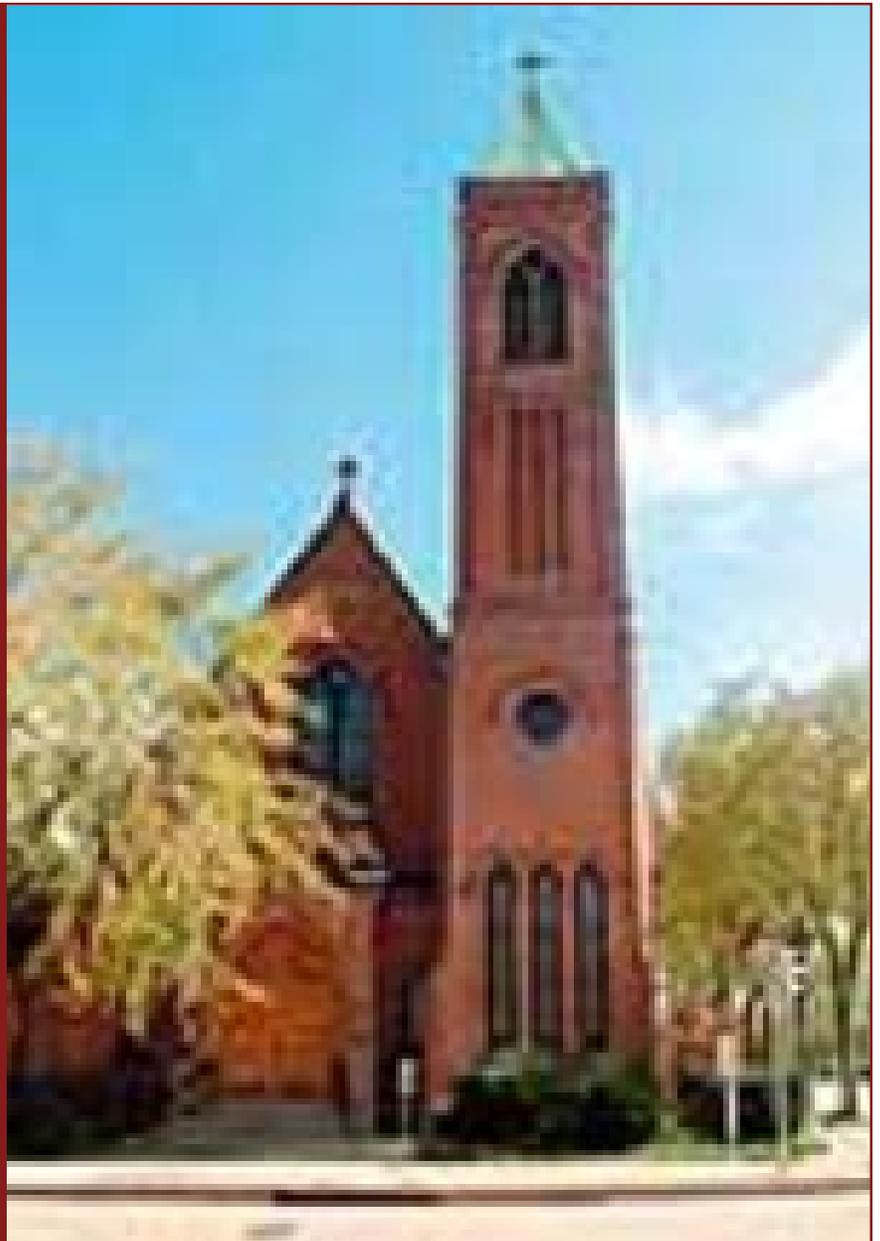


ST. JAMES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Parish Profile

“A church is not diminished in being mission-minded. Rather a missionary church is strengthened in faith by reaching out spiritually, materially and emotionally to others. Just ask anyone at St. James about the truth of that.”

