

*Annual Report*  
*for 2020*  
*St. James Episcopal Church*  
*Hendersonville, North Carolina*

*Annual Meeting—January 24, 2021*



*Vision Statement—Excellence in Servanthood*

*Mission Statement—Every member is vital as we follow the example of Jesus' servant ministry to welcome all, love all, serve all, through Christ.*

## **2020 STAFF AND OFFICERS OF ST. JAMES**

### **CLERGY**

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Carol Jablonski, Interim Rector

The Rev. Christiana Olsen, Assistant Rector/Interim Rector

The Rev. Tim Jones, Deacon

The Rev. Kevin Todd, Deacon

### **STAFF**

Brad Gee, Director of Music/Organist

Christoph Herpel, Youth and Family Minister

Karen Kuykendall, Parish Office Administrator

Teri Smith, Facilities Manager

Perry Jones, Sexton

Lisa Kim Fisher, Interim Finance Administrator

Sharon Miller & Rebecca Levi, Bookkeepers

### **LITURGICAL SUPPORT TEAM**

Lisa Whitfield, Director, Allelu!

Bob Aldinger, Bell Tower Captain, St. James Guild of Change Ringers

### **VESTRY**

Vicki Wright, Senior Warden

Mike Elrod, Junior Warden

Bill Brotherton

Kirk Ferguson

Bob Coffey

Mike Gannon

Susan Danos

Diane Jacober

Tom Doyle

Mo Rainey

Dorothy Fantle

Kathryn Wells

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**INTERIM RECTOR**  
**The Rev. Christiana Olsen**

A year ago this week, our lives, the life of this country, and the life of the world were irrevocably changed. At Annual Meeting time last year, we were six months into the transition to our next phase of life together. We had already made some very difficult decisions; but we were also beginning some new formational and organizational endeavors, were trying on some new liturgical language, and moving full speed ahead into discernment about who our next rector might be. But a year ago this past Thursday, the first case of coronavirus was diagnosed in the U.S. We didn't really know it, and it would take two more months to experience, but everything changed forever that day.

I don't need to verbalize the detail of all the things that were almost unbearable in 2020 – you know them. When one of our grandchildren or great grandchildren asks years from now to describe what life during this past year and into 2021 was like, we'll use words like distanced, masks, fear, isolation, sorrow, suffering, death, financially devastating, lonely. We'll talk about 2020 being an election year and the transition we made as a bitterly divided country from one administration to another and the uncertainty that surrounded us. We'll talk about the cruelty of not being able to visit loved ones in the hospital or hold their hands as they died. We'll explain how different church life was – that we worshipped not together in one space but over our computers – and how difficult it was to be separated from our parish family and sacred space for so long.

I'm praying we will also explain, though, about the things we learned – probably needed to learn – and what we took a little less for granted after. I hope we'll tell them about the resilience of the human body and mind and spirit; how we depended on God and each other in ways we hadn't in a long time, maybe ever. I hope we'll tell them we fell in love, said goodbye, welcomed babies, celebrated holidays even though very differently, learned how to bake and knit and sing and take longer walks and pray.

Although we are still in pandemic, we are moving forward. We will worship online together until we can worship in person together – we'll have monthly drive-throughs to receive Communion; our search for a new rector continues; we'll have meetings online until we can have them in person; we'll continue to feed people, in all the ways we provide nourishment; the St. James staff will put together liturgies and pay bills and plan for children and pray with and listen to those who need it, take care of the buildings and tend the gardens and write sermons and wait for the rooms to be filled with all of you again. And all of us – you and I – will remain hopeful, knowing that as St. Paul told the Church in Rome, hope does not disappoint us. St. James endures through this time of continued uncertainty and looks forward to beginning again.

## **SENIOR WARDEN**

**Vicki Wright**

What a year 2020 turned out to be for the Vestry – and for all of us. It began with a flurry of meetings to determine the long term viability of the School for Little Folks, which culminated in the difficult decision to close the school at the end of the 2020 school year. The Discernment Committee and Vestry had a joint meeting with Canon Augusta Anderson to begin the search for a new clergy leader for St. James. The annual Vestry retreat was held in early February, and several goals were identified for the year: review and update our operating, financial, and employee policies; reorganize and revitalize several committees and ministries of the church; support the work of the Discernment Committee; improve communication within the parish; and find another use for the SFLF space. This retreat would prove to be the last time the Vestry would meet together in person. Midway through Lent, a global pandemic was declared, and the Vestry had to make the decision to cancel the remaining Lenten programs, close the church, suspend in-person worship, and close the School for Little Folks forever. We welcomed our long awaited Youth and Family Minister, Christoph Herpel, at the last in-person meeting held at the church. In March, the Vestry and all church groups began virtual meetings using Zoom.

