



ST. JAMES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

2023 VOLUME 1

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

The People

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Shannon Duckworth
Bishop

The Rev. Lynn Hooks
Day School

The Rev. Chris Duncan
Rector

The Rev. Dr. Don White
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Dr. Drew Harmon
Senior Associate Rector

The Rev. Pat Lyle
Deacon

STAFF

Paul Allman
Facilities Manager

Bridget Henderson
Head of School

Melissa Parmelee
Director of Communications

Liz Canfield
Director of Family Ministries

Darell Lee
Day Porter

Jacques Pourciau
Director of Operations

Samantha Chaney
Custodian

Dwight Nichols
Sexton

Lashondra Smith
Custodian

Shannon Gallier
Director of Music

Cheryl Olinde
Director of Finance

Laurie Gaston
Parish Life Coordinator

John Ozier
Parish Administrator

VESTRY

Third Year
Anita Byrne
Mike Fontenot
Lolly Martin
Alan Miller
Robyn Richards
Otey White

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

First Year
Will Benton
Margaret Boudreaux
Randy East
Gary Field
Alison Rodrigue
Shirley Young

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The James Gang

Save the Date: March 20th for a James Gang trip to St. Francisville, LA to visit the Rosedown Plantation and Grace Episcopal Church. A Dutch treat lunch at the Francis Restaurant will follow the tours.

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON

THE REV. CHRIS DUNCAN
RECTOR



With the possibility of war looming in 1939, the Ministry of Information for the United Kingdom created several motivational posters to be shared with the public if and when attacks began. Today, the most famous of those posters displayed the Tudor Crown sitting atop the phrase “Keep Calm and Carry On.” However, despite 2.46 million copies of this poster being printed, very few actually ever made it into public circulation. In fact, it was not until an original print was rediscovered in a bookstore in the year 2000 that this campaign was recalled. Since that rediscovery, the “Keep Calm and Carry On” mantra has been used to inspire in times of crisis, stress, and hardship: both societal and personal. It is not uncommon to find posters, coffee mugs, and t-shirts displaying this phrase to motivate a new generation with new anxieties and fears.

Despite the recent setback with the substantial water damage in the Manship Ministries Center due to the roof leaking while being replaced, St. James has kept calm and carried on in the ministry we are called to do. While the construction crew is fast at work restoring the Ministries Center, the vestry, ministry leaders, and staff are working hard to prepare for the incredible future the Holy Spirit has instore of us. One of the goals I set for the vestry and staff upon my arrival in the summer of 2018 was that we would seek excellence in all that we did. Excellence is not perfection, as only God is perfect. Instead, excellence was the best we had to offer as God deserves nothing less from us. The best way to live into this goal as a staff was to move from scrambling to organize the immediate to planning with a view to the horizon. In doing this, we would be better prepared for whatever might arise.



As we now live into this goal, the staff met on Tuesday, January 31 to begin filling out the church's calendar through June 2024. In other words, we are not just looking weeks in advance, but instead we are planning months out with a view to how it all comes together. Then during the first weekend of February, the Vestry met at the LSU Hilltop Arboretum to pray, reflection, and look ahead to where the Holy Spirit might be guiding us. In this process, the Vestry named successes and roadblocks from 2022 while identifying opportunities and challenges for 2023. Next, the staff is taking these ideas to make goals for the various ministry areas of St. James such as Worship, Fellowship, Families, Music, Pastoral Care, and Outreach. All of this is to ensure that the plans for the 2023-2024 program year come together in a way that is life giving for St. James and the larger community we serve. We are creating a road map to take us into the possibilities of our future so that we can continue to "Keep Calm and Carry On."

As you reflect on your own life, remember that the hope we have in our faith in Christ is what empowers us to "Keep Calm and Carry On." Therefore, I invite you to pause for a moment and reflect on the following:

- What concerns and distractions are keeping you from fully living into the hope of our faith? What would it look like to lay those at the foot of the cross?
- How might God be seeking to reveal the light of Christ's love in your heart and through your life in new and profound ways?
- Where might God be inviting you to grow or serve to help carry on the ministry of St. James?

I often share with other clergy around the country how St. James is a truly incredible place filled with extraordinary people. Our legacy of love is one that stretches across generations and through the ups and downs of life. Now, imagine God's possibilities for our future in this place and for the lives that will be transformed when we "Keep Calm and Carry On" in our calling to shine the light of Christ's love... And so my prayer is that God will grant us the courage and strength to live into this calling.

Lent & Easter Schedule

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 22 | NOON & 7 P.M.

