



SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL



117TH ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2022

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FINANCIAL APPENDIX

ST. JAMES VESTRY 2021

Marian Strobel, *Sr. Warden*

Jim Ghrist, *Jr. Warden*

Ron Kelley, *Clerk*

Tracy Alewine
Tom Bergin
Gigi Blackwell

Leesa Brotherton
Claudia Hart
Cindy Luthi

Tripp Scott
Jeremy Williams
Richard Wright

ST. JAMES MINISTRY STAFF



The Rt. Rev. W. Andrew Waldo, Bishop
Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina
(Retired, December 31, 2021)



The Very Rev. Daniel P. Richards, Bishop-Elect
Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina
Elected September 25, 2021
Consecration scheduled for February 26, 2022



The Rev. Stephen J. Rhoades, Rector



The Rev. Lathrop H. Mosley, Curate
(July 2021-present)



Ms. Tina Boyd, Youth and Children's Minister
(July 2015 – July 2021)



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



Mrs. Katie Allen, Day School Director



Mrs. Dena Veazey, Parish Administrator

AGENDA FOR THE 117TH ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1. Call to Order: The Rev. Stephen J. Rhoades, Rector
2. Opening Prayer
3. Certification of Quorum & Adoption of Special Rules
4. Review and Approval of Agenda
5. Review and Approval of Minutes of 116th Annual Meeting
6. Nominations of Vestry Members
7. Nominations of Diocesan Convention Delegates
8. Voting
9. Reports of St. James Commissions and Ministries.
10. Parish Administrator's Report
11. Final 2021 Treasurer's Report
12. Presentation of the 2022 Budget
13. Rector's Report
14. Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members
15. Old Business
16. New Business
17. Closing Prayer
18. 118th Annual Meeting date: January 22, 2023
19. Adjournment

**SPECIAL RULES FOR THE CONDUCTING OF
BUSINESS AT THE 117TH ANNUAL MEETING OF
ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The following special rules are presented for approval:

1. That the 117th Annual Meeting of St. James Episcopal Church be held virtually using the Zoom Client Meetings application;
2. That said meeting be electronically recorded for purposes of accuracy and historical interest;
3. That the list of those registered for said meeting as found on St. James' membership management program "Realm" as of the start of the meeting shall serve as the list of attendees at said meeting;
4. That all motions, amendments, and seconds to motions shall be made using the Chat feature of Zoom Client Meetings and not in person;
5. That all required voting shall take place electronically using the polling feature of Zoom Client Meetings in lieu of in-person voting;
6. That all electronic voting shall be by secret electronic ballot with the results of each election announced by the Chair;
7. That the actions of the 117th Annual Meeting of St. James Episcopal Church (held virtually) be ratified by the 118th Annual Meeting of St. James Episcopal Church (to be held in person).

MINUTES OF THE 116TH ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JANUARY 24, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was held via Zoom online conference because of restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Rev. Stephen J. Rhoades, Rector, called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

Certification of Quorum & Adoption of Special Rules: A total of 72 parishioners were in attendance online, fulfilling the number required for a quorum by the By-Laws.

Fr. Stephen presented the following special rules for consideration:

8. That the 116th Annual Meeting of St. James Episcopal Church be held virtually using the Zoom Client Meetings application;
9. That said meeting be electronically recorded for purposes of accuracy and historical interest;
10. That the list of those registered for said meeting as found on St. James' membership management program "Realm" as of the start of the meeting shall serve as the list of attendees at said meeting;
11. That all motions, amendments, and seconds to motions shall be made using the Chat feature of Zoom Client Meetings and not in person;
12. That all required voting shall take place electronically using the polling feature of Zoom Client Meetings in lieu of in-person voting;
13. That all electronic voting shall be by secret electronic ballot with the results of each election announced by the Chair;
14. That the actions of the 116th Annual Meeting of St. James Episcopal Church (held virtually) be ratified by the 117th Annual Meeting of St. James Episcopal Church (to be held in person).

Katie Allen moved that the Special Rules be adopted. Ileana Shaner seconded. Passed (57-0).

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: Lee Plumblee moved that the minutes of the 115th Annual Meeting held on January 26, 2020, be approved. Shannon Murphy seconded. Passed (55-0).

Nominations of Vestry Members: Four candidates were needed, each to serve a three-year term. Moira Allen moved to open the nominations for Vestry Members. Rick Veazey seconded. Passed. Fr. Stephen placed the following names in nomination: Tracy Alewine, Claudia Hart, Cindy Luthi, Tripp Scott. There were no nominations from the floor. Kathy Walsh moved to close the nominations. Shannon Murphy seconded. Passed (57-0).

Nominations of Diocesan Convention Delegates: Four delegates are needed, each to serve a one-year term. These delegates will attend a special convention in September to elect our next bishop in addition to the annual diocesan convention in November. Cindy Luthi moved to open the nominations for Diocesan Convention Delegates. Shannon Murphy seconded. Passed (57-0). The following people who have agreed to serve were placed into nomination: Alice Littlejohn, Kent

Satterfield, Marian Strobel, and Jeremy Williams. There were no nominations from the floor. Jim Ghrist moved that the nominations be closed. Claudia Hart seconded. Passed (57-0).

Voting: All four nominees for Vestry Members were elected with no dissenting votes. All four nominees for Diocesan Convention Delegates were elected with no dissenting votes.

Reports of St. James Commissions and Ministries: The Annual Report Book is posted online in *Realm* and also on the St. James website. The Financial Appendix is available to parishioners on *Realm*.

Music Director's Report: Karen Eshelman expressed her gratitude to the people of St. James who have contacted her to check in and to share musical discoveries. She wrote in her report about how the Choir has been meeting via Zoom and how we are adding music to worship services. Fr. Stephen thanked Karen for the excellent recorded and live streamed music for Christmas Eve which she compiled and produced from musicians around the country. He also added his congratulations to her for all the work she has done learning new skills for audio and video editing, Zoom choir rehearsals, and virtual teaching.

Youth and Children's Minister's Report: Tina Boyd shared the challenges of doing ministry with children, youth, college students, and families in the midst of a pandemic. The past year has been a time of discernment of her call to ministry. Her call began many years ago on a youth retreat. She continued to search and study, learning more about styles of worship and liturgy, and completed a master's degree in youth ministry. She has now been in youth ministry for ten years. She has felt at home and loves St. James. While here, Tina's call has expanded to different age groups, types of service, and now towards the priesthood. She will be leaving St. James this summer and heading to seminary. Several people sent chat messages expressing their love and support for Tina in her ministry here and in the journey ahead. Fr. Stephen thanked Tina for the work she did on the Christmas pageant video, as well as Vacation Bible School, and reinventing other ministries.

Parish Administrator's Report: Dena Veazey reported that in 2020, St. James introduced the parish to *Realm* membership software. She thanked everyone present for joining and asked folks to encourage others to do the same. One of the features of *Realm* is that a parishioner can view their giving and print their own statement.