During April, we began livestreamed services and signed a lease with Head Start to use the former SFLF space to begin in the fall; during the summer, we took the first steps to re-open the church, allowing small numbers of people to attend the services, and began drive-through communions and small meetings. During this time, we suspended and restarted the discernment process. And all the while, the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Work Crew have been working to complete some long delayed projects. It has been a year of ups and downs, budget adjustments, beginnings and endings. In November, our interim rector, Carol Jablonski, announced her retirement effective December 31. In consultation with the Bishop, the Vestry then called our assistant rector, Christie Olsen, to become our interim rector, and the Reverend Tracey Kelly as interim assistant rector beginning January 1, 2021.

I would like to thank everyone who served so graciously on the Vestry this year despite all the changes and uncertainty. Tom Doyle, Kirk Ferguson, Diane Jacober and myself are ending our three-year terms. Susan Danos, Dorothy Fantle, Mike Elrod, Bill Brotherton, Mike Gannon, Mo Rainey, Kathryn Wells and Bob Coffey will remain on the Vestry until the end of their terms. Thank you all for your sacrifice and all you do for St. James. Your grit and faith have carried us through this tumultuous time. I have been richly blessed to serve as Senior Warden this year as a part of this dedicated group of people. And on behalf of the Vestry, I'd like to thank our clergy and staff for their dedication and resilience and you, our beloved St. James family, for your support and prayers during this most unusual year.

## **RESOURCE COMMISSION**

**Kristin Huntley, RC Coordinator**

The mission of the Resource Commission is to facilitate open, clear, and continuous communication within and among all ministries in a structured and accountable manner. In addition, the Commission coordinates the work of the many ministries (led by Ministry Leaders) at St. James to ensure that space, time, funds, and all other resources are available to support the various ministry programs as effectively as possible.

Prior to the pandemic, there were 80+ ministries grouped in nine Ministry Areas, each led by a Resource Commission Liaison; but since March and the arrival of the pandemic, the RC continues to evolve to meet the needs of our congregants and those of the community. It has also forced all of us into the age of technology through Zoom, Facebook, livestream, etc. and to incorporate safety parameters for in-person meetings and services (when those are possible).

A special thank you to Patti Brotherton for coordinating Service Care Teams, Sallie Carr for coordinating Altar Guild responsibilities, and the Flower Guild for their floral arrangements. Brad and our musicians continue to provide inspirational music. The Hospitality Guild supports the monthly drive-through communion with smiles and treats. The Wednesday Work Crew has been hard at work with a number of improvement projects at St. James.

Outreach and Pastoral Care are reaching out to our most vulnerable with homemade masks, food, prayer, and cards. We have to make every effort to stay connected to each other. Our goal for 2020 was to develop a structure within which more parishioners would be encouraged to participate in at least one of our many ministries. That goal has been achieved by the Vestry's support for a newer version of our current ACS database program called REALM. It is one of the top database programs used by the church. The Diocese of Western North Carolina has been encouraging all of the churches in our area to adopt it because of its functionality and its ease of use. It will help us better incorporate not only new members, but current members as well.

# **W**ORSHIP & MUSIC

## **ALTAR GUILD**

**Sallie Carr & Martha Massey, Ministry Leaders**

The St. James Altar Guild is alive and well despite the Corona Virus and pandemic restrictions. We are one ministry which has been able to function since the original shutdown. When services were allowed to occur virtually, we purchased one crystal chalice so participants could “see” the Blood of Christ during the Eucharist, even though no wine would be consumed. Later, an additional crystal chalice was purchased when in-person services began both inside and outside. Until the resumption of in-person services, one guild member assists in the preparation for the virtual services and in the packaging of wafers for the drive-through communions. This member routinely fulfilled all guild duties so as to keep the number of persons in and out of the church at a minimum.

Altar Guild membership has remained consistent this year. While our guild welcomes all members of our parish, including individuals, families, male, female, young or older, we seem to be a group whose membership generally ages over 40, which is a concern at this point in time. We have tried many ways to include families and youth in our ministry and welcome additional ideas to broaden our membership. Due to the age of many of our members, most are understandably hesitant to actively participate with COVID concerns. Currently, five members are setting and clearing for all the services, while two additional members are helping with the laundering of linens.

This year, we have not spent our full budget. Items we typically purchase are wine and wafers for services, replacement linens—including purificators, corporals, towels, and table coverings—candle oil votive candles for the chapel, and Eucharistic vessels. Because so many services have been cancelled or participation is so limited, the need for many of the usual supplies is quite less. We did add one crystal chalice, as already mentioned, and one was donated. A linen covering for the outside altar was also donated by a guild member.

The Altar Guild looks forward to a time when health and safety concerns diminish to allow us to all worship and participate together in the many services that make St. James a unique and special place and community.

## **ACOLYTES**

**Christoph Herpel, Ministry Coordinator**

As acolytes for the 7:30 a.m. service, we assist the ordained clergy at their direction and discretion during the Holy Eucharist. We do this by preparing the table, providing Eucharistic vessels and linens, assisting with various service ablutions, and ringing the Sanctus Bells. In 2019, we served in 51 services with reverence, peace, and gladness.

