

**ANNUAL REPORT 2023
SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GARDEN GUILD**

A little sunshine in the garden goes an amazing long way in your body - gardening is one of the best things you can do for yourself! It has so many benefits that can help you stay healthy - physically, mentally, and spiritually. Much has been written about why being outdoors and enjoying nature is so helpful in making one feel happy and healthy. Building strength, reducing stress, sense of well-being, creativity, being productive – just a few of the descriptions that explain why many people enjoy being in the garden. Digging in the soil has actual health and ‘mood boosting’ benefits.

The Saint James Garden Guild volunteers offer their experience and knowledge by watching over and caring for the fourteen garden areas on the property. They plant, water, weed, fertilize, and provide general loving care and maintenance through this ministry.

The gardens are a source of pride for the parish. They continue to provide a visual experience enjoyed by the parish and the community. The gardens are known as a special place to visit and receives many guests during the year. People often stop and tell us they appreciate what happens in our gardens. Thanks to each of the garden managers and to all volunteers for their time, effort, and labor in keeping all areas tidy, healthy, and beautiful!

A new growth opportunity this year - we received a donation of assorted dahlias from a former parishioner, Annie Westermann. Having no experience with this flower, we researched and learned how to plant and care for them. We removed the bulbs from the ground and stored them for the winter. Watch for their return and gorgeous blooms later this year (July to October). You will find them in the Cutting Garden on the hill across from the office.

If you are a gardener or just enjoy playing in the dirt, consider being a volunteer. Please contact the church office – **those extra hands make the work lighter and more fun for everyone!**

Enjoy the picnic area. Check it out. - it is a refreshing, quiet, and peaceful spot to lunch or meditate.

We look forward to seeing you in the gardens!

Saint James Volunteer Garden Managers: Paulette Williams, Sharyn McCabe, Bill & Jan Bomar, Sandy Hunter, Karen Pietrowicz, Susi Roessler, Becky & Tom Callahan, Nanette O’Hara, Pam & Roland Clemmons, Jackie & David Tatum, Sharlene Randolph, Jane Janes, and Kathy & Marcus Booker.

Other Volunteers include: Charle’ Statler, Tish Watson, John Johnson, Zoey Espinoza, Shelley Urban. Lynda White, Betsy Elsas, and local master gardeners enjoy helping in the gardens.

Memorial Garden: maintained by Joe Bristol.

Submitted by Kathy Booker
Garden Coordinator
GMGEV - Rabun County
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