

TIDINGS

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



Volume 13 Number 1

January 2017



Margaret Mead said it: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
Michael Curry, in *Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus*.



Mark Your Calendar

January 1	Holy Eucharist Rite II	10:30am
January 4	Pastoral Care Team	9:30am
January 12	Retirees Lunch	11:30am
January 14	DOK Gathering	10:00am
January 18	Flower Festival Committee	10:00am
January 20	Book Club	10:00am
January 24	Worship Committee	10:00am
January 24	Vestry	4:30pm
January 29	Adult Forum with Bishop Wright	9:00am
January 29	Bishop Wright Visit with Annual Parish Meeting & Luncheon	10:30am
January 30	Lunch and Learn	11:30am



The Ruminations of the Rector



In this time of the year it is well that we recover and listen to an old spiritual truth. "Jesus called us to be faithful, not successful." There is a lot of conversation these days about New Year's resolutions. This time of the year does provide us with a good opportunity to evaluate the past and look forward to the future. Typically for me, what haunts me as I look back over the past are my mistakes. On the other hand, it is not easy for me to look back and name the successes, probably due to a cultural bias against self-adulation. In any event, this is the time of the year for inventory and resolution.

Finding the grace to take a balanced inventory of the past is a hard task. And so often in our culture driven by Western European Standards we evaluate on the basis of economic principals. What was the bottom line? Did we do more this year than last year? Are we better off this year than last? For so many of us, success is measured in more and better. Certainly such ideas are key ingredients to the success of a business, but are they key to a successful human being? I think probably not. For we came into this world naked and we shall leave this world the same way. We struggle in our society to understand that life is a matter of quality more than quantity. We can amass all the power and possessions that we want, but death will remove all of it in the twinkling of an eye.

Thus clearly, something besides the "bottom line" must guide us in our quest for a reasonable inventory.

For many who shun materialism and give themselves "loftier goals" there is the other trap and that is to not recognize that some things are not going away in our lifetime. The poor have always been with us. The peace of God is a gift. The Pax Romanum, the peace of earthly origin, is deceiving. Violent hearts are born each day. There will always be a market for drugs. There will always be criminals. And I say this not out of despair, or that we should surrender to these forces, but to admit the truth of our history and ourselves. There is evil in this world. You and I make mistakes. We are all going to die, and if not by cancer, heart disease, AIDS, automobile wrecks, certainly by something else. We can certainly try to keep fit, eat all the right foods, quit smoking, and certainly extend the quantity and hopefully the quality of our lives, but finally we are going to die.

So when we turn to the matter of resolutions for the New Year, the first one may be to work at what Charles Williams called "the first rule of the spiritual life: accuracy." If we do indeed believe in "the life of the world to come" it may well be to evaluate our lives in this one by what we will need in the next. Our first effort

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must be to see ourselves whole, the good and the bad. Can we learn from our mistakes as well as our successes? Can we learn forgiveness by beginning with forgiving ourselves? Can our faith that God has already, and one day shall reveal to us how he has defeated evil and death, give us the confident heart to begin each day with hope? Can our hope then express itself in the kind of joy that comes from knowing that we are loved beyond our wildest expectations? If we can, then I believe that is what is meant by it being more important to be faithful than successful. For as St. Paul wrote, "...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Or, said differently, if we are faithful we will always be successful.

Vestry Actions — Linda Barden

The Vestry met on December 20, 2016.

There being no quorum present, no business was conducted. On December 21, 2016, Bill Bomar submitted by email two motions for Vestry approval. The Vestry

- ♦ authorized by email the Treasurer to make payment on the Saint James Building Fund Loan at Rabun County Bank in the amount of \$10,000 plus accrued interest;
- ♦ approved the nominations of Ginny Heckel and Jack Bream to serve three-year terms on the Saint James Vestry beginning in 2017 , and recommends that they be elected at the Annual Members Meeting January 29, 2017.

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 January 24, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

Senior Warden — Bill Bomar

I know that you are probably as happy as I am that this will be my last article as your Senior Warden. I have been very privileged to serve in this position for the last 3 years, and have very much enjoyed working with Father Steve and each of you during this period.

Each religious denomination has its own procedures for calling a new minister to a church, and our Church is no different. In this article I will summarize the search process for a new rector that we will undertake. In the Episcopal Church, a priest's work is an extension of The Bishop's own pastoral ministry. Because of this, the search for a new rector will be undertaken under the supervision of The Bishop's Office of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, as well as under the leadership of Lynda White as your Senior Warden.

In either the January or February 2017 Vestry meeting, the "new" Vestry will appoint a Search/Nomination Committee of approximately 6 people plus a liaison from the Vestry. The Committee has the charge to work directly with the Vestry and a Consultant from the Diocese of Atlanta. Under the Canons of the Diocese, the search cannot begin in earnest until after Father Steve retires on June 1, but as you can imagine, there is much preliminary work to be done before then, including meetings with the Consultant, training of the Committee and the Vestry, updating our Long Range Plan recently completed, and reformatting it into a profile of our Parish in accordance with the guidelines of the Diocese.

For a Parish our size, we can probably expect a search process of approximately 6 to 8 months. The benefits of the search time can be most fully realized if it is seen as an opportunity for Parish self-examination and renewal. The nominating process is one of discernment, not politics, and is best done under strict confidentiality, courtesy and honesty in responses. To claim fully the benefits, it must be possible for the Parish to reach out to find the most appropriate person to become Rector, not the most visible or available person.