Our acolyte program is comprised of adults and youth who serve God by assisting our priests each Sunday during the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services. The acolyte program also includes licensed chalice bearers who serve during the 7:30 a.m. service on Sundays and the 5:00 p.m. service on Saturdays. In addition to Sunday services, our acolytes serve during weddings, funerals, and other special services at the church like Lessons and Carols, Celtic Services, and Evensong. Acolyte positions include crucifers, torchbearers, thurifers, sub-deacons, banners, and doves. In order to be an acolyte, you must be at least eight years old and pass an acolyte training course. Adults are always welcome. We would love to have you join our team.

## **CHALICE BEARERS**

**Rosemary Pace, Ministry Leader**

Scheduling for the Sunday 9:00 a.m. service for chalice bearers was abruptly halted the first week of March, due to no in-person communion being allowed in any church service since that time and continuing into the foreseeable future due to the pandemic.

## **CHANGE RINGERS (ST. JAMES BELL TOWER)**

**Dorothy Fantle and Jim Loy, Tower Co-Captains**

**Robert Aldinger, Ringing Master**

The St. James Guild of Change Ringers—i.e., your tower bell band—has not pulled ropes together since March. We work to keep our skills intact by meeting once a week on Zoom and ringing "virtually" using a computer program available through Ringingroom.com. It's not the same as physically ringing, of course, but until the pandemic has passed, it has to do. We seriously need new ringers, so please consider joining us. We miss everyone at St. James and wish you a happy and healthy 2021!

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

**Brad Gee**

While 2020 started off normally with all of our regular musical elements in place, it certainly did not end that way. When the Coronavirus hit in March, everything changed. Both services and rehearsals at St. James came to a halt as we began to understand the dangers of this virus. Ironically and tragically, one of the most dangerous activities to be identified was singing.

2020 saw a massive reboot of everything for us, including where and how we worship. Rehearsals for Choir, Allelu!, and Handbells stopped. Nevertheless, worship we did! Musically we “dropped back” and featured vocal solos and duets for many months. Some of the positive things that happened during these times:

--Both Lisa Whitfield and I stay in touch with the respective musical groups that we lead (Allelu! and St James Choir) through Zoom meetings and socially-distanced outdoor meetings in the church courtyard. For the Choir, I have started a Facebook page where choir members can share pictures, music, and videos with each other since we are not able to rehearse now. These are wonderful ways for our musical groups to stay connected while we are physically apart.

--I have been making organ recordings in church, playing music which is hopefully uplifting, and giving all a chance to hear the organ, which has now been at St. James for twenty years.

--We have featured our superb choir section leaders, instrumentalists from the choir, as well as solos from Lisa Whitfield on our Sunday morning live stream broadcasts. The ministry of music continues strongly at St. James!

--Many volunteers have stepped in to do much-needed projects (which have been carried out with appropriate safety measures in place), including cleaning all choir vestments, filing psalms, anthems, and music from choir folders from Lent and Holy Week, and rearranging anthems in the file drawers so that they are more evenly spaced out. Volunteers have also updated our choir rosters, and coordinated food delivery for some of our members.

As we begin 2021, the musical offerings you hear may be somewhat different, but they are no less heartfelt. It is my sincere prayer that the music offered at St. James will continue to touch lives and glorify God.

## **ALLELU!**

**Lisa Whitfield, Director**

Allelu! is a folk-style contemporary praise music group that leads the music for the 9:00 service on second and fourth Sundays. Allelu! also responds when called upon for funerals, special services, church events and even the Children’s Christmas Pageant. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays 5:15 – 6:15 in the choir room.

Allelu! music is chosen from the 1982 hymnal, Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS), Wonder, Love and Praise (WLP) and Alleluia II – all in the pew book racks. Music ranges from old traditional tunes to classic and contemporary hymns, new praise music from the Cursillo movement and Taize selections. Director Lisa Whitfield chooses hymns and anthems based on the liturgical themes and weekly readings using the Episcopal Musician’s Handbook as a guide.

Allelu! is a non-audition group that welcomes new members. If you have expertise in guitar, piano (just because we have a pianist, it doesn’t mean we couldn’t use an extra), or any melody/harmony instrument, or if you just like to sing, we welcome you to join us at rehearsals and see what it’s like.

## **FLOWER GUILD**

**Nan Payne and Vicki Wright, Ministry Leaders**

The mission of the St. James Flower Guild is to provide floral arrangements and decorations for the church and to the glory of God in order to create an atmosphere of beauty and reverence that will enhance worship. The Flower Guild receives no funding from the church budget and is funded by donations made by the people of St. James who sponsor flowers in memory or honor of loved ones. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact either Nan Payne or Vicki Wright.

## **LECTORS / INTERCESSORS**

**Rosemary Pace, Ministry Leader**

All scheduled services with assigned lectors were able to operate until the first week of March, 2020. At that time, the pandemic exploded, and all scheduling with lectors was abruptly halted. Priests arbitrarily got lectors to serve at needed services. I was able to return to normal scheduling for the Saturday 5:00 p.m. service and the Sunday 10:00 a.m. service starting again in September and am continuing with that scheduling for January 2 – March 28, 2021.