Final 2020 Treasurer's Report: This report was presented at a joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Vestry on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Full details of this report are available in *Realm*. Fr. Stephen reported that St. James received \$632,052.45 (99% of income which was budgeted for the year), thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of the people of St. James. Expenses totaled \$566,705.63 (88% of budgeted expenses). Expenses were down due to careful monitoring by staff and the elimination of the office assistant position in April. We ended the year with a surplus of \$65,346.82. The amount of cash available for operations is \$266,809.88 (34% increase over 2019).

Presentation of the 2021 Budget: This budget is very similar to the 2020 budget. The office assistant position remains in the budget. Other expense lines were adjusted based on actual 2020 expenses. The Children & Youth Minister position is funded for the entire year in order to be able to fund Tina's successor. There are no other staff adjustments, except for an increase in medical insurance. The budget is balanced by contributing \$36,811.72 from the cash on hand. Pledges have come in slowly for this year, but that is the case throughout the diocese. We have accepted 100% of the

diocesan asking. In addition to paying diocesan staff salaries, our money helps to provide insurance and stipends of smaller, struggling parishes throughout the diocese.

Rector's Report: Fr. Stephen noted that at our last annual meeting we had no idea what the year 2020 would bring. We've all had to learn how to do things differently. We made difficult, but necessary, decisions to suspend in-person worship and miss being together, hearing the choir, shaking hands. We have done the best we could under the circumstances. Thanks to the work and foresight of Ed Snape in choosing equipment and training people to use it, St. James was able to shift seamlessly to live-streaming of all services. Looking at parish records from 1917-1918, we see that services were cancelled during that pandemic, so we have been here before and will come out the other side of it. Fr. Stephen was re-elected President of the Standing Committee and Diocesan Executive Council to provide continuity as the diocese searches for our next bishop. He expressed his gratitude for the dedication and hard work of the staff. Katie Allen has done a remarkable job with the Day School, promoting the health and safety of our teachers and students. Each member of the staff has added new responsibilities and worked very hard to adjust and adapt to the circumstances of 2020. Thanks to the Vestry and Finance Committee for their support in maintaining the financial health of St. James. This has been a difficult pandemic year and a difficult political year. The Constitution has survived the stress test. As Christians, we are all called to reach out in love, understanding, and forgiveness and to practice lives of peace; to be a part of the solution, not the problem. The words of St. Francis of Assisi have come to mean even more. It is a privilege to be your Rector and to serve with you in mutual ministry.

Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members: Moira Allen, Monte Hudson, Alice Littlejohn, and Sam Lyons have served on the vestry for the past three years. We are grateful for their careful, considerate, and prayerful work and will make a donation on their behalf to Education Equals Hope in thanksgiving for their service.

Old Business: None

New Business: Senior Warden Alice Littlejohn shared a portion of her written report: "The vestry's role in 2020 was to support our priest in the many decisions that needed to be made, often changing from month to month or week to week. Father Stephen has been a tremendous leader and listener. He thought through every decision carefully and communicated clearly with the vestry and the congregation. All diocesan protocols and DHEC guidelines were followed completely. I would like to thank the vestry members for being thoughtful and present as we discussed each issue that related to how we could adapt or change to move forward safely and spiritually. I would also like to thank the entire church staff who adapted their roles to continue the ministries of St. James during a pandemic."

Closing Prayer: Fr. Stephen closed the meeting with the prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi.

117th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 23, 2022.

Adjournment: Cindy Luthi moved to adjourn the meeting. Rick Veazey seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Dena Veazey, Parish Administrator

RECTOR'S REPORT

“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.”

Political turmoil, social upheaval, economic challenges, and, not least of all, an endless parade of sometimes conflicting medical advice marked much of 2021. After a push to develop vaccines under the Trump administration in 2020, and then distribute them to an anxious nation under the Biden administration early in 2021, on May 13, 2021, Dr. Rochelle Wollensky, Director of the CDC, made the stunning announcement that for those who were fully vaccinated, masking and social distancing were no longer necessary: the vaccines were working. This announcement seemed both fantastical and shocking given the draconian restrictions we had been living under. The freedom to go maskless in public felt strange and foreign, even wrong at times. Everyone seemed to be asking the question, “Are they really, really sure?” And we were assured the worst had passed.

But our freedom would be short-lived as we learned about the rise of new Covid-19 variants which were divided into “Variants being monitored (VBM)”, “Variants of Interest (VOI)” and “Variants of Concern (VOC).” Like a twisted rendition of a popular secular Christmas song, there was a parade of new classifications: on Beta, on Gamma, on Epsilon and Eta. On Iota, on Kappa, on Mu and Zeta. Then came the dangerous Delta variant and now the ubiquitous Omicron variant, and with them, the reintroduction of more stringent mitigation efforts as cases, hospitalizations and deaths all rose precipitously as the effectiveness of vaccines waned.

While those of us who are experiencing each of these new revelations and developments are keenly aware of the frustration and resentment each new variant brings as our “return to normal” seems to be always just over the horizon, I am writing this for those who may read this ten, twenty, or even one hundred years from now, so they have a sense of the times in which we are living. Infection rates, hospitalization rates and death rates, vaxxers versus anti-vaxxers, pro-mask mandate versus anti-mask mandate, those in favor of opening schools and those advocating for e-learning, to boost or not to boost, this is the daily diet of our news cycle and the main topics of conversation. We seem to be caught in an endless loop like the movie Groundhog Day where we wake up and relive the same scenario every day. We are both consumed by it and yet resentful of it, like an addiction we cannot shake.

But how has the continuing pandemic affected St. James? It has affected the congregation and clergy profoundly. As your Rector, I have had to learn much more than I ever wanted to about epidemiology, public health, and statistics. I have had to research and do a deep dive into the current science, which often changes weekly, in making decisions about mitigation strategies to manage the safety of the congregation. This has meant a series of ever-changing protocols at St. James: at times we have been online only, sometimes we required registration for services, social distancing and masking, for a short time we were mask optional, sometimes we sing and sometimes it is inadvisable to do so, and communion has wavered between communion in one kind only or allowing intinction. The landscape is constantly changing, and I have done my best to lead St. James during this difficult time by adapting to the changes in our protocols with full explanation, integrity, love, and grace, always guided by Jesus’ admonition that we should “love your neighbors as ourselves.”

Through all of this, the people of St. James have been understanding, forgiving, and faithful. You have continued to support our mission and ministry financially, for which I am exceedingly grateful. I am also grateful for the support I have received and the many expressions of sincere thanks for the careful consideration that goes into our protocols. Our weekly attendance is certainly down, but it is down across the board in every religious community as people make risk assessments and many don't feel comfortable in large indoor gatherings. Someone said, "I have missed going to Church for so long that I no longer miss going to Church." That is the fear that many clergy have and only time will tell if our attendance will rebound to pre-pandemic levels.