The Vestry and Search/Nominating Committee need to commit to working toward an outcome that is marked by consensus. The steps for this process will include:

- Before June 1st, The Bishop's Canon to the Ordinary (The Rev. Canon Alicia Schuster Weltner) will meet with the Vestry and Search/Nominating Committee to explain the process to be followed and any special training needed. At an appropriate time (probably in June between Sunday services), the Canon to the Ordinary will also meet with the Parish to explain the process and answer questions.

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- The Canon to the Ordinary will assist the Vestry in securing the services of a Consultant and an interim Rector. The interim Rector is chosen from those nominated by the Bishop and cannot stand as a candidate for Rector in the Parish.
- The Consultant works closely with the Search/Nominating Committee, including at critical decision points, meetings where candidates are screened and chosen, and with the Vestry's interviews of candidates.
- The Search/Nominating Committee will prepare a Parish Profile and a Document for the Episcopal Church Office of Transition Ministry for approval by the Vestry and The Bishop. The Parish Profile and the OTM Document are important to help qualified candidates for Rector to fully understand who we are, and include demographics, history, ministries, financial information, opportunities and other aspects of our Parish life and fellowship. When complete, the Parish Profile will be placed on our Website for everyone to view.
- Once the paperwork is completed and approved, the Search/Nominating Committee will begin screening resumes received from the Diocese and other sources submitted through The Bishop's Office. This is followed by telephone/Skype interviews, personal interviews, visits, etc.
- The Search/Nominating Committee's slate of 2 or 3 preliminary approved names will be then submitted to the Vestry for their review and interviews.
- When the Vestry decides on the person to whom to extend a call, with the approval of The Bishop, the Rector-select is notified and a letter of agreement documenting stipend/housing allowance, insurance, moving expenses, vacation and days off, continuing education, sabbatical policy, discretionary funds, mutual ministry expectations, etc. is prepared.

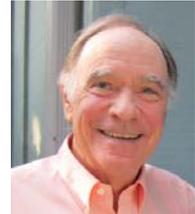
Once the work is finally completed and accepted by all, we can celebrate the start up of a new pastorate.

Vestry Nominees

Jack Bream and Ginny Heckel have been nominated by the Saint James Vestry to serve three-year terms on the Saint James Vestry starting in 2017. Voting will be conducted at the Annual Parish Meeting January 29, 2017.

Jack Bream

I was raised Roman Catholic, and became an Episcopalian when I started dating Betsy (Elsas) in 1962!



I joined Saint James Church in 2010 after relocating to Clayton from the US Virgin Islands. I'm currently serving on several committees: Pastoral Care, Garden Guild and Stewardship. I just recently came off the Board of Directors of F.A.I.T.H. Power House for Kids, after serving a three-year term. Although no longer on this board, I, along with Bob Hatcher, continue to counsel the residents every Thursday morning at our "Coffee Hour". I've also been very active in filling some of the physical needs of Saint James by creating/building a number of items, including the name-tag holder, the small table in the church foyer, the two pedestals at the front of the church and the re-designing of the retable.

Ginny Heckel

I grew up in the Episcopal church in Denver, CO. My faith followed me to parishes in northern California and Houston, TX, before moving to Rabun County in 2003.



I serve Saint James as a Chalice, the Communications Committee Chair, and as a member of the Membership, Worship and Flower Festival Committees. In addition I am the newsletter editor and website manager. I have served the diocese as a member and board Chair of The Episcopal Charities Foundation Board of Directors, scribe for the Community Ministries Task Force, and have just recently been appointed by Bishop Wright to serve on the Ministry Innovations Task Force.

January is just around the corner – unfortunately, so are the flu and other respiratory illnesses. Here are some reminders as we enter this season of the year.



*“Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Flu viruses also may spread when people touch something with flu virus on it and then touch their mouth, eyes, or nose. Many other viruses spread these ways too. People infected with flu may be able to infect others beginning 1 day **before** symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days **after** becoming sick. That means you may be able to spread the flu to someone else before you know you are sick as well as while you are sick. Young children, those who are severely ill, and those who have severely weakened immune systems may be able to infect others for longer than 5-7 days.” CDC*

Symptoms include: Fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness), and occasional vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults. ** It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.* Most people will recover in a few days to less than two weeks; however, some may have complications (i.e. pneumonia) which can require hospitalization and may even cause death.

Yes, we are our “brother’s keeper” – we all have friends and family members who are at risk for infection - it is up to each of us to do things that will reduce the possibility of spreading flu and other germs to and among each other. Here are some things you can do to help:

- Get the flu shot – there is still time for this season.
- Wash your hands frequently - The act of hand washing is one of the easiest activities one can do to prevent the spread of any infection. Use soap and water with a little scrubbing (sing “Happy Birthday” one time while washing). If that is not possible, use an alcohol based preparation (sanitizer) to clean the hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. If you don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hand.
- Stay at home if sick - keep away from others until you are fever-free for at least 24 hours. If you begin to feel sick while out in public, return home immediately.
- Do frequent cleaning of touched objects and surfaces, including doorknobs, keyboards, and phones, to help remove germs.
- Take care of yourself – stay warm, eat healthy, exercise regularly, get adequate sleep, and monitor any other health problems.
- Other – I am sure you have suggestions or things that you do to protect your family.

The flu season is here to stay for a while. Think about ways that you can help prevent the spread of viruses and other germs. Take a moment to review the information on the opposite side of this flyer from the CDC (also visit the website). The flu is not fun – it can have devastating effects! Be sure to read the following information from the CDC.

Staying Healthy, Kathy

CDC Says “Take 3” Actions To Fight The Flu

Flu is a serious contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death.