## **USHERS**

**Patti Brotherton, Ministry Leader**

The usher group was undergoing reorganization when the COVID shutdown began. The focus of the ministry was redefined, with more interactive and leadership roles incorporated. Training for the ushers' role and CPR/AED/First Aid was imminent. We had conversations with the Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, Pardee Heart Center, and St. James members to address a comprehensive plan for the usher ministry.

With the Covid shutdown and subsequent change of service offerings, the role of the ushers focused on implementing safety precautions/screenings at the services. The changing role also led to a different title for the group, "Service Care Team." Several ushers chose to withdraw from the group during this time.

Going forward, it is unclear how this group will evolve. At a minimum, it will require a dedicated group of volunteers willing to involve themselves in a proactive manner for the safety and security of all parishioners.

## **VERGERS**

**Jackie Price, Ministry Leader**

No ministry report due to Covid-19.

# **F** AITH FORMATION

## **YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES**

**Christoph Herpel, Youth & Family Minister**

I started my ministry mid-March, at the beginning of the lock-down. We had to move all offerings online (with the exception of a few outdoor youth group meetings during the summer). The main challenges were: • setting up new ways of communication. (Zoom, video lessons, newsletter, live streaming), • getting to know the kids and building up trust without meeting in person on a regular basis, • low online attendance because of Zoom fatigue (caused by online schooling). We kept adapting our offerings during the pandemic to minister to all age groups. Herzliche Grüße\*, Christoph

## **CHILDREN'S CHAPEL**

**Diane King, Ministry Leader**

No ministry report due to Covid-19.

## **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**

**Sallie Carr, Ministry Leader**

A dozen children's bulletins were printed for two age groups, 4-6 years and 7-12 years, for the first two months of the year. Once the pandemic began and in-person church services stopped, we did not print any more. I then shared the link for the weekly bulletins with Christoph, our new Youth and Family Minister, in case he wanted to send them to families so children could print them and follow along during the virtual services.

## **CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION: CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

**Diane King, Ministry Leader**

No ministry report due to Covid-19.

## **NURSERY**

**Brianna Rickle, Director**

The Nursery was closed in March, due to Covid-19.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Diane King, Ministry Coordinator**

No ministry report due to Covid-19.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**  
**Margaret Butler, Ministry Leader**

No ministry report due to Covid-19.

**DREAM GROUPS**  
**Margaret Butler & Mary Anne Haden, Ministry Leaders for Thursday**  
**Margaret LeMaster, Ministry Leader for Monday**

No ministry report due to Covid-19.

**THURSDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP**  
**The Rev. Christie Olsen, Ministry Leader**

No ministry report due to Covid-19.

**LIBRARY**  
**Margaret Butler, Ministry Leader**

The St. James Library is a rich collection of volumes on theology, biblical and prayer book studies, spirituality and dream work. The collection can be searched by title, author, or subject using the catalogue lists or by using the online search system at the church website.

Parishioners may borrow up to three books at a time and are free to browse the collection and read there during regular hours when the church is open. If you have a passion for books, and a few hours a week, call Margaret to join the library team.

**CUBA MISSION**  
**Jack and Tari Watson, Coordinators**

No trip to Cuba this year due to Covid-19.

**PILGRIM QUESTS**  
**Philip Wiehe & Linda McFadden, Ministry Leaders**

No Pilgrim Quest trips this year due to Covid-19.

**PASSAGE MEDITATION**  
**Janice Mewborne, Ministry Leader**

No ministry report due to Covid-19.

**C**OMMUNITY SERVICE

**CARPENTER'S CLUB**  
**Bill Burdett, Ministry Leader**

No ministry report due to Covid-19.

**OUTREACH COMMISSION**  
**Judi Frame, Chair**

The Outreach Commission (OC) meets the second Monday of each month at 3:00 p.m. All parishioners are welcome to join us at any time. The Commission receives some funds from the church budget and generates additional funds through various fundraisers, grants, and individual contributions. During 2020, the OC supported local and international charities. In addition, the OC sponsored several in-gatherings for collecting winter coats/jackets for clients at IAM, solicited funds to purchase sun-protective clothing for the migrant community's summer harvesting, and sponsored "The Quiet Ones" articles in *The Epistle*. Because of Covid restrictions, several annual fundraisers and events had to be cancelled, including support for our Companion Churches in Cuba, Dream Scholarships for local high school seniors, our annual Posada with our companion and bilingual churches, and bilingual services.

Although the annual Henderson County Hunger Coalition Hunger Walk had to be held virtually, St James raised \$9,499 through personal pledges (\$4,065), OC sponsorship (\$1,000), and the Vestry's Frank Byrd Memorial Challenge (\$5,000).

A very scaled-down version of our annual Gifts of Hope/Ten Thousand Villages Fair raised \$2,213 through the SOUPer Saturday drive-through and an online Ten Thousand Villages sale. The SOUPer Bowl Sunday in February provided 305 pounds of canned food for The Storehouse.

