

St. James seeks to be a community that grows more Christlike, expressing the love of Jesus Christ in our worship, our outreach, and our commitment to discipleship.

ST. JAMES MESSENGER



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



From **February 24th-26th**, we will be joined by the founder and director of **Invite-Welcome-Connect**, **Mary Parmer**. Mary's ministry has been presented in hundreds of congregations in the Episcopal Church. She is also the author of the book, *Invite Welcome Connect: Stories and Tools to Transform Your Church*.

The core component of the weekend will be our workshop on **Saturday, February 25th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Lunch is included, and the cost is free; but registration is required. Sign-ups for the workshop will continue until **February 19th**. You can sign up by contacting the church office, or by going to our St. James website (www.stjames-leesburg.org). And be sure to check out our own promotional video!

Mary will also speak at both services on **Sunday, February 26th**.

Along with the weekend program, we are forming a long-term Invite-Welcome-Connect Team at St. James. If you would like more information on how to take part, contact Marc Crouch at (804) 402-2011 or Crouch.marc@yahoo.com

"Invite Welcome Connect is a ministry of transformation that equips and empowers individuals and congregations to cultivate intentional practices of evangelism, hospitality, and belonging" (invitewelcomeconnect.com).

FEBRUARY 2023

The Messenger is a monthly publication of St. James' Episcopal Church in Leesburg, Florida. It is mailed on the last Wednesday of each month and highlights parish news for the upcoming month. Deadline for submissions is the third Wednesday of each month. Submissions should be sent to: Pat Schaefer <office@stjames-leesburg.org>

Church Mailing Address:

St. James Episcopal Church

204 N. Lee Street

Leesburg, FL 34748

Services: Sunday 8:00AM & 10:15 AM

Thursday Healing Service 10:00AM

Office Phone: (352) 787-1981

Office Fax: (352)787-1021

Office Email: office@stjames-leesburg.org

Fr. Trees' email: frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org

Fr. Trees' cell: (352) 643-1182

Visit our website at: www.stjames-leesburg.org



Sunday services are livestreamed at 10:15 AM:
Go to YouTube and type "**Leesburg Stjames**" or
visit our **Facebook** page.

CHURCH VESTRY & STAFF

Rector: Rev'd Thomas Trees

Assisting Priests: Rev'd. William J. Boyer, Rev'd Ron Peak

Assisting Deacon: Rev'd Art Hollows

Parish Organist/Choir Director: Deb Carraway

Nursery Coordinator: Carmen Rebusmen

Children's Choir Director: Elizabeth Williams

Treasurer: Linda Weekley

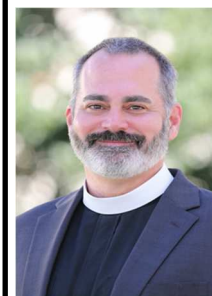
Parish / Finance Secretary: Pat Schaefer

Sexton: Doug Ames

Housekeeping: Diane Smith

Vestry Members: Bill Cauthen, Dorry Curran, Danny Delgado (Senior Warden), Harry Hackney, Terry Galyon, Linda Grizzard, David Knowles, Chris Leware, Drew Logan (Junior Warden), Mackie McCabe, Dick Singeltary, Linda Weekley,

BISHOP'S ELECTION



We have a **New Bishop-Elect for the Diocese of Central Florida! The Rev'd Dr. Justin Holcomb**, Canon for Vocations for our Diocese, was elected on the first ballot. He is set to be consecrated on June 10th, and will take over responsibilities as our 5th Bishop of Central Florida on July 6th.

LIBRARY CORNER

The season of LENT begins on Feb. 22 this year, that is Ash Wednesday, and continues until April 6, a Thursday, three days before Easter Sunday, April 9. Actually, Lent is a 46 day period, if you include Sundays. The dates for Lent, Holy Week and Easter coordinate with the spring (vernal) equinox. The word 'lent' is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word 'lencten', which translates as 'spring'. Your Parish Library has many books describing Lent and featuring Lenten meditations. These books will be placed on the library book truck in the parish hall and marked with a brightly colored post-it, saying 'Lenten meditation'. Check them out! Also, remember that the library located in Room 6 is a quiet place for reflection and meditation during this holiest of Christian seasons. Welcome and blessings to all.

Margaret Branham, Parish Librarian

LEESBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Leesburg Historical Society's February 7th meeting at Rogers' Park at 3:30 will include presentations about Leesburg's early physicians, four of whom were members of St. James: Dr. Binneveld, Dr. Engelhard, Dr. O'Kelley, and Dr. Young. They will be represented by their adult children, who are still members of St. James. The public is invited to attend.

NEED TO MEET WITH FR. TOM?

If you would like to know when you can come by the church to meet with Fr. Tom, he will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to noon, and Thursdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.. If you would like to arrange for other times to meet, you can contact him at (352) 643-1182, or by email at frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org.