CDC urges you to take the following actions to protect yourself and others from influenza (the flu):



1

Take time to get a flu vaccine

- CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.
- While there are many different flu viruses, a flu vaccine protects against the three or four viruses that research suggests will be most common.
- Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors’ visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths.
- Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine as soon as the [current season's vaccines](#) are available.
- Vaccination of [high risk persons](#) is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness.
- [People at high risk of serious flu complications](#) include young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease and [people 65 years and older](#).
- Vaccination also is important for [health care workers](#), and other people who live with or care for high risk people to keep from spreading flu to high risk people.
- [Children younger than 6 months](#) are at high risk of serious flu illness, but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for them should be vaccinated instead.

2

Take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- See [Everyday Preventive Actions](#)[257 KB, 2 pages](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/everyday_preventive.pdf) and [Nonpharmaceutical Interventions \(NPIs\)](#) for more information about actions – apart from getting vaccinated and taking medicine – that people and communities can take to help slow the spread of illnesses like influenza (flu).



3

Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them.



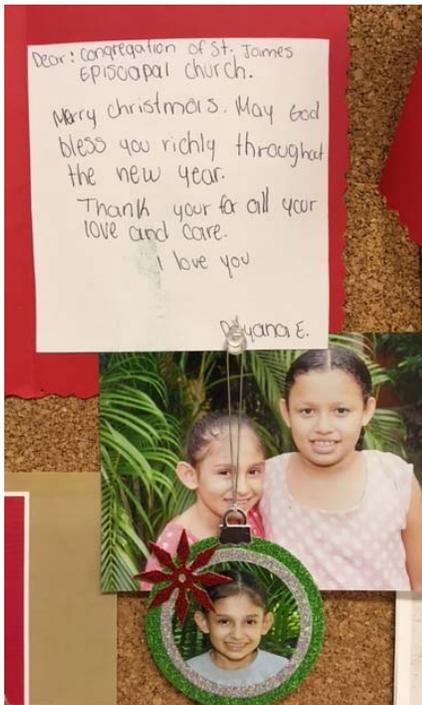
- If you get the flu, antiviral drugs can treat your illness.
- Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics. They are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaled powder) and are not available over-the-counter.
- Antiviral drugs can make illness milder and shorten the time you are sick. They may also prevent serious flu complications. [For people with high risk factors](#), treatment with an antiviral drug can mean the difference between having a milder illness versus a very serious illness that could result in a hospital stay.
- Studies show that flu antiviral drugs work best for treatment when they are started within 2 days of getting sick, but starting them later can still be helpful, especially if the sick person has a high-risk health or is very sick from the flu. Follow your doctor's instructions for taking this drug.
- Flu-like symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. People may be infected with the flu, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

For More Flu Information, visit this website - <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/index.htm>

Parish Committees

Outreach — Peggy Melton

Saint James provided sweat suits and socks to several of the patients at Mountain View Nursing Home. Lee Burson, with the recommendation of the Director, made the purchases at Walmart.

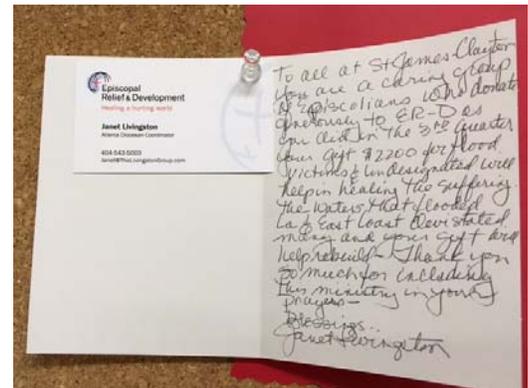


Dear: Congregation of St. James Episcopal church

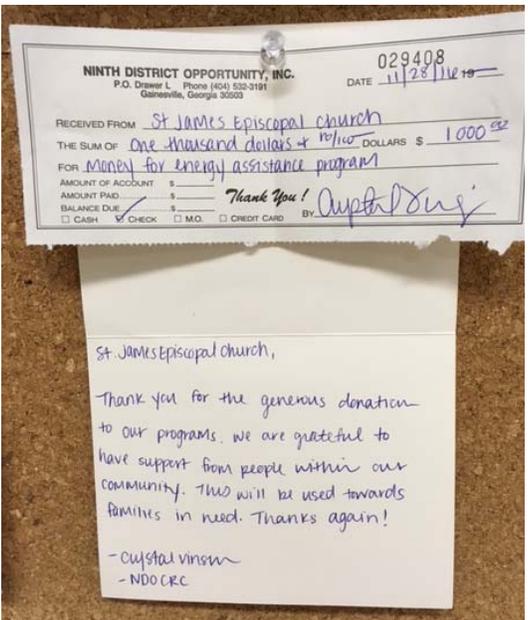
May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you today and throughout the New Year.

Thank you for all your love and care.

With Love Ingrid



Thank you Saint James!



Daughters of the King — Mary Flanigen

The Saint James chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King will hold this month's gathering on **Saturday, January 14, at 10:00 AM**. In the absence of Father Steve who will be on vacation, we will gather in the Parish Hall for a business meeting and fellowship.



We invite anyone who would like to learn more about our Order, or simply join us each month in worship, study and fellowship, to attend our gatherings and other events. The Saint James Chapter is open for membership to all women who are communicants of Saint James Church. 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.

Parish Life — John Templeton

On January the 29, 2017, The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, will make his official visit to St. James. It is a special time for all of us. He is head of the Diocese of Atlanta and thus head of our Church. So often we forget our ties to the Diocese of Atlanta and to the larger Episcopal Church. His visit is a great reminder that we are part of the larger Church. There will be one Service that day with all communicants attending that Service rather than the usual two Services. The Parish Life Committee is busy planning a special celebration for this occasion. Watch your emails and weekly news for up-dates for details as they unfold.



