



ST. JAMES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

2022 VOLUME 3

Feast of St. James

CLERGY

The Rev. Chris Duncan
Rector

The Rev. Dr. Don White
Priest Associate

The Rev. Dr. Drew Harmon
Senior Associate Rector

The Rev. Pat Lyle
Deacon

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Paul Allman
Facilities Manager

Sarah Joy Hays
Parish Life Coordinator

John Ozier
Reception

Liz Canfield
Director of Family Services

Bridget Henderson
Head of School

Melissa Parmelee
Director of Communications

Samantha Chaney
Custodian

Darell Lee
Day Porter

Christy Patterson
Custodian

Shannon Gallier
Director of Music

Dwight Nichols
Sexton

Jacques Pourciau
Director of Operations

Laurie Gaston
Office Administrator

Cheryl Olinde
Director of Finance

VESTRY

Third Year

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

Second Year

- Anita Byrne, Sr. Warden
- Mike Fontenot, Jr. Warden
- Lolly Martin
- Alan Miller
- Robyn Richards
- Otey White

First Year

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

Treasurer
Chris Harrell



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MILESTONES LEADING TO OUR FUTURE

THE REV. CHRIS DUNCAN
RECTOR

What comes to your mind when you read the word milestone? Perhaps you think of St. James' new quarterly email that shares the exciting news of major life events. However, historically, we have to go back to the Roman Empire.

The Romans were known for many things, but one key element that held this vast empire together was the roads. There was over 50,000 miles of road in the Roman Empire. Just to put that into perspective, that is more roads than what is currently found in eight states in America and the Romans did this some 2,000 years ago. On this huge transportation network, the Romans placed a pillar every Roman Mile or one thousand paces. Each pillar had two inscriptions: first was the name of the emperor that built the road; and second was the distance to the next major stop on the road. People traveling an ancient Roman road could easily tell at any given mile where they were and how far they had to travel.

It was this Roman practice of marking the Roman miles and the way they helped guide people along a secure path that inspired our current use of the word milestone. Today, Merriam-Webster defines the word as "an important point in the progress or development of something: an important event or advance." The truth is milestones stretch across our life in the form of birthdays, anniversaries, promotions, and even deaths. And, when you think about it, our individual walk of faith includes milestones too with baptism, receiving Holy Communion for the first time, confirmation, and many other events.



May-July 2022

Births

- Michael Parker Larisey, son of Shane and Keelyn Larisey, on March 31.
- Patrick Calvin Broderick, son of Phillip and Katie Broderick, on June 2.
- Miles Millikin Bloemer, son of Brett and Jacqueline Ainsworth Bloemer, on June 16.

Baptisms

- Charles Wallace Gladney, IV on June 5
- Ella Louise Agnew on June 5
- Virginia Boyce Rinehart on July 24

Marriages

Alexis Garland, daughter of Douglas Garland and Karen McCaskill, married Cole Lambert, son of Brian Lambert and Susan Cole, on May 14.

New Members

- Dona and Eugene Bagot
- Penny and Henry Miller
- Sally and C. Palmer Rinehart and family

MILESTONES LEADING TO OUR FUTURE



Milestones, regardless of the type, are also an integral part of our life together as the body of Christ, the Church. As we come out of the difficulties of the past two years with the ups and downs, twists and turns that came with COVID-19, this is a good time to share some recent milestones that are worth celebrating in the life of St. James:

- While the Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) of a congregation does not tell the whole story about a church, it does give a snapshot of what is happening. I am happy to report that our June, July, and at least so far, August ASA is slightly higher in 2022 than it was in 2019 before the pandemic. While many congregations are struggling to get back above 75% of their pre-pandemic numbers, St. James has been at or above 100% ASA during the summer months. People are returning to church, and yet, there is still room for more.
- Since May, St. James has welcomed 16 new households as members. This is over 40 individuals in just the past 3 months.
- We had 26 kids present at the Children's Sunday School kick-off event on August 14. There was an even bigger crowd at Children's Chapel during the 10:30 a.m. service. This is more than double the numbers as compared to the 2019 participation.
- Even though the parking lot has seen more than its fair share of delays due to the rain, the overall campus renovations and restoration projects are moving right along due to the commitment and generosity of the people of St. James. Thank you!
- Finally, as of the end of July, St. James has received more donations toward the operating fund than has been received in recent years. In fact, we have received over \$100,000 more than last year at this point. Once again, thank you for your ongoing dedication. Each gift empowers us to be and do more in mission and ministry. Thank you!



