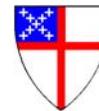


TIDINGS

SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH - CLAYTON, GEORGIA
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ATLANTA



Volume 14 Number 12 December 2018



*The mission of Saint James Episcopal Church is:
To preach the Gospel, worship God, renew our hearts and minds, and serve others.*

What's Going on at Saint James?



Mark Your Calendar

December 4	Retirees Lunch	noon
December 5	Pastoral Care Team	9:30am
December 5	Lectionary	11:00am
December 8	Youth Hanukkah Party	3:00pm
December 9	Study of Luke	2:00pm
December 10	Study of Luke	10:00am
December 12	Lectionary	11:00am
December 15	DOK Gathering	10:00am
December 15	Blue Christmas Prayer Service	10:00am
December 18	Vestry	5:00pm
December 19	Lectionary	11:00am
December 23	Lessons & Carols	10:30am
December 24	Holy Eucharist Rite II	5:30pm

From Ginny Heckel, Newsletter Editor--

It has been my privilege, and my joy, to put out the Saint James monthly newsletters for over ten years. I know! Time flies when you are enjoying your work. I took over for Chuck Paulsen who had served as the editor for a number of years.

With this December 2018 issue, the newsletter in the format you are accustomed to will change. And with the change, I will turn the reigns over to Bonnie Klinect, Parish Administrator.

The news will still be told, but in a different format. The newsletter and the Saint James Messenger will fold into one news piece. Bonnie will let you know how the news submission process will work.

I'd like to thank EVERYONE who contributed articles, reports, photographs... even peripatetic worship over these many years. A special thanks to Bev Mannes for proofing the newsletters, often at the last minute.

From the Rector—The Reverend Mary Demmler



While my husband is at work and the kids are at school, I find some time to pull out the boxes and boxes of Christmas decorations. Preparing the house for the season is a Herculean task, but one I adore and anticipate with joy every year. I love to see each room transform as shades of red and green begin to litter the shelves, walls, and counters. I love to see some decorations simply for their beauty, but many I love more for their memories.

I leave a few things for the family to do together. The tree is a two-person job and decorating it becomes a family affair, though, truthfully, my husband and I still end up doing the bulk of it as our children's attention tends to wax and wane. They kids will find "their" ornaments, the ones with their names on them, and my husband and I will reflect on friends and family that gifted some ornament or another to us, or on the time we purchased it together to mark a special occasion.

Special attention is reserved, however, for all of our nativity sets. We have the Snoopy set, the wooden set made especially for children to play with, one made of clay, and another of porcelain. We make an inventory of each one: Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, the shepherds, the wise men, the angel, maybe a star, and certainly some animals. Usually there is a debate about which one is Joseph and which are the shepherds, they all look so much alike.

Poor Joseph.

It's interesting how we say, "Mary and Joseph;" Joseph always being Mary's "plus one" to the party.

I walk over and pick up Joseph from one of our sets and turn him over in my hands. Too often he is treated as an accessory, even in scripture. He disappears entirely after the story of the boy Jesus in the temple in Luke's gospel. Mark never mentions him; neither does Paul in any of his letters.

I look at the small Joseph in my hands and wonder, anew, at his faithfulness. To marry a tainted woman, especially in Joseph's time, was scandalous and Mary was tainted, carrying another man's child, at least, that is how the world would see it. In a dream, an angel commands him to accept Mary, despite her condition, and trust that the child to be born is holy.

Against all odds, Joseph does as the angel commands. He could have written off the angel's appearing as a dream. He could have bowed to social pressure and cast Mary out, as would have been expected. He could have walked away or cast out the son he knew wasn't his own. But, instead, he stayed. He raised the child and loved the mother. He chose to bear down, deep into his faith, and remain steadfast and true to God and to Mary.

Continued on following page

What would you do if every instinct, every societal norm, even every religious expectation told you to take one path but you knew God had called you to another? Would you be strong enough not to bow to pressure? What if it meant being abandoned by your friends and family? What if everyone called you a "fool" and shook their heads at your poor judgment?

This Christmas season, may we commit ourselves anew, not to the beautiful baby who smiles beatifically from his manger, but to the radical man who defies the world by dying on a cross, an ultimate sign of foolishness. May we find in our hearts the steadfastness and faithfulness of Joseph who dared to stay, dared to hope, dared to say "yes" to God.

I leave you with a poem I wrote many years ago during one of the first Christmases when I stopped seeing Joseph, the accessory, and started appreciating Joseph, the man.

A very blessed Christmas to you all.

Against the Screams
A young woman lies,
resting between the screams of pain.
A loyal husband waits.
Does he feel angry against the screams?
Does he question his decision?
Does he trust the angel in this moment?
Against her screams, can he believe?
Is he scared that the angel wasn't real?
That it is all a lie?
Do those screams bring forth a savior
or a bastard son?
In this moment, does he have faith?
Can he?
Does he stay beside her?
Hold her hand?
Or does he go outside to wonder, wait?
Her screams cut through the quiet dark of night.
And against the screams, he waits.

Senior Warden — Lynda White

CONGRATULATIONS to Dustin Emhart and Erika Farr on their election to the Vestry! Dustin and Erika were invited to attend the Vestry meeting on November 27 as observers. They will officially begin their terms on January 1, 2019. We appreciate their commitment to this ministry and know that they will serve Saint James well!