Book Club — Mary Thornton



Date: January 20, 2017

Time: 10 am

Place: Sue Paulsen's home

Book Title: *March: Book Three* by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin.

All are welcome and bring a sack lunch to enjoy following the discussion.
Coffee is provided

Any questions, contact Mary Thornton at marythornton04@gmail.com or 706-490-5050.

Choir — Grat Rosazza

We hope we have enhanced your music experience with the music we provided during this Advent and Christmas season. We hope those who attended the Lessons & Carols service were inspired by the presentation.



We look forward to the new year as we have some new music, new choir members, and the bishop coming. What a great time for anyone to join us.

We have rehearsals at 9am on Sunday mornings. Please come join us! Happy new year.

Musically, Grat

Garden Guild—Kathy Booker

Snips from the Garden



Many plants are dormant for the season –

The gardens are getting a much needed rest!

Do feel free to take a walk or meditate – you won't wake us up!

Flower, Liturgical Arts & Garden Festival — Bev Mannes

It's time to start thinking about the Flower, Garden and Liturgical Arts Festival already! We will have our first meeting on the third Wednesday, January 18 at 10:00 am in the parish hall. Mark your calendars for monthly third Wednesday meetings through June.

We will be choosing the theme and date for this year's festival in January so bring your ideas for a theme and optimum date so we can use garden flowers and catch the optimum time for our glorious flowers in our church gardens.



Remember that we need folks to do lots of jobs besides arranging flowers, so if you want to help in behind the scenes activities, please come to the meetings. This is an event that joins us all together in great fellowship. I'm looking forward to working with the wonderful folks of Saint James! Call me at 706-782-9717 or email me at bjm999@windstream.net if you have any suggestions you want to make before the meeting.

Altar Guild — Peggy Melton

Thanks to Jan Nash, Dirk Brown and Tim Burns for getting the wreaths hung.



Pastoral Care Team — Kathy Booker

From the Pastoral Care Team

The PCT is planning a Lunch & Learn for our parish and the community on Monday, January 30, 2017. It is the first in a series of opportunities to share information of interest about health concerns affecting our area.



The topic for the session will be “Courageous Change”. We all face changes in our lives – small, large or monumental. Learning to handle those changes requires looking at how we perceive them, how we deal with them in a positive manner, and how we move on to the “new normal”. The session will be led by Barb Kennedy, RN, FCN, whose experience with dealing with change and loss will provide understanding in these areas. Barb is from Gwinnett County, married, a grandmother, and works for Wages & Sons Funeral Home as their grief aftercare nurse.

Please mark your calendar for Monday, January 30, 2017. We will serve a light lunch at 11:30am, and the program will start at 12n-1:00pm, in the Parish Hall. It is open to our parish, community and friends. Please register with Bonnie (706-782-6179) to reserve a seat. We hope to see you there!

110th ANNUAL COUNCIL of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

In the December 2016 Saint James Newsletter, additional information about the business of Annual Council was promised.

Seven resolutions were proposed, debated at both the committee and general meeting level, and voted upon. The following legislation was approved:

R16-1 Establish Diocesan Commemoration of Appleton Deaconesses

Resolved, that this 110th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, in order to bear witness to the role of women in the history of the Episcopal Church and to the service of this early order of deaconesses in the Episcopal Church and in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, recognizes the Deaconesses who administered the Appleton Church Home and known as the Order of St. Katharine as saints of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta and sets aside a feast day on June 6th in the calendar of the Diocese of Atlanta. And be it further,

Resolved, that the 110th Annual Council petition the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to consider adding the Appleton Deaconesses to the commemorations of this Church.

R16-2 Support for Non-discriminatory Legislation

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta, meeting in College Park, Georgia , November 18 and 19, 2016, reaffirms the Episcopal Church's support of local, state and federal laws that prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression as set forth in General Convention Resolution 2009-D012 (see www.episcopalchurch.org for text of General Convention resolutions); and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta voice its opposition to all legislation that seeks to deny the God-given dignity, the legal equality, and the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, including legislation modeled after North Carolina's discriminatory "Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act;" and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta voice its opposition to all legislation, rhetoric and policy rooted in the fear-based argument that protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people's civil rights in the form of equal access to public accommodation puts other groups at risk; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta call upon the governor and legislators to refrain from the passage of legislation such as so-called "religious liberty" bills and similar bills, and instead to enact legislation that prevents discrimination of all kinds based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta encourage Episcopalians to work against legislation that discriminates against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and work for legislation that prevents such discrimination, and to communicate the church's position to courts, policymakers and others across the State of Georgia; and be it further

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Resolved, that the Secretary of Council be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Georgia, the Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, as well as the Secretary of State, the Attorney General for the State of Georgia and all members of the Georgia General Assembly.

R16-3 Establish Commission on Healing Justice

Resolved, that the current Death Penalty Abolition Task Force become a Commission of the Diocese, to study, educate, and advocate for restorative justice in the State of Georgia; and be it further

Resolved, that this commission will work toward the abolition of the death penalty, in partnership with the Diocese of Georgia; and be it further

Resolved, that the Commission be named the Commission on Healing Justice.

R16-4 Rename the Episcopal Charities Foundation to "Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia"

Resolved, that this 110th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, to more closely align the organization's name to its work in our Diocese, changes the name of the "Episcopal Charities Foundation" to the "Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia"; and be it further

Resolved, that the 110th Annual Council changes the name of the Foundation's Endowment from "The Rt. Rev. Bennett J. Sims Endowment of Episcopal Charities Foundation" to "The Rt. Rev. Bennett J. Sims Endowment of the Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia"; and be it further

Resolved, that the purpose of the Foundation shall continue to be to serve the poor and oppressed from its income, and to raise funds for grants for ministry with the poor throughout The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta in a manner determined by the Board of Directors of the Foundation with approval of the Bishop of Atlanta.