LENTEN COMPLINE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | 7 P.M.

LENTEN QUIET DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 | 9 A.M.-NOON

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2 | 8 A.M., 10:30 A.M., 5 P.M.

DAILY EUCHARIST DURING HOLY WEEK

APRIL 3-6 | 7:30 A.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 6 | 7 P.M.

GETHSEMANE WATCH

APRIL 6 | 8-MIDNIGHT

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

GOOD FRIDAY

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

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

VIGIL OF THE CROSS | 2 P.M.

EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 8 | 10 A.M.

THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL

APRIL 8 | 7 P.M.

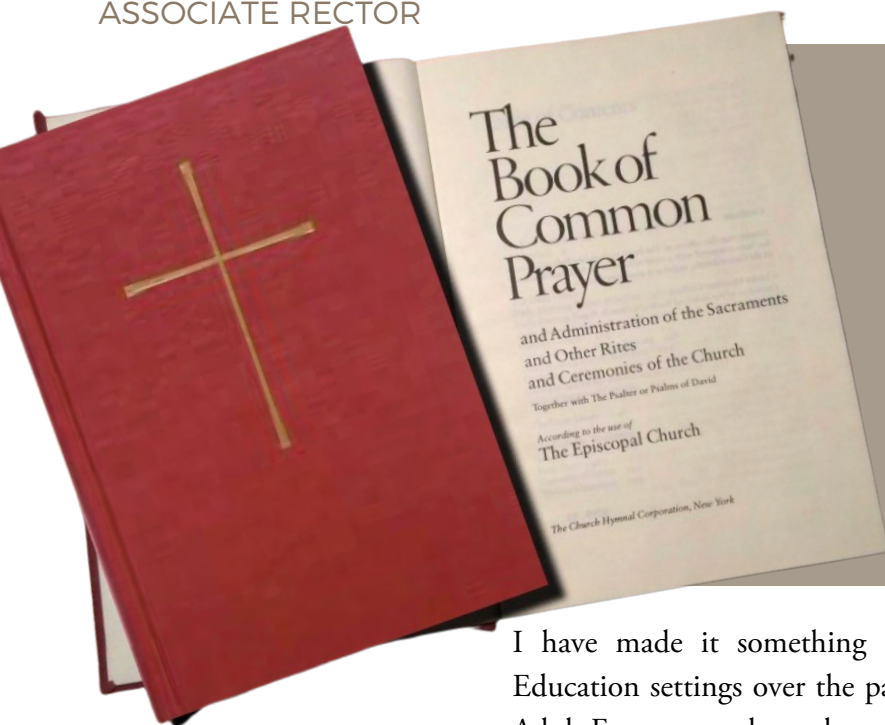
EASTER SUNDAY

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

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

ENLIGHTENING THOSE WHO TEACH AND THOSE WHO LEARN

THE REV. DR. ANDREW HARMON
ASSOCIATE RECTOR



Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom: Enlighten by your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. -

The Book of Common Prayer, p261

I have made it something of custom to use this collect in multiple Adult Education settings over the past couple of years. Sometimes it begins the Sunday Adult Forum; at others, the prayer orients a small-group book discussion or a reflection on the day's scripture. Whatever the specific setting, I often find myself flipping to these words at the outset of a class because of the needful reminder of mutual enlightenment, both for teacher and student—that the Spirit would illumine all gathered.

This collect “for education”, as it is called, has been around in some form for over a century; its first version, penned by the Rev. John Suter, Jr (long-time Custodian of the Prayer Book), was included in the 1928 Prayer Book. Suter's initial collect focused on the religious education of young people, mentioning the church as the institution committed to “the care and nurture of [God's] children.” The 1979 Prayer Book democratized Suter's words, applying them any educational setting; it is intended, as we see, to “those who teach and those who learn.”

The more I have prayed the words, the more I have been struck by the two petitioned fruits of the Spirit's enlightenment that the prayer holds up, namely, worship and service. It is to those dual ends that all of our Adult Education offerings aim at St. James. The hope, in other words, is that any given forum series or bible or book study would not simply afford an exchange of novel information, but would form us as the church in mind and spirit, as we are ushered into the continued worship and service of God.

Recognizing the uniqueness and preferences of each individual learner, Adult Education at St. James takes on a number of forms. We have small groups (Sunday Book Club; Rector's Bible Study; Senior Men's Bible Study; Education for Ministry, and others), alongside the larger-group setting of rotating Adult Forum series. Each of these regular educational offerings ushers its students uniquely into the riches of the Christian tradition.