Thank you to Mary+ and Ginny Heckel for serving as delegates to Annual Council meeting on November 9-10 at Holy Innocents Episcopal School. Even though I had also planned to attend as a delegate, the responsibilities associated with the RGNS Head of School Search prevented me from participating. Mary+ and Ginny certainly represented Saint James well. I appreciate everyone's understanding of my not being able to attend this year.

Work on the 2019 Saint James budget has begun. I appreciate the work that Vestry members and the chairpersons of the various Saint James committees have done in reviewing the committee budgets, discussing changes requested and in communicating this information to David Tatum. We will be finalizing the 2019 budget in the next few weeks so that it may be presented to the Vestry for adoption at the December meeting.

ADVENT is upon us! Please refer to the *Saint James Messenger* for details on the Children and Youth Hanukkah party on December 8, the Blue Prayer Service on December 15 and the Service of Lessons and Carols on December 23. The Saint James Choir will lead in this celebration. The choir, the congregation and our children will participate in this festive event! We hope you will be able to attend this special service of the Advent season. And of course, Christmas Eve service will be on December 24 at 5:30 p.m.

I conclude this December edition of the Newsletter by expressing how humbled, honored and fulfilled I have felt to serve on the Vestry these past three years, and as Senior Warden the past two years. This has been important, meaningful work and I thank you for providing me this opportunity.

Love and Peace,

Junior Warden — Jack Bream

A BIG thank you to Jack Ball for all the hard work he has done. All of the "EXIT" signs have been updated to conform to local fire codes.

Jack will also disconnect the water filter currently in use at the Parish House. It's an antiquated system and is no longer needed. He will also replace the fan in the bathroom next to the kitchen being the electrician hasn't been here.

Kathy Booker had some trees and brush removed in-between our property and the apartments. She will have two new larger trees planted in their place and extend the fence. I gave her the OK for the expenditures since it was around \$250.00.

We are still waiting on the electrician to work on various items:

- Fix the broken fixture outside the Rose window
- Replace bulbs in the lower entrance and the narthex
- Replace the light sensor on the rear entrance light
- Electrical outlets on the office side of the nave don't work
- Install a sensor light on the main church door entrance.

Vestry Actions — Linda Barden

The Vestry met on November 27, 2018.

In addition to addressing several administrative matters, the Vestry took the following action:

- authorized Mary+ to provide Christmas gifts for the church employees.

Complete vestry minutes can be found on the website: www.stjamesclayton.org. Click on Members Pages at the top of the page and select Vestry Minutes.

The next meeting of the Vestry is scheduled for December 18 at 5:00 p.m.

Tis the season to enjoy family and friends, share memories, serve others, and remember the arrival of the Christ Child. It is also a time to avoid illness and injuries. Below are tips for keeping safe and healthy during the holidays.

Holiday Health and Safety Tips

1 Wash your hands often.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and clean water are not available, use an alcohol-based product.



2 Stay warm.

Cold temperatures can cause serious health problems, especially in infants and older adults. Stay dry, and dress warmly in several layers of loose-fitting, tightly woven clothing. Check on children, the elderly and pets.



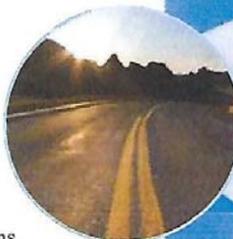
3 Manage stress.

The holidays don't need to take a toll on your health. Keep a check on over-commitment and over-spending. Balance work, home, and play. Get support from family and friends. Keep a relaxed and positive outlook. Get enough sleep.



4 Travel safely.

Whether you're traveling across town or around the world, help ensure your trip is safe. Don't drink and drive, and don't let someone else drink and drive. Wear a seat belt every time you drive or ride in a motor vehicle. Always buckle your child in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt according to his/her height, weight, and age. Get vaccinations if traveling out of the country.



The holidays are a time to celebrate, give thanks, and reflect. They are also a time to pay special attention to your health. Give the gift of health and safety to yourself and others by following these holiday tips.



5 Be smoke-free.

Avoid smoking and breathing other people's smoke. If you smoke, quit today! Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW, or talk to your health care provider for help.



6 Get check-ups and vaccinations.

Exams and screenings can help find problems early or before they start. Vaccinations help prevent diseases and save lives. Schedule a visit with your health care provider for a yearly exam. Ask what vaccinations and tests you should get based on your age, lifestyle, travel plans, medical history, and family health history.



7 Watch the kids.

Children are at high risk for injuries. Keep a watchful eye on your kids. Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items, choking hazards (like coins and hard candy), and other objects out of kids' reach. Learn how to provide early treatment for children who are choking. Develop and reinforce rules about acceptable and safe behaviors for all electronic media.



8 Prevent injuries.

Injuries from falls and fireworks often occur around the holidays. Use step stools instead of furniture when hanging decorations. Leave the fireworks to the professionals.

Most residential fires occur during the winter months. Keep candles away from children, pets, walkways, trees, and curtains. Never leave fireplaces, stoves, or candles unattended. Don't use generators, grills, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning devices



inside your home or garage. Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home. Test and change the batteries regularly.

9 Handle and prepare food safely.

As you prepare holiday meals, keep you and your family safe from food-related illness. Wash hands and surfaces often. Avoid cross-contamination by keeping raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs (including their juices) away from ready-to-eat foods and eating surfaces. Cook foods to the proper temperature. Refrigerate promptly. Do not leave perishable foods out for more than two hours.