R16-5 In support of a Community Benefits Agreement for the neighborhoods immediately surrounding Turner Field

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, meeting in College Park, Georgia, November 18 & 19, 2016, affirms that the Episcopal Church stands with residents impacted by the redevelopment of Turner Field and surrounding parking lots, who have experienced displacement due to stadium development for nearly 50 years; and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta calls on Georgia State University and the development team headed by Carter & Associates to enter into a legally binding Community Benefits Agreement with the residents of the impacted neighborhoods, with support from the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, and the Atlanta Fulton County Recreation Authority (AFCRA); and be it further

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Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta supports the concept of a legally binding Community Benefits Agreement that is guided by the community benefits recommendations developed and proposed by the Turner Field Community Benefits Coalition, whose membership is composed of local residents and community-based organizations including Emmaus House, a mission of the Episcopal Church for nearly 50 years, within the impacted stadium neighborhoods of Summerhill, Peoplestown, Mechanicsville and Pittsburgh; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta calls on Episcopalians to utilize their networks and relationships with City of Atlanta leadership, Fulton County Commissioners, members of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and leadership of Carter & Associates and Oakwood Development to advocate for a binding Community Benefits Agreement that addresses the expressed needs of the impacted communities; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of Council be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Mayor of the City of Atlanta, the President and members of City Council, the Chairman and commissioners of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, the Executive Director and members of the Atlanta Fulton County Recreation Authority, the President and faculty senate of Georgia State University, Chancellor and members of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, the President & CEO of Carter & Associates and the President & CEO of Oakwood Development.

R16-6 Georgia Criminal Justice Reform: Reclassifying traffic offenses out of the criminal code

Praying for "leaders of our communities, our church, our country and our world, that they may make decisions that are in accord with God's commandments that bring life, justice and peace," Reclaiming Hope through Remembering (Macon, Georgia Oct. 22, 2016), and that they may have all necessary resources of courage, wisdom, and steadfastness to overcome inertia, it is

Resolved, that the Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta urge the Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council to look to the experience of the 22 States that have already reclassified traffic offenses out of the criminal code and to persevere with the effort to bring this reform to Georgia. , a reform that holds such great potential to make our State of Georgia a more civilized place.

Resolved, that the secretary of the council be directed to send a copy of this resolution, with Explanation, to the co-chairs of the Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council and to the members of the reform council and its subcommittees.

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R16-7, as enacted

Resolved, the Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, meeting in College Park, Georgia, on November 18 and 19, 2016, notes that we, as Episcopalians, are continually striving to aspire to the vows of our Baptismal Covenant to respect the dignity of every human being as well as to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and be it further

Resolved that language was often used in the most recent election cycle that demeaned and denigrated the children of God on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, religion, disability, national origin, income, and political viewpoint, and be it further

Resolved that such language is abhorrent to the vows of our Baptismal Covenant, and be it further

Resolved that this Council urge lawmakers, politicians, and policy makers at all levels of government, and all political parties, to refrain from using language that in any way denigrates, demeans, abuses, or damages any members of the human rainbow of diversity in God's creation, and be it further

Resolved that we call our leaders to commit themselves to listen deeply and openly to the many voices of our country, and be it further

Resolved that the Secretary of Council shall be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the President, the President-elect, and the leadership of the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States, as well as to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and the leadership of the House of Representatives and Senate of the State of Georgia.

Lastly, an amendment to the Canons of the diocese was proposed and passed—

C16-2 Amend Canon 1. Sec. 2(b)

Resolved, that Canon 1. Sec. 2(b) be amended in toto to read as follows:. Section 2.(b). Lay Representation:

(1) Notice or communication required by this canon may be: in person; by telephone, fax, email or other form of wire or wireless communication; or by mail or private carrier.

(2) The Secretary of the Council, not later than six months before its annual meeting, shall advise each Parish and Aided Parish of the number of Lay Delegates and Alternate Lay Delegates to which it is entitled by the Constitution of the Diocese.

Announcements

VACATIONING

Fr. Steve and Roxie will be on vacation January 5-18. Sunday, January 8, we will welcome The Rev. Spurgeon Hayes as our celebrant and preacher. Sunday, January 15, we will welcome The Rev. John Thompson-Quartey as our celebrant and preacher.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Committee Reports are due electronically to saintjames@windstream.net by Wednesday, January 18.

PATHWAYS AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH HALL

The latest magazine published by the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta—*Pathways* is available downstairs, please take one home. Read about how Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians are taking their love and faith beyond the walls of the church.

2017 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

The “new” 2017 altar flower sign-up calendar is located on the bulletin board in the parish hall. We encourage you to sign up for Sunday flowers in memory, or in honor of a special person or event. You may drop your \$30 check towards the flowers in the offering plate; please be sure to mark “flowers” in the memo section.

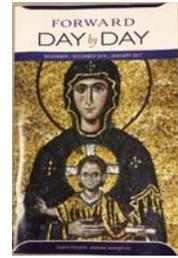
COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP



New sign up sheets are posted to host the Coffee and Fellowship hour for November, December, January and February. If you’ve never hosted before, it is as simple as making a plate of cookies and turning the coffee pot on. The sign up sheets are located on the bulletin board downstairs next to the outside door.

Forward Day By Day Devotional

The November, December, January 2017 devotional booklets (large print and regular print) are now available and are located in the in the Parish Hall. Pick up your copy today.