—*The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Jenkins, D.D., Bishop of Louisiana, in The Diocese of Louisiana's Churchwork, February 2002*

Uniquely St. James

Our History

St. James Episcopal Church began in 1819 as a small group of Episcopalians with no rector and no regular place for worship. The parish received its charter of incorporation from the Louisiana legislature in 1844, and the original church building was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Leonidas Polk that same year. St. James is the fourth oldest Episcopal parish in Louisiana. The current church building is on the National Register of Historic Places. St. James and the greater Baton Rouge community have survived and grown through Civil War, World Wars and both good and bad economic times. Since 1975, St. James has had two former rectors and two former associate rectors become bishops of other dioceses. We are privileged to have in our congregation our Bishop-in-Residence, The Rt. Rev'd Robert C. Witcher, retired Bishop of Long Island and former rector of St. James. While St. James has always been located in downtown Baton Rouge on Fourth Street at Convention Street, the current congregation lives throughout the Baton Rouge area and surrounding civil parishes.

Reaching Out

St. James Episcopal Church, throughout its history, has begun, sustained and supported new ministries. St. James was the only Episcopal church in Baton Rouge for its first hundred years. Almost every other Episcopal parish, mission and diocesan institution in Baton Rouge can trace its origins to the nurture and support of St. James Church. Our diocesan bishop, The Rt. Rev. Charles Jenkins, recently commented that St. James has been instrumental in building the Episcopal church in Baton Rouge throughout the 20th century.

In addition to the founding of several other Episcopal parishes in Baton Rouge, St. James has been involved in elementary education for over 50 years. St. James Episcopal Day School, founded in 1951, provides a church-based education to children in grades pre-K through five. The Day School has an enrollment of about 275 students of all races and religions. It is accredited by the Southwest Association of Episcopal Schools. Episcopal High School of Baton Rouge, Inc. (K-12) was established by St. James in 1965 as a diocesan extension of the Day School for middle and high school students. It now has its own elementary school and continues to serve three parish feeder schools for middle and high school. Excellence in education has been a hallmark of both of these institutions.

St. James Church was responsible for bringing first class retirement living to Baton Rouge. St. James Place opened in 1983 as the city's first total life care retirement community. The church provided the seed capital and the initial manpower to make St. James Place a reality. Today, after close to \$100 million in plant and equipment investment, St. James Place is home to hundreds of senior citizens. In 2001 it was the recipient of the prestigious American Institute of Architecture and American Association of Homes and Services Design for the Aging Award, which recognizes national retirement communities that represent the best in design and programming for senior living.

The Outreach Committee was established by the Vestry over 20 years ago. Their mission is to allocate the funds that represent our Parish tithes to the community at large to assist those in great physical or spiritual need. Financial contributions are supplemented by active participation of parishioners in several of the recipient organizations. St. James annually supports the Downtown Christian Outreach Center, the St. James Food Pantry, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and the Ministers' Discretionary Funds. In addition, we typically participate with time, talent and treasure in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, The Big Buddy Program, Cancer Services of Greater Baton Rouge, Kairos of Louisiana, Public School Partnership, Camp St. James, O'Brien House and many other worthwhile community outreach activities. Camp St. James is a Vacation Bible School for abused and neglected children. O'Brien House is a residential transitional program for men in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction.



Spiritual Formation

Our children ages two through 12 are nurtured in the atria of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a program that is also provided to our Day School students grades K through two. These atria have not had a permanent home and eagerly await their own space in refurbished Atkinson Hall.

The Youth Ministry has grown under the leadership of a full-time Director of Youth Ministry. The Youth Ministry focuses on three main areas: Parent Ministry, Ministry of Mentors, and the Young People. Parent Ministry involves regularly scheduled presentations of experts on the challenges of teenagers. Ministry of mentors includes opportunities to create relationships with the young people, and a weekly Bible study and prayer group for mentors led by the Youth Minister.



The ministry to youth includes Sunday morning classes and weekly Bible studies. Sunday evening activities include outreach, study, fellowship, worship, summer mission trips, and retreats. The Journey to Adulthood Pilgrimage creates a significant experience for youth prior to a decision to become confirmed members in the Episcopal Church.

St. James has a tradition of bringing to the parish and the Diocese speakers, preachers and lecturers of many different traditions within the Christian community, both through the Christian Education department and through the Center for Spiritual Formation.