10 Eat healthy, and be active.

With balance and moderation, you can enjoy the holidays the healthy way. Choose more vegetables and fruit. Select just one or two of your favorites from the host of tempting foods. Find fun ways to stay active, such as dancing to your favorite holiday music. Be active for at least 2½ hours a week. Help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day.



To learn more, including the holiday song *The 12 Ways to Health*, visit www.cdc.gov/family/holiday



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Office of Women's Health

CS228814

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Parish Committees

Outreach — Peggy Melton

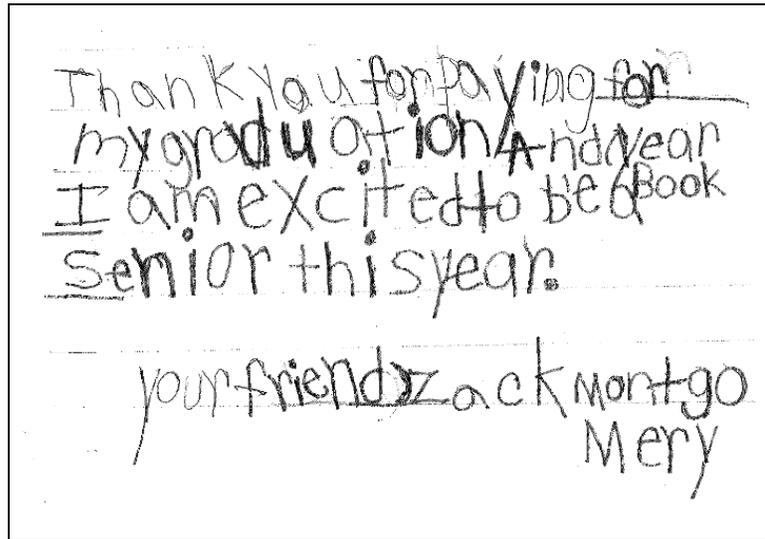


Saint James helped a number of people with their rent and utility bills.

Remember to donate to the Rabun Country Christmas Fund. You can drop a check by United Community Bank, marked R.C. Christmas Fund.

The Community Partnership summer food program, in which Saint James participated last summer, served 4,043 total meals from June through July. This included breakfast, lunch, supper. The different meal distribution locations require different means. There are more lunches served than other meals. There were 2,841 lunches served.

Below is a thank-you note from Zack. Saint James paid his graduation fee and purchased his Annual for him. Zack is a special education student graduating in 2019.



Choir — Alan White



There are many variations of the Lessons and Carols program read and sung every Christmas season in churches all over the world. The program dates back to 1878 at the Truro Cathedral in England where a Christmas Eve service of carols was sung for the community. The service became formalized two years later with the addition of Nine Lessons celebrating the birth of Jesus through Bible readings of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music. Probably the best known version is from the King's College, Cambridge, which first began in 1918 and continues to-day with a live broadcast each Christmas Eve.

This year the Saint James Choir invites members and guests to a traditional service on December 23, at 10:30 a.m., incorporating all Nine Lessons with readings and music involving the congregation, children and choir. Last year the choir and congregation sang a modified version with about seven lessons, delaying the songs and readings of the birth of Christ until Christmas Eve. Because the schedule allows us to worship the day before Christmas Eve, we will include the entire Nine Lessons on the 23rd. Of course, our choir is working hard to prepare all the music, but what would the Christmas season be without the "*Hallelujah Chorus*" which follows this year's third lesson! Many of our adults and children will be involved in this special service and we hope that you and your guests will join us for the occasion.

Daughters of the King — Mary Flanigen



The Saint James chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King will gather this month on December 15, 10:00 a.m. to join other parishioners at the Blue Christmas Prayer Service in the church nave. Following the service we hope the congregation will join our Rector and DOK members downstairs in the Parish Hall for further reflections, meditation, and an interactive conversation with Pastor Demmler. Light refreshments will be provided by DOK.

Our DOK gatherings are open to anyone who would like to learn more about our Order, or simply join us each month in worship, study and fellowship. Membership is not a requirement. Women who are communicants of Saint James Church are eligible to apply and study for full members in the Order. Each Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service, and evangelism dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of the parish.

Christian Formation—Mary Demmler+



Gospel Writing Group

The differences between the four gospels is a regular topic in our Wednesday lectionary group conversations. What makes a gospel a gospel? What elements does it have to include? What does it say about Jesus? Who is the audience to whom the author is writing? Why is the author writing and what does the author find important?

When I was in college, a professor assigned us the task of writing our own gospel narrative. It was an excellent exercise for considering what we believed about Christ, what elements of Jesus' story were important to us, and what made his story relevant.

I have challenged the lectionary group and I challenge you to write your own gospel! I am convening a group of interested people who are willing to dip their toes into the creative writing pool to explore their faith. I have the writing assignment my college professor still uses and we will use that as our guide. We will meet on occasion to talk about some of the gospel themes and the challenges of telling the Good News in our own voices.

The goal is for members of the class to write their own gospels by Easter. During Eastertide we will gather to read each other's gospels and explore the differences and similarities.