However, in the midst of this pandemic, there are also reasons for optimism and joy. Our services are live streamed, and many take advantage of this opportunity to participate remotely across the country, so we are reaching people we never have reached before. We were blessed to have singing and our choir return for a time to help lead our worship this fall. While we had a scaled-down, limited attendance Holy Week and Easter schedule in 2021, we were still able to celebrate the resurrection together. And unlike 2020 when Christmas services were entirely online, it was a joy to be able to have a normal Christmas schedule in 2021 before the Omicron variant really took hold. Thirty masked children retold the story of the nativity at our 4:30 p.m. Christmas pageant to an almost full church. In addition, we were honored to host our now retired Bishop, Andrew Waldo, and the clergy of the diocese on December 15th 2021 for the ordinations of Beth Hendrix, Dave Rodrick, and our own Lathrop Hart Mosley to the Sacred Order of Priests.

As these plague years wear on, finding reasons for optimism and joy in the midst of sadness, sorrow and uncertainty becomes ever more critical to our emotional and spiritual well being. As a community of faith, as followers of Jesus, we must gather together to tend the embers of hope in the midst of change, keeping them alight as we wait for the sun to rise. We must keep the faith and share with others that this too shall pass. And in the words of St. Julian of Norwich, we must trust in the providence of God and that "all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

So, my brothers and sisters, find some joy and look to the rising sun: for this too shall pass and all shall once again be well.

Stephen+ (rector@stjamesgreenville.org)

CURATE'S REPORT

As I reflect on my first six months as Curate at St. James, it is hard not to think about where I was this time last year. I had completed my last Seminarian's Retreat but had not started my last semester of classes yet. I was still in the process of interviewing with churches. Father Stephen and I had recently had our first Zoom conversation. As many of you have heard me say before, I am incredibly thankful that I found a home here at St. James. I am thankful to Father Stephen and to the Vestry for calling me to be your Curate. From the Sunday I was first introduced up until the present, I have

felt nothing but welcomed into this wonderful community. St. James is an amazing place, and I am thrilled to be sharing in ministry with you all.

It has been a whirlwind first six months, with my ordination to the Diaconate at Trinity Cathedral occurring a few weeks before I started in July and my ordination to the priesthood here at St. James occurring a little over a month ago. It has been challenging to balance overseeing the Children's and Youth Ministry with the responsibilities that also come with being ordained clergy. I imagine it has also been an adjustment for some of you all as well. At the same time, I have felt nothing but love and support as we have made this transition together. I am grateful for the volunteers who have stepped up when I needed to focus on doing clergy things.

Children's Christian Education

After discussion with parents and those who had volunteered in the past, Father Stephen and I made the decision to have Sunday School in person only on the first Sunday of the month and offer remote materials through *Realm* the other Sundays of the month for the Fall. In addition to in-person Sunday School on the first Sunday of the month, we also made the sermon at the 10:30 service a Children's Sermon. Having Sunday School in-person only on the first Sunday of the month enabled our families to feel comfortable and allowed us to use fewer volunteers, respecting those who were not ready to jump back in yet. We added a couple of new volunteers as well.

Towards the end of the fall, I again asked our parents and volunteers what their comfort level was with adding additional Sundays. In the end after these discussions and talking with Father Stephen, we decided to add an additional Sunday, and to move to the 2nd and 4th Sundays. We will continue to have a dedicated Children's Sermon at the 10:30 service on the 2nd Sunday of the month. We will also continue to offer remote materials through *Realm* on the other Sundays of the month.

The curriculum we are using is a Lectionary-based curriculum, which focuses on one of the scripture lessons for that day. We also talk about the church seasons, colors, and themes as part of the curriculum. My hope is that the lesson we talk about in Sunday School will be familiar when they hear it read in church and there could possibly be some family discussion around the dinner table or as families are saying prayers together.

In addition to our Annual Intergenerational Advent Wreath Workshop, which we moved to the Foyer this year, we will have an Intergenerational Sunday School on February 13th focused on Bishops.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC)

After discussion with Father Stephen, we decided to keep the focus this fall on fun and fellowship so we could begin to re-build our youth community. We began with a Welcome Back Outing to Spare Time. We continued to have one off-campus outing each month and the rest of the Sundays we met in the Parish Life Center. My focus during the fall was to hold that space on Sunday afternoon, no matter how many or how few of our youth attended. The youth that have been attending are amazing but are also involved in other activities. As busy as our youth are, it is a challenge to find a good time for everyone to meet. As a result, during Winter and Spring, we are going to try meeting right after the 10:30 service, unless we have something specific planned for a different time. We also decided to make the shift to 2nd and 4th Sundays with the hopes of having more youth participate. We will continue to have an off-campus outing once a month. We participated in an area wide EYC Outing in the fall and hope that we will have one in the Spring as well.

Canterbury (College Ministry at Furman)

Canterbury Club is the name of the Episcopal College Ministry. St. James is the Episcopal Church that is tied to the Canterbury Club at Furman. Father Stephen and I are both Campus Ministers for Canterbury Club. We started the schoolyear meeting on Monday evenings, but quickly shifted to Thursday evenings. A Furman student (Peer Minister) is responsible for planning and organizing Canterbury meetings. Father Stephen and I are there to support the Peer Minister and be a sacramental presence for the group. Many of the students who were involved in Canterbury prior to the pandemic have now graduated and it has been a challenge to get the new students engaged.

Mother Lathrop+ (assistant@stjamesgreenville.org)

PARISH LEADERSHIP REPORTS

SENIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

It was with a great deal of trepidation in the winter of 2021 that I accepted the position of Senior Warden at St. James. I did so in large part to honor my late uncle who had passed away unexpectedly many decades ago. He had faithfully and honorably served his historic Episcopal church in remote Northeastern Connecticut for almost thirty years—he was junior warden, senior warden, chief engineer, and a deacon who conducted services on his own when no priest was present. He was deeply loved and the church was packed for his funeral.

My uncle's very small church had been built around 1830 and I am sure contained structural/plumbing/heating problems characteristic of a building that old, plus parking issues, and an ancient rectory used for Sunday school classes. Somehow, my uncle, the vestry and a variety of priests always conquered whatever challenges emerged. What they did not have to contend with was covid and its impact. Thanks to the excellent leadership of Alice Littlejohn who preceded me as senior warden, I had a path to follow when I became senior warden at St. James. Vestry and Finance Committee meetings occurred monthly by Zoom and became as interactive as those held in person. Father Stephen made sure to inform us of diocesan and DHEC protocols for worship and we were delighted that the church held Sunday services in person—as well as continuing to broadcast them by YouTube. Our goal was to keep the life of the parish as normal as possible. This was accomplished in large part due to the extraordinary efforts of Father Stephen, Dena Veazey, and the various committees of the church including the finance team, the men's group, various women's organizations, plus our terrific teachers in the day school. All arms of the church functioned well and worked together for the good of all. It should be noted that during this past year, Father Stephen also held the job of Chair of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, a challenging post in the midst of covid, especially when the election of a new bishop had to be planned and carried out in Columbia early this past fall. I was delighted at the annual convention in November when Bishop Waldo presented Father Stephen a special award for his herculean efforts on behalf of the diocese. He deserved it!

