



ST. JAMES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE MESSENGER

2022 VOLUME 1

CLERGY

The Rev. Chris Duncan
Rector

The Rev. Dr. Drew Harmon
Senior Associate Rector

The Rev. Don White
Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Pat R. Lyle
Deacon

VESTRY

Third Year

- Bob Bowsher
- Ashley Frey
- Robert Heroman
- Bettsie Miller
- Chrissie Olsson
- Martha Richard

Second Year

- Anita Byrne
- Mike Fontenot
- Lolly Martin
- Alan Miller
- Robyn Richards
- John Soule

First Year

- Chetwin Carter
- Ben Dampf
- Ann Holmes
- Bunny Hines
- Mary Pesses
- Lazette Phillips

STAFF

Paul Allman
Facilities Manager

Liz Canfield
Family Ministries Coordinator

Monica Dugas
Office Administrator

Shannon Gallier
Director of Music

Sarah Joy Hays
Parish Life Coordinator

Bridget Henderson
Head of School

Darell Lee
Custodian

Dwight Nichols
Sexton

Cheryl Olinde
Director of Finance

Jacques Pourciau
Director of Operations



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3

**THE THREE PROCESSIONS OF
PALM SUNDAY**

The Rev. Chris Duncan

5

**ANNUAL MEETING &
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
PHOTOS**

7

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM
HERE? REIMAGINING
OUTREACH**

The Rev. Dr. Drew Harmon

9

**CHILDREN CAN SING
ANYTHING, AND SO CAN YOU**

Shannon Gallier

11

**GROWING FAMILY
MINISTRIES**

Liz Canfield

13

**A WORD FROM
THE VESTRY**

Trey Roberts

THE THREE PROCESSIONS OF PALM SUNDAY

THE REV. CHRIS DUNCAN RECTOR

The liturgies contained within the Book of Common Prayer have received extra media attention over the past decade through two royal weddings (2011 & 2018) and several public funerals including those of President George H.W. Bush (2018) and Secretary Colin Powell (2021). The beauty contained in our prayer book's words and actions celebrate God's love and mercy experienced in this life and in the life to come. This beauty has captured the imagination and faith of Christians for generations and continues still today.

While many Episcopalians appreciate the pomp and circumstance that comes with our liturgy, there is often deeper purpose than beauty for beauty's sake behind what we do. For instance, many of our services in the Episcopal Church begin with a procession. These processions are beautiful and serve a practical function of getting people from the back of the church to the front. At the same time, there is a deeper meaning as each procession serves to lead us first in heart and mind into our corporate worship together. Our attention shifts from the world outside the church doors to worshipping the Living God in that time and space. Then, at the end of the service renewed by the Holy Spirit, we join the procession back out into the world living and sharing the good news of Christ.

Now, as we embark on our Lenten journey, making our way to Jerusalem for the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord, the season peaks as we arrive at the start of Holy Week with the "processions" of Palm Sunday. I say "processions" plural because there is much to unpack in this story. While the Gospels only share the tale of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, there are in fact two other processions at play behind the scenes.



THE MACCABEAN PROCESSION

In the 2nd century B.C.E., the land of Judea was ruled by a foreign power known as the Seleucid Empire. Under their rule, the Jewish religion was outlawed by the Seleucid State and the Jewish temple in Jerusalem was raided. In response to these attacks on the Jewish people and religion, a man named Judah Maccabee gained strength and popularity. Maccabee led an army of Jewish dissidents to victory over the Seleucid Empire and expelled the foreign power from the land. Upon their victory, a procession formed from the battlefield as the soldiers marched to Jerusalem to cleanse and rededicate the Temple to God. As the procession passed through the city, people lined the streets shouting, "Hosanna to God in the highest!" while excitedly waving palm branches. The victorious general, Judah Maccabee, passed by on his horse waving to the crowd. The Jewish kingdom of Judea and Jerusalem had a new king. More than a century later, it is the collective memory of these events that help shape the expectation that the Messiah would be a conquering hero.

THE ROMAN PROCESSION

Some two thousand years ago, the area in and around Jerusalem was a volatile place due in part by the Jewish desire for self-rule once more. However, the Romans were fierce in their enforcement of the “Pax Romana” (Peace of Rome). This peace was kept by killing anyone who happened to disturb it. In the time of Jesus, many revolts had come and go with each one ending the same way: death to the traitor of Rome. In order to reinforce the presence of Roman power during the Jewish Passover celebration, the local Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, would lead a procession of military troops from his coastal residence in the west and through the streets of Jerusalem. The Roman Empire knew well the story of the Passover and how the Jewish people had gained their freedom from the Egyptians. Therefore, the message was clear, “You may come for your holy rituals, but anyone disrupting the ‘Pax Romana’ will suffer the consequences.” The Roman Procession was meant to strike fear in the hearts of the people to force submission to the empire.