If you are interested in being a part of this group, please email me. Once we have our core group set, I'll send links to instructions and articles that will help clarify some of the terms. This is purely a fun exercise to help us explore our beliefs more deeply. I hope you all will consider diving into the world of creative writing!

Youth Activity—Brian Phillips

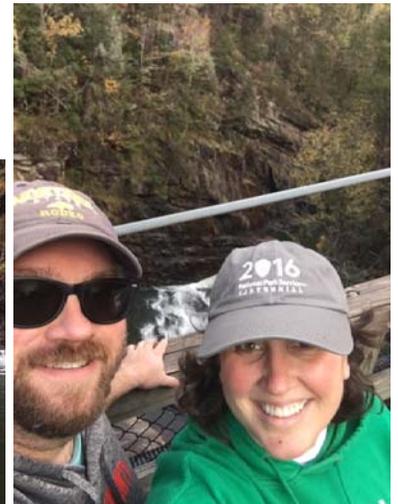


September's youth outing to Woodall Shoals went well. While overlooking one of the most dangerous rapids on the Chattooga River, we discussed the importance of patience when making important decisions and that you should rely on the wisdom and experience of those you know and trust as well as God. The kids then got to enjoy a refreshing dip in the river with friends.

November's youth outing will be to Tallulah Gorge. The plan is to hike down to the suspension bridge. Once there, we will have a discussion about cutting the background noise out of your life and focusing on the things that really matter. The gorge is a loud place because of the flowing water, so wildlife will typically avoid going into the gorge because they cannot find food as easily and they cannot hear predators sneaking up on them. We will take in the sights and sounds and, time and weather permitting, possibly play a fun rendition of hide and seek.

James 1:19 - My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

Psalm 46:10 - Be still and know that I am God.





Pastoral Care Team — Kathy Booker

From the Pastoral Care Team



Christmas is a time for cherishing those who bring so many blessings to our lives. Willingly accept and embrace the gifts of the season - love, peace, and joy.

As you serve others with a grateful heart and spirit, may you feel and share that love this Christmas and throughout the New Year ahead.

*Merry Christmas –
Wishing you the blessings of health and safety!*

Spider Web Project

Saint James is in the early stages of creating a multi-media platform to showcase the parish and its people through a variety of media. These include audio podcasts (sermons, vestry devotions, other audio and video offerings as we further develop the project). Written offerings will include parishioner contributions in the way of devotions, musings, and blogs.

Social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube) will be integrated into the platform. It's a work in progress. Early discussions and conversations have revealed a vast array of media possibilities available with which to tell the stories of Saint James and its people.

Initially we have begun to create audio podcasts. We've made available some sermons and devotions on the Saint James website, and through iTunes.

Click here to visit the website podcast page:
<https://www.stjamesclayton.org/blog/>

You can also access the audio offerings on iTunes, by searching for Saint James Episcopal Church, Clayton.

We invite your comments. We invite your ideas. We invite your participation.

Contact The Reverend Mary Demmler, or Ginny Heckel.

United Thank Offering (UTO)—Jan Bomar



PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR UNITED THANK OFFERINGS (UTO) CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAINT JAMES BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

We will be sending all of your recent UTO contributions to the Diocese of Atlanta before December 31st for consolidation with UTO contributions from other Parishes around the Diocese and sent to the United Thank Offering. Please bring your UTO boxes with dollars and coins, or your check made payable to Saint James, Clayton (with "UTO contribution" on the memo line), and leave them in the Parish Hall or the Church office by December 23rd.

How are your UTO contributions used?

"I want to make a difference, but I'm not sure where the money goes and what it is used for."

- ◆ 100% of the money collected is used to support Episcopal Church missions and ministries in the US and around the world.
- ◆ In 2012 Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Atlanta received \$26,400 to support the good works of its Friendship Center.
- ◆ Atlanta's Rainbow Village whose mission is to transform lives of homeless families received a grant in 2015 for \$75,000

Thank you for your support.

Book Club — Mary Thornton

Our Book Club is on Winter Break. In the meantime, this is a thought to keep in mind as we celebrate Christmas. "When a cardinal appears in your yard, it's a visitor from heaven".



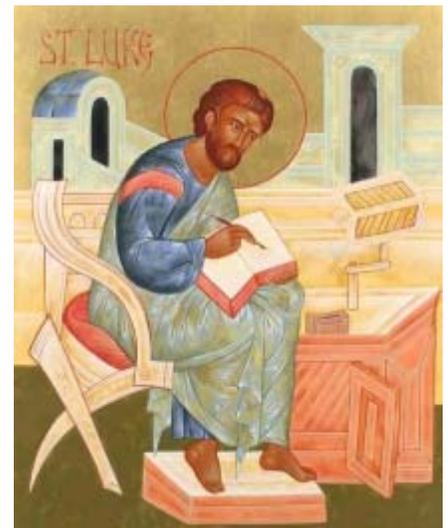
Christian Formation — Dan Wilson

"WHAT MAKES LUKE *LUKE*?" BEGINS!

Just in time as the Lectionary changes over to a heavy emphasis on the Gospel of Luke, Saint James is offering a comprehensive and in-depth conversation about Luke with The Reverend Dan Wilson leading. Due to popular demand two time slots will be offered each month, Sunday at 2pm or Monday at 10am. Participants can attend either time as they choose.