Adult Christian Education offerings are available on a regular basis on Sunday mornings. These offerings range from traditional Bible study class to classes on church history, theology, the liturgical year through art, music and literature, art and spirituality, the lives of the saints, and relationships and family systems. A portable labyrinth adds another dimension to the opportunities for spiritual enrichment.

Each year during Lent, parishioners participate in our Journey Into Community program, meeting weekly in private homes or at church for small group fellowship and Bible study.

Perhaps the most innovative aspect of our spiritual formation program is the St. James Center for Spiritual Formation, the only parish-based Center for Spiritual Formation of which we are aware. The uniqueness of the concept led the Grants Program of Trinity Church Wall Street to award a \$55,000 three-year grant to fund the start-up of the Center. The Center addresses a need that Trinity Grants Program has identified as being of primary concern to the church today — Spiritual Formation. As part of its celebration of the Jubilee theme of the 2000 General Convention, Trinity designated the St. James Center for Spiritual Formation a Jubilee Ministry.

The Center provides programs of contemplative prayer, iconography, spirituality and the arts, the study of spiritual classics, group spiritual direction, retreat days and workshops on a variety of topics utilizing both local and national speakers. These offerings are developed for the St. James community, the ecumenical community in the Baton Rouge area and for the Diocese.

The Center has also been working with a diocesan committee to explore the development of ongoing cooperative work with Episcopal seminaries to strengthen and extend Christian education and formation offerings for lay people, clergy and those in the discernment process.



Our Worship



Our corporate worship is enhanced by an outstanding choir and beautiful liturgy. The liturgical life of St. James centers around the Sunday celebration of the Holy Eucharist with four services every Sunday; a contemporary service is offered on the first and third Sundays of each month.

Our 7:30 a.m. celebration follows the form of Rite I. It is held in the church without music and has about forty faithful attendees.

The 9:00 a.m. celebration of Holy Eucharist is usually Rite II with 150 to 180 attending. This service is more popular with families with young children, and there is interest in encouraging family and youth focus at this service. The Junior Choir sings.

The 11:00 a.m. service has been Rite I in Advent and Lent; Rite II in Ordinary Time. Occasionally, Morning Prayer is used in place of the Liturgy of the Word. Attendance averages 200 at this service; the Adult Choir sings year-round.

The 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I or II, is held in the Chapel of the Twelve Apostles with an average attendance of about twenty, without music.

On the first and third Sundays, at 8:45 a.m., a contemporary service based on Rite II is held. About forty-five attend this service. Instrumental and vocal music are led by an LSU voice major and other LSU and St. James musicians.

Weekday services are held at noon on Tuesdays, and at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays. Thursday's service includes the laying on of hands. During Advent and Lent additional services are added.

A large company of laity provide support and enhance corporate participation in worship at St. James. Two or three members from a team of nineteen Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist at services; a team of LEM-IIs delivered the

sacrament to homebound parishioners 252 times last year. The Linen Guild washes and irons altar linens and works with the eight teams comprising the 70-member Altar Guild. Usher Teams, each assigned to their preferred service, alternate round-robin style. A trained group of lectors takes on special duties for Lessons and Carols during Advent and the Passion readings, along with their regular reading of the lessons and the prayers of the people each Sunday. Two acolyte "masters" assist at the 7:30 a.m. service; fifth graders through high school seniors are invited to join the Acolyte group, now numbering over thirty, to serve at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services.

Music at St. James

The music program at St. James is a vital program, constantly reaching for excellence, and highly valued by the parish. The 56-member choir provides a variety of music at the 11:00 Sunday services, but much of what it sings is within the tradition of the Anglican Cathedral.

St. James has two pipe organs, a 1976 three-manual Schlicker with horizontal trumpet on the rear wall and a four-rank 1996 Karl Wilhelm cabinet organ. For special occasions, choral forces are augmented by a brass quintet and tympani. The choir at St. James enjoys a challenge and works with twelve section leaders from the LSU School of Music, who perform along with parishioners.



St. James Episcopal Church

Our Fellowship

St. James Church treasures its active parish family. We know that fellowship strengthens us on our journey and caring for others benefits the giver as well as the recipient.