As you can see, the Outreach Commission is a very active ministry of St. James, even in a pandemic year! We thank each and every parishioner who supported these efforts in any way. We could not do this without you and your gifts of time and service, and we welcome you to join us at our monthly meetings at any time. And, thank you to the Lord Jesus Christ for His guidance in all we do.

**From General Funds** (monies from Church budget)

Dream Scholarships (thru Henderson County Community Fdn)	\$1,250
Henderson County Hunger Coalition, Sponsorship of Hunger Walk	1,000
Kairos Prison Ministry, NC	250
Cub Scout Troup 607 (St James sponsored)	400
Companion Churches in Cuba Assistance	1,000
Covid Support (H.C. Community Foundation)	500
LaCapilla de Santa Maria, backpacks with school supplies	360
Episcopal Relief and Development	1,000
The Storehouse (Covid food relief)	425
Calvary Episcopal Food Pantry (Covid Relief food)	200
Edneyville Community food pantry (Covid Relief food)	200
True Ridge (Covid Relief)	500
El Refugio (Support for families of detainees-telephone cards)	150
Touching Acts (Jennie McConnachie/South Africa)	810
Church of the Advocate, Episcopal ministry to homeless in Asheville	100
Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM) (Covid food relief)	<u>220</u>
	\$8,365

**From Restricted Funds:**

Our Little Roses, Ethlyn & Frank Byrd ESL Program	\$5400
Our Little Roses, (partial help purchase TV for Activity Room)	310
Candlemas Concert for Hunger Relief in Henderson County	11,000
-IAM (\$3850), The Storehouse (\$4620), & The Rescue Mission (\$2530)	
St James EYC (for Candlemas service)	500
Cuban Companion Churches support	3,150
Love Must Act (Jennie McConnachie Holy Cross School)	1,000
True Ridge (thru Human, Hurt & Hope Grant from Diocesan WNC)	14,799
Immigration Network	175
The Storehouse (Hispanic Covid food support)	2,000
Hats and gloves for Migrant worker's support	903
Ingles Food gift cards for Migrant workers	500
Our Little Roses Mission, San Pedro Sula, Honduras (hurricane relief)	<u>100</u>
	\$39,837

## **ST. JAMES CHARITIES FOUNDATION**

**David Marshall, Chair**

St. James Charities Foundation was legally established as a 501 c (3) nonprofit organization in 1987. The Vestry appointed twelve persons to be the founding Board of Stewards for the foundation; nine lay members come from St. James and three from Henderson County. The sole object and purpose of the trust "is to meet human and community needs in the City of Hendersonville and Henderson County. Over the years, bequests have been made to the foundation, and these funds are managed by outside investment administrators. In 2020, the foundation disbursed \$20,600 to a total of 15 local service organizations.

### **THURSDAY THRIFT SHOP**

**Elaine McElhinney, Store Manager**

The Thursday Thrift Shop has been serving the Hendersonville community for over 50 years. The sales revenue goes to fulfilling our mission of financial support of outreach organizations in the area, such as IAM (Interfaith Assistance Ministry), Backpack Program (FUMC), Ministry of Hope (Black Mountain Prison), The Storehouse, and many more. In 2020, we disbursed \$43,000 to these charitable organizations from sales in 2019. The Thrift Shop was closed in March due to Covid-19.

### **BLESSINGS IN BOXES**

**Sarah Carpenter, Ministry Leader**

The Blessings in Boxes program partners with The Storehouse to provide Christmas gifts for children and youth in need in Henderson County every year. In 2020, St. James once again sponsored children through the use of online virtual tags. Thanks to each parishioner for making this another successful year.

### **FEED THE KIDS**

**Kent M. Loy, Team 1 Leader**

Feed the Kids Team 1 is comprised of over 75 enthusiastic volunteers from St. James, First Congregational, and Holy Family congregations, along with others unaffiliated with a faith-based group. Under normal circumstances, volunteers shop for ingredients, cook the meals at St. James, transport the food to the Boys and Girls Club, serve the meal, and then wash the pots and pans. People find their favorite jobs and co-workers and sign up when their schedule permits.

Before the Henderson County Public Schools closed in March as a result of the pandemic, Team 1 provided two meals for 618 children at the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville on our assigned Fridays. Once the B&GC opened to the children of essential workers and to a limited number of students, FTK provided and continues to pack and provide "to go bags" for the children. Feed the Kids Coalition welcomes all who are interested in helping alleviate the food insecurity of the children of Henderson county.

## **P** ARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

### **FOYERS**

**Laurie Parkerson, Ministry Leader**

Foyers had a great start in 2020, with people gathering for meals in their randomly assorted groups. By the time the pandemic started, the groups had largely wrapped up their dinners. Since March, Foyers has been on hiatus but is looking to resume as soon as it is safe to do so. If the pandemic taught us anything, it is how highly we value personal connections. Foyers has shown to be a wonderful means for people to get to know each other, so I expect that it will be enthusiastically welcomed when it returns.

### **FUNERAL RECEPTION GROUP**

**Hardy Chandler, Ministry Leader**

The Funeral Reception Committee provides a reception following the memorial service for a deceased member of St. James when requested by his or her family. Unfortunately, there have been several deaths in the parish this year, but due to the Covid-19 restrictions, our committee was unable to provide receptions for the families of the deceased.