Each month we will gather for 2 ½ hours on the following dates: December 9 / December 10; January 13 / January 14; February 10/February 11; March 10 / March 11; April 14 / April 15.

All Sunday groups will begin at 2 PM and all Monday groups will begin at 10 AM. Participants are free to switch group affiliation in a given month to accommodate their personal schedules. Contact the church office (706 782-6179) for study guides and homework assignments.



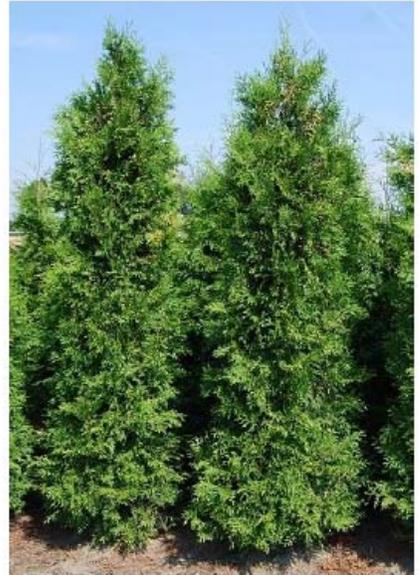


Snips from the Garden

Most of the gardens are wrapped and snuggled up to enjoy their winter nap. However, you will notice this month that there are some changes in the Lower Entrance Garden (main entrance coming up from the lower parking area). The trees and brush have been removed to make space for two large Green Giant thuja trees. They will be a continuation of the line of trees coming down from the sidewalk area bordering our property and should be planted in the next few days.

An extension of the current fence will be installed behind the trees. Watch for the new look.

Thanks to Jackie and David Tatum for managing this garden area.



FOR FAITH

A weekly devotional from Bishop Rob Wright



November 22, 2018

Blessed

‘You are blessed,’ is what I say to people every Sunday. ‘Blessed!’ Some people nod and some even shed a tear. Some people’s eyes stare upward, seeming to make a mental list of their blessings. Gratitude is a funny thing. It penetrates us — moves us to do good things. God things. Most consistently, gratitude drives us to share. With this Thanksgiving holiday, I pray we’ll be overcome by the recollection of the ocean of blessings that we’ve received because of the goodness of God. And, that refreshed by this awareness such sharing will flow from us that we can hardly bear the joy of giving.

A reminder to those members and friends who have not completed a pledge card: Commitment cards can be found in the narthex of the church, or by emailing Bonnie, admin@stjamesclayton.org.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider how you want to show your gratitude for God's love and God's blessings in your life, by completing a pledge card by December.

Thank you from the Stewardship Team.

Quilters - Rita Sander and LuAnn Luedtke

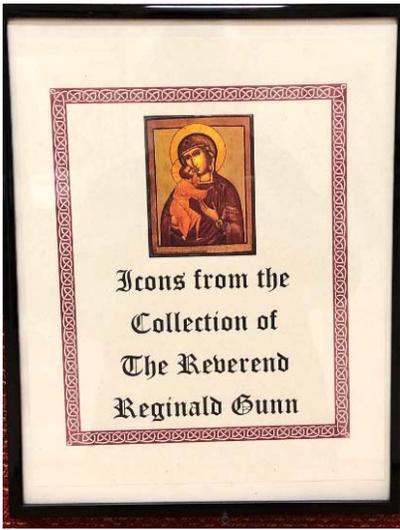
Rita and LuAnn have homes in Clayton and are members of the Mountain Laurel Quilters' Guild and Bee Sharps group.

Rita is also a watercolor painter, LuAnn a nurse in the Atlanta area who comes here whenever work permits.

Rita pieced this quilt using the "Two Diamonds" pattern from Missouri Star Quilt Company, and modified it with appliqué. LuAnn quilted it.



From The Rev. Reginald Gunn's Collection of Icons



Parish Posting

From The Rev. Mary Demmler

Rite I: What's with the strange language?

For the season of Advent, we are using the Rite I setting for our Sunday services. Rite I uses some of the older prayers and traditional language in the Eucharist, so you'll notice a slight change in our responses and the use of "thee," "thy," and "thou," instead of "you" and "your."

We are doing this for two reasons: first, these are prayers for our rich history as a church and include some beautiful language and theology. Second, hearing the words of the Eucharist in a slightly different way helps tune in to different parts that we otherwise might miss. Listen to the differences and see what it brings up for you.

Advent is a season for deep reflection and preparation. May the shift in language open our hearts, minds, and ears to a deepening of our understanding of God and anticipation of the coming of Christ anew into the world.

Mary Ann Williams' 90th birthday was celebrated during Coffee Hour on November 18th.



From Reverend Mary,

What does it mean to live fully as a member of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement? Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is inviting the whole of the church to take up The Way of Love in order to explore how live a Jesus-Centered Life. You can learn more about his invitation, including watch a short video, at www.episcopalchurch.org/explore-way-love.

At Saint James, we are taking up the invitation to learn, pray, worship, bless, go, rest, and turn, by forming a Way of Love small group. This group will meet once or twice a month at the Rev. Mary Demmler's house for lunch. Each session will last two hours and sessions will be scheduled according to the availability of the participants, probably on a Monday or Tuesday. If there is enough interest, a second group may be formed for an evening meeting. The meetings will include a meal, study, time for reflection, and time for sharing. The small group may be no more than twelve people and participants must commit to ten sessions. The hope is that the participants in the first group or two will become facilitators for future groups.