Needless to say, St. James was both saddened and gladdened by the news last spring that Tina Boyd, our youth minister, was leaving to attend seminary in Virginia to become an Episcopal priest. Tina's departure and some creative use of figures allowed St. James to call Lathrop Mosley as our curate. Jeremy Williams and I were delighted to be able to interview Lathrop by Zoom this past spring as she finished her divinity school studies at Sewanee. Upon meeting her, we immediately urged that she become part of St. James' ministry. She has been a grand addition to the parish and has received careful mentoring from Father Stephen. Mother Lathrop's ordination to the priesthood, held at St. James in mid-December, was a glorious affair that celebrated both our hospitality and the beauty of our sanctuary—thanks in large part to the decorating skills of Kaye Greene and Hope Winkler, as well as Robyn Harmon and Kate Marley, who coordinated the reception that followed the service.

As I review the past year, I think of the term “community” and the efforts by so many people at St. James to make this church such a special place—despite covid. As with churches across the nation,

financial pressures are a concern, especially in light of inflation. If you have not done so, please send in your pledge cards for 2022 and help ensure a solid financial future for St. James.

This is an exciting time for the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina as the Very Rev. Daniel Richards assumes the position of bishop in late February. I was one of the delegates to the convention that elected him and feel confident that we made the correct choice from a group of outstanding candidates.

I will end this narrative by referring to an amazing coincidence. I began this report by referring to my beloved uncle and his small church in Connecticut. Purely by happenstance, I discovered at Mother Lathrop's ordination that the Rev. Julia Gatta, who preached the ordination sermon and who taught both Stephen and Lathrop at Sewanee, had once served as rector of my uncle's Connecticut church—this was after his death. We stared at each other in disbelief upon discovering this fact. Rev. Gatta knew well my uncle's (and aunt's) dear friends. That special church and its people was a place that she and I both loved and I discovered that Julia has written about it in her book on parish ministry. Somehow meeting Julia confirmed that I was correct to have accepted the position of Senior Warden at St. James. I have done what I could for St. James and with your help, fought the good fight. I have faith that the church will continue to flourish in the years ahead and I am grateful for this opportunity to have served the parish in a leadership position.

I end with this Bible verse: "Give thanks to the Lord: for he is good; his love endureth forever."

1 Chronicles 16:34

Marian Strobel (marian.strobel@furman.edu)

JUNIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

2021 saw some major repair work on the church equipment, resulting in the Building Maintenance expenses exceeding the budget by over 45%. Several of the HVAC units were 15-20 years old, and a fund had been built up to cover repair and replacement costs. Cleaning services and janitorial supplies were reduced in the early part of the year, however, because Covid restrictions limited use of the facilities. Some of the significant items included:

1. HVAC:

- On Ash Wednesday there was an issue with the nave units.
- The aging unit in the Day School went down last winter causing uncomfortable conditions for the children and teachers for several days. We have received quotes from two companies and are waiting on a third to replace the HVAC system downstairs and to add fresh air and ionization. We may have to push this project to the summer.
- Several issues with the HVAC units during their spring maintenance check. The issues include weak capacitors on two units, a leaking valve on a suction line, low refrigerant levels on two units, and one unit completely empty of refrigerant. These units have been repaired and are working well.
- The unit above the nave froze and leaked a lot of water. The unit has been repaired and is working well. Damaged ceiling tiles were replaced.

- In October there was an issue with unit 1 (PLC kitchen/entry) and with units 8 & 9 (upstairs hallway & offices). Unit 1 had a bad inductor which needed to be replaced. Units 8/9 needed new flame sensors. The units were repaired and working well.
2. Other Repair and Maintenance Items:
 - Elevator call button on the upper level had to be replaced.
 - There were also several loose bricks in front. These have been replaced.
 - Quotes were received for installing a third set of railings in the front of the church, in the middle of the wide walkway. The quoted cost was very high and an attempt to get a second quote was unsuccessful.
 - Fire Extinguisher Inspection revealed a problem with the electrical function of the kitchen hood. This has been repaired.
 - The handles on the doors to the Commons Room had to be replaced.
 - Sidewalk slabs in the front of the church had settled, creating a tripping hazard. The slabs were lifted, levelled, and stabilized.
 - The garbage disposal in the Parish Life Center kitchen was repaired.
 - A sheetrock ceiling was installed in the center closet in the Parish Life Center.
 - Heavy rains in October produced leaks in two places in the Parish Life Center, possibly from a roof vent. We are looking into getting the roof inspected for needed repairs.
 - We are enrolling in maintenance programs for help with trees, shrubs and irrigation around the front porch. One of the maples in the front of the church is dead; both maples will be replaced this winter.
 - In November, wastewater was coming up through the floors, toilets & sinks in the Day School. The plumber recommended pumping the septic tank at which time Dr. Flush discovered that four root balls were blocking the septic system. They cleaned out the discharge, installed a riser and another access point. The Day School was closed for one day. Everything is working well again.
 3. Parish Workdays: Several grounds workdays were held to clean up the grounds, clean playground equipment, trim shrubs, weed garden areas, and move items to allow floor stripping and waxing. Many thanks to all those who participated in those events!

Jim Ghrist (jim_sandi@bellsouth.net)

ST. JAMES STAFF REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION

Attendance: Because of the pandemic, St. James began 2021 with online only services; each livestreamed service was viewed over 100 times. On Ash Wednesday we returned to limited in-person attendance. With registration required to attend Easter services, we had 133 people in person and over 350 views. Attendance throughout the year has fluctuated along with the numbers of COVID cases.

Membership:

- Increases: St. James added seven new members by baptism and four others by transfer from other churches. There were no confirmations in 2021.
- Decreases: During the past year, there were fourteen deaths in the parish.

Administration: As happened everywhere, St. James parish office continued to experience significant changes in the running of day-to-day activities due to the pandemic. In the beginning, office hours were limited, and staff meetings were held virtually or in person but masked and socially distanced. We continue to be careful and usually meet in person, but occasionally take advantage of the option to hold staff meetings virtually because of scheduling challenges or inclement weather. In the middle of the year we reshuffled office space to accommodate the welcome addition of Lathrop Mosley to our staff. Around that same time, our counters returned to volunteer in person each week. Jodye Pfister, who had helped with weekly data entry and occasional receptionist duties, retired from her office volunteer position last summer. It was truly a blessing to serve side by side with her for over twenty years, and I cannot thank her enough for her mentoring and friendship!