## **GREETERS**

**Sherry Fransioli, Ministry Leader**

The Greeter ministry came to a halt when in-person services were cancelled. A couple of greeters helped Patti Brotherton with the limited services this summer/fall. Otherwise, I think I can speak for all of us in saying that we're anxious to get back to work!

## **HOSPITALITY GUILD & SOCIAL HOUR**

**Sandra Winecoff, Katharine Burge, & Dorothy Fantle, Ministry Leaders**

This has been quite a different year, as we shifted from coordinating in-person social events to being greeters at drive-through communion! Guild members and Guild auxiliary volunteers prepared baked goods and joined clergy and others in the church parking lot to smile, wave, and hand out goodies. An un-hosted Zoom social hour was set up for Sundays after the livestreamed service so that anyone one who desired could drop in. The Guild and the Building and Grounds Committee worked closely on plans for the kitchen remodeling project, and work by the Wednesday Work Crew began in November.

We look forward to a time when we can gather together again! For more information about the Hospitality Guild and the Guild auxiliary volunteers, contact Sandra Winecoff ([winecoff2000@yahoo.com](mailto:winecoff2000@yahoo.com)), Katharine Burge ([katharineburge@gmail.com](mailto:katharineburge@gmail.com)), or Dorothy Fantle ([dfantle@yahoo.com](mailto:dfantle@yahoo.com)).

## **MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE**

**Pat Whiteside, Ministry Leader**

Our committee is comprised of eight people who enjoy working in the dirt. I have kept up my record - no meetings in 2020! We've made some changes to help us solve the necessity to constantly weed some of the burial sites in the garden by adding stone. For many years, we have replenished the vinca, only to see it disappear. After more than three years pining for a handicap parking space, we were granted permission to use our funds to provide a spot on the side of the one-way exit road in front of the church. We hope to have this goal completed by the end of 2021. This project could not have been accomplished without the dedication of Nan Payne, with much help from Eric Goodman, Charles Medd, our Garden Guru Richard Ward, the Building and Grounds Committee, our Sr. Warden, Vicki Wright, and the Vestry. As I do each year, I remind the parish that the Memorial Garden is not a part of the church budget. We rely on donations and a part of the interment funds. If you wish to be a part of our committee, or make a donation, please call me at 828-891-4429.

## **ST. JAMES BRIDGE GROUP**

**Anne Grove, Ministry Leader**

No ministry report due to Covid-19.

## **TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY**

**Gene Carr, Ministry Leader**

No ministry report due to Covid-19.

## **WELCOMING COMMITTEE**

**Diane Jacober, Ministry Leader**

At the start of 2020, we set goals to have 3–4 Newcomer receptions, update the visitor pew card, complete a review of the nametags, help with St. James 101 classes, and collect more photos for the online directory.

We held a Newcomer reception in February with 10 people, added several new photos to the online directory, and had two St. James 101 class meetings before the pandemic hit. We continue to focus on how best to welcome people online for now and how to welcome again when we regather in person.

After our services were set up online, the Clergy announced at each streaming service how to contact us through our website. Our committee works with Karen to collect newcomer information and welcome them via email or phone communication.

We sent information to the congregation about using the secure online church directory to stay in touch with one another during this difficult time. Dorothy Fantle wrote an article in the July Epistle, and announcements were placed in the bulletin for several weeks.

If you would like to join the Welcoming Committee, please contact Diane Jacober.

# C COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRIES

## WEEKLY SERVICE BULLETINS AND EBULLETINS

**Karen Kuykendall, Parish Office Administrator**

The regular production of around 400 service bulletins every week came to a halt in March when in-person services were canceled. Instead, I developed online bulletins to correspond with the livestreamed services at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday and sent them out to around 470 emails every Friday. Since some parishioners may not have a Book of Common Prayer at home, these bulletins included complete passages from the BCP for everyone's ease of use. Bulletins were also sent via email for prayer, Celtic, Evensong, and Christmas Eve services.

The eBulletin was reformatted, as some of the information regularly included—such as service team listings—was not needed for most of 2020. The eBulletin continued to be sent out on Friday afternoons. A number of visitors to our livestream services and/or website requested to be added to the email lists for both the service bulletins and eBulletins this year.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Beth Beasley, Coordinator**

The external communications ministry was affected in 2020 only in that demand for ministry action was lessened somewhat, due to the pandemic. Press releases reflected modified plans for events that did go ahead this year, after the Stay at Home order was put in place in the spring.

## WEBSITE

**Jim Loy, Webmaster**

The St. James website keeps humming along. Along with Christoph—a very welcome and tech-savvy addition to our group this year—and the rest of our committee, I hope the website is succeeding in disseminating information, recognizing achievements, and spreading the word about our church to viewers near and far. I'm finishing my second full year as your "geezer tech" (why do I volunteer for these things?) and looking forward to another. Many thanks to parishioners who sent me photos, announcements, reports, etc. You are too many to mention individually, but your input was essential. Stay safe in 2021.