St. James Prayer List

Call the Church Office (352)787-1981 with additions/deletions

LONG TERM

Judy Cable
Joyce Huey
Beryl Stokes
Dottie Elliott
Charles Hay
Kathy Billington
Nancy Mitchell
Lauri Grizzard
Stephen Norris
Charles Stephens
Deb Ballabio
Becky Mitchell
Shirley Fiebke
Laura Kennedy
Margaret Wickham
Becky Mitchell
Shirley Fiebke
Emma Jackson
Rebecca Jenkins Avila

Vicki Hedrick
Jon Goodman
Ernie Rossi
Jasmine Wickham
Debbie Sharkey
Pratt Carter
Daryl Nelson
The Payne Family

SHORT TERM

Tim McCrae
Joe Welsh
Janet Davis
Doug Springmann
Ron Vedder
Keneta Gaillardet
Karyl Elton

JAMAICA MEDICAL MISSION

We are grateful for our JMM mission team, which is returning to St. Mary's Parish after three years, from February 11th-18th. We look forward to their report!
We pray to you, Lord, for the upcoming Jamaica Medical Mission. Guide and protect them with safe travel and good health. Make them effective and fruitful in sharing the love of Christ with those in need. Amen.

GRIEF SUPPORT

The Grief Support Gathering will meet **Thursday, February 2nd, 2023, at 4:00 PM at the Coffee Snob** (1101-1 W. North Blvd, Leesburg). The topic will be, "Cherished Family photos with Unforgettable Memories."

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

St. James has a support group for those who are dealing with, or have dealt with family members suffering from dementia. This group meets on the **Fourth Wednesday of each month at 2:00PM in the Parish Hall**. The next meeting which will take place on **Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023**. If you, or anyone you know are dealing with these challenges and are interested in participating please call Dot Hay (352-552-8986) or the Parish Office at (352-787-1981).



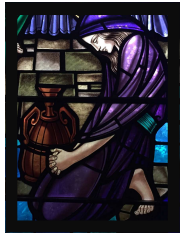
WELCOME TO OUR NEW VESTRY!

At our Annual Meeting on January 22nd, meeting, the following new Vestry members were nominated and accepted: **Dorry Curran, Terri Galyon, Linda Grizzard, and Dick Singeltary**. Our outgoing members were Marc Crouch, Kathy Davidson, Bob Tindall, and Patti Wolf. Also at the meeting, **Danny Delgado** was again selected to be our Senior Warden, and **Drew Logan** as our Junior Warden. Congratulations, and Thank You all for your service to St. James!

An Invitation to a Holy Lent

Lent begins this year on
**ASH WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 22ND**

With the Imposition of Ashes at
8:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.



*We encourage each of you to make a Lenten commitment to attend church, if possible, **every Sunday**, and take part in **at least one opportunity** for learning, fellowship and discipleship:*

- Jeff Brook-Stewart's **Bible Study** meets each Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Our **Intergenerational Sunday School** meets on Sundays at 9:00.
- Our **Men's Prayer Breakfast** meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 8:00 AM.
- Our **ECW General Meeting** is on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM; and **Chapter Meetings** are on the 3rd Tuesday or Wednesday of the month.
- Our **Daughters of the King** meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 2:00 PM
- Our **Grief Support Group** meets on the 1st Thursday, and our **Dementia Support Group** meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

ECW NEWS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH
ECW BOARD MEETING, 9 AM
GENERAL MEETING, 10 AM (PARISH HALL)
Program: Lenten Reflections by Linda Ames,
St. James ECW Chaplain (Hostess; St. Francis)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH
ST. MARTHA'S CHAPTER MEETING, 6 PM
(Mammoth Oak Brewing Company)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST
CHAPTER MEETINGS
St. Ann's, 10 AM (Parish Hall)
St. Francis', 10 AM (4849 Sable Ridge Ct)
St. Cecilia's, 4 PM (St. James' Chapel)

FOOD DROP

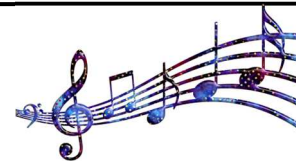
Your generosity continued in January, with 31 cars delivering not only food and monetary contributions, but jackets, sweatshirts and blankets for those in need. Our faithful volunteers were Terri and Van Galyon, Jan Tindall, Tanina Singletary and Rita Clements.

COLLECTED: 810 pounds of food (Ongoing Total: 31,204 lbs).
 \$615.00 (Ongoing Total: \$40,531)

Our next Food Drop will be Wednesday February, 15th, 9:00-12:00.
Remember: LOVE REDUCES FRICTION TO A FRACTION.

JODY'S GIFT SHOP

We continue to prosper in 2023 with the support from St. James and our extended community. The rewards become evident when the proceeds are given for our ministries in local, state and worldwide needs. Your valentines remembrances are available along with newly donated items. We are offering a variety of "special" chance baskets, including a portable wine cooler complete with wine glasses to accompany bottles of wine, a beautiful hand sewn quilt and a garden cart complete with yard supplies! In addition, we have been given replica St. James Church "Winter Blessings cross stitch kits donated from a local designer. Thank you for visiting us and for donating to Jody's Gift Shop!