2021 Pledges: Thanks to everyone for their faithful giving in 2021 and for making it possible to continue the ministries and mission of St. James. Thanks also to everyone who has submitted a pledge of financial support to St. James for 2022. As of January 21, 2022, St. James had received 105 pledges for 2022 totaling \$383,842. This is an average pledge of \$3,656. Seven new households submitted pledges for 2022; 55 households who pledged last year had not yet responded to the pledge campaign at that time. It's not too late to submit your pledge! You may submit your pledge online either on the *Stewardship* page of the St. James website or in *Realm*.

Realm: We continue to learn more and more about our *Realm* church community software and use it to share news and events with the entire parish or with specific smaller groups within the parish, such as the Vestry, the Choir, and Christian Education classes. We use *Realm* to track Sunday worship attendance and online gifts and pledges. We create registration events for the parish such as we did for this annual meeting and for the Oyster Roast. As Parish Administrator, I also use *Realm* to update membership records, create birthday and anniversary lists for the eNotes, monitor pledges and gifts, as well as to pay bills and generate financial reports. In *Realm* parishioners can set their own level of security and connect with other parishioners. One of our goals for this year is to increase our parish-wide participation in the *Realm* online directory. I would like to encourage all parishioners to create a login and check out all the useful features in *Realm*. If you need assistance or have questions at any time, please feel free to contact me.

Dena Veazey, Parish Administrator (admin@stjamesgreenville.org, 864-244-6358, ext. 201)

MUSIC MINISTRY

1. General Overview – The importance of singing

Over the course of the past year we have begun our recovery from the long shut-down of 2020. To begin, the people of St. James were able to observe Holy Week and celebrate Easter with the help of a small choir (wearing face coverings) as the only singers; after Easter we gradually began adding congregational singing to our services. During the summer, the choir began rehearsing regularly, and although the number of returning singers remains small, with ten devoted members, each week (September through December) we have shared an anthem and helped lead worship. Additionally, this year the choir was once again able to offer (in-person) a service of Advent Lessons and Carols (Dec. 5) and the traditional half-hour prelude (The Music of Christmas) before the late night Christmas Eve Eucharist. On Christmas Eve we were also able to once again host the Amici String Quartet, in our full and beautifully decorated church.

For increased safety, this year the choir has rehearsed in the nave instead of the choir room, since the nave is a larger space with updated and improved ventilation. We have also continued to wear masks to keep each other safe, and on the rare occasion when someone has had a close contact (or one time, later tested positive), no one has infected anyone else.

With the return to live-streamed services, I have taken on the required task of creating a list of copyright acknowledgements to include at the end of each live-streamed service. This is a requirement of our podcast (livestream) license. In addition, each week I report the required information for each musical work (everything that is not in the public domain) to our licensing organization, One License. (I was surprised to learn, in doing this work, how often it is that only a part of a hymn or other work is in the public domain!)

It has been hard work getting back to what we always did before the pandemic, but being able to sing hymns and other liturgical music is about more than getting things back to normal. Singing is a way to pray; by singing together in church we help create and celebrate the liturgy. The poetry of the hymns fills us with images and truths about the faith we profess. Even non-singers may participate by praying and meditating on words both ancient and new, texts that have been written by our Christian brothers and sisters across the ages. The hymnal, whether for congregational singing or for prayer and meditation, helps us take on an active role in learning about our faith, and aids in teaching the process of prayer and worship to our children. The choir and I are so thankful that we have been able to return to our role in leading the people of St. James in worship.

2. The Gober Pipe Organ

The Gober pipe organ continues to perform well; it is just over 14 years old and has required little repair work and maintenance. Regular ongoing preventative care includes occasional touch-up tunings and monitoring of the humidity in the nave. 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.) We are currently arranging for a visit from the organ builder, Hal Gober, who will see about the major repair of a few of the reed pipes and also to take care of tuning and some other minor repairs.

3. St. James Choral Scholars

We currently have two active St. James Choral Scholars. We were also blessed with the presence of three additional Furman music students in November, who briefly sang with the choir to assist with the Advent Lessons and Carols service; some of these singers will be applying this semester to become St. James Choral Scholars. Choral Scholars rehearse and sing in the St. James Choir and have the opportunity for solo singing and conducting. They earn a stipend to help with the costs of their music education. The Vestry has authorized that as many as four choral scholars may be funded; positions 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. This program connecting Furman music students with St. James was established in 2002, and it continues to add greatly to St. James' overall connection with Furman University.

4. Status of Music Activities and Volunteer Opportunities

Music programs ongoing in preparation for Easter and other services:

- List of Instrumentalists (email to sign up and learn more)
- St. James Choir rehearsals (all high school, college, adult singers are welcome)
- St. James Choral Scholars

Music programs that have currently been suspended due to COVID-19:

- Youth Choir, Children's Choir.

Volunteer help needed: music library assistant.

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

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Wow. The first half of 2021 feels like a lifetime ago! That I am writing this from an apartment in Arlington, VA, pondering what I am going to do for my final project for my Jan term class, instead of in "my" office at 301 Piney Mountain Rd., is framing my general bewilderment about how much has changed in the last year.

To prompt my reflection, I went back through photos from the last year to jog my memory. My first "Oh wow" moment was remembering that I was tasked with facilitating the Burning of the Greens last year! That proves to be a time when families can come together and celebrate the changing liturgical season with a huge visual reminder—these are the moments that I love in forming young minds and hearts. When we mark the work of the church well, it gives us the tools we need to share our faith with others well.

Youth and Children's Ministry at St. James had generally proved its existence through its programs prior to the pandemic. We knew Youth and Children's Ministries were happening because there were EYC meetings, Christian Education Meetings, etc. on the calendar. In that sense, it was easy to "show my work" when it came time for major meetings and reports. Since the pandemic, ministry to youth, children, and families shifted. It became more about scouring social media to see who was

showing up, and who wasn't, and reaching out to fill in the gaps where I could. It became more about being a listening ear (to all ages), than ever before. One of my "back pocket" theologians I often lean on, Andrew Root, refers to these one-on-one or two-on-one encounters as the groundwork for place-sharing. Meaning, these moments allow for both parties to hold the space for whatever is happening—they share each others' mental, physical, and spiritual space. These moments, when practiced well, are incarnational. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, place-sharing moments give room for the divine to join in.

This is what I set out to do. I remembered being a disciple is just as much about sending others as it is about being sent myself, and so, to the degree that I could, I set out to safely share *socially distanced* places with the people of St. James. As I mentioned previously, I harnessed technology to reach out to people. I stayed present when I was out in the community, seeing parishioners out on walks or in the yard. I worked to facilitate whole family spiritual place-sharing activities through take-home curriculum and supplies for special seasons like Lent and Holy Week. I was present and active in worship on Sunday mornings—the return of some children and families to the pews as the opportunities were available was awesome! I think I can safely speak for all the staff in saying that it was a glorious reprieve from how quiet it was on Sundays before.