To explore the curriculum, visit https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/documents/way_of_love_small_group_curriculum.pdf. These groups are not limited to members. Preferably, each group would include several people who are peripheral to Saint James and want to explore their faith in a setting outside of Sunday worship.

The first group will begin either in December or January.

Here is the letter of invitation from the PB:

**An Invitation from Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry to
Practice the Way of Love**

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. – Ephesians 3:17-19

In the first century Jesus of Nazareth inspired a movement. A community of people whose lives were centered on Jesus Christ and committed to living the way of God's unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, and redemptive love. Before they were called "church" or "Christian," this Jesus Movement was simply called "the way."

Today I believe our vocation is to live as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. But how can we together grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world?

Continued on following page

The deep roots of our Christian tradition may offer just such a path. For centuries, monastic communities have shaped their lives around rhythms and disciplines for following Jesus together. Such a pattern is known as a “Rule of Life.” The framework you now hold – The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus-Centered Life – outlines a Rule for the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.

It is designed to be spare and spacious, so that individuals, ministry groups, congregations, and networks can flesh it out in unique ways and build a church-wide treasure trove of stories and resources. There is no specific order you need to follow. If you already keep a Rule or spiritual disciplines, you might reflect and discover how that path intersects with this one. By entering into reflection, discernment and commitment around the practices of Turn - Learn - Pray - Worship - Bless - Go - Rest, I pray we will grow as communities following the loving, liberating, life-giving way of Jesus. His way has the power to change each of our lives and to change this world.

Your brother in the Way of Jesus,

+Michael

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Primate and Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church



30th

Annual Service of
**Lessons
& Carols**

DECEMBER 7 & 8

2018 | 7:30 P.M. | FREE ADMISSION

The Annual Service of Lessons and Carols is one of the region's most beloved events celebrating Christmas. Celebrating 30 years, the Piedmont Chorale, Brass Choir, the Sewell Organ, various instrumentalists, and a visiting high school chorus are featured on this program of readings, carols and anthems to begin the Christmas season. Dr. Lauren Ringwall, conductor.

December 7-8, 2018 at 7:30 PM both nights at First Baptist Church of Cornelia.

**Due to construction of the new Piedmont Conservatory of Music, the event will NOT be in the Chapel this year, but instead will be at First Baptist Church of Cornelia.

Announcements

December 8 Children and Youth Hanukkah Party

Hanukkah is a beautiful celebration of light, celebrated by our Jewish brothers and sisters and has its roots in scripture. Join us at the Demmlers' on Saturday, December 8, from 3-5 p.m. to learn about this holiday.

December 15 Blue Christmas Prayer Service, followed by a time for Reflection and Meditation.

Emotions surrounding the holidays are complicated at best. The world around us promotes the joy and fun of the season but the holidays also bring memories of loved ones lost, relationships strained, and awareness of those who go without. Join us Saturday, December 15, at 10 a.m. for a special prayer service that surveys the breadth and depth of our emotions this time of year. With the din of Christmas carols and holiday sales outside, step inside the church and find sanctuary in a quiet service of prayer and meditation.

If you would like to donate toward the Christmas flowers for Saint James, your gift can be designated for loved ones who will be remembered on Christmas Eve. Please email the church office (admin@stjamesclayton.org) to let us know how you would like the flowers designated (memory of or thanksgiving for), and from whom they are given.

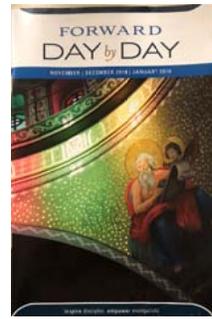
Mail your check or drop it in the offering plate by December 16



As you know, the current wildfires in California have become the most destructive in the state's history. Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles and the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California as they coordinate with local congregations to provide emergency support to those impacted by the wildfires in Northern and Southern California. The US Disaster Team is in daily communication with the dioceses through coordination calls to organize response efforts. Contact Bonnie (admin@stjamesclayton.org) to make a donation.

FORWARD DAY BY DAY DEVOTIONAL

The November, December and January devotional booklets (large print and regular print) are now available and are located in the in the Parish Hall. Pick up your copy today.



RETIREEES LUNCH

The Retirees Lunch will be held at Ishy's Grill on Tuesday, December 4 at noon. We each pay for our own meal and enjoy good fellowship.

BROWN BAG SUNDAY

Thanks to all who bring in groceries once a month for Rabun Sharing and Caring. We are the only church who does this on a regular basis! Please limit the food you bring to small packages. A list of grocery needs can be picked up the 3rd Sunday of each month, and on the following Sunday (4th Sunday) return full grocery bags to the Parish Hall.



On the first Sunday of each month, please bring your donations for the critters at Paws4Life, and leave them in the Parish Hall. The shelter needs: Adult & puppy dog food, canned & dry cat & kitten food. (Please, no Ol' Roy brand dog food.) They always need cat litter, and appreciate the environmentally friendly wood pellets. The shelter staff and their furry residents say, *Thanks!*

FLOWER CHART—2019

The 2019 flower chart for designating flowers on the altar each Sunday is located on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Parishioners can honor, celebrate, or remember a special occasion or person. Choose the Sunday you wish, then send a contribution of \$40.00 (*note price change*) to the church office to cover the cost of the flowers. Please be sure to let us know how you would like the flowers designated when you send your check.

HERB GARDEN

Did you know Saint James has an herb garden and it's bursting with herbs? Fennel, Oregano, Parsley, Basil, Sage, and MUCH more! You are invited to snip whatever herbs you need as you prepare your meals—made all the more delicious by using fresh herbs from the Herb Garden. Scissors and plastic bags are located in the bird house at the rear of the garden.

Snipped herbs can be stored in a zip bag in your freezer for use at a later date.

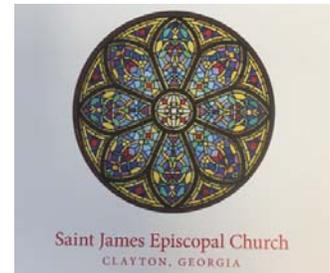
The Reverend Mary Demmler's Blog, *Prayerful Kitchen*

<https://www.stjamesclayton.org/reverend-marys-blog/>

If you want to subscribe to Mary+'s blog, email mdemmler@gmail.com

SAINT JAMES NOTECARDS

We have beautiful note cards for sale in the church office. The cards with our stained glass rose window on the cover are available for \$1.00 each, 10 for \$8, or 12 for \$10. All proceeds will benefit the Pastoral Care Team.



INFORMATION NEEDED

The Pastoral Care Team would like to collect/update emergency contact information for each of our members. Please email or call the church office to provide the name and contact information of the person, other than your spouse, that we may contact in the event of an emergency.



CARE NOTES

CareNotes are located in the lower entrance to the church. Please feel free to go by and see if there is a topic that might be helpful for you or a friend. A wide range of topics are available to you at no cost. There are also CareNotes that will help your children and grandchildren. Stop by and take a look.

FACEBOOK

If you are on Facebook, take a moment to “like” the Saint James Episcopal, Clayton, Georgia, Facebook Page and invite a friend! If you don’t have a page yourself, you still can visit to see photo albums and notices.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-James-Episcopal-Clayton-GA/136165709779019>

INSTAGRAM

Check out Saint James’ on Instagram.

<https://www.instagram.com/saintjamesclayton/>

If you are an Instagram user, and are interested in posting Saint James images to the Saint James Instagram page, please let Ginny Heckel (gheckel@wt.net) know. We would love to have contributors to the page. Login and password will be provided.

FOR FAITH

A weekly devotional from Bishop Rob Wright

To sign up for Bishop Robert Wright’s weekly “FOR FAITH”, go to:

<https://www.episcopalatlanta.org/news/connecting/>

At the bottom of the page, click on “Sign up for emails”.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Several medical equipment items are available in our inventory for loan. Contact Jack Bream if you are in need of an item—we may have it.

RECYCLE



Any parts of your bulletin that you do not want to keep, please leave in the rear of the church following the service. They will be recycled!

PARISH HALL

For all who use the Parish Hall during the week, it would be helpful if you would please return the tables and chairs to the place you found them! Thank you!

Passages

Happy Birthday

12/1 Nancy Dusenberry
12/1 Evelyne Sheats
12/3 Rich Harrelson
12/4 Mary Flanigen
12/5 Allie Mosely
12/7 Ann Rice
12/13 Peggy Melton
12/14 Steve Bull
12/15 Judy Hays
12/17 Ron Barden
12/17 Clay Nash
12/20 Dick Metzgar
12/20 Sylvia Thurmond
12/21 Jacqueline Groover
12/23 Martha Cantrill
12/26 Jack Bream
12/26 Tom Burinski
12/26 Liz Hopper
12/29 Zoila Espinosa
12/29 Cade Klimasewski
12/30 Robert Fichter
12/30 Jeremy Sanders

Happy Anniversary

12/15 Kathy & Marcus Booker
12/26 Peggy & Eston Melton



the Lectionary



The Lessons appointed for use—RCL Year C

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (December 2)

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-9
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (December 16)

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Canticle 9
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

CHRISTMAS EVE (December 24)

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (December 9)

Baruch 5:1-9
Canticle
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (December 23)

Micah 5:2-5a
Canticle 15
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS (December 30)

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 147
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
John 1:1-18