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>

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!*

Sunday Sermons Available Online or CD

The 10:30 Sunday services are recorded each week. Call Bonnie Klinect to request a copy (706 782 6179). You can listen to the sermons online at the Saint James Website: www.stjamesclayton.org Click on the sermon tab on the left side of the homepage.

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.

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!

NEW EAGLE CARDS AVAILABLE

The new Eagle Discount Card is available in the church office. If you enjoy eating out, the Eagle Card will save you so much money. 21 businesses have offered fantastic continued use discounts, good until September 1, 2017! Cards are \$10 each and benefit the good works of the Rabun Gap - Nacoochee Parents Association.



Recycle

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

Parish Postings

From Sue Paulsen—

I had a fine visit recently with Jim and Sue Duffield at their home in the Sautee area. They are happy to be back in Georgia and look forward to reconnecting with friends here. Sue asked me to explain they are going to spend most of the rest of this year visiting in Connecticut, Vermont, and Maine. Reconnecting at an anniversary party with a couple Sue married long ago, etc.

Their home is charming, spacious and full of light and also very interesting mementos of their fourteen years of life with the Ute nation in Whiterock, Utah.

Sue served as Interim Rector at Saint James 2000—2001.

From Jack Bream—

Bob and Maggie Hatcher, Alan White, Vicki Darrah and Betsy and I went caroling (a surprise) at the Grice's home. Katherine & Crawford were delighted with the surprise visit. Crawford was singing right along with us! Jingle Bells!



From Terry Wright—

Many blessings & good health to all in 2017.

Jenny and Jeremy Sanders, 8 o'clockers at Saint James, recently moved to West Virginia, where Jenny will be studying echohydrology (water resources) in the department of Forestry and Natural Resources at West Virginia University.

Sunday, December 4, was their last service at Saint James, and following the service a number of parishioners joined with the Sanders at Starbucks to hear of their plans and to wish them Godspeed, filled up with coffee of course.



Peripatetic Worship

From Bets Berry—

While in New Smyrna Beach I am attending St. Peter the Fisherman which is nestled in the mangroves just off the ocean. Modern but tranquil. Father Jim Spencer and his wife Sally attend services at St. James when staying at Sky Valley. I have just started helping with the flowers for Sunday services. Sally has a floral business and is creative and fun. I miss all of you at St. James, and it is nice to have some connection at St. Peters. Warm greetings to all!



From Ginny Heckel—

A short trip to Houston included several opportunities to worship at St. Mary's, Cypress:

Evening Prayer

Holy Eucharist Rite II with music

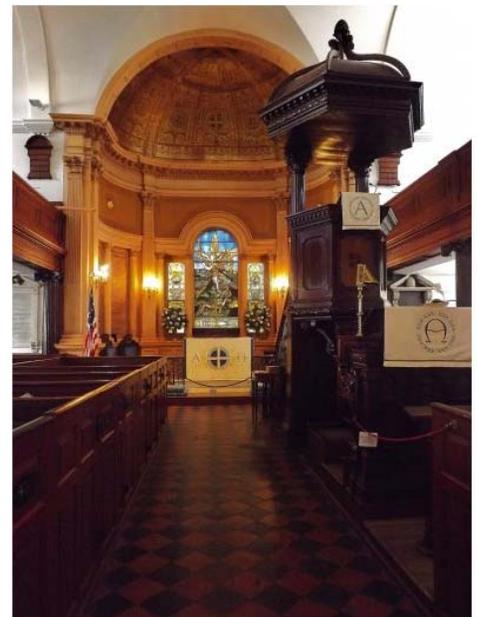
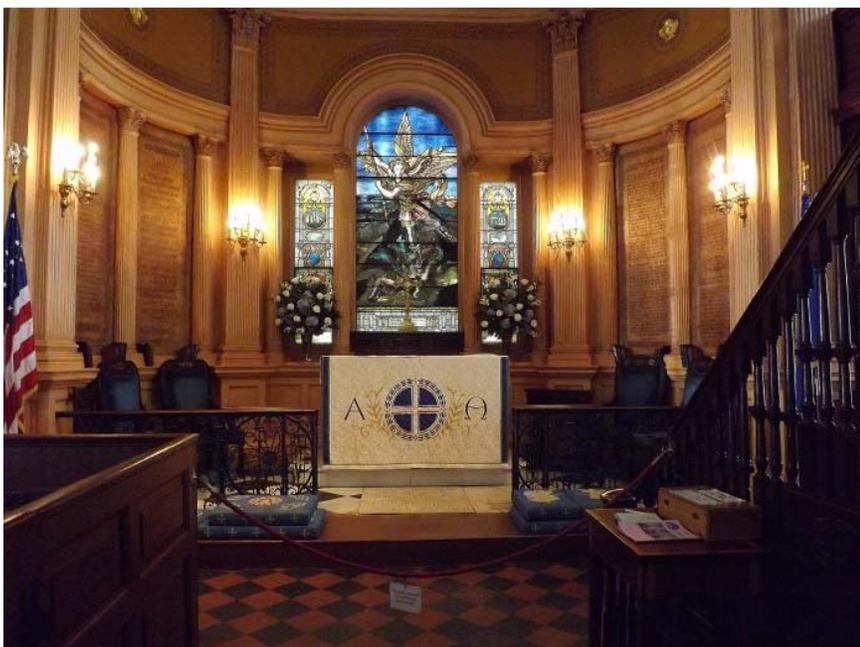
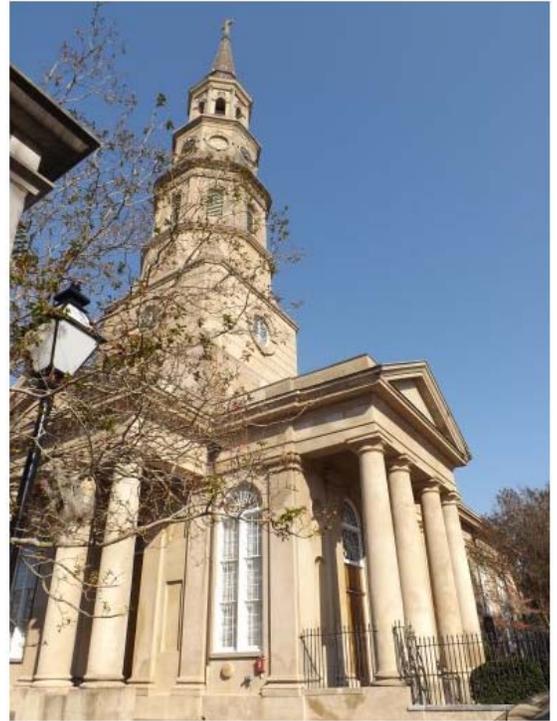
Holy Eucharist worship at the end of the day

