



St. James Episcopal Church

Messenger

[Visit our website](#)

*Our mission is to preach the Gospel, worship God,
renew our hearts and minds, and serve others.*



A gentle reminder that our stewardship campaign is coming to a close and we are hoping from you. Please make your pledge known by the end of December. This will allow the Vestry to create a spending plan for St. James' Mission and Ministry for 2024. Thank you.

Thoughts from a Deacon

Thoughts From a Deacon 11/14/23

Everything changes. Many of us have joyful changes; some not so much. We are in strange times and fear is all around. There is anxiety and uncertainty, and we don't know what the future holds. What's happened to our world?

Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served. For one day, we can stand united in respect for the veteran. Veterans Day commemorates the service of ALL veterans and thanks LIVING veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated and to emphasize the fact that all those who served – not only those who died – have sacrificed and done their duty. There is no apostrophe in Veterans Day because it's not a day that belongs to veterans. It's a day to honor them!!

The first celebration using the term Veterans Day happened in Birmingham, AL in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a WW II navy veteran petitioned for and organized "National Veterans Day", to honor all veterans living and dead. There was a parade and festivities to honor all veterans. It happened on November 11, what was then Armistice Day, the commemoration of the end of WW I. When people join with each other for the common good, so much can happen. We must join together trusting in the true and living God. Job did, even after



much torment! Job knew that his Redeemer lives and that in the end, his Redeemer will be seen on earth. Even after his flesh had been destroyed, he believed he will see God on his side. Let us be hopeful that the good will always overcome. Our veterans deserve our respect because they are the protectors and guarantors of the freedoms we enjoy (unlike many other countries). Veterans fight to preserve our constitutional rights. Veterans die so we can live. We give thanks to God for their service and keep them in our prayers.

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all persons of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Martha Ezzard who died on October 29, 2023, was quietly laid to rest in Tiger Cemetery on Tuesday, November 11th at 1:00pm. Her family held a quiet service; Father Sam Buice presided. There are plans for a larger celebration in the Spring.

Condolences may be sent to Lisa Ezzard,
4811 Mulberry Road, Otto, NC 28763

Medical Mission Trip



I recently returned from the Dominican Republic where I was a part of a medical mission team working in Santo Domingo. Our group of 13 people (from S. Carolina Florida, and Georgia) joined with a wonderful Dominican team from Iglesia San Pedro y Pablo to give care to about 400 people. Hypertension, diabetes, and the flu were the most common reasons for an exam.

It was a very uplifting and loving experience to be greeted with enthusiasm from the church. The church services began the day with joy, hugs and welcome. There was such

dedication from the congregation, and I really felt that we were companions in this mission together.

St. James generously contributed \$3800 towards purchase of medications and a part of those funds went to buy a refrigerator for the church.

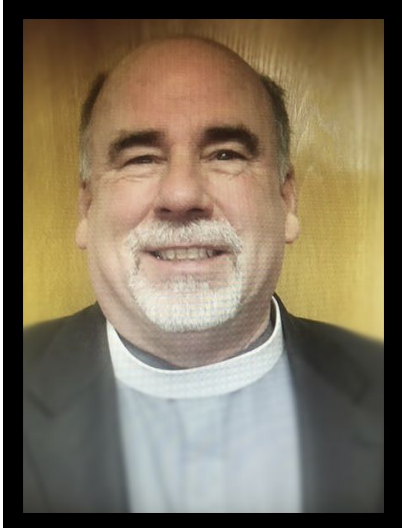
Many lessons can be learned in seeing how another culture worships. I hope others can experience the opportunity. -Karen Carroll



St. James Welcomes Reverend Dr. James B. Shumard

On Sunday October 22nd, Alan White, Senior Warden, and the Rev. John Templeton, Chairman of the Search Committee, announced that the Reverend Dr. James B. Shumard will be coming to St. James as the Priest in Charge. Father Jim will retire at the end of this month from full-time ministry at the St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Casper, Wyoming. He will begin his ministry here on the first Sunday in Advent, Dec. 3, 2023.

While Dr. Shumard has been a priest at St. Mark's in Wyoming for the past eight years, he has an extensive resume of growing up and serving Episcopal churches in Georgia. Positions include Rector at St. Michael's in Waynesboro, St. Francis of the Islands in Savannah, St.



Andrews in Hartwell and St. Albans's in Elberton. He also traveled with his father, the Rev. Gabby Shumard, who served as an occasional supply clergy here at St. James when we were located in the storefront in downtown Clayton during the 1970s. He has extensive formal training with two Doctor of Ministry degrees, a Master of Divinity degree and a BA in Religion. He was ordained by the Diocese of Atlanta in 1997.