JESUS’ PROCESSION

And then there was Jesus’ procession...He did not enter the city with troops at his command marching before him. Instead, his arrival was a display of peace through love and mercy. For instance, Jesus entered the city upon a donkey, a Jewish symbol of peace, rather than a mighty war horse. Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem had throngs of people gathered, but they were mostly the peasants and lowly of that society. There is no doubt that Jesus’ procession has clear parallels to these other two. In fact, Jesus’ procession might have even occurred at the same time as the Roman procession. This difference between Jesus’ procession and the other two is that he redeems the moment by redefining what it means to be great. His procession was not a symbol power by force or fear, but rather a display of God’s peace through love and mercy.

OUR PROCESSION

On display in these stories of processions are the characteristics of three kingdoms. There is the Maccabean kingdom representing the last of the old ways and the false hope of greatness through might. There is the Roman kingdom which used the threat of death to keep the peace, thus defining greatness through fear. Then there is the kingdom of God. A kingdom of true greatness achieved through peace, love, and mercy.

All of this leads to the question, which procession will you join? As the Church, we quite literally remember Jesus’ procession each year with the celebration of Palm Sunday. We then are invited to walk with Christ not just into Jerusalem, but also to the cross, to the grave, to the empty tomb on Easter, and then back out into the world living and sharing the good news of Christ. While we might be tempted to join the procession that leads us back into an idealized past or be seduced by the procession of power through misguided understandings of greatness, we are reminded once more that Jesus’ procession of peace through love and mercy continues and calls us out into the world to live and share the good news of Christ.

THE QUESTION IS... WHICH PROCESSION WILL YOU JOIN?



ANNUAL MEETING & AV PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 23, 2022





WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? REIMAGINING OUTREACH

THE REV. DR. ANDREW HARMON
SR. ASSOCIATE RECTOR

The pandemic has caused a number of challenges for nearly every program and ministry area at St. James. Protocols and surges and rising case numbers have demanded caution, while also engendering creativity and flexibility amongst parishioners and staff. St. James' longstanding outreach programs have likewise adapted their initial vision for the current moment, supporting individuals experiencing food or housing insecurity in unique ways.

When worries over contact transmission were prevalent, the We Care bag ministry strengthened its partnership with the Christian Outreach Center. Now, roughly 175 We Care bags are delivered weekly to COC for safe distribution. Similar worries forced the Food Pantry to adapt to a drive-in model of grocery distribution, beginning in November 2020, utilizing our parking lots to register and hand out pantry staples. And rather than risk a super-spreader event, Hearty Breakfast suspended operation for a time, supporting local organizations working for the justice and peace of the city.

With increased vaccine accessibility, programs that had halted have been able to slowly restart. While dozens of St. James parishioners have jumped at the opportunity to serve a warm meal or basic groceries to those who need it, the scope of need has changed. Foot traffic is down; smaller crowds are attending Hearty Breakfast (30 rather than 150); fewer folks are taking advantage of our food pantry (30 rather than 100 households per month).

Rationale for why exactly this is the case is varied and likely more complex than we think. State programs housing those previously under-housed in hotels and motels began in earnest at the beginning of the pandemic. Though this program has expired, it moved those experiencing housing insecurity outside of our immediate vicinity. Federal and state relief aid programs have also increased, not to mention additional monies received through refundable child tax credits. All these lines of support, and others, seek to deliver aid directly to individuals and households most significantly affected at this time.

Again, these factors (and others) likely go into the trends St. James' outreach committee and volunteers have noticed. With a desire to do the work set before us—to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being—questions have started to bubble up about how outreach efforts might need to evolve. What would it look like to bring Hearty Breakfast into the community? Or to offer groceries to those without reliable transportation or mobility issues? Could St. James partner with other churches to be more effective in collection and distribution of resources?



Underlying all these wonderings is a promising shift in outreach model from attractional (to where people come to us) to missional (to where we meet people wherever they are). Serve Sunday, which has encouraged parishioners to go to where there is need, is a natural expression of this missional model. I can tell you, there is energy and excitement around the possibility of reimagining our work in this city; the potential for growth and expansion of our multiple outreach programs is staggering. The work now is that of discernment, of listening to our neighbors, our partner organizations, and the Spirit, as we determine how best to seek and serve Christ in all persons.



 **ST. JAMES**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GUMBO

70 YEARS OF FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP

IS BACK!