All rich and soul-filling.

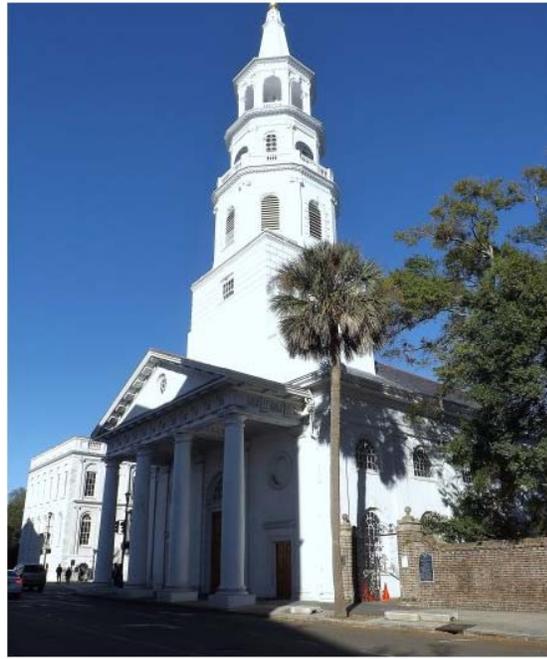


From Susan Staiger—

A few photos from our trip to Charleston where we worshipped at Saint Michael's Anglican Church. St. Michael's is the oldest church in the City of Charleston. George Washington worshipped here in 1791. Robert E. Lee worshipped in the same pew 70 years later. The pulpit is original and the organ was installed in 1768 made in England. We were privileged to attend when a Baptism for twins took place.



St. Michael's Pulpit



St. Michael's Exterior



St. John's Church



The Mariners Church - over 100 years old where sailors worshipped - now a restaurant



From Sandy Hunter—

My home church, Grace Lutheran, Clearwater, FL, has recently started having Spanish language services. I and a few other non-Hispanics attended the Spanish Christmas Eve services. Fortunately, most readings and hymns on Christmas Eve are very familiar so I knew what was going on except for the sermon. I sang Silent Night in three languages on Christmas Eve.

Passages

Happy Birthday

1/2 Kathy Ford
1/3 Linda Sanders
1/4 Terry Thornton
1/5 Shirley Leavens
1/6 Robin Rogers
1/10 Tom Dusenberry
1/10 Jim Zobel
1/10 Jack Brandon
1/11 Jeff Rice
1/13 Sally Shearon
1/14 Sara Nelms
1/16 Robie Fisch
1/20 Leslie Ferris
1/20 Cayden Kennedy
1/23 Tatum Young
1/26 Bob Grant

Happy Anniversary

1/7 Liz & Rocky Harper
1/22 Elaina Cochran & Tyrie Smith
1/23 Tatum & Leroy Young
1/24 Jane & Tom Burinski



the Lectionary



The Lessons appointed for use—RCL Year A

THE HOLY NAME (January 1)

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Romans Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

THE EPIPHANY (January 6)

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY BAPTISM OF THE LORD (January 8)

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (January 15)

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-12
Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (January 22)

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1,4-9
Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (January 29)

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Cycle of Thanksgivings—Year A

The Holy Name - January 1, 2017

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist – The Gospel of John is unusual in that a person of some importance remains unnamed. You will notice throughout the Gospel references to “another disciple” or “the other disciple”, which may be St John talking about himself.

The Epiphany - January 6, 2017

Florence Li Tim-oi (1907-1992) – Born in Hong Kong and ordained deaconess in 1941, Florence was trapped in Macao by the Japanese occupation. Travel between the islands was forbidden so Bishop Hall of Hong Kong ordained Florence priest. After the war, she made the personal decision not to exercise the office of priesthood until it was acknowledged by the wider Anglican Communion. The communist regime came to power in 1949 and things went from bad to worse. Churches were closed and Florence was forced to work first on a farm and then factory. One might imagine why she was accused of counter revolutionary activity and forced to undergo political re-education. It was not until 1979 the churches were reopened and Florence was allowed to travel to Canada to visit family members. While in Canada, she was licensed as a Priest in the Dioceses of Montreal and Toronto.

First Sunday after the Epiphany - January 8, 2017

Saint Peter, Apostle and martyr. Tradition says that early in life Simon Bar-Jona looked forward to a comfortable life as the owner of a profitable business. His encounters with Jesus changed that to a life of service.

