



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

*We would like to wish our whole St. James family a Happy New Year as we enter 2021! May you prosper and be in good health, and experience the good tidings of great joy accomplished by the birth of Jesus our Savior.*



*We hope you had a wonderful Christmas with your family and loved ones. If you were not able to attend in person, our candlelight Christmas Eve service is available to watch on our YouTube channel, "Leesburg Stjames". Thanks to all who made our beautiful worship possible!*

JANUARY 2021

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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stjames-leesburg.org)  
Fr. Trees' email: [frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org)  
Fr. Trees' cell: (352) 643-1182



Visit our website at: [www.stjames-leesburg.org](http://www.stjames-leesburg.org)

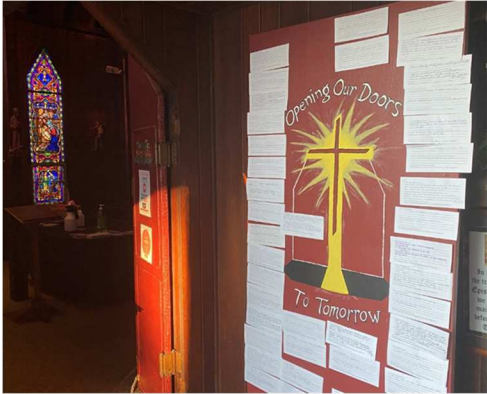


Go to YouTube and type "Leesburg Stjames" or  
Go to our website: [www.stjames-leesburg.org](http://www.stjames-leesburg.org); or  
Go to our Facebook page!

**CHURCH VESTRY & STAFF**

- Rector:** Rev'd Thomas Trees
- Assisting Priests:** Rev'ds Charles Hay, William J. Boyer, Ron Peak
- Assisting Deacon:** Rev'd Jerry Steidl
- Parish Organist/Choir Director:** Deb Carraway
- Nursery Coordinator:** Carmen Rebusmen
- Director of Youth and Families:** Elizabeth Williams
- Minister to Teens:** Susie Brewer
- Treasurer:** Tom Grizzard
- Parish / Finance Secretary:** Pat Schaefer
- Sexton:** Doug Ames
- Housekeeping:** Diane Smith
- Vestry Members:** Bonnie Binneveld, Ted Bowersox, Marc Crouch, Kristen Daley, Kathy Davidson, Steve Merrill (Junior Warden), Bruce Saylor (Senior Warden), Dick Singletary, Joanie Smalley, Bob Tindall, Steve Treiber, Patti Wolf

**Opening Our Doors to Tomorrow**



A special Thank You to all of you who have made a financial commitment to St. James for 2021, and who contributed your thanksgivings and prayers to our Blessing Door. We are excited to see what the Lord does as we open our doors to a new season of following Christ in worship, discipleship, and outreach. If you have not yet made your pledge for 2021 and would like to do so, cards are available in the back of the church, in the Narthex, or in the church office.

**Giving Envelopes**

For those of you who have requested giving envelopes for 2021, they are available in the back of the church, and can be picked up at any time during church hours or on Sundays.

**FAMILY CHURCH SERVICE  
January 3rd**

A number of our families with school aged children have refrained from attending our Sunday services to avoid putting our older parishioners at risk. To allow space for them to attend, we are designating the 10:15 service on the first Sunday of each month as our Family Service. Parents are especially invited to come with their children on those days. Anyone else is free to come as well—just note that families with kids will be there!  
Our next "Family Service" will be on January 3rd.

**Daily Bible Reading Calendars**

What's on your bucket list? Is reading the Bible in its entirety on there? If yes, then we have the perfect gift for you. It is a 2021 Daily Bible Reading Calendar. It lists Bible readings for each day so that by the end of the year you will have read the entire Bible – some parts more than once. There are enough for one per household, and will be available in December. Donated by friends, these calendars are a Christmas gift to the people of St. James.

# St. James Prayer List

Call the church office (352)787-1981 with additions/deletions

## LONG TERM

Maggie Brooke-Stewart  
Kenny Edwards  
Dottie Elliott  
Holly Marston  
Margaret Anderson  
Jeffrey Coward  
Susan Peak  
Nancy Austin  
John Meier V  
Judy Cable  
Bob Cyrus

Ron Vedder  
Debbie Slappey  
Debbie Farrar  
Cherlynn Bradley  
Larry Coolbroth  
Roxie Rowell  
Toni Stokes Marshall  
Jennie Whittle  
Sandy Ostrowski  
Velma Hanson  
Clay Stevens  
Lyle Haddenham  
Darwin Klug

## SHORT TERM (3 weeks).

Ed Johns  
Jaden Cantrell  
Ron Davis  
Jacqueline Summers  
Betty Stephens  
Stece Stephens  
Larry Covert  
T.J. Hagist  
Ann Ozanne

## LONG TERM (cont'd)

Lauren Benedict  
Velma Harbison  
Joan Kirby  
Claire Bisiere



*And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord,  
to comfort and succor all those who in this  
transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness,  
or any other adversity.*

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Please mark your calendars for the **134th Annual Parish Meeting** which will take place on **Thursday, January 28th, at 6:00PM** in the Church. We will review key events from 2020, confirm our budget, select four new vestry members, and look forward to what God has in store for us in 2021. For those unable to attend, we plan to livestream the meeting.

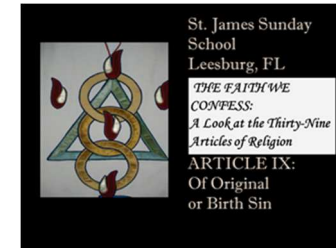
Our outgoing vestry members are Ted Bowersox, Bruce Saylor, Dick Singletary, and Joanie Smalley. If you have someone you would like to nominate to the vestry, please contact Fr. Trees or one of our outgoing vestry members.

## **COFFEE AND PHILOSOPHY**



Over the years I've been blessed to meet and talk with a number of you on matters of faith. If you want a regular time and place where you can do that, you can join me every **Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. at The Coffee Snob in Leesburg (1101-1 North Blvd) for an hour of "Coffee and Philