45, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
- Episcopal Visitation: Bishop Andrew Waldo will visit St. James on August 25, 2019. That will be the time for baptism, confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation. Classes for youth and adults will be offered in preparation.
- St. Francis Liaison Update: Ileana Shaner reported that the relationship between the St. Francis and St. James congregations continued to deepen with the 2nd annual International Latin American dinner and Las Posadas in December. She offered an open invitation to worship with St. Francis on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. in English and 10:00 in Spanish.

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

Meeting Date for 115th Annual Meeting will be January 26, 2020.

Adjournment - Katie Allen moved that the meeting be adjourned. Laura Brown seconded. Passed.

Respectfully submitted by Dena Veazey, Parish Administrator

PARISH LEADERSHIP REPORTS

SENIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

I want to thank the people and family of St. James for giving me the honor of serving on the Vestry for the past three years and serving as the Senior Warden for this year. The work of St. James is accomplished by the service and input of many people of different talents, all of whom are willing to work to improve this community. I am indeed thankful for the work of everyone who volunteered their time and talent for the church.

The Vestry continued the work we began last year in areas which were identified as priorities. One area which needed some additional work this year was the creation of a Grief Support Ministry. Through the leadership of Moira Allen and Father Stephen, that ministry has begun. We have had training for the leaders of this ministry and have begun serving those who are in need of this ministry. Our Education Initiative ministry continues to assist teachers and students of Lakeview Middle School by mentoring some of the school children and by providing school supplies for students in need. As in the past, St. James practiced extravagant giving by raising funds at such events as the annual oyster roast, BBQ and Bluegrass, and the Men's Group's smoked hams, turkeys, and salmon. The funds which were raised were used in several of our outreach programs. St. James is clearly a generous and caring family.

During this past year, the Vestry has also started to review and study other needs, which will continue into the next year. Through Monte Hudson's leadership, we have begun to review and implement some plans to improve the security for our facilities and those who use them. Some items, such as improved exterior lighting and changes to some of the exterior doors, were immediate and necessary fixes. Other items of security remain to be discussed and acted upon by the Vestry in the coming year.

I also want to thank Father Stephen, Dena, Tina, and all the members of the Vestry for their leadership, their participation, and their time and work for the past year. St. James is indeed blessed to have people of such high caliber who have come together to work on the various issues for the improvement of this church.

Clay Allen (ctallen07@gmail.com)

JUNIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

As the facilities of St. James age, we are presented with challenges to keep them functioning well and efficiently. Here is a list of some of the projects which presented themselves in 2019 and our accomplishments.

- Design and installation of a new sign for the church. The old sign was removed and the Men's Group will be asked to remove the brick frame/shell of the old sign.
- Kudzu has crept in along the side of our property between us and Montebello. We have found a solution to begin the process of controlling and then eventually eradicating it. The first step in the process should begin in February followed by ongoing control of future growth as the growing season begins in spring.
- There was an ongoing issue with water infiltration along the rear storage room of the Parish Life Center. Work was done on the drainage system along the rear of the building along with a new application of waterproofing along the rear wall. As part of this work, a review of all the building's gutters and downspouts was completed. Several repairs were required due to deteriorated materials. A general cleaning of the gutters and downspouts was also accomplished as part of the work.
- In the spring of 2019 two of our nine HVAC units failed and required replacement. Over the years, the Vestry has built a reserve fund to cover the expected cost of replacing these units as they approach the end of their expected life cycle.
- The Vestry has been working toward implementing an improved security plan for the church and campus in general. Pieces of that plan have been implemented over the past couple of years and additional steps will continue into 2020.

It has been an honor and pleasure serving on the St. James Vestry over the past three years. The dedication of this body is reassuring and comforting, knowing they are focused on improving life at St. James.

Neal Kanipe (nkanipe@mcmillanpazdansmith.com)

ST. JAMES STAFF REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION

Membership: As of December 31, 2019, St. James had 572 active members and 81 other active persons. St. James recorded thirteen baptisms in 2019. Fifteen older youth and adults were confirmed in September. Fourteen new members joined by letter of transfer or by registering their baptism date. St. James recorded one wedding in 2019. Information about how to join St. James is available on the home page of our website.

There were nine deaths in the parish in 2019. Eighteen members transferred to other churches, six of whom had been listed as inactive.

	Age Range	# of Parishioners	
		<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Attendance: St. James had an average Sunday attendance of 183 in 2019. A total of 547 people attended the Easter services, including the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday. 486 people attended services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Lay Eucharistic Visitors made 61 visits taking communion to our homebound members.	0-10	58	60
	11-17	65	56
	18-29	48	60
	30-39	36	34
	40-49	67	66
	50-59	78	72
	60-69	94	90
	70-79	86	89
	80-89	33	33
	90+	10	12
	Other Active Persons	66	81
	Total	641	653

2020 Pledges: Thanks to everyone who has submitted a pledge of financial support to St. James for 2020. As of January 24, 2020, St. James had received 150 pledges for 2020 totaling \$489,450. This is an average pledge of \$3,263. Sixteen new households submitted pledges for 2020; 21 households who pledged last year had not yet responded to the pledge campaign. It's not too late to submit your pledge. Pledges may be submitted online or by using a pledge card found in the pew rack.

Realm: In 2019 St. James began the transition to *Realm* church management software. *Realm* provides a platform for organizing member profiles, ministry group activities, community-wide events, and more. *Realm* will allow you to keep up with your church friends and activities wherever you are! You control your own privacy settings. More information on when *Realm* will be available to you will be announced soon in the eNotes and bulletins.

Thanks: I would like to express my gratitude to all those who support the work of the Parish Office by volunteering 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, 864-244-6358, ext. 203)

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 participate 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 eleventh 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.**

Because of low numbers, the Children's Choir has not been meeting (as of Sept. 2019). Numbers for the Youth Choir have also been low since the fall, but we are continuing to rehearse and sing for Sunday services. The Youth Choir also sang 3 anthems and joined with the adults on a 4th anthem at the Advent Lessons and Carols service. **In order to re-energize the Youth Choir, I would like to emphasize that experienced singers as young as ten are invited to join in the Youth Choir. Please pick up a questionnaire and answer the questions about possible rehearsal times. We can include new singers in the Youth Choir at any time! 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** (not currently meeting) 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 includes 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, 4:15-5:15 p.m. Our current membership is four 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 31, with 3 new members joining in the fall, and 2 new members joining just 3 weeks ago. Sunday choir attendance is about 18-24. Four 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 again played and sang carol arrangements for the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service in 2019.
- 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 continues to perform well.

The Gober pipe organ is now twelve years old, and it has required little repair work and maintenance. Ongoing preventative care includes occasional touch-up tunings and ongoing monitoring of the humidity in the nave. The reed stops are tuned before major feasts of the church year, and there is a humidifier system that works with the nave's HVAC system. (The added humidity is provided for the benefit of people as well as the organ.) 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 hope to schedule Mr. 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, Emma Mehigan, and Ben Connelly.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

Over the last year, we've increased our participation in the ministry offerings of the Diocesan Youth Leadership Committee (DYLC). Our own Charlotte Littlejohn applied and was accepted to serve on this committee.

EYC continues to evolve and change around the needs of the youth. This year we've increased our emphasis on service, adding in a different service opportunity each month. We also incorporate prayer stations into our shared time each month! There is something powerful that happens when we practice faith, when we form ourselves.

I've seen the passing of time through seeing children I've worked with getting ready to onboard into the youth ministry, former middle schoolers becoming high schoolers, and former high schoolers navigating senior and heading off to college. Time flies.

Father Stephen and I recently became officially affiliated with Furman University, and in the coming months will be engaging a process of crafting a sacred partnership between this parish and Furman's Canterbury Campus ministry.

After some holy listening and conversation with some parents, we developed out a monthly "meet-up" of families. On the First Thursday of the month, we gather at a casual location where kids can play and grown-ups can be in community with one another. This has become an awesome opportunity for church families to connect outside the walls of the church and serves as an awesome opportunity for us to be invitational to those who may want to be able to learn more about who we are!

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 Youth and Children's 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.

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

On Sunday mornings in the Spring of 2018 and the fall of 2019, Fr. Stephen taught an Episcopal Church 101 class as well as a class on Angels in the Anglican Tradition and held a regular Rector's Forum. Jerome Gorman and Lee Plumblee also led a book study class on numerous topics.

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 grace as portrayed in Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* and the musical adaption thereof.

Fr. Stephen will also begin teaching an abbreviated version of his popular "Faith Seeking Understanding" class on Sunday mornings at 9:15.

A new adult education series for the fall of 2020 will be announced over the summer.

ALTAR GUILD

In 2019, 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, Christopher Petty, 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 journeyed to Ancient Athens and learned about God's love for us! In addition to playing Olympic games, eating dinner, dancing around, and navigating a marketplace, we also had the opportunity to meet an interesting fellow name Paul who shared about his life and adventures. This past summer I was able to split out the VBS job description into two positions and hired Sarah Rhoades and Charlotte Littlejohn as VBS interns! They, in addition to my lead volunteer team, went above and beyond to bring the set to life and 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 see 55 different kids throughout the week!). 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 Tina Boyd at youthminister@stjamesgreenville.org to find out how to get involved in this great ministry!

CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL FOR YOUTH (CLBBY)

This basketball season St James hosted one Men's team and one Senior Boys' team. Our Parish Life Center hosted girl's minors' games on Saturdays and senior division boys' games on Monday nights. The Senior Boys have completed their season and the Men's league will end in mid-February. A special thanks goes to William Hammond who provided gym reps and score keepers. Thanks to the custodians who made sure the gym was clean. Once basketball season is complete, I plan to have an "open gym" night once per week (night and time to be determined). Please watch the calendar and come play low-key, fun basketball. It's great exercise and camaraderie. Any questions or recreation suggestions please contact me. – Butch Blair (Butchblair09@gmail.com, 864-982-5649).

COFFEE HOUR

The Coffee Hour ministry has a great group of volunteers who prepare refreshments for after-church socializing. We continue to enjoy the convenience of the new kitchenette—thank you, Mitchell family. We look forward to continued coffee hour fellowship in 2020. If you would like to be part of this ministry, contact Sarah Britt (sarahsbritt@aol.com, 864-370-2341).

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 Moira Allen, Boyd Cater, Sherrie Foster, Frances Funderburk, Kimberly Hudson, Carolyn Jones, Alice Littlejohn, Elaine Paine, Dianne Posey, Pam Snape, Luanne Thayer, JoAnne Thom, 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, chaplets for confirmands, and prayer necklaces for expectant parents. We read and discuss books that deepen our knowledge of the church, our faith and how to serve God and our community more faithfully. We do not do fundraisers, but we contribute to the different funds of the order: Self-denial, Masters, Alpha and Endowment.

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 Brookwood Senior Housing 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 can be started at any time. – Sherrie Foster (smfoster1956@yahoo.com,. 864-386-0085)

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW), as always, have had a very active and productive year. In March our ECW dues letter was sent out to all women of the parish, and our generous women responded with \$1,345. 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 8, and after a long and fun week with many workers helping we made a profit of \$4,170. At least sixty percent of this money goes outside of the church to support local agencies.

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. A member of the Greenville Master Gardeners presented an Autumnal Demonstration. 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. We are always looking for new ways to serve the Women of the Church so if you have an idea please 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 – Jerusalem Primary School Scholarships
\$ 200.00	National Mission – Clover House
\$ 200.00	Diocesan Mission – Camp Air at Gravatt
\$ 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

\$ 300.00	Daughters of the King – 5 th Saturday Lunches
\$ 337.78	Sunday Inserts
<u>\$ 104.64</u>	Bible for Graduates
\$ 742.42	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
\$ 1,000.00	Cura Foundation
\$ 1,000.00	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
\$ 5,300.00	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 2019 budget, and fashion a budget for 2020. Through close monitoring of our income and expenses and some generous gifts in 2019, we were able to realize a substantial Budget surplus in the 2019 fiscal year. At the end of fiscal 2019, we had \$198,548 in cash available for operations and total deposits of \$553,524. St. James is completely debt free with a comfortable cushion for operations.

The preliminary budget for the 2020 church fiscal year is approximately \$638,129.72. This represents an increase of approximately 1% over the 2019 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 2019 for the 2020 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 \$90,255 in our strategic reserve fund for these purposes. We have also increased our diocesan contribution to 100% of the asking for this year, up from 85% in 2019, and made certain cost-of-living adjustments to salaries.

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, Christi Jones-McNeill, Reb Mitchell, Lavinia Plumblee, and Hope Winkler. 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. If interested, please contact me. – Alice Littlejohn (864-906-4150, alicelittlejohn6@gmail.com)

HOSPITALITY COMMISSION

St. James is looking for someone who enjoys organizing receptions and events to lead this group. The Hospitality Commission plans, sets up, serves, and cleans up parish events such as the reception following Burning of the Greens, the Agape Meal, and the reception following the late Christmas Eve service. The Commission also provides support for other ministries such as the Bluegrass & Barbeque Benefit, the Oyster Roast, the Parish Breakfast, the Newcomers Reception, and receptions following funerals. We are grateful for everyone who has assisted in set up, clean up, or by providing a plate of goodies for events throughout the past year. If interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Dena Veazey (864-244-6358, admin@stjamesgreenville.org).

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 2020, 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 30 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).

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. \$2,500 was utilized to support this ministry in 2019. 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)

Meal Packaging Event

As a congregation, we hosted our 10th meal packaging events in October 2019. With well over 100 individuals volunteering, we packaged over 30,000 meals. This year, these meals were delivered to Grace Church in Spartanburg and were used for evacuees of Hurricane Dorian and shared locally to those in need. Nearly \$10,000 in outreach funds provided the funding to deliver this 10th annual event. 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 November/December the St. James community reaches out in love and caring for the less fortunate in the Greenville area by ensuring that needy families are able to celebrate Christmas with

dignity and joy. We connect local families in need 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 2019 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 over \$1,5000 in Jingle Bills! Some of that was used to purchase gifts and the balance will be shared with a local ministry. Thanks to Beate Kindervater for once again leading this ministry in 2019; to Betty Meyer for shopping; 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 2020 Oyster Roast on Saturday, February 22? 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 2019: 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, one to two parishioners are visited each Sunday. There were regular recipients as well as others who desire visits after hospitalization or illnesses. Visits were made by Eucharistic visitors: Janet Atkins, Janis Bandelin, 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: Coordinator, 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 2020: 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 welcome new Eucharistic Visitors as well. 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

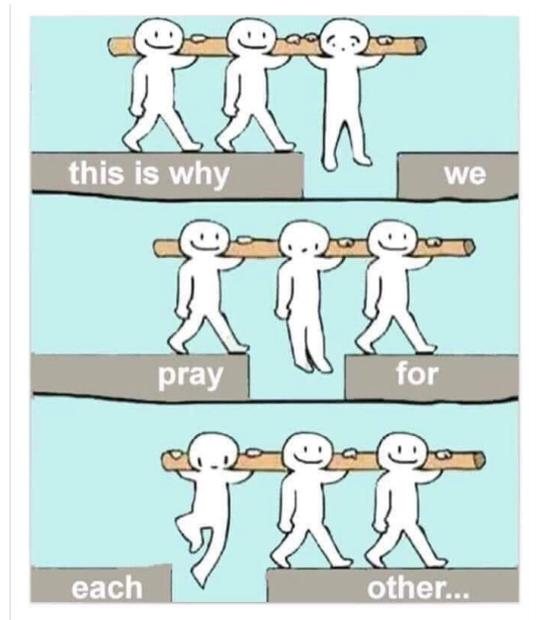
Pam Snape (864-360-5620 or pamsnape@bellsouth.net)

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

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*)

The Prayer and Spirituality webpage is accessible under the "Formation" tab on the church's main website, or at <https://www.stjamesgreenville.org/prayer-and-spirituality.html>. Here you will find a link, at the top of the page, to submit your prayer requests. These requests are forwarded to Fr. Stephen, the coordinators for The Daughter's of the King, and the St. James prayer chain group. All prayer requests remain confidential.

In 2019, the church's prayer chain group was established. This group is open to men, women, and mature youth, who desire to pray on the behalf of others. The structure and guidelines for participating in this group are outlined on the webpage. You may submit your request to be a part of this prayer chain by clicking on the image of the chain on the website (at the top of the webpage).



You are encouraged to contact this ministry's coordinator with your ideas and/or suggestions in furthering this ministry within our congregation. Claudia Hart (cloudhart@gmail.com, 864-616-5963)

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has completed another successful year. With the addition of a new member mid-year, we completed 79 prayer shawls which were donated to individuals in need of special comfort from the Holy Spirit. Many of the shawls were given to hospice for their terminally ill patients. In addition to the shawls, the group made 48 hats which were donated to St. Francis Cancer Center for patients who are receiving chemotherapy and have lost their hair.

God has blessed St. James with a small group of industrious members who are willing to contribute their time and talent for the comfort of others. The feedback received from individuals and hospice staff has been nothing but positive. so we know our diligent work has provided comfort, warmth and peace. Thanks be to God! For more information about this ministry, 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, 2019, St. Francis and St. James collaborated in the third 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. All the men are invited to our second annual St. James Men's Retreat on March 6-8, 2020, at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, NC. The Men's Group supports the Feed Thy Neighbor ministry and other 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 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mensgroupstjames/>.

SMALL GROUPS COMMISSION

The Small Group Commission forms FEAST Groups 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. Currently, there are six (6) FEAST Groups at St. James with a total of 71 members. The Small Group Commission's focus is 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. Gigi Blackwell (gigiblck@reagan.com, 864-907-1614)

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 23 parishioners who participate in this ministry. The good news is there's plenty of 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 once or twice a year. If you would like to become involved in this commission, please contact Amanda Davis (404-449-5441, amanda.sloan79@gmail.com).

ST. JAMES COMMISSION LEADERSHIP 2019

Commission	Chair	Phone	Vestry Liaison	Phone
Adult Formation	Fr. Stephen	864-907-6565	Fr. Stephen	864-907-6565
Buildings & Grounds	Neal Kanipe	864-238-7050	Neal Kanipe	864-430-6569
Columbarium	Ed Winkler	864-238-7050	Clay Allen	864-906-7298
Day School	Jeremy Williams	404-956-7406	Jeremy Williams	404-956-7406
Education Initiative	Sam Lyons	864-993-4360	Sam Lyons	864-993-4360
Finance	Rick Hope	843-200-3155	Monte Hudson	864-784-7559
Grief Support	Fr. Stephen	864-907-6565	Moira Allen	214-546-1732
Hospitality	Reb Mitchell	864-293-0968	Reb Mitchell	864-293-0968
Newcomer / Welcome	Amanda Davis	404-449-5441	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
Small Groups	Gigi Blackwell	864-907-1614	Gigi Blackwell	864-907-1614
St. Francis	Fr. Stephen	864-907-6565	Ileana Shaner	864-325-8358
Youth & Children	Tina Boyd	770-361-8469	Jeremy Williams	404-956-7406



SAINT JAMES
EPISCOPAL