MILESTONES LEADING TO OUR FUTURE



Still, in reflecting on these triumphs, they are milestones that mark special points that are now in the past. These milestones are to be celebrated while also seeing them as opportunities to open the path forward to new and exciting possibilities. In other words, this is only beginning. We cannot simply rest on the laurels of our past, but must press forward in faith.

Many of you might remember when I first arrived at St. James, I set forth a challenge to all members: “Commit to Come.” The idea was simple: we as individuals are better when we are connected to the body of Christ, and St. James is better when you are here and active in the life of your church. Know that you are valuable to the life of this congregation, and we hope St. James is vital to your life in faith.

As we emerge from the difficulties of the past 2 years, I once again challenge you to “Commit to Come.”

- When you wake up late, the kids are sabotaging every effort to leave, and getting to church means showing up a little (or a lot) frazzled... No worries, no one is ever at 100%, no matter how well we might hide it. “Commit to Come!”
- When it is raining, and you just want to stay in bed. “Commit to Come!”
- When you are in a bad mood or had a rough week. “Commit to Come!”
- When you don’t feel holy enough... None of us do and even more reason to remember that you are loved by the God that created you. Therefore...

“Commit to Come!”

I look forward to celebrating the numerous milestones that await in our future. Until then, I am excited to worship and serve the living God with you and the good people of St. James.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

INTERVIEW WITH

BUNNY & BILL HINES

Over the year, a member of the St. James staff will be sitting down with various parishioners to discuss their history of involvement at St. James and the capital improvement projects that inspired them to participate in the recent campaigns.



When/how did you become connected to St. James Church?

We moved to Baton Rouge around 1981. We had a connection to St. James Episcopal Day School because my mother, Louise Prosser, was the school librarian for 25 years. We were thrilled when our first son, Hunter, was admitted to first grade that year. Our family started attending St. James Church shortly after we moved here.

What is one of your favorite memories at St. James?

Hands down, baptizing of fourth child, Louise. (Three of our children were baptized in New Orleans and Winston Salem.) Baptism is an emotionally charged sacrament for me.



What are you most excited about in regard to St. James' future?

While we're oldies and goodies, we are so excited for all the families who are finding a home place at St. James.

The two of you are true ambassadors of St. James. What was your first step/moment when you knew you were called to support the capital campaign?

I care so much for this church family, there was no hesitation in the decision to support both capital campaigns. Our church and other buildings are beautiful reminders of our history. As a result of their successful campaign, our future is promising and vibrant.

As we look to our future, not just in regard to our buildings, what would you say to encourage the congregation?

We see the dedication the clergy and congregation have for St. James and know we're strong and growing.



FELLOWSHIP AT ST. JAMES

The Associate Vestry (AV) is a wonderful opportunity to serve at St. James. We call ourselves the "Fellowship Builders." It has a better ring to it than "church party planners".

**Erin Irby, President
Associate Vestry**

The St. James Associate Vestry is a group of approximately 24 members who work to build and strengthen the parish community through the ministry of hospitality. The Associate Vestry plans and hosts several large social events and activities throughout the year and lends support and assistance to other events whenever requested by the parish clergy and Vestry.

Members of the AV are elected at the Annual Parish Meeting each year. Members serve 3-year terms, and membership is staggered so that one-third of the members' terms expire each year. The AV meets about once a month to plan upcoming events. The annual Crawfish Boil is traditionally the AV's largest event, but in recent years, the AV has also hosted summer concerts, parish breakfasts, hospitality parties, blood drives, and a Christmas concert at St. James Place.

Alan Stevens, AV Member



FELLOWSHIP

During Covid-19, our fellowship responsibilities came to a complete halt. Our hands were tied, no events allowed, no gatherings, no contact, it was a painfully-lonely time for our parishioners. The AV met virtually, and felt there had to be a way to reach out and provide opportunities for our parishioners to feel loved and cared for. The AV came together, and immediately came up with several ways to reach out to members.

ST. JAMES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

St. James Place was our first focus as their residents were the most isolated and vulnerable. Both fall of 2020 and winter of 2021, the AV made and delivered care bags with a small succulent, easy activity, and handwritten letter. Our goal was to brighten our parishioners' day and let them feel loved even though we were apart.

The AV is such an important part of St. James and I can't wait to see all the exciting events and memories that are sparked in the upcoming months.

The next AV-hosted event is the Fall Hospitality Party, which is scheduled to be held this November. Because the party follows a string of several all-ages, family-friendly events, the Fall Hospitality Party is an adults-only event held on a Friday evening in the fall. More event details will come out soon. Please join us for drinks, appetizers, and fellowship!

After the creativity of the AV's fellowship ministry during 2020-2021, we were excited to host our regular line up during 2022-2023 program year!!

Erin Irby, AV President



COFFEE HOUR

When we were able to safely meet again, the AV brought back "Coffee Hour" by moving it outside near The River Jordan. This gave our parishioners a sense of normalcy again to have coffee with their friends.

FALL FEST

This was a new event introduced once major restrictions were lifted. The church and school were able to celebrate fellowship for the first time in over a year, and the AV pulled out all the stops for this fall themed event with Halloween costumes, pumpkin patch, games, crafts, and more. All ages enjoyed the festivities.



FELLOWSHIP



CRAWFISH BOIL

Our annual Crawfish Boil was back this year and better than ever! The AV worked extremely hard to plan for a few hundred people to come to the church and enjoy an on-site crawfish boil! We had a jump-jump, face painting, and arts-n-crafts for the kids as well as live music from guitarist Charlie Hugg. It was a huge success and we look forward to continuing this great tradition of fellowship for many years to come!

Jessica McVea, AV Member

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, April 29, 2023

SUMMER SOUNDS

The Associate Vestry would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to our faithful St. James Episcopal Church family for such an outstanding, well attended 2022 Summer Sounds event. The AV could not provide such wonderful entertainment without the love and support of the St. James community. Even with the unification of the parking lots and dreary weather, you guys found a way to make it. That means the world to us volunteers and makes all our work worth it.

For those who missed this year, local musician Chris LeBlanc “rocked out” the St. James Bishops Hall. Chris has been so gracious to St. James, he has performed our Summer Sounds event for the past few years. The gym was filled with wonderful tunes from over the decades, Chris does a great job of playing something for everyone!

And for the kiddos, we had awesome activities thanks to Ninja Warrior obstacle course. They did a great job entertaining the kids with their gymnastic style equipment. Thanks Mr. Joshua Roberts, the kids really love it!

Summer Sounds wouldn't be the truly hospitable event without the ministry of the Holy Grillers, they kept our bellies full with delicious hamburgers and hotdogs. You could smell the burgers cooking all the way down Convention Street, the aroma was the perfect guide into the gym.

Lauren Whatley, AV Member



ST. JAMES OUTREACH MINISTRY

Emily Kelly

Outreach Committee Chair

The St. James Outreach Committee is re-imagining our efforts. We are evaluating our ever-changing community, identifying needs, creatively thinking of ways St. James can create impactful support and services to those in need. It is an exciting time full of growth, new approaches, and showing the love of Christ to others.

From my earliest memories, I have volunteered. First, with my family as a child, then with groups, clubs, etc. all through school, including my years in EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) at St. James. I chose a career in social service and have continued my dedication to volunteering. In my role as a Program Director for Volunteers of America, I have the opportunity to practice servant leadership while programming and advocating for individuals with developmental disabilities and other at-risk populations. Volunteering and serving others is something I have worked hard to model for my daughters, Kaitlyn and Caroline. We have volunteered together since they were able to tag along! Outreach to others is very dear to my heart.



Photo:
Hearty Breakfast+Food Pantry



Both professionally and personally, I work to be intentional in choosing to dedicate time to give to others. It was an honor to be asked by Fr. Chris and Fr. Drew to serve as the committee chair for our Outreach Ministry. I am extremely grateful to have this chance to share my passion for service to others with my St. James family. I want to encourage each of you to take a look at the outreach opportunities. Our committee is working hard to provide a diverse offering of projects—there's something for everyone!

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Seasons of Giving

Seasons of Giving present opportunities to collect donations to support our neighbors in need; previous collections have gathered school supplies in conjunction with Park Elementary and baby hygiene products in collaboration with Family Road BR.

Longstanding Ministries

- We Care Bags
- Food Pantry Distribution
- Monthly Breakfast

Now: Hearty Breakfast+Food Pantry

St James' long standing tradition of service to those living with food insecurity in and around downtown Baton Rouge is changing.

In partnership with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, St. James is pleased to announce the combination of our Food Pantry Ministry distribution with our Hearty Breakfast Ministry. By bringing these efforts together, we can provide a hot breakfast with groceries to our neighbors at the same time. We are also exploring partnerships with other organizations that can offer additional support services; recent additions have included basic health screenings and EBR library bookmobile. This new ministry initiative will occur on the last Sunday of every month and run from 8-9 a.m.



Doug Lebleau
Hearty Breakfast+
Food Pantry
Ministry Leader



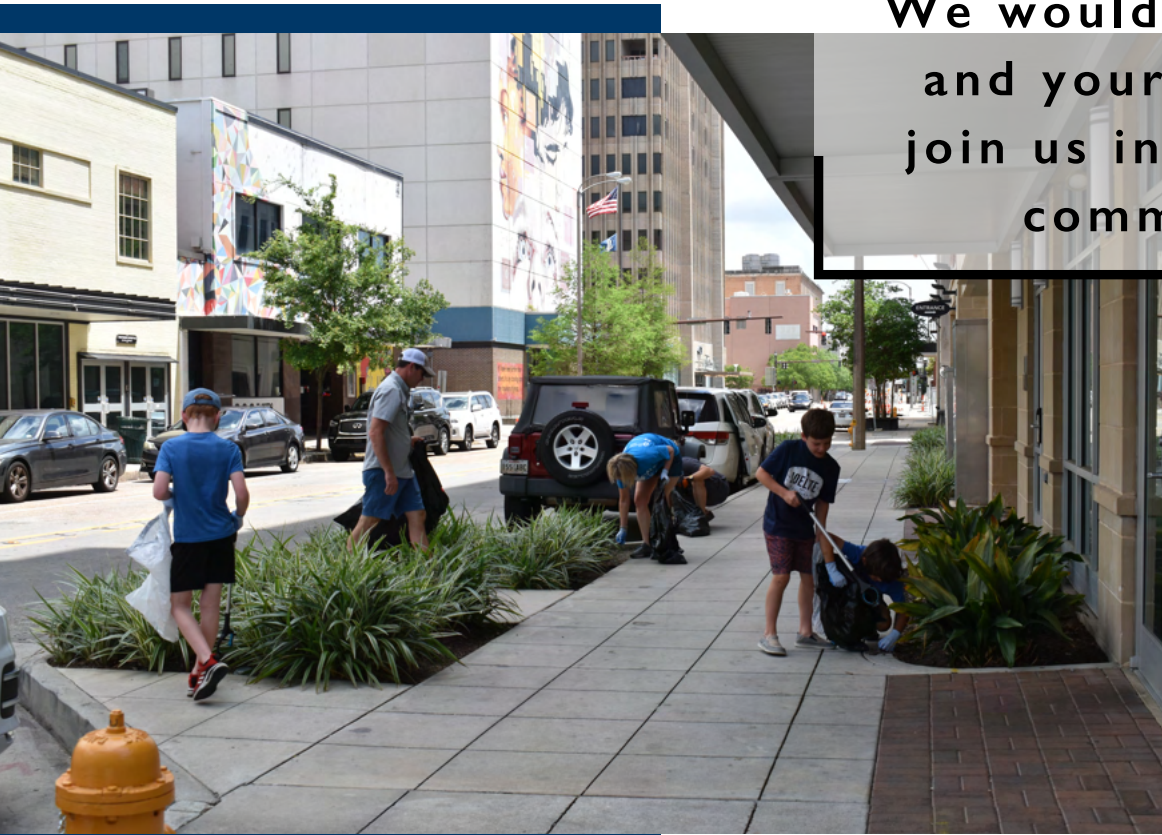
“

We would love for you
and your families to
join us in serving our
community.

”

Serve Sunday

Serve Sundays provide parishioners of all ages and abilities opportunities to engage in service for the sake of the community through on- and off-site projects.



Pop-up Events/Partnerships

In addition to the regular above opportunities, the Outreach Committee attends to acute needs as they arise, planning pop-up events such as hurricane relief days and litter pickup.

St. James and VIPS formed a Collaborative Partnership at Park Elementary. VIPS Reading Friends provide one-on-one literacy support to their assigned student weekly but they are much more than a tutoring program.



With our Food Pantry re-opening in November of 2020, St. James Episcopal Church has fed 756 families, including:



- 649 children
- 945 adults
- 261 elderly
- 73 homeless

This has been accomplished by 235 parishioners volunteering over 700 hours.



Thanks to all parishioners for your continued support of our feeding ministries!

FROM OUR OUTREACH TEAM

This year's Outreach Committee is moving and shaking. There have been lots of changes and shifts in our community's needs, and we're on the case. We're adjusting programs to reach the most needy of our neighbors. A lot of trial (and maybe a little error) go into this change process. The key is that St James's heart is in the right place. We will love and help our neighbors.

Bunny Hines, Outreach Committee Member



We Care Bags

Putting together the We Care Bags has been a wonderful opportunity for me to enjoy spending time with my grandsons. Because of the commitment from St. James and the Cunninghams in delivering these bags to Christian Outreach, we have an avenue to help make our world a little better place to live.

Judy Foil, Outreach Committee Member

Thanks to all of our generous volunteers, the We Care Bag Ministry program has been progressing smoothly. We continue to distribute 185 snack bags weekly to our neighbors experiencing homelessness through the Christian Outreach Center. This arrangement enables us to distribute bags where they are most needed. More volunteers are always welcome. If interested, please send me an email at allysoncunningham46@gmail.com.

Allyson Cunningham

We Care Bags Ministry Leader

Seasons of Giving

School Supplies Collection

St. James Church is filled with many resources. I'm so thankful we are able to help the children of our community in this way! I pray these small sacrifices of our parishioners can bring smiles to students and help them start the school year confidently. I am so honored to be a part of this wonderful committee. We have gotten off to a great start, and I can't wait to see where we can go from here!

Robyn Richards, Outreach Committee Member



Outreach Project

Keep Louisiana Beautiful's

Love the Boot Litter Campaign

From my perspective, St. James is filling an immediate need for our area of Baton Rouge through our outreach efforts.

Case in point is our downtown litter pickup [from last April]. While there are many terrific groups around town managing other litter cleanups in key areas of town, they are understandably not able to be all places at once. The St. James group completed a large litter cleanup that stretched from our church to the river.

With around 25 volunteers, we tackled this radius, and hauled in a substantial amount of trash. Our crew was thanked by several people walking by for doing what we did.

Goodwill can prompt further goodwill, and hopefully [this event] inspires others to think and act, even if the result is picking up a single piece of trash and dropping it into a trashcan as they're walking through downtown.

I am proud that the Outreach Committee was able to see a need, organize participation, and tackle a growing need downtown to clean it up. We hope to continue these efforts in the future to make Baton Rouge's downtown a more welcoming environment for visitors, locals, our parishioners, and our children.

David Trimble, Outreach Committee Member

SAVE THE DATE

Outreach Project: Serve with Interfaith BR

Wednesday, September 28

The Outreach Committee invites you to participate in the Interfaith Federation's Holy Grill, serving hot lunches to those who need it in the Zion City neighborhood. Through its Holy Grill, Interfaith provides food Monday–Friday, offers emotional support and promotes healthy lifestyles. If you would like to participate or with questions, please contact Shirley Young, shirleyyoung51@cox.net. For more info on the important work of Interfaith, including Holy Grill, check out ifedgbr.com.

Serve Sunday

October 16

Serve Sunday is a great opportunity for fellowship as well as service. I always meet parishioners I didn't know that well before. As a plus, you get to dress more casually than you otherwise might! We have something for everyone, whether you want to stay on campus or go off-site.