As Priest in Charge, he will work approximately three days each week and conduct services three out of four Sundays each month. He plans to be present for any special services or events. We are excited about Father Jim coming to St. James and we will welcome him with a meet-and-greet reception between services at 9:00

a.m. on Dec. 3rd. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Alan or John.



Alter Guild Workday

There will be an Altar Guild workday on Friday, December 1, at 2:00pm, followed by a brief meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the Altar Guild is encouraged to attend, or contact Bonnie [HERE](#)



Workday in the Gardens

Mark your calendar!
Saturday, December 2, 2023, 9a-12n.
Gather at the picnic table. Join in the garden workday – many things to do as the winter rest-time approaches. Bring gloves, blower, rakes, hoe, or your favorite garden tool. See you in the garden. For more information contact Kathy [HERE](#)



MISSION and MINISTRY

How are you called to Serve?

Acolytes

Acolytes serve God through their service in the church. They assist the priest at God's Table and the congregation throughout the service. Leading by our example of dignity and reverence; thereby proclaiming the good News of our Lord Jesus Christ's love. The acolytes are instrumental in helping the services to run smoothly. This ministry is open to those ages eight and up.

Contact Deacon Susi Roessler, [HERE](#)

Altar Guild

The duty of the Altar Guild is to prepare all things necessary for the conduct and celebration of public worship at St. James. Members are responsible for maintaining linens and all accouterments for the Eucharist for both Sunday services as well as funerals and weddings. Volunteers work out their own schedule, setting up on Saturday. Cleanup is done immediately after each service. All brass and silver and all linens are shined/ironed by the Altar Guild volunteers. Volunteers, both men and women, are always needed and welcomed. **Contact Bonnie Klinect, [HERE](#)**

Choir

Music is an important part of worship at St. James. The choir sings each Sunday, September through May, at the 10:30am service. We are an all-volunteer group; no auditions required—just a love of singing. We're a friendly group and are always on the lookout for new voices. Speak to any member or

the director. The choir also is integral to special services throughout the year. **Contact Mary Lauren Keeny, [HERE](#)**

DOK

The Daughters of the King (DOK) is an Order of women dedicated to a life of Prayer, Service and Evangelism. We have made a commitment to Jesus as our Savior, and we follow Him as Lord of our lives. We welcome new members. DOK members are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the Historic Episcopate. Today our membership includes those in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA), and Roman Catholic churches. **Contact Mary Flanigen, [HERE](#)**

Fellowship:

- **Book Club:** The Book Club meets once a month for lunch and discussion of the current book the club is reading. A variety of authors and topics, representing good fiction, nonfiction and progressive theology are enjoyed by members. We meet at 10:30am in the Parish Hall on the 3rd Friday of each month.
- **Coffee Hour:** Following the 10:30 service, coffee and light refreshments are served. This is a a good opportunity to visit with members and visitors alike.
- **Foyers:** Foyers provides an opportunity through fellowship to get to know other members of the parish. Small, informal groups come together, usually monthly, over a simple meal. Groups are formed at the beginning of the year and new members are added as needed.
- **Retirees Luncheon:** Retirees meet once a month in a local restaurant to socialize over lunch.

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild is responsible for placing flowers on the altar each Sunday, year-round, and for arranging flowers for various parish functions, such as picnics, the Bishop's visit, and baptisms. The Guild works very hard on holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, to make St. James special for members and visitors. Our annual Flower Festival embraces many in the Church doing all kinds of tasks together. Anyone interested in flower arranging is invited to join us. Our group is comprised of both men and women, and we have a great time together. **Contact Betsy Elsas, [HERE](#)**

Garden Guild

Members of the Garden Guild are responsible for the seventeen gardens on the church grounds. Along with the individual plant areas the gardens include a playground, labyrinth, pet cemetery, picnic area, and a Memorial Garden (professional care). All gardens continue to develop, grow, and change as they mature with the seasons. These sacred places are maintained by members of the Guild. Each garden is monitored and managed by a leader and volunteers. All members help when there are projects, special events, and/or general maintenance to be done. The community frequently shares appreciation for the efforts and work done by our volunteers. If you are interested in sharing your talents with other kindred spirits, learning about plant care, and would like to play in the church gardens setting, there is definitely a spot for you! **Contact Kathy Booker, [HERE](#)**