Our Family gives church members an opportunity to minister to fellow parishioners who have experienced the death of a loved one or other crisis in their lives. More than 60 parishioners participate in Our Family.

A number of ECW chapters meet at varying times and locations. All chapters have come together every Friday during Lent for over 50 years to prepare and serve 500-600 gumbo lunches to the downtown community. This has been the major fundraiser for ECW, and provided an opportunity for fellowship and to introduce St. James to the downtown community.



The Garden Guild keeps the church campus spruced up and beautiful. Foyer Flowers presents arrangements to beautify the entry foyer to the Manship Ministries Center. Vacation Bible School for three year olds through elementary school children of the Parish is held one week each summer with a different Christian theme each year. Last year, 130 children participated.

The Associate Vestry focuses on fellowship and opportunities for newcomers to ease their way into the St. James family with four major events each year: a spring Crawfish Boil, the Parish Picnic, a Fall Hospitality Party, and a Parish Breakfast at the time of the Annual Meeting.

Given the opportunity, St. James laity will rise to fulfill an expressed need. The Wednesday Morning Bible Study has



been held for more than 15 years as an opportunity for Christian fellowship, study and prayer before the workday begins. A Cancer Support Group formed to attend the Thursday Eucharist and Healing Service together and support one another. The Young Adults group offers opportunities for younger parents to celebrate, study and pray together. Volunteers with the Nursing Home ministry assist residents to attend ecumenical worship services in four local nursing homes. A dedicated team gathers allotments as well as direct donations, sorts, bags and keeps records of the one hundred families assisted each month through the St. James Food Bank.

We enjoy ...

- Celebrating at the Day School carnival with balloons and jambalaya
- Meeting in Foyer Groups for food, fun, and friendship
- Gathering in groups to Journey into Community for Bible study and potluck
- Making music at choir parties, with raucous rehearsals, dinner and fellowship
 - Attending a Wednesday Night Live program — one month an update on the Middle East — the next an old fashioned sing-along
- Retreating to the Episcopal Conference Center, just an hour away in the piney woods

The Vision for St. James

Challenges

The vestry conducted a professionally led strategic planning process for the Parish, which began in October 2001. Dozens of small group meetings were held with almost 200 parishioners to allow us to express our thoughts, concerns and hopes for St. James. Eight traits of St. James were identified with consensus as strengths to be enhanced:

- Our historic, beautiful church buildings
- Our exceptional music and choir
- Our excellent Day School
- Beautiful liturgy done very well
- Our financial resources and stability and membership giving
- The St. James Center for Spiritual Formation
- A well-educated membership with talents and abilities given freely in ministry
- Pride in our traditions and great history

While there is a high degree of satisfaction with much of what we do at St. James, there is also a realistic sense we can do better. The challenges brought to us by the fire in Atkinson Hall in March 2001, the events of September 11 and the retirement of our rector October 1 helped us focus on identifying areas that need our attention.

We learned that at this time the most important thing we can do is to find creative, constant, and consistent ways to communicate with our members.

We want to make a faithful commitment to attract new members, to retain longtime members, and particularly to nurture young families. We need to better integrate our Day School family into the church activities.

With the addition of two new buildings, we will need to move with care to use our space efficiently, effectively and to its maximum potential.

We must work with other churches to address the special challenges of a downtown church and outreach, while making sure to balance those efforts with a high level of pastoral care and Christian education for our own members.

We need to explore opportunities to deepen the faith of our own church members as well as draw others into communion with us. Offering additional Bible studies, extensively promoted and valued by clergy and staff, was a priority noted in our small groups.

Expectations

Strong consensus was found among participants about the abilities and strengths needed by our next rector to address the needs of this parish personally and corporately.

First and foremost, the people of St. James hope for a rector with strong pastoral skills. We want a person who will listen to the stories of our lives as well as hearing our prayers — a person who will be present and involved with the congregation personally.

The rector should also be a good manager of people, able to empower them and to delegate well. Good listening skills are among the most highly rated characteristics. A willingness to seek out and listen to various points of view before making difficult decisions is a quality valued in this parish of diverse and independent thinkers.

