

SENIOR WARDEN 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

It has been my honor to serve Saint James as Senior Warden for these past three years. I appreciate the opportunity and am pleased to provide this annual report as a summary of Vestry activities. Due to the dedication of Terry Klinect, Mary Lu Gunn and Linda Sanders, along with the additional leadership this year of Chris Adams and Bethany Weisser, the Vestry has provided guidance, prayerful consideration and recommendations on a variety of issues during 2023.

At the beginning of the calendar year, we welcomed The Rev. Sam Buice as our Interim Priest. This was a positive boost for our parish while the Search Committee continued to conduct the business of finding a Priest-in-Charge. We also welcomed Bishop Wright to our service on February 5th for his blessings and a commitment from the Atlanta Diocese to continue to support St. James.

During late spring, the Vestry approved a recommendation from the Worship Committee to make a gradual return to the use of the Common Cup. The celebrant offered the option of intinction, with the bread dipped in the wine, and then placed in the hand of the worshipper. This discontinued the use of paper cups utilized during the months following the pandemic but when public health concerns persisted. During Advent, two additional options were added: drinking from the common cup or receiving wine in individual glasses as well as continuing to receive communion by intinction. The Worship Committee and the Vestry's intent was to offer several options to receiving communion and not have the use of the common cup become a barrier to participation.

In early summer, the Stewardship Committee began planning "Rooted in Abundance," the stewardship theme for the 2024 budget year. Linda Sanders updated the Vestry at each meeting as we planned the implementation of the campaign.

During the summer months, the Vestry and ushers participated in a safety training led by Kathy Booker. There were several health and emergency protocols that were addressed in the session. August was a very busy month with the hiring of Samantha Joedicke as Parish Administrator and welcoming several new members to our parish at the home of Dick Metzger. The Vestry also approved Chris Adams and Ginny Heckle as delegates to the Annual Council Meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

In mid-August, the Search Committee advised the Vestry that a Priest-in-Charge candidate interview would be scheduled after the Labor Day holiday. On October 2, the Vestry was invited to join the Search Committee to interview The Rev. Dr. James Shumard. The Vestry invited Father Shumard to accept the position as Priest-in-Charge at St. James Episcopal Church. A Letter of Agreement outlining terms and conditions of employment were agreed upon and submitted to the Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta for approval. Even though the position is considered part-time, it was agreed that Dr. Shumard would begin on December 1, 2023 and

would conduct services and meetings with our congregation during the entire Advent and Christmas season.

The Vestry developed the St. James Budget for FY2024. The final budget will be voted on at the January Vestry meeting and presented to the parish for its information and review at the Annual Meeting on January 21, 2024.

Sharlene Randolph was selected to succeed Jim Wallis as Church Treasurer beginning in 2024. We welcome Sharlene to this position. Jim Wallis has served as Church Treasurer since 2018. He helped us navigate the pandemic and take advantage of several financial opportunities related to COVID-19. On behalf of all members at St. James, I want to extend my personal thanks to Jim for his knowledge, guidance, commitment and outstanding leadership for his years as our church treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan White
Senior Warden