Lay Servers

Serving at all services, Ushers welcome and greet everyone entering the church, providing them with service bulletins and assisting them, if needed, to find a seat. They assist during the service by collecting the offering and greeting newcomers at the end of the service. Eucharistic Ministers help the Priest at the altar and help serve communion. Any member of the Episcopal Church in good standing is eligible to be trained; this position is licensed by

the Bishop. Lectors are approved by the rector to read the Lessons and Psalms, along with the Prayers of the People. They may also lead other Offices as authorized by the Rector. Serving primarily at the Sunday 10:30 service, acolytes participate in a variety of ways. These include crucifer, torch bearer, offering and Eucharist tasks. **Contact Bonnie Klinect, [HERE](#)**

Liturgical Arts

Liturgical arts are an important part of worship at St. James. The clergy vestments, paraments for the altar and lectern and banners were made by members of the congregation. We are always looking for suggestions for new art and gratefully accept any help creating them. **Contact Jackie Tatum, [HERE](#)**

Outreach

Outreach at St. James extends far and wide, supporting both organizations and individuals – locally, regionally, and internationally. St. James provides financial support for Rabun County needs through these Rabun County organizations: CASA, Community Pantry, Community Partnership, Energy Crisis (9th District), F.A.I.T.H., FERST, First Impressions, Power House, and Victory Home. St. James also provides financial help to Emmaus House in Atlanta, and Episcopal Relief and Development. In addition, the parish has adopted and supports two godchildren at Our Little Roses Orphanage in Honduras. The Outreach Committee sponsors Brown Bag Sunday each month in support of Sharing and Caring of Rabun Country; each month food and supplies are gathered for the local animal shelter, Paws 4 Life. If you have a passion for outreach, consider joining the Outreach Committee. **Contact Peggy Melton, [HERE](#)**

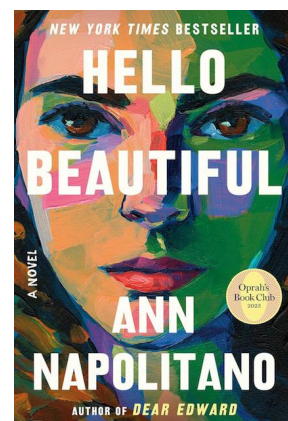
Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team helps support the health needs and safety issues of the Saint James congregation. The focus is on health, disease prevention, and spiritual well-being—integrating physical, emotional and spiritual components, in our parish as well as extending into the larger community where appropriate. The Team does not diagnose, treat, or provide direct hands-on nursing care. However, assistance is provided in getting those things done. The Team is composed of volunteers who have an interest in health issues. They receive special training in working with others, identifying problem areas and helping find available resources. The group works under the direction of the Parish Nurse. **Contact Kathy Booker, [HERE](#)**

Fellowship

St. James Book Club

This month we are reading *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. Everyone is invited to join us on Thursday, November 16th, 11:00am in the Parish Hall.



Join us for lunch?



The Retirees will meet on Tuesday, December 5, at noon. Everyone is welcomed to join this lively bunch the first Tuesday of each month at Ishy's Grill in Clayton. Questions? Contact Roland Clemmons [here](#).

November Celebrations

Birthdays

19-MC Phillips
19-Walt Henderson
23-Sandy Simon
23-Deacon Susi Roessler
25-Linda Ball
28-Karen Carroll

Anniversaries

19- Susan and Phil Fleming
19- Jean and Bob Clayton



Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram

The St. James social media team is keeping our Facebook and Instagram channels updated with current information about St. James events, fun features about our parishioners and their good works, and inspirational thoughts and themes.

Shelley Urban and Nanette O'Hara are sharing social media duties, with an able assist from Ginny Heckel. Dustin Emhart also will be pitching in.

Find us on Facebook at [St. James Episcopal, Clayton, GA](#)

Follow us on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/saintjamesclayton/>

Content suggestions are welcome. We also need photos from any St. James activities current or past, or just photos of our beautiful church and gardens that you're willing to share. You can reach us by phone, text or email as follows:

Shelley:

Cell Phone (727)515-3501

Email - [HERE](#)

Nanette:

Cell Phone (813) 428-3182

Email- [HERE](#)

Ginny:

Cell Phone (706) 490-2867

Email- [HERE](#)

[Give Now](#)



Click the icon to **like us** on Facebook or **follow us** on Instagram.



Timeline for the Bi-Weekly Messenger:

Articles received by Monday evening will be in the next Messenger. Please contact the **church office** if you have any questions.

St. James Episcopal Church | 706-782-6179 | 260 Warwoman Rd. Clayton, GA
30525 | www.stjamesclayton.org | email: [click here](#)