As it was still pre-Delta and pre-Omicron last summer, with careful monitoring of the numbers, and much consultation, we were able to do Vacation Bible School! And what fun we had going with a Totally Tubular, Totally 80s theme! As always, this took a number of parents and volunteers to make happen, and each of those folks took a faith-filled risk, and I'll never forget that! We saw about 30 different kids throughout the week, and the campus was full of excitement and energy and laughter. We re-imagined our spaces to allow pods to circulate inside and out between buildings, without anyone having to spend too much time out in the southeast summer heat. We did all sorts of hand washing, cleaning, and sanitizing; and just before leaving each evening, I did a walk through every space we occupied working Lysol spray cans like an air traffic controller, went home, and prayed all our participants, volunteers, and my co-workers made it through another day COVID free. To my knowledge, no new cases were reported as a result of involvement with St. James' VBS, and for that I thank God and each of you who followed our guidelines meticulously to make that week great!

Now that the cat is clearly out of the bag on this one, I was also finishing up my process of vocational discernment in the beginning of 2021. I had found out in late November of 2020 that I had been granted postulancy, which put me on a count-down clock for transitioning into the role of seminarian—somewhere. It took much time and careful consideration to land at VTS! At six years, Greenville is the city where I've lived the longest since I left home for college. The idea of leaving the friends and community I'd built felt unfathomable, but I also knew (and know) that God has a thing for calling us to discomfort. This time, I'd done enough living to know that I'd be ok, and that I CAN start over in a new city in a new place, and that leaving Greenville didn't mean loosing all the people there who I'd chosen to be my family.

After the completion of VBS and a truly lovely send off from you all on my last Sunday at St. James, my life has been nothing short of a whirlwind. Getting six years of life compiled together takes quite a bit of work! As does moving to a new city and state, the farthest away from family I've ever lived. It was not an easy transition here, and it took me quite some time to find my footing; however, after putting my first semester behind me (and especially being done with biblical Greek!!!!), I've finally

had the break I've needed for some time now, and am thankful and eager to be able to start fresh for a new semester.

Most importantly, as I know you are all wondering, Kakalaki Boyd has adjusted to life in northern Virginia just fine! She has two great neighbor friends, Marshall and Willow, and lots of grassy space where the three of them can play while the dog-parents chat. While at her most recent vet appointment I was told that I'd need to start being mindful of her joints as she is bridging over to being of a senior age (7!), her two friends are 1 and 8 months respectively, and she holds her own just fine with those young pups, thank you very much! She's really been a trooper with all that we've been through over the last year, I couldn't be blessed with a better side-kick!

One last word, as I close here. This last Christmas I was lucky to be able to be a part of my family's Christmas Eve celebration. This hasn't happened in quite some time, and just as I soaked up every minute, I also felt like I didn't know what to do with my hands half the time! Where were all the children needing to be wrangled into beloved hand-made costumes? Where were my acolyte gloves for carrying the big brass cross, my alb, the thurible, the people, the candles, the flurry??? It was surreal. After the extended family went on their way, and my family settled in for the evening, it occurred to me that I was missing something. And so, a little before 8:00, I left my parents' house in Marietta, GA to the Episcopal church less than a mile away, yes, named St. James Episcopal Church. It was beautiful and bittersweet. I heard the story of the birth and received the Eucharist. And then, a couple of hours later, I tuned in to "my" St. James, online, to hear the music of Christmas (which was as lovely as ever) and pulled my family's baby Jesus out of the silverware drawer and put him in the manger, just like when I was a kid. Christmas had come. You all were a part of making that happen for me. I am so grateful for each and every one of you, and for your continued support of me in this next step of my journey. You are what makes St. James great! Keep at it!

Peace,

Christina (Tina) Boyd (christinaboyd88@gmail.com, 770-361-8469)
Seminarian, *Middler*, Virginia Theological Seminary

DAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

The St. James Day School serves almost sixty children ages 1, 2, 3 and 4 years. With emphasis on instruction through active play in a loving environment, we offer care Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 1:00. Students enjoy hands-on lessons from the core basics of reading, math and science. Curriculum is rounded out with weekly chapel, music and French as well. This program has a legacy of more than forty years at St. James and many current teachers have more than ten years of service to the school. The Day School is committed to a holistic approach to learning; challenging and guiding the entire child – intellectually, spiritually and emotionally. We are proud to serve little ones year after year in a family-centered, healthy and challenging environment.

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

LAY MINISTRY REPORTS

ACOLYTES

As COVID restrictions have repeatedly changed the protocols for our gathering in worship, the reinstatement of our Acolyte ministry has been postponed. The words below describe the role of an Acolyte and we anxiously await conditions that support our reinstatement of this ministry.

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

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

This past year, Fr. Stephen has led a Monday night bible study that was well attended and resulted in lively discussions about how different Christian denominations read and interpret scripture. In addition, Fr. Stephen resumed his Faith Seeking Understanding course on Sunday mornings last spring, picking up where the class left off studying the Gospel of Mark then working through the other Gospels. Fr. Stephen also offered an “Episcopal 101” course on Sunday mornings this past fall to answer many questions about what Episcopalians believe and why we do what we do. Fr. Stephen also presented a “Mary in the Anglican Tradition” class during the Advent season.

This spring will see continued offerings in Adult Christian Education.

Fr. Stephen will resume his Faith Seeking Understanding course on Sunday mornings, picking up where the class left off. In addition, Fr. Stephen will offer a Lenten series on Monday nights.

A new adult education series for the fall of 2022 will be announced over the summer.

ALTAR GUILD

The St. James Altar Guild began 2021 under increased Covid-19 restrictions and protocols. Many thanks to the Altar Guild members who helped with special projects, including cleaning all the pews, as well as those dedicated members who have continued to polish brass and silver, hang altar hangings, clean up and setup for services, clean and press linens, and anything else that has been required—all while maintaining social distancing guidelines and often wearing masks!

Our teams serve on a rotating basis. We are looking for new members in several of our teams; training is provided. If you are interested in learning more about this vital ministry of service behind the scenes, please contact Fr. Stephen (rector@stjamesgreenville.org or 864-244-6358, ext. 202).

AV TEAM

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in changes to the technology we use at St. James and how we use our technology. At the beginning of 2020, the A/V Team functioned normally, operating sound system and recording services, until the suspension of in-person worship services at St. James. As a result, rather than producing DVDs of the services to send to the home-bound, St. James began live streaming both Sunday services allowing the faithful to participate in the services from the safety of their homes during the height of the pandemic. With the reintroduction of in-person worship, the decision was made to continue to livestream Sunday services rather than go back to recorded DVDs that were mailed to home-bound parishioners.

Future plans are to add an additional livestreaming camera and find someone to manage the livestreaming more effectively.

CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL FOR YOUTH (CLBBY)

Because of the pandemic, St James did not participate in the current CLBBY basketball season. In previous years we have formed teams of youth, ranging in age from four through high school, and even an adult men's team. All of this, of course, depended on the number and ages of interested players. In past seasons, St. James also provided our Parish Life Center as a game venue, hosting games on Monday and Thursday evenings as well as on Saturdays. If this ministry is to continue at St. James, we will need to enlist leadership which includes a parish CLBBY director, coaches for each team, scorekeepers and game hosts. If interested, please contact the parish office.