ADULT EDUCATION IN LENT

LENTEN QUIET DAY

Saturday, March 11

9 A.M. - NOON

Lent, a season characterized by self-reflection and discipline, charges us to take stock of our lives in preparation for the new life that Easter brings. With that in mind, St. James is pleased to welcome the Rev. Mother Lynn Hooks to facilitate the Lenten Quiet Day.



SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

Sunday, March 5

9:15 A.M.

When Breath Becomes Air
by Paul Kalathani

ADULT FORUM

Sundays at 9:15 A.M.

SHORT STORIES OF THE KINGDOM: PARABLES OF JESUS

Feb. 26, March 5, 12

This three-installment series will be dedicated to some of Jesus's most memorable teachings: the parables. Each session will explore how a given parable's construction and literary conventions work together to communicate the message.

WALKING WITH JESUS TO JERUSALEM: HOLY WEEK AND ITS LITURGIES

March 19, 26

Holy Week is the pinnacle of the Church year, and it is chock-full of beautiful and strange liturgies, as we remember the extent to which God has gone for love's sake. This two-part class will investigate the history of Holy Week commemoration and the liturgical developments that sprung out of it, finally reflecting on St. James's current service offerings.

A sometimes-overlooked Adult Education opportunity is the St. James tradition of Advent and Lenten Quiet Days. These are times set-aside for prayer and meditation led by diverse voices during seasons that encourage self-reflection. During this past Advent, St. James was pleased to host the Rev. Annie Jung, former St. James seminarian and current Associate Rector at Trinity Church, New Orleans. Jung offered thoughtful reflections on Mary, mother of Jesus, inviting participants to see Mary as a paragon of virtue and piety and humanity. Looking forward, our 2023 Lenten Quiet Day will be led by the Rev. Lynn Hooks, who serves churches in New Roads and Morganza, in addition to teaching Christian Education at St. James Day School.

I have grown in my love of these Quiet Day experiences. They are intimate and restorative moments of intentional reflection carved out of life's busyness. If only for a morning, attendees are encouraged to journal, to pray in ways both familiar and strange, to meditate, and, occasionally, to join in the ancient practice of walking the labyrinth. Talk to someone who has participated in a Quiet Day, and you will find how powerful these few hours can be.

During the upcoming season of Lent, I encourage you to take advantage of the myriad Adult Education offerings here at St. James. There are any number of ways, in a variety of settings, to get involved. Our prayer is that, as you engage, you would sense and see God afresh, as the "fountain of all wisdom"—a never-failing supply of goodness and beauty and truth.



ANNUAL MEETING & AV PANCAKE BREAKFAST



NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

Will Benton
Margaret Boudreaux
Randy East
Gary Field
Alison Rodrigue
Shirley Young

NEW AV MEMBERS

LaToya Carter
Marci Drumm
Randal Johnson
Donna Landrem
Catherine Lawrence
Julia Spaht
Martha Vasquez



Facts shared for 2022



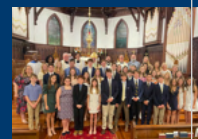
275*
Average Sunday
Church Attendance



791
Christmas Attendance



677
Easter Attendance



40
Confirmations /
Receptions



14
Baptisms



6
Marriages



241
Eucharists Celebrated



20
Burials

*attendance saw a 38% increase from 2021 and only 3% decrease from 2019 despite covid-19 restrictions to start 2022

GUMBO

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN

CONTINUING THE LENTEN TRADITION

Gumbo, St. James' annual Lenten tradition, started in 1951 and has grown into a hallmark event the city looks forward to every year. Volunteers serve thousands of bowls of delicious gumbo to the city, raising money for church ministries and bringing the greater Baton Rouge community together for food and fellowship.

Funds raised from Gumbo benefit:

- In-reach projects like assisting with funding for the console of the New Goulding & Wood pipe organ.
- Outreach efforts have included relief funds for those affected by the August 2016 floods.
- Startup funds for 2024 Gumbo!

You're invited to Gumbo!

There are lots of volunteer opportunities — from helping spread the word of Gumbo to setting up, taking calls, preparing to-go orders, serving table-side, clean-up, Sunday sales, and more.

Stay tuned for more details in the weekly e-blast, The Herald, and through announcements at Sunday Service.

Questions?