# P ASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

## PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

**Rev. Christie Olsen**

2020 was a strange year for all of the pastoral care ministries at St. James. Due to restrictions on in-person meetings, several ministries activities were curtailed: **Lay Eucharistic Visitors** (Ellen Fields) and **Lay Pastoral Care Ministers** (Rev. Christie Olsen) were unable to continue their person-to-person ministries. In addition, we were unable to hold **Grief Group** (Rev. Christie Olsen) meetings.

The **Daughters of the King** were unable to meet throughout the year, but a small group assisted the clergy in removing hymnals and prayer books from the sanctuary until a time when normal worship may be resumed.

However, the **Card Ministry** (Pastoral Care Team) and **Food Angels** (Sara Rainey) were able to continue their activities, as they did not require person-to-person contact. Additionally, the Card Ministry produced beautiful Christmas cards from St. James and mailed them to all homebound parishioners; and a few of the **Neighborhood Ministry** groups were able to meet in socially distanced groups during the warm months. Joyfully, the **New Baby Ministry** (Erin Rainey) was able to welcome two new babies to our parish.

# **S**TEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** **Janet Doyle, Leader/Coordinator**

Purpose: The Stewardship Committee encourages formation in the spiritual disciplines of gratitude, generosity, and faithful stewardship of all that God has provided for us, and thoughtfully and prayerfully motivates all to commit to future support.

Statement on Programs: While in the past, lectures series were organized by the committee, this was impossible in 2020 because of the pandemic restrictions. We look forward to resuming such provocative series as normalcy returns.

Annual Giving Program: This is the crux of our mission, and with solely virtual services and only several weeks of in-person services, we relied on electronic means of stimulating reflections of stewardship, employing the theme of Faith Filled Generosity. Tens.org supplied stewardship reflection inserts for the bulletins, and they were attached or incorporated into Sunday bulletins from October 4 through November 22. Members of the committee also composed thoughts to accompany these nationally available reflections.

Stewardship letters with requests for commitments for 2021 were sent to everyone in the church. We are pleased that in this unusual year, 182 pledging units committed support, which is only slightly less than last year. With limited opportunity for prospective new members to experience our church and family through the use of virtual communications only for the most part, and the sobering climate in which we all lived this year, we are buoyed indeed by this achievement.

Office administrator Karen Kuykendall greatly assisted every part of our campaign this year, particularly in editing communications, printing, and mailing services. We are indebted to her for her talented, gracious service. Throughout the traditional fall pledging season, we gratefully accepted Jim Loy's capable web mastery, so that both messages of encouragement to pledge this year and downloadable pledge cards were added to the St. James website.

Commitment Sunday, traditionally held on the last Sunday in October, included the blessing of the commitment cards to date, via the virtual service. Members of the committee volunteered to distribute and/or collect any pledge cards at the drive-through Communion services as well.

Committee members sent personalized notes to each household that submitted a pledge card, and continued gratitude as expression permitted. The process reminds us all of our many blessings and of the gratitude we all hold for our fellow St. James parishioners.

Members of the Committee: Robert Braswell (resigned 8/2020), Jamie Blount, Janet Doyle, Ginny Faust, Elizabeth Henry, Tom Marshall, and Vicki Wright.

## **LEGACY GIVING COMMITTEE** **Elizabeth Henry, Chair**

The Saint James Church Legacy Giving Committee has dual responsibilities of education and pastoral solicitation. The committee needs members with gifts for education, writing, and hospitality, knowledgeable about legacy giving, respected, credible, and willing to call on prospective donors.

The Legacy Giving Committee's responsibilities include:

- a. raising members' awareness of the legacy giving program and of the ministry it can enable;
- b. providing information to the congregation about how to make legacy gifts;
- c. presenting workshops about medical, legal, and spiritual issues related to aging and the end of life;
- d. calling on parishioners to provide them with information and to invite them to consider making a legacy gift to the St. James Endowment Fund;
- e. sponsoring Legacy Society programs and recognition.

**LEGACY SOCIETY**  
**Elizabeth Henry, Chair**

The St. James Church Legacy Society provides an acknowledgment of legacy gifts and raises awareness of legacy giving. Occasional gatherings allow St. James to thank members who have made a legacy gift and to maintain a dialogue about the St. James Endowment Fund and about the ministries it enables. The Society offers its members the opportunity to witness about their faith and their permanent gift to St. James.

**ST. JAMES ENDOWMENT FUND**  
**Gene Carr, Chair**

The Endowment Fund enables St. James to develop its ministries beyond what is possible through the annual operating budget and distributes funds with three general purposes: (1) outreach ministries, (2) seed money for new ministries and special one-time projects, and (3) capital improvements and major maintenance projects. It will also administer larger gifts restricted by donors for other purposes after these are recommended by the Endowment Board and approved by the Vestry for inclusion in the Fund.

The Endowment Fund is not intended to reduce members' regular annual giving or to diminish responsible stewardship by present or future members; therefore, distributions from the Endowment Fund may not be made to fund the administrative and operational expenses of the parish.