CHILDREN CAN SING ANYTHING, AND SO CAN YOU

SHANNON GALLIER DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

For more than 1,000 years, the tradition of children singing in worship has been an integral part of the Anglican tradition. Beginning in and around Salisbury, this tradition has led to generation after generation of skilled, knowledgeable, talented, capable leadership by young people. The ultimate result of this tradition can be seen in the ongoing use of choirs of men and boys (and now, thankfully, women and girls, too) of the great cathedrals in England. If you've ever seen or heard the service of Lessons & Carols from King's College, Cambridge, those boys are between 8 and 14 years old, and they sing at a world-class level.

Our children are no different than those at King's College. While the American choral tradition is different than that of England, we in the Episcopal Church put such an emphasis on music and liturgy that we have, thanks be to God, held on to the tradition of children leading worship from the choir stalls.

And so, it is with great excitement and a sense of real possibility that we at St. James have inaugurated a new choir for children in grades 2-5. The St. Francis Choir has already begun regularly meeting for rehearsals on Thursdays, with their Sunday premiere coming up on February 13.

The St. Francis Choir is one of three choirs at St. James. Our adult choir, the St. James Choir, is made up of the St. James Schola (paid professionals) and many talented volunteers. Our auditioned treble choir (the St. Cecilia Choir) is made up of young singers in grades 6 and up. Members of the St. Cecilia Choir receive an end-of-year scholarship for their participation. And now, the St. Francis Choir, for children in grades 2-5, will be the beginning of many young people's love of the church, music, and the arts.

This graded system, from 2nd graders to singers in their 80's, is the ultimate intergenerational ministry. St. Francis choristers, some born as recently as 2014, will be singing alongside older singers who have been singing since the 1960s. This kind of melting pot of age, experience, and mentorship is what choirs are all about.

If you love to sing, there is a place for you in the choirs at St. James.





UPCOMING MUSIC MINISTRY EVENTS

Lenten Compline Series **Sundays in Lent | 7pm**

Each Sunday in Lent, a different choral ensemble from St. James, as well as one guest ensemble, will offer sung Compline to end the day. Compline, with roots in the monastic tradition, is a beautiful, quiet service with meditative music and chant. Each service of Compline will be preceded by a 15-minute musical meditation at 6:45pm, performed by local musicians.

A Concert of Remembrance: Fauré Requiem **April 3 | 5pm**

Join us in commemorating the lives of those lost in the COVID-19 pandemic in a memorial concert featuring Gabriel Fauré's sublime "Requiem in D minor," featuring the Choirs of St. James and orchestra. Other works in the concert will include Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings" and haunting Fauré's "Pavane."

Hymn Festival **May 15 | 5pm**

Join the combined choirs of St. James and special guest Conductor and Organist, Dr. Patrick Scott in a festival of hymns and scripture, celebrating the rich tradition of hymnody in the Episcopal and Anglican traditions. A gala reception will follow the event. Dr. Patrick Scott, a student of the renowned church musician Gerre Hancock, has been the winner of numerous improvisation competitions and is in demand as a choral clinician and organ recitalist. He serves as Director of Music and Organist at Grace and St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

GROWING FAMILY MINISTRIES

LIZ CANFIELD

FAMILY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

There's a Danish proverb that says, "When you take a child by the hand, you take a parent by the heart." It's a phrase that I keep in mind when I create a Sunday School lesson, Children's Church craft or EYC outing. One of the best ways to support St. James' mission of "inviting all to join in ministry together in His (i.e., Christ) name" is by engaging our youngest parishioners. When kids attend church and have a great experience, they will come back...dragging their parents with them.

Based on the numbers, parental comments, and hugs I received last fall, I'm starting to believe the Danish may be on to something. Family Ministries saw wonderful growth in numbers and involvement in 2021, and the year ended on a high note with a heart-warming Nativity Pageant.

I'm working hard to make sure the momentum continues through the spring. In Sunday School, we'll begin to learn about Moses, focus on why Easter is so very important and play a few more rounds of the popular Bible BINGO. Children's Church now comes fueled with goldfish, water, and Jesus juice. The latter serving as a delicious (and kid-friendly) example of Jesus' first miracle.

Our nursery caregivers continue to give out hugs and smiles each Sunday. In order to maintain the level of care they provide, all workers, including myself, will take part in a CPR/First-aid recertification workshop this spring. St. James is truly blessed to have such a dependable group of workers, who were recognized by the Vestry with a well-deserved raise for 2022.

Although, EYC has had a slow start to the year due to Covid-19 concerns, there is a lot of fun in the works. Members of the Baton Rouge Deanery EYC are planning outings to Top Golf, discussing mission trips and working with the diocesan youth coordinator on events.