Our rector will lead us with strong faith and theology and by teaching and example to help us achieve our personal spiritual potential and our goals for the church and the community.

Finally, we seek a person who will help the congregation reach out to draw in new members, with particular focus on the next generation of our leadership, while continuing to honor the traditions of St. James and the Episcopal church.

Rather than a leader who acts alone, we want a leader who enables. We want our new rector to lead us, work with us, and rejoice with us — sharing both our vision and our love for St. James.



All About Us

Our Community



Baton Rouge is Louisiana's second largest city and the center of a metropolitan area with a population of over 600,000. It is home to Louisiana State University and Southern University. The state's capitol is located in Baton Rouge adjacent to the Mississippi River and our country's largest deep inland water port.

The Baton Rouge Symphony, the Louisiana Arts & Science Center, newly constructed museums, a new planetarium, the Rural Life Museum and the Baton Rouge Little Theater represent just a sampling of our vibrant and successful arts community.

Entertainment opportunities are abundant: college athletics, a professional hockey team, professional football and basketball teams in New Orleans (only an hour's drive from Baton Rouge), the Baton Rouge Zoo, numerous historical sites and antebellum homes.

Our city is blessed with leading edge health care facilities. The Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center is one of the best in the country and Woman's Hospital is known nationally for its unique services to women and infants.

Baton Rouge is a caring city with thousands of active volunteers. We are grateful that Baton Rouge strives for racial harmony and that diversity is appreciated and welcomed.

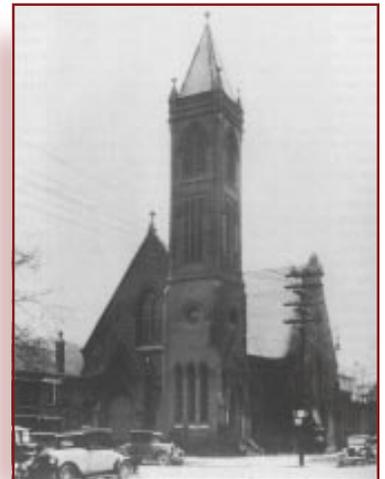


St. James Church is a downtown parish and the future of the downtown area is of great importance. We are thankful for the vitality and growth that have occurred in downtown Baton Rouge in the last five years and for the "under construction" and future project commitments that are today's realities. New private and public buildings have been and are being constructed. St. James Church's \$7 million building project, fully funded by a recent capital fund drive, adds to the revitalization of downtown. Our downtown ministry is an opportunity that God has offered to St. James Church and that St. James Church is committed to fulfill.

Our Facilities

Construction started on our historic church in 1895 and first services were held in June 1896. Through the years, we have acquired nearly every property on our city block.

Atkinson Hall, better known as the Parish Hall, was built in the early 1960s. It houses the Chapel of the Twelve Apostles and has provided space throughout the years for a variety of parish and Day School activities. It is presently undergoing renovations as part of a long-range building plan, adjusted after a fire in March 2001 caused major damage to the west end of the building.



Renovations to Atkinson Hall will provide space for a bride's room, funeral gathering rooms, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atria, vesting rooms, choir rooms and offices, a church parlor, a large gathering room and a small gathering room. Undamaged space on the east end of Atkinson Hall contains a commercial kitchen, Day School cafeteria, library, child care and nursery space and several Day School classrooms.



Across the street, facing Atkinson Hall and the church, is the newly-opened Manship Ministry Center. Another historic Baton Rouge landmark in the Art Deco/Art Nouveau style of the Louisiana capitol, this building was acquired by St. James in 1995 and remodeled in 2001. The Ministry Center houses the administrative offices of the church, the church library, Vestry room, the St. James Center for Spiritual Formation, a Youth Suite, Food Bank facilities, and church archives. Unfinished areas remain on the first and third floors for future expansion.

The Great Hall will be under construction in the spring of 2002. The large focus room will be adaptable for use by the Day School, yet functional for special services, and large parish programs. It is expected to be available for Diocesan programs, youth gatherings, and, when appropriate, to the Baton Rouge community for outreach.