Second Sunday after the Epiphany - January 15, 2017

St Timothy, missionary partner to Paul – Timothy, by many accounts, was one of St. Paul’s most trusted surrogates. Rather than have Timothy act as a gopher or water boy, Paul sent him on increasingly important missions (solo) and, apparently, Timothy got the job done. The epistles written to Timothy further the idea that Paul wanted a team of senior “managers” ready to carry on after he (Paul) died.

Third Sunday after the Epiphany - January 22, 2017

Saint Paul, Apostle and martyr – Paul’s letters reveal him as the foremost interpreter of Christ’s mind.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany - January 29, 2017

Thanksgiving in remembrance of Simeon, the Temple elder. Other than what is recorded in the second chapter of Luke, very little is known about Simeon. Tradition is that Simeon was told he would not die before he saw the Messiah. When Jesus was presented at the Temple for the rite of purification, Simeon blessed the child with the song recorded in Luke 2:29 - 32. This is known also as the Nunc Dimittis. The traditional words to the blessing are printed on page 51 of the Prayer Book.

Thanks to the late Bill Flanigen for these Thanksgivings.

Lay Servers — Camille Day

10:30am (One Service)	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Chalice Bearers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
January 1	David Fore	Deacon Anthony Sgro Peggy Melton	Jan Bomar Bill Bomar

8:30am	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Chalice Bearer</u>	<u>Usher</u>
January 8	Linda Barden	Ron Barden	Linda Barden
January 15	Terry Thornton	Ginny Heckel	Mary Thornton
January 22	Kathy Booker	Marcus Booker	Kathy Booker

10:30am	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Chalice Bearers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
January 8	Jacqueline Groover	Deacon Anthony Sgro Roxanne Hall	Jennifer Moore Jan Nash
January 15	Alan White	Deacon Anthony Sgro Bonnie Klinect	Terri Manoogian Lynda White
January 22	Martha Ezzard	Deacon Anthony Sgro Peggy Melton	Becky Callahan Tom Callahan

10:30am (Bishop Wright Visit—One Service)

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Chalice Bearers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
January 29	Susan Staiger	Deacon Anthony Sgro Ginny Heckel	Jack Bream Betsy Elsas

Counters

January 1	Lawrence Nelms, Janice Grant
January 8	Lawrence Nelms, Jim Zobel
January 15	Lawrence Nelms, Gilda Little
January 22	Lawrence Nelms, Jim Zobel
January 29	Lawrence Nelms, Gilda Little

Saint James Flower Schedule — John Templeton

January 1, 2017- April 16, 2017

January

1	Christmas Flowers The Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ - White Altar Hangings
8 Betsy Elsas	The First Sunday after the Epiphany, Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ - White Altar Hangings
15 Rebecca Brandon	The Second Sunday after the Epiphany – Green Altar Hangings
22 Karen Pietrowicz	The Third Sunday after the Epiphany - Green Altar Hangings
29 Bev Mannes	Annual Visitation of Bishop

February

5 Peggy Melton	The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany – Green Altar Hangings
12 Ann Suich	The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany – Green Altar Hangings
19 Annie Westermann	The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany - Green Altar Hangings
26 Kim/John Ingram	The Last Sunday after the Epiphany—Green Altar Hangings

March

5 Twigs	The First Sunday of Lent - Purple Altar Hangings
2 Twigs	The Second Sunday of Lent - Purple Altar Hangings
19 Twigs	The Third Sunday of Lent - Purple Altar Hangings
26 Twigs	The Fourth Sunday of Lent - Purple Altar Hangings

April

2 Twigs	The Fifth Sunday of Lent - Purple Altar Hangings
9 Kathy Booker	Sunday of the Passion - Palm Sunday
16 Guild	Easter Day - The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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
Ann Suich	706-782-9506	asuich@yahoo.com
Kathy Booker	706-782-9203	mkbooker@windstream.net
Betsy Elsas	706-783-2122	betsyelsas@gmail.com
John and Kim Ingram	706-212-0640	jingram@immedgroup.com kingram@immedgroup.com
Karen Pietrowicz	706-782-0781	pietrowiczk@msn.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 closet at the foot of the stairs on the right half. Please notify me if we need oasis or other supplies. I hope all of you know how much I appreciate your hard work...but ain't it fun. Thank you so much!

Flowers closest to September 26 are in memory of Bo Mentzer; closest to December 17 in memory of Elizabeth Murrell; Elizabeth Williams on September 12. 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. Stephen M. Hall, Rector
Dr. Anthony Sgro, Deacon

Vestry and Staff

<i>Bill Bomar (Senior Warden)</i>	706-782-1436	<i>Bonnie Klinect - Parish Admin</i>	706-782-6179
<i>John Ingram (Junior Warden)</i>	706-212-0640	<i>David Tatum - Treasurer</i>	706-782-2875
<i>Brian Phillips</i>	706-746-5160	<i>Grat Rosazza - Music Director</i>	828-212-0031
<i>Terri Manoogian</i>	706-982-9004	<i>Robin Rogers - Organist</i>	828-837-4219
<i>Evelyne Sheats</i>	706-782-1341	<i>Kathy Booker - Parish Nurse</i>	706-782-9203
<i>Lynda White</i>	706-782-3150	<i>Cheryl McKay - Sexton</i>	706-970-7348
<i>Linda Barden - Vestry Clerk</i>	706-746-0272	<i>Robert Bleckley - Mowing</i>	706-782-3467
		<i>Ginny Heckel - Newsletter Editor</i>	706-782-5686
<i>Scheduler for Lay Ministers</i>			gheckel@wt.net
<i>Camille Day</i>	706-212-0545		

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



Saint James Episcopal Church

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www.stjamesclayton.org

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