Music Musings *February 2023*

*The Lord is my strength and shield; in him my heart trusts;
so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to
him. Psalm 28:7*

"Thanks for the bag, Dad."

He was just a little boy who loved his dad. And he couldn't wait for Daddy to get home from a business trip. These words spoken with the most innocent and grateful heart, weren't even in response to the actual gift (a small, inexpensive trinket purchased at the airport gift shop before coming home to the family), but were simply a "thank you" for the bag that carried the gift. Andrew didn't know there was a gift tucked inside He was just grateful for whatever his dad had to offer, and most grateful for his dad's presence.

Every time I remember this episode in Andrew's young life (our son who was probably three at the time, soon to turn 40!), I know that the lesson may be simple but it is truly profound.

We, too, can be grateful for the small things of life, and in doing so, we are blessed immeasurably by God's very presence among us. May we count our blessings daily, and be grateful not just for the gift, but for the Giver. May our prayer be much like this: "Thanks for the bag, Dad...Amen."

I pray that you will be blessed this season by many wonderful gifts and, most of all, by the presence of the One Who gives them. As you are blessed, remember to give thanks with a song in your heart!

Yours in Christ,

Deb Carraway

Music Director and Organist



- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Linda Gray | 12 Lisa James |
| 2 Jim Breeden | Ross Hackney |
| 4 Linda Hintze | 13 Carolyn Hoth |
| Elaine Samson | Joel Trees |
| 5 Charles Stephens | 19 James Parker |
| 6 Seth Peter Trees | Susan Hughes |
| Meghan Young | Linley Van Beek |
| 7 Jan Tindall | 20 Beverly Bounds |
| Katie Van Beek | Lolita Sergio |
| 8 Mark Palmer | 22 Dorothy Gustafson |
| 9 Elizabeth Williams | Doug Pens |
| Ferrell Young | 23 Susan Cyrus |
| 10 Joyce Roop | 25 Fran Deems |
| Cori Padgett | Ronald Parsons |
| Ella Bennett | 26 Nancy Moran |
| 11 Margaret Bolton | 27 Avery Brooks |
| 12 Trey Waddell | 29 Sherry Lash |
| Bill Tweedle | Sue Roeglin |
| Tess Neumann | |
| Charmaine Tenwinkel | |



- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6 William & Lisa James | 27 Ron & Bev Parsons |
| 14 Wayne & Delores Griffin | 28 Robert & Amy Bowersox |
| 15 Jdames & Susan Soltysiak | |



Join us for our
**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER**
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST,
@ 6:00pm
in the Parish Hall
Regular or Gluten Free!

ST. JAMES INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL RED LETTER EDITION

We meet in the Parish Hall at 9:00 AM for fun-filled learning activities for children and adults on the Gospel reading for the day. Breakfast is included! We'll meet on February 5th (Lesson: "Salt and Light") and February 12 (Lesson: Old vs. New), then be off for Presidents' Day weekend and Invite-Welcome-Connect.



The Daughters of the King meet the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00PM in the Parish Hall. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 8th, 2023 when we resume our study of Parables. All women of the Parish are invited. Please join us for prayer and study.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Jeff Brooke-Stewart has resumed his Bible Study on Thursday evenings in the Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m. The study continues in the First Epistle of John. You can join at any time!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our **Men's Prayer Breakfast** will meet again on **Wednesday, February 15th at 8:00am** in the Parish Hall. We are going through the series, "What is Mere Christianity?" To learn more about our Men's Fellowship, contact Fred (Ted) Kermode at fkermode@verizon.net, (941) 807-3176 or (941) 807-3176



2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 4:00 Jubilate 7:00 Adult Choir	2 10:00 Eucharist 4:00 Grief Support Mtg 6:30 Bible Study	3	4
5 Fifth Sunday after The Epiphany 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist Acolyte & Parent Mtg. Following 10:15 service	6 6:30 Stephen Ministry	7 9:00 ECW Board Mtg 10:00 ECW Gen'l Mtg	8 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 2:00 DOK Meeting 4:00 Jubilate 7:00 Adilt Choir	9 10:00 Eucharist 6:30 Bible Study	10	11 Jamaica Medical Mission begins
12 Sixth Sunday after The Epiphany 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist	13	14	15 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 4:00 Jubilate 5:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 Adult Choir	16 10:00 Eucharist 6:00 Vestry Meeting 6:30 Bible Study	17	18 Jamaica Medical Mission returns
19 Seventh Sunday after The Epiphany 8:00 Eucharist (Sunday School Off) 10:15 Eucharist	20	21 Shrove Tuesday ECW Chapter Meetings 6:00 Pancake Supper	22 Ash Wednesday 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 4:00 Jubilate 7:00 Adult Choir 2:00 Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group	23 10:00 Eucharist 6:30 Bible Study	24	25 9:00AM-3:00PM Invite, Welcome, Connect Seminar
26 First Sunday in Lent 8:00 Eucharist 10:15 Eucharist (Mary Parmer, Speaker)	27	28				