Lay Servers — Bonnie Klinec

December 2018

	2-Dec	9-Dec	16-Dec	23-Dec	24-Dec	30-Dec
One holy & apostolic calendar	First Sunday of Advent	Second Sunday of Advent	Third Sunday of Advent	Lessons and Carols	Christmas Eve	The First Sunday after Christmas
8 A.M.						
Lector	Ginny Heckel	Terry Wright	Kathy Booker	Vicki Darrah		Linda Barden
Eucharistic Minister	Ann Inman	Marcus Booker	Marcus Booker	Ginny Heckel		Ron Barden
Ushers	Kathy Booker	Pam and Roland Clemmons	Kathy and Rocky Ford	Mary Thornton		Mary Thornton
Opener	Ginny Heckel	Marcus Booker	John Templeton	Ginny Heckel		Ron Barden
VPOD	Lynda White	Becky Callahan	Jan Bomar	Ginny Heckel		Brian Phillips
10:30 a.m.					5:30 PM	
VPOD	Brian Phillips	Jack Bream	Becky Callahan	Jan Bomar	Lynda White	Jack Bream
Advent Wreath	Bagley Sgro	Harper Phillips	GiGi Sgro	Bailey Demmler	Huston Sgro	Hannah Demmler
Lector	Dustin Emhart	Derek Demmler	Martha Ezzard	Lesson and Carols	David Fore	Susan Staiger
Eucharistic Minister	Jennifer Moore	Peggy Melton Bonnie Klinec	Erika Farr	Peggy Melton	Ginny Heckel	Paulette Williams
Intercessor	Deacon Sgro	Derek Demmler	Deacon Sgro	Deacon Sgro	Deacon Sgro	Deacon Sgro
Ushers	Jan and Bill Bomar	Lynda White Erika Farr	Mary Wilson Dustin Emhart	Bonnie & Terry Klinec	Mary Wilson	Jack Bream Betsy Elsas
Acolyte	Harper Phillips	Bailey Demmler	Cassidy Klimasewski	Gigi Sgro	All	Huston Sgro
Altar Guild	Peggy Melton					
Tellers	Dustin Emhart Charles Groover	Jim Zobel Terry Klinec	Tom Callahan Tim McCabe	Terry Klinec Nannette Curran	Janice Grant Camille Day	Dustin Emhart Charles Groover

Altar Flower Schedule — John Templeton

January 6, 2019- April 21, 2019

January

6 Betsy Elsas	The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ-White Altar Hangings
13 Rebecca Brandon	The First Sunday after the Epiphany-White Altar Hangings
20 Karen Pietrowicz	The Second Sunday after the Epiphany-Green Altar Hangings
27 Sharyn McCabe	The Third Sunday after the Epiphany-Green Altar Hangings

February

3 Tim Burns	The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany-Green Altar Hangings
10 Peggy Melton	The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany-Green Altar Hangings
17 J Templeton	The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany-Green Altar Hangings
24 Bev Mannes	The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany-Green Altar Hangings

March

3 Betsy Elsas	The Last Sunday after the Epiphany-Green Altar Hangings
10 Twigs	The First Sunday of Lent-Purple Altar Hangings
17 Twigs	The Second Sunday of Lent-Purple Altar Hangings
24 Twigs	The Third Sunday of Lent-Purple Altar Hangings
31 Twigs	The Fourth Sunday of Lent-Purple Altar Hangings

April

7 Twigs	The Fifth Sunday of Lent-Purple Altar Hangings
14 K Booker	The Sunday of the Passion, PALM SUNDAY-Red Altar Hangings
21	EASTER DAY-White Altar Hangings

Members

John Templeton	706-212-0031	jht1938@windstream.net
Bev Mannes	706-782-9717	bjm99@windstream.net
Peggy Melton	706-782-5112	eston@windstream.net
Kathy Booker	706-782-9203	mkbooker@truvista.net
Tim Burns	404-663-4126	timb10pop@yahoo.com
	201-658-4961	
Sharyn McCabe	706-782-5594	shay36@bellsouth.net
Karen Pietrowicz	706-782-0781	pietrowiczk@msn.com
Betsy Elsas	706-783-2122	betsyelsas@gmail.com
Rebecca Brandon	863-632-5556	rcbasod@aol.com

Please arrange your own substitute if you are unable to do the flowers for your assigned week and let Bonnie know by Tuesday of the week before your Sunday. I would also like to know as I am keeping the Master Schedule. All supplies are in the Flower Room. Please notify me if we need oasis or other supplies. I hope all of you know how much our efforts enrich the worship services of St. James.

Flowers closest to Sept. 26th are in memory of Bo Mentzer, closest to December 17th in memory of Elizabeth Murrell, and Elizabeth Williams on September 12th. These are annual requests.

The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop, Diocese of Atlanta
The Rt. Rev. Donald Wimberly, Assisting Bishop, Diocese of Atlanta
The Rev. Mary Demmler, Rector
Dr. Anthony Sgro, Deacon

Vestry and Staff

<i>Lynda White, Sr. Warden</i>	<i>706-782-3150</i>	<i>Bonnie Klinec, Parish Admin</i>	<i>706-782-6179</i>
<i>Jack Bream, Jr. Warden</i>	<i>706-782-2122</i>	<i>David Tatum, Treasurer</i>	<i>706-782-2875</i>
<i>Jan Bomar</i>	<i>706-782-1436</i>	<i>Alan White, Music Director</i>	<i>706-782-3150</i>
<i>Becky Callahan</i>	<i>706-782-8429</i>	<i>Robin Rogers, Organist</i>	<i>828-837-4219</i>
<i>Ginny Heckel</i>	<i>706-490-2867</i>	<i>Kathy Booker, Parish Nurse</i>	<i>706-782-9203</i>
<i>Brian Phillips</i>	<i>706-982-3507</i>	<i>Cheryl McKay, Sexton</i>	<i>706-970-7348</i>
<i>Linda Barden, Vestry Clerk</i>	<i>706-746-0272</i>	<i>Robert Bleckley, Mowing</i>	<i>706-782-3467</i>
		<i>Ginny Heckel, Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>706-490-2867</i>
			<u><i>gheckel@wt.net</i></u>



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706-782-6179

[**saintjames@windstream.net**](mailto:saintjames@windstream.net)
[**www.stjamesclayton.org**](http://www.stjamesclayton.org)

"The end result of mission must not be a better church. The end result of mission must be a changed community."