The best way to stay up-to-date on everything family ministries is to subscribe to the weekly e-newsletter, The Spark. 2022 introduced a new look and new name for our Family Ministries newsletter that creates a unique identity our kids can call their own while still maintaining a strong connection to the brand of St. James. Why The Spark? Being created in the image of God, every child possess a divine spark that makes them special. Family Ministries' goal is to help nurture that interest or passion into a full flame that lights God's love within the world. Email ecanfield@stjamesbr.org to receive The Spark.

There's a lot more in store for Family Ministries in 2022. When I was approached about serving as family ministries coordinator it was on an interim basis. I'm happy to share that I'll be continuing in the role for another year as the Director of Family Ministries. I'm having way too much fun to stop just yet.

SAVE THE DATES:

- **Diocese of Louisiana's New Beginnings** March 25 – 27
- **Easter Egg Hunt** April 16
- **Senior Recognition** May 1
- **Parents' Night Out** TBD



Preserving Our Past SECURING OUR FUTURE

2021-2025

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BY THE NUMBERS

NUMBER OF PLEDGES 263

TOTAL PLEDGED AMOUNT \$4,076,266.17

TOTAL GIVEN TO DATE (12/31/21) \$1,990,069.49

FROM THE VESTRY

TREY ROBERTS SR. WARDEN

What a year it has been for us at St. James! As I reviewed my previous quarterly updates, I am pleasantly surprised by how far we have come in the last year, it has certainly been an exciting time in the life of our church.

In my first update as Sr. Warden back in April of 2021, I wrote about normalcy starting to appear in our lives. The renovations to the church had recently been completed and we had officially moved back in. It seems like ages ago but at that time, attendance to Sunday services required a reservation in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Thankfully, those days are behind us for now as our main 10:30am service is currently very well attended weekly and all of the Christmas Eve services were at near capacity. I am so pleased to see many of our parishioners return to church on a regular basis.

The capital campaign was a big topic in 2021 as well. Capital Campaign Co-Chairs, Helen Campbell, Lee Griffin, John Noland, and I worked hard with the help of many volunteers to meet our goal. We were rewarded with a great response from St. James. Over 70% of our active parishioners made a sacrificial pledge to support the Preserving our Past, Securing our Future Campaign. Because of your generosity, we were able to surpass our goal of \$3.5 million and raise over \$4 million towards the campaign goals. These much needed contributions will not only help to restore our historic church but to further our mission to spread the word of Christ in Baton Rouge.

As you know, not only did we restore our historic church in the last year, Goulding & Wood also installed our new Opus 53 Organ. Shannon Gallier did a phenomenal job of seeing the installation through which debuted on the Feast of St. James. Since its installation, we have had a dedication and many concerts showcasing this beautiful instrument. I know it will serve St. James well for decades to come.

Although the Church renovations were completed, the Campus Planning committee led by Alyce Deitz, continued their work throughout 2021. I can't thank Alyce enough for her tireless efforts for St. James this year. This committee worked to prioritize the remaining Capital Campaign projects, strategically plan when each project should begin, and oversaw bidding and construction of ongoing tasks. The summer of 2022 should be an active one with plans in place to consolidate our fragmented parking lots into one, replace failing windows at the Day School in Werlein Hall, and replace aging roofs on campus. More details will be communicated on these projects throughout the coming year.

St. James has been blessed with dedicated employees over the years, several of them have served our congregation loyally for many years. It is always sad to see our staff move on but it is exciting to see the opportunities that await them. We wish Nutritionist Mary Palms, Office Manager Sylvia Rabalais, Family Ministry Coordinator Haley Schroek, Parish Life Coordinator Mary Boutwell and Communications Director Chelsea Borruano the very best as they retired or moved on to other opportunities.



Lent & Easter Schedule

ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 2 | NOON & 7 P.M.

LENTEN QUIET DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 | 9 A.M.-NOON

*led by Brother Todd van Alstyne, Chaplain of St. Andrew's School
in New Orleans and Chaplain to the Bishop of Louisiana*

LENTEN COMPLINE SERIES

SUNDAYS IN LENT | 7 P.M.

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 10 | 8 A.M., 10:30 A.M., 5 P.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 14 | 7 P.M.

CHAPEL OPEN FOR ALTAR OF REPOSE

APRIL 14 | 8 P.M.-MIDNIGHT

APRIL 15 | 6-7:30 A.M.

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 15 | 7:30 A.M., NOON

STATIONS OF THE CROSS | 1:30 P.M.

VIGIL OF THE CROSS | 2 P.M.

EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 16

EASTER VIGIL

APRIL 16 | 7 P.M.

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 17 | 7:30 A.M., 9 A.M., 11 A.M.

(Please note: There will be no 5 p.m. service)





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WORSHIP WITH US

SUNDAYS IN-PERSON

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON

Noon Holy Eucharist with healing
prayer

SUNDAYS ONLINE

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Facebook/YouTube