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour ministry has been operating with a much reduced schedule and crew as a result of the pandemic, but we look forward to a time when we can enjoy Coffee Hour together again.

If you are interested in volunteering for this ministry, please 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.

In the past we have prepared bagged lunches for the homeless when there was a fifth Saturday of the month. While we truly enjoyed this project, times have changed and the facility that we helped has closed. We look forward to a time when we can gather again and engage in a new project to help the homeless and hungry.

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

Boyd Cater (boydcater42@gmail.com, 864-414-5760)

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

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

This past year the ministry has still been affected by the COVID restrictions, but we were able to have several meetings. Our Dues Letter was mailed in March and we have been blessed to have received \$2,475. This is the most that our generous women of the church have given! This money goes towards our Diocesan dues and supporting our World, National, and Diocesan Missions as well as several Diocesan projects. The World Mission was Education Equals Hope; the National mission was Gravatt Christmas Retreat for Military Families; and the Diocesan Mission was the Jack Fleischer Memorial Fund. These missions will be the same for 2022.

We were not able to have our usual Attic sale; however, we WILL be having it this year on June 11th. Please keep this event in mind when you are doing your “Spring cleaning”!

We were able to host our Fall Social in October which was a great success. We had Sandy Burn with Palmetto Olive Oil Company do a tasting demonstration of the many olive oils and vinegars they sell. We all learned many ways to use the various flavors! The evening is a great opportunity to visit with our fellow members and friends. We will again be hosting in the fall and always appreciate any suggestions for a speaker, etc.

Because our funds were reduced this year, with no attic sale, our support of the various local agencies was limited. We did contribute \$2,575 to several agencies and the Vivanco ministry in addition to our Diocesan support. Each year we give Bibles to our high school graduates and in 2021 there were six.

I would like to invite anyone, who wants to be more involved in the ECW and its activities, to contact me. We are always looking for new ways to serve the Women of the Church, so if you have an idea, please reach out to me.

Sherry Sponseller (sherrysponseller3@gmail.com)

St. Mary Elizabeth Chapter

In September of 2021 this faithful chapter of the Episcopal Church Women resumed meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Library. The Chapter supports the Sunshine Fund, the mission work of Roberto and Cameron Graham, and the Bena/Dial scholarship

program. A big “thank you” to Shirley Landis who has headed up this chapter for MANY years. She is passing the reins over to Boyd Cater who will be the chair until there is a permanent replacement.

EDUCATION INITIATIVE

While the Education Initiative Commission has been inactive for a number of months, we have continued to provide support to Lakeview Middle School for this school year. After consultation with Lakeview, St. James collected school supplies for students in need. Sam Lyons who has faithfully led this effort is stepping back from this ministry and we are looking for someone to take up the charge! Please contact the church office if you are interested.

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 2021 budget, and fashion a budget for 2022. In spite of all the challenges of constantly changing protocols for worship, including reduced attendance at Christmas and Easter services due to such protocols and personal decisions to avoid large indoor groups, St. James finished the year in a financially stable position. The 2021 budget included a “cash on hand” contribution to the budget in the amount of \$36,811.72. However, only \$13,420.37 of this amount was needed to balance the budget in 2021, indicating a budget savings of \$23,391.35.

At the end of fiscal 2021, we had \$253,848.31 in cash available for operations and total deposits of \$629,721.98. St. James is completely debt-free with a comfortable cushion for operations.

The preliminary budget for the 2022 church fiscal year is approximately \$ \$658,488.61. This represents less than a 1% increase over the 2021 budget. We are grateful to the people of St. James who continue to pledge generously and give faithfully. With a sincere hope that the pandemic restrictions will be further eased if not lifted in 2022, we decided to keep the same estimate of plate and pledge income from 2021 for the 2022 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 \$ 97,186.92 in our strategic reserve fund for these purposes. We are also maintaining our diocesan contribution at 100% of the asking for this year.

We thank the members for their diligent work throughout the year: Rick Hope (chair), Monte Hudson, Linda Satterfield, and Jennifer Sharp. 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, Reb Mitchell, Lavinia Plumlee, and Hope Winkler. Our busiest times are Christmas and Easter. At those times, we need extra hands to help, especially from a few men. If you would be interested in serving—training is provided—please contact Kaye Greene (864-908-1270, justweddings@bellsouth.net).

GREETERS

When we come together in person, St. James Greeters welcome members and newcomers alike to services on Sunday mornings and at special services. They help familiarize visitors with the facility and take time to get to know them before and after the service. St. James Greeters also introduce newcomers to the 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

How does one practice hospitality when meeting in person is occasionally discouraged? As the pandemic presses on, we have grown weary of isolation and the restrictions that have kept us from meeting face to face. The regular fellowship events that bring the community together have been curtailed and we have had to adjust to practicing hospitality by sometimes inviting others to join us “online” rather than in person. We now look forward with great anticipation to the day when we can gather as a parish once again for times of fellowship. When that day comes, St. James will reestablish our Hospitality Commission in a new way with those of you who enjoy organizing receptions and events. We don’t know yet what hospitality will look like in a post-COVID world, but if you are interested in helping reimagine this ministry, please contact Dena Veazey (864-244-6358, ext. 201, admin@stjamesgreenville.org).

OUTREACH COMMISSION

Established in 2015, the current members of the commission include: John Kaup (currently serving as chair), Janet Atkins, Marie Hovland, George Lafaye, Alice Littlejohn, and Kent Satterfield. Our meetings enable us to assess the health and effectiveness of our current outreach efforts, providing updates on the outreach ministries with which each of us is involved and considering additional outreach opportunities. In 2021, we continued 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 or lead this commission, please contact John Kaup (864-607-2985, john.kaup@furman.edu).

Many of the ministries planned for 2020 and 2021 were not able to be delivered due to COVID restrictions. As such, a significant portion of the outreach budget was reallocated to local and diocesan ministries including the following: Triune Mercy Center; Palmetto/Miracle Hill Boys Shelter; Greer Community Ministry; Greenville Free Clinic; Education Equals Hope; Finlay House, Columbia; Jasmine Road; Episcopal Relief and Development; Frazee Center; FAVOR; Greenville Homeless Alliance (GHA) and SAMS.

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 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Feed Thy Neighbor provides a hot, nourishing breakfast every Saturday morning for the homeless and destitute, who otherwise may have nothing to eat. COVID has significantly impacted this ministry and the current approach is to provide a bagged breakfast with up to 40 clients participating each week (a significant decrease from the 70+ before COVID). St. James continues to prepare the breakfast on one Saturday every month and the Men's Group continues to support St. James' portion of the costs for Feed Thy Neighbor.