Shirley Young

Serve Sunday Sub-committee Member

Seasons of Giving: Angel Tree

November–December



MINISTRY MOMENTS



MINISTRY MOMENTS



SAVE THE DATE

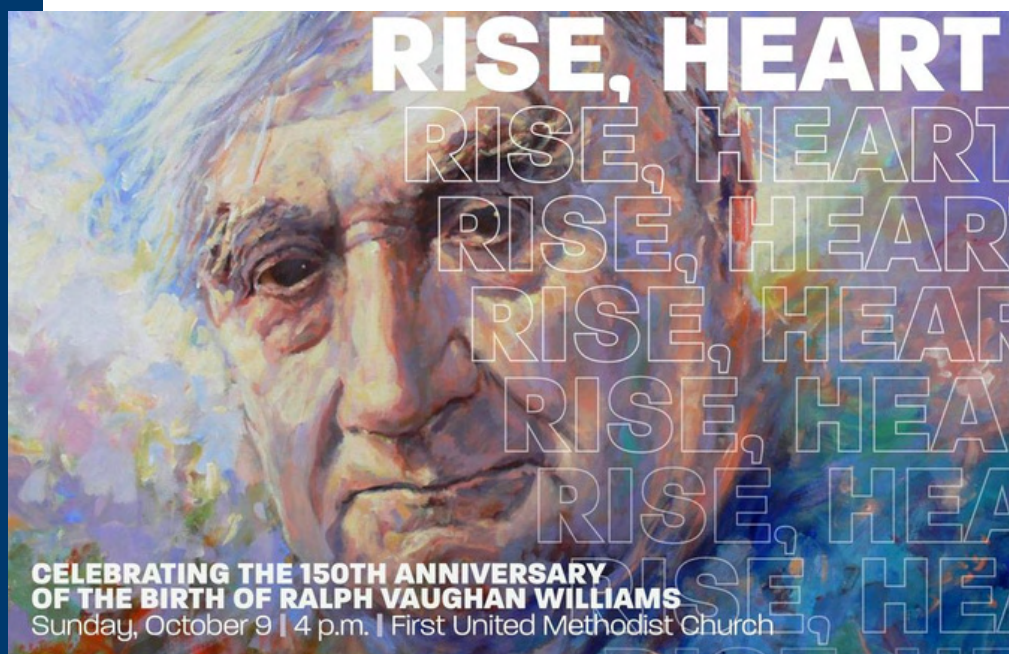
**Evensong in Observance of the Feast of
St. Michael and All Angels**

Sunday, October 2 | 4:00 p.m.

The St. James Choir will offer Choral Evensong at Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville in observance of the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. They will be joined by of the Choir of Grace Church, as well as members of Grace's Handbell Choir. Organist Austin Clark will accompany the choirs on the historic, newly refurbished 1860 Pilcher Pipe Organ. The Rev. Craig Dalferes will officiate.

Grace Church

11621 Ferdinand Street
St. Francisville, LA 70775





Anglican Heritage Pilgrimage

including an optional extension



NEW DATES

Anglican Heritage Pilgrimage

11 days and 10 nights

Hosted by Father Chris

When: May 26 - June 5, 2023 with an optional 5-day extension package

Where: London, Oxford, York, Edinburgh, and much more.

This pilgrimage celebrates the great legacy of English spirituality and Christian practice. For members of the Episcopal family, England and Scotland have always been places of special significance and pilgrimage.

For more Information and to register, visit:

portal.myfaithjourneys.com

Group Code: 23025

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL



St. James Episcopal Day School is committed to developing each child's unique gifts by providing a strong foundation combining academic excellence and spiritual formation within a warm, loving, Christian community.

FROM THE VESTRY

ANITA BYRNE SR. WARDEN

As this issue hits mailboxes, the program year is in full swing at St. James, and I hope you have had a chance to check out the new ministries' directory for new opportunities to participate in the life of St. James. There is something for everyone!

The summer months were not idle at St. James with construction projects and activities, including serving as a location for a movie production for several days, Annie Jung's ordination, and Canon Shannon Duckworth elected as the next Bishop for the Diocese of Louisiana. The staff turned the Ministries Center over to contractors for an update and refresh of the interior resulting in new floors, enhanced lighting, and a wonderful practice space for the music ministry. The 4th Street landscaping and sidewalk project is complete including a new ADA access point in front of Coleman Hall. The parking lot project is nearing completion as we wait for a steady week of dry weather for the final steps.

The Associate Vestry held the much beloved Summer Sounds event in July for a wonderful evening of fellowship and musical delights from Chris LeBlanc. Back to School Bash and Blessing of the Backpacks event was certainly a hit with Father Chris, Father Drew, and Cannon and Bishop-elect Shannon Duckworth each taking a turn in the dunking booth. The start of school coupled with St. James supporting our near neighbors at Park Elementary with the Outreach Committee's school supply drive.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a deep moment of gratitude to the Administration Committee, an ad hoc committee of the Vestry chaired by Vestry member Lolly Martin, who has diligently reviewed and updated the by-laws to ensure our organizational practice is in-line and documented. The Vestry approved their suggestions at the August meeting, and I know we are better for their efforts.

Looking ahead, the Fall Hospitality Party planning is well underway by the Associate Vestry for November. The photo directory will also be released this fall with special thanks to Fred Frey for capturing all the smiling faces. The program year is offering many opportunities for us to gather together in worship, learning, fellowship, and service. I hope you will attend and participate in the life of St. James as your schedule allows.



Byrne (left) with Kathryn Clifton and Sarah Joy Hayes





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Molly's Garden Build Day

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



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