Meet this year's Chairs



Erin Irby
ecbardwell@hotmail.com



Caroline Ross
carolineross@cox.net



Mark your Calendars

Friday, March 3 GUMBO TO-GO

Pre-Order Pickup & Takeout
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sunday, March 5 SUNDAY GUMBO

Sunday, starting March 5, while supplies last
Frozen Gumbo To-Go

Friday, March 24 GUMBO

Pre-Order Pickup, Takeout or Dine-in
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Milestones

CELEBRATING THE BLESSINGS OF LIFE

November 2022 - January 2023

In thanksgiving for the birth of:

Edward Blain Coady, son of Blain and Matt Coady, on December 6.

Ally Wren Sulzer, daughter of Angel and William Sulzer, December 30.

Pierce Alexander Ritter, son of Britton and Robert Ritter, on January 22.

LakeLeigh Lorraine Morris, daughter of ConnerLeigh and Robert Morris, on January 23.

In thanksgiving for those baptized at St. James:

Louis Mickal Kinney on November 27, 2022

Eleanor Mai Boussert on January 8, 2023

Josephine Louise Boussert on January 8, 2023

Margot Virginia Boussert on January 8, 2023

Simon Benjamin Boussert on January 8, 2023

Carolyn Camille Gibson on January 8, 2023

Connor Liam Hume on January 8, 2023

Kenzie Charles Hume on January 8, 2023

Ellison Paul Clifton on January 8, 2023

In thanksgiving of our new members:

Frank and Danielle Breaux and family

Anya Hudnall and family

John Ray and Rebeka Knezevich

Dewitt and Alexandra Ladner and family

Patrick and Sarah Mulhearn and family

David and Claire Saccardi

Caty Steward

MINISTRY MOMENTS

NOTE OF GRATITUDE



St. James Parishioners,

Thank you for your support of Home Under the Tree (Angel Tree) as one of our generous donors. Christmastime is the season of giving and we sometimes get so lost in the hustle and bustle that we lose sight of the real meaning of this holiday, but not you! Because of your generosity, we were able to provide gifts for over 400 clients and residents in our programs this year. You have brought joy, smiles, and laughter to those less fortunate and we cannot thank you enough for taking the time to contribute to Hope Under the Tree."

David K. Kneipp, President and CEO

MINISTRY MOMENTS



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In January, St. James announced that in July of 2025, our choirs will be singing a week-long residency at Worcester Cathedral in the United Kingdom. While in residence, they will deputize for Worcester's own choir, singing daily Evensong and Sunday Choral Eucharist. During our time there, we will explore the English countryside, visit historic castles and palaces, and immerse ourselves in the music, architecture, and beauty of the birthplace of our choral and spiritual traditions. For more information contact Director of Music Shannon Gallier.



UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS AT ST. JAMES



Compline, featuring
Pergolesi's moving "Stabat Mater"
featuring St. Cecilia and Sopranos & Altos of the St.
James Choir accompanied by members of the Baton
Rouge Symphony Orchestra
Sunday, February 26 | 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 21:

Choral Evensong

Finish up a year of great music with a Festal Choral Evensong to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. David Summers, Director of Music at St. Joseph's Cathedral, will offer an organ recital at 4:30 p.m. as a prelude to the 5:00 p.m. service of Evensong. A reception will follow in Coleman Hall.

Friday, April 28:

Organist Damir Spritzer Recital in Concert

Come and hear the artistry of world-renowned organist, Dr. Damir Spritzer in concert on Friday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Spritzer, celebrated for her "spellbinding...fascinating playing," will play an exciting array of repertoire on St. James's 2021 Goulding & Wood pipe organ. A reception will follow in Coleman Hall.



MINISTRY MOMENTS



Outreach Committee **Hearty Breakfast+Food Pantry**

St. James is pleased to host an outreach breakfast, offering a warm meal and access to support services to those who might need it. Guests will also have access to pantry staples. In addition to welcoming, serving, and eating with guests, volunteers of all ages may sign up to distribute groceries and assist with support services.

JOIN US SUNDAYS

- February 26
- March 26
- April 30
- May 28



MINISTRY MOMENTS



ICYMI

Did you catch the latest episode of the new Disney+ TV series "National Treasure?" No spoilers, but St. James is featured in Episode 7. The cast and crew were onsite back in late May and early June for the scenes featuring St. James. Others discovered what we have known all along... St. James is a treasure!



FROM THE VESTRY

ANITA BYRNE
SR. WARDEN



Greetings St. James! Thank you to all who attended the 2023 Annual Meeting. While it was a very rainy and wet day, it was wonderful to be together to learn about and celebrate the happenings of our parish life. On the evening of the Annual Meeting, Father Chris shared with the congregation via email that the Ministries Center received damage from a failure in the roof replacement tarping, and while that is not what any of us wanted, the damage has been quickly addressed with restoration well underway. At the writing of this article, it is still early in the work, but the contractors are expecting it to take around six weeks in total.