After completion of the Great Hall, long-range building programs include additional classrooms for the Day School, redesign of other areas in Atkinson Hall, creation of a meditation garden between the Great Hall and Atkinson Hall, and the addition of a columbarium.

Staff Support

At “full complement,” the St. James staff comprises the rector, two associates, and in full-time lay positions a Youth Minister, Director of Christian Education and Director of Lay Ministries, Headmaster of the Day School, Director of Maintenance, Administrative Secretary, Secretary, Comptroller and Food Services Manager. Part-time positions include the Organist/Choirmaster, Junior Choir Director, and Bookkeeper.



St. James Episcopal Church

Finances & Budget

St. James Church is blessed with a solid financial foundation. Our parishioners are willing to commit annually to the financial support of the Church's many ministries. St. James has successfully completed every capital fund drive it has initiated.

We have always paid the full Diocesan asking and have contributed to the support of the Diocese and Diocesan ministries and programs over and above our asking. Our Diocesan asking in 2001 was \$155,000. Our outreach expenditures were \$154,000 last year, an amount which has been increased annually for the last several years.

We are also fortunate in the important area of endowments. Our investment portfolio is approximately \$11 million. Thirty-six percent of this amount represents a building fund reserve to complete the construction of the new Great Hall and to fund the renovation of two existing buildings. The balance is either unrestricted (\$1.2 million) or restricted to emergencies, clergy study, outreach, parishioner aid and St. James Day School (\$5.6 million).

St. James Church recently completed a capital fund drive to finance the above mentioned construction projects. The amount raised in pledges was \$6,875,000 and provides sufficient money for construction, furniture and equipment along with a reasonable contingency reserve.

St. James Church 2002 Budget

Income	
Pledge	\$1,023,850
Prior year pledges	12,000
Unpledged contribution	32,000
Plate offerings	12,500
Investment income	62,977
<u>Other Income</u>	<u>125,460</u>
Total Income	\$1,268,787
Expenses	
Personnel	\$ 600,148
Non parish programs*	157,763
Parish programs	43,770
Christian education	25,650
Music program	40,018
Office & Administration	120,750
Maintenance	66,750
Utilities	110,000
Youth ministry	11,100
<u>Lay ministry</u>	<u>32,900</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,268,849
Net	(\$ 62)

* Diocesan asking

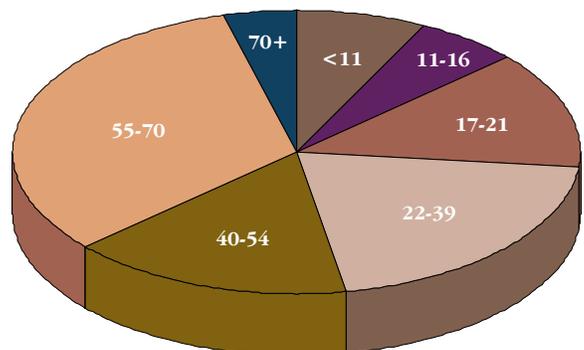
Pledging Units at St. James

1998 — 538
 1999 — 474
 2000 — 479
 2001 — 436
 2002 — 484

Communicants in Good Standing

1999 — 1,323
 2000 — 1,328
 2001 — 1,585

Our Ages



St. James Vestry

Tommy Frazer, Senior Warden
Mimi Riché, Junior Warden
Mary Frances HopKins, Clerk
Chris Harrell, Treasurer
Joe Benton
Bob Bowsher
Maia Butler
Kent Caldwell
Jesse Coates
Rip Collins
Ann Lynn Colvin
Margaret Culbertson
Lou Ellis

Mike Fontenot
Ed Henderson
Susie Heroman
Bob Israel
Sancy McCool
Jayne Middleton
Jerry Lynn Mills
John B. Noland
John Pine
Nora Say
Gerry Sulzer
Dan West
Leigh Ann Majors, *Youth Rep.*

Search Committee

Kent Caldwell
Don Capron
Mike Fontenot
Lee Griffin
Lolly Martin
Pat Broderick
Marsha Wade
Judy Foil
Dan West, Chairman

ST. JAMES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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