We had hoped that we would be able to resume inside dining for our guests sometime in 2021, but that was not possible. Starting in January 2022 we will try to provide a hot (warm) cup of grits added to the two ham and egg biscuits, fruit and water as these guests continue to be required to eat outside in the cold and sometimes inclement weather. We are grateful for the dedication of the volunteers who continue to show up on the 2nd Saturday of each month (Ben Freeman, Vince and Nancy LeDonne, Mike LeDonne, Clark Price, and Joyce Scott). It is our prayer that 2022 will allow us to again open our doors and welcome the less fortunate to sit at our table and enjoy a hot meal with us and their friends. When that happens, we will need more volunteers for the 2nd shift and clean-up. Butch Scott is happy to answer any questions you may have. You may contact him at (864) 230-0096 or bj.scott@charter.net.

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). While COVID significantly impacted our engagement in 2020 and 2021, we anticipate again supporting this ministry in 2022.

Meal Packaging Event

As a congregation, we have hosted over 10 meal packaging events through October 2019 and have packed well over 250,000 meals. COVID restrictions have prevented us from delivering this popular event since early 2020 but we do anticipate hosting this event in Fall 2022 if conditions allow. Typically, nearly \$10,000 in outreach funds provides the funding to deliver this 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. In 2021 we were delighted to shift back to a hybrid system with both gift and “Jingle Bills” collections. Thanks to Beate Kindervater for leading this ministry for the past several years 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 relaxed, hands-on, fellowship opportunity for St. James members and the wider Greenville community. This event requires 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. Proceeds from the St. James Oyster Roast support missions and ministries selected on an annual basis. We’re looking forward to hosting the event on Feb 19, 2022. Want to help? Contact Christina Harrell (ctharrell96@gmail.com, 864.420.3137).

PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION

Eucharistic and Pastoral Care Visitors 2021

Eucharistic visitors share communion with homebound, hospitalized, and nursing home residents at scheduled frequencies and times convenient for the recipients. In 2021 with improvement of the pandemic there were increases in both visitors and recipients. Nursing homes began to permit more visitations. There were 45 visits made to homes or nursing facilities. One of our homebound couples desired the regular continuation of our visits which we carefully honored throughout another year. In addition to these regular visitations our Visitors faithfully called, sent cards, and communicated the status of our homebound through emails. This past year Janis Bandelin, Martin Darby, Frances Funderburk, Rick Hope, Anne Shelley, and Pam Snape were Eucharistic Visitors. Unfortunately, we no longer have any Pastoral Care visitors. These visitors’ service is to accompany the Eucharistic Visitor and offer service or follow up contact to the recipient.

Goals for 2022

We look forward to the time when we can increase our visitors to meet and minister to our St. James family. Please consider the crucial role you may take in helping our homebound parishioners. We continue to encourage volunteers for transportation to church and other important places, short respite visits, as well as communication by phone calls and cards to those on prayer list and recently hospitalized. We also welcome new Eucharistic Visitors, and Pastoral Care Visitors.

Please contact the office or persons below if you or friend or family would like our services. Respite Care and Transportation Coordinator- Pam Snape 864-360-5620

Communication (by phone or cards) Coordinator- Frances Funderburk 864-608-5308.

Pam Snape (pamsnape@bellsouth.net), Eucharistic Visitor Coordinator

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request 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

Two years gone by, and COVID-19 continues to threaten our physical, mental, and emotional health. However, we as a congregation, continue to survive and thrive together. Through fervent prayer, and because we "choose to love our neighbor as ourselves", we are able to safely worship and commune together. Together, we continue to meet and overcome new challenges. As we continue to move through the pandemic, it is our opportunity to grow in faith, through prayer. God hears all the prayers. He sees all the needs and he provides.

We also give thanks to the Lord, through prayer, for the many blessings we have received in this past year. (Thank you for Mother Lathrop!)

Prayer is powerful! Prayer is an act of deliberate communication with God. God delights in any simple words we offer Him. We can pray while walking, driving, or working. When we make the Lord our first resort, seeking Him in prayer, the power of His presence is unleashed in our lives. Prayer seeks God.

The Prayer and Spirituality webpage is accessible at <https://www.stjamesgreenville.org/prayer-and-spirituality.html>. There you will find a link, at the top of the page, to submit your prayer requests. All prayer requests remain confidential.

The prayer chain 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 me with your ideas and/or suggestions in furthering this ministry within our congregation.

Claudia Hart (cloudhart@gmail.com, 864-616-5963)

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Here we are finishing our second full year with Covid-19. The Prayer Shawl Ministry has continued to be productive even though we have a small number of members. We are now in our fourth year. This ministry has been beneficial to the individuals who receive the shawls but also an immense blessing to those of us who make them. We also make hats for chemo treated patients at Bon Secours Cancer Center.

Our production for 2021 was 79 shawls and 132 hats. Hospice has been immensely grateful for the continuous contributions we have made. They have communicated that the shawls not only comfort their patients in their last days but are a great comfort to family members as well.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to join our group or know of someone who requires the blessing of the Holy Spirit by receiving a prayer shawl.

Nancy Gammons (njgammons44@gmail.com or 864-423-4425)

ST. JAMES MEN'S GROUP (SJMG)

All men, by virtue of being a part of St. James, are welcome to have a voice in St. James Men's Group meetings and to present potential projects or programs. The St. James Men's Group is looking to fund charities and causes that are led by faith, are known by love, and are helping others succeed. The St. James Men's Group is not a membership club and there are no dues or fees to participate. You only need a 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. Typical years include a St. James Men's Retreat at Kanuga Conference Center each spring. Contact richardaaronwright@gmail.com if you wish to receive periodic updates regarding these activities, or like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mensgroupstjames/>.

SMALL GROUPS COMMISSION

The Small Groups Commission forms FEAST (Friends Eating And Sharing Together) groups to strengthen fellowship within our church community. A FEAST group is usually a collection 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. The gatherings may revolve around a meal or cocktails at a member's home or a favorite restaurant. This past year the pandemic has unfortunately kept the groups apart, but we are hopeful that they will be able to meet this year. 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. For more information, contact Gigi Blackwell (gigiblck@reagan.com, 864-907-1614).

USHERS

The group of parishioners—youth and adults, male and female—who serve as Ushers have discovered that serving as an Usher is an easy and fun way to meet, greet and seat members and visitors who have come to worship at St. James. They also help to facilitate a smooth worship service. As in-person attendance resumes, please consider becoming a part of this important ministry of hospitality by contacting Luke Mitchell (864-421-5797 or luke.mitchell@jacobs.com).

WELCOMING COMMISSION

The Welcoming Commission has continued to welcome newcomers to our parish. With the help of parish administrator Dena Veazey, we use the online platform *Realm* to facilitate the tracking of visitors and new members. This allows us to follow up after their initial contact and provide them with more information on St. James. We hope to resume Newcomer Receptions in 2022! If you would like to become involved in this commission, please contact Amanda Davis (404-449-5441, amanda.sloan79@gmail.com).



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