I first want to share my deep thanks to the outgoing Vestry members for their three years of steadfast service to St. James: Bob Bowsher, Ashley Frey, Robert Heroman, Bettsie Miller, Chrissie Olsson, and Martha Richard. At the Annual Meeting, the new Vestry members were confirmed by the congregation including Will Benston, Margaret Boudreaux, Randy East, Gary Field, Alison Rodrigue, and Shirley Young. I offer a sincere welcome to the incoming Vestry members. I look forward to our work together this year.



The 2023 Vestry held its opening retreat at the LSU Hilltop Arboretum on February 3 and 4 to reflect and discuss the upcoming year and opportunities to strengthen St. James. The Vestry held their first meeting on February 4 once the retreat was concluded. This organizing meeting set the meeting calendar for Vestry and its affiliated committees. The 2023 Vestry Officers were also elected at this meeting.

The 2023 Vestry Officers are as follows:

- Ben Dampf, Junior Warden
- Bunny Hines, Clerk/Secretary
- Chris Harrell, Treasurer
- Carlos Spaht, Chancellor

FROM THE VESTRY

Also, as part of the organizing work of the Vestry, the Vestry approved the 2023 subcommittees' membership composition. These subcommittees play a vital role in supporting the fiscal and fiduciary responsibilities of the Vestry.

- The Finance Committee is chaired by Gerry Sulzer and has the responsibility of providing a deeper review of the monthly financials and making recommendations on actions that could have financial implications. The work of this subcommittee is defined in the church's by-laws.
- The Property Committee is chaired by Sue Larisey and has the responsibility for the general maintenance of the facilities. This committee works hand-in-hand with members of the staff, especially Jacques Pourciau, Director of Operations, and Paul Allman, Facilities Manager.
- The Outreach Committee is chaired by Emily Kelly and helps support our current Outreach Ministries, finds new ways to serve the community, and oversees grants awarded to other non-profits either in the community or within the Episcopal Church whose purpose aligns with the mission of St. James.
- The Campus Planning Committee, chaired by Trey Roberts, was established to oversee the capital campaign projects to ensure the needs of the congregation are addressed appropriately while staying within budget.
- The School Board of Trustees, chaired by Tyler Gray, serves as the governing body for our three-time awarded National Blue Ribbon School.
- Stewardship Committee is new this year as an advisory group established by Father Chris. This group will not only help oversee the annual operating pledging campaign but also lead a concerted effort to encourage estate planning that remembers St. James.

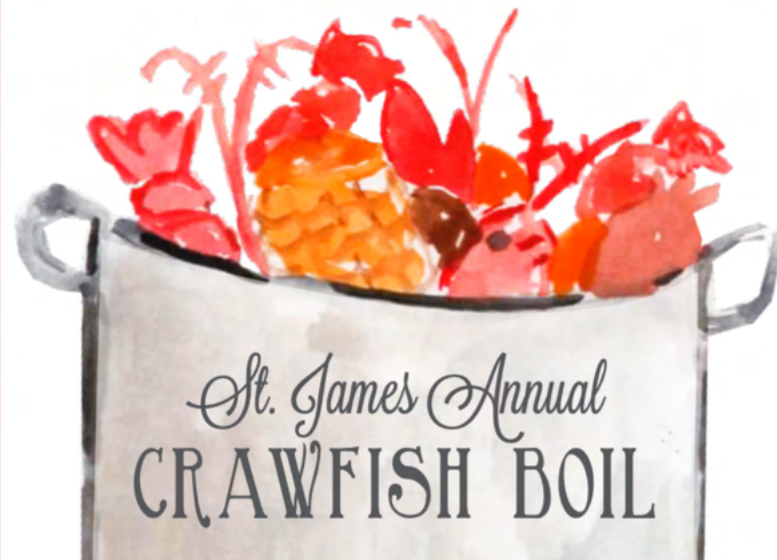
Thank you to all who serve on these committees and to all who are involved in the numerous ministries in the life of St. James. We as a church are better for your service. If you are looking to get more involved at St. James, please check out the Ministries Directory and/or contact the staff, the clergy, or any member of the Vestry. You are always welcome!

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, April 21, 2023
6 - 8 p.m.

Join us for crawfish, corn, potatoes, jambalaya,
hot dogs, and beverages.

Live music & activities for the kids!





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St. Joan of Arc Group

WORSHIP WITH US

SUNDAYS IN-PERSON

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