Pursuant to the above purposes in creating an enduring legacy from the parishioners of St. James Church and others, gifts and bequests are to be encouraged and guided to the Endowment Fund by the St. James Legacy Society and its members.

## **A**DMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT MINISTRIES

**ARCHIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Rose Stone, Ministry Leader**

The Archives are located in a safe in the priests' sacristy and in a locked closet. They are a treasured history of St. James. These materials are available for examination upon request; they must remain on the property at all times.

If anyone has pertinent historical materials and would like to submit them for secure storage for use in research about the church, email [karen@stjamesepiscopal.com](mailto:karen@stjamesepiscopal.com) with your information.

**BUILDING & GROUNDS**  
**Eric Goodman, Ministry Leader**

The Coronavirus has effected Buildings & Ground activities in a negative manner; however, we are down but not out. The following was accomplished during 2020:

A. Major water management project under Nave and Chapel Altar and Chancel. This project includes the collection of water, directing the flow and direction of, encapsulation of the area, and dehumidification and discharge of water via three sump pumps connected to a drainage bypass system installed in 2018. During construction, a safety issue of carbon monoxide leakage from the main boiler was discovered, with a portion entering the Chancel area. This issue was sealed and corrected.

B. Two electricians were at the church for four days replacing old, defective, and damaged outlets and switches; correcting overloads, reversing polarity, fixing grounding issues and exposed wiring, and so forth. Tamper resistant outlets were installed throughout the nursery, parish hall, school, administrative hallway, and kitchen. These outlets are for the benefit of child safety.

C. Where the city water supply line connects to the church, it was discovered three out of four main valves and the pressure reduction valve had failed. The water pressure was over 90 PSI during the day and exceeded beyond 100 PSI after hours. Normal pressure is around 60 PSI. A two-inch line under this type of excessive pressure would have caused unimaginable damage if it had burst and especially after hours. New valves—including a new pressure reduction valve—were installed. This situation was a time bomb if there ever was. **Note:** Larry Burge encountered a similar situation earlier this month regarding failed valves in a critical area. Through Larry's "eagle eye," the matter was corrected.

D. Gutters, downspouts, and roof drains are now on a permanent cleaning schedule.

E. Two HVAC package units were replaced in the education wing.

F. Window Replacement: we have continued with our ongoing window replacement project, with Wholesale Glass as our vendor of choice. They have provided the knowledge and expertise to keep our aging buildings warm and dry. This past year, we replaced all of the windows facing the south parking lot as well as all of the windows in the reception lobby area with “LoE” double pane glass. The Wednesday Work Crew also replaced the gutter and fascia on the south side of the building. We still have several windows yet to be replaced. Those being the windows in the three offices overlooking the courtyard and the large windows in the Parish Hall. We plan to proceed as funds are available. – Gene Frame

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Tom Doyle, Chair**

The Finance Committee of St. James is currently comprised of six parishioners serving three year terms, the Rector, and the Senior or Junior Warden. The parish treasurer serves as an ex-officio member. Our mission is to review monthly finances in order to ensure compliance with approved budgetary guidelines. Additionally, we prepare and submit an annual operating budget to the Vestry for the forthcoming year. We also review the annual outside audit and meet with our external auditors to review their findings and recommendations.

#### **OFFERING COUNTERS**

**Lisa Kim Fisher, Interim Finance Administrator**

We have a dedicated group of parishioners that come in every week and count the weekly offering. Some of them have been counting for St James for well over 15 years. We thank you for your dedication! If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Sharon Miller at [sharon@stjamesepiscopal.com](mailto:sharon@stjamesepiscopal.com).

#### **SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

**Mo Rainey, Coordinator**

No ministry report due to Covid-19.

#### **OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

**Karen Kuykendall, Parish Office Administrator**

Our dedicated volunteers were put on hold in March when the office was closed. I look forward to the time when we will once again have this wonderful group here to greet visitors, answer phones, and assist with the tasks at hand.

#### **WEDNESDAY WORK CREW**

**Larry Burge, Ministry Leader**

The Wednesday Work Crew (WWC) is comprised of approximately ten church volunteers who typically meet on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to perform maintenance and repairs around the church. While adhering to virus safety protocols due to COVID-19, Crew members collectively volunteered over 4,000 hours in 2020. A conservative cost avoidance estimate for the church due to their efforts is over \$60,000. This cost avoidance is due primarily to some very large projects such as major kitchen renovation, four bathroom renovations, vinyl flooring repairs, and renovating the EYC Activity Room. Anyone interested in volunteering, regardless of skill level, should contact Larry Burge at [lburge65@gmail.com](mailto:lburge65@gmail.com). Listed below are a myriad of typical projects that were completed this year:

- Renovated the new EYC Activity Room
- Renovated four bathrooms
- Repaired the vinyl floor in the Altar Guild/Flower Guild rooms
- Repaired the gutters along the south wall
- Began major renovation of the kitchen
- Attached side panels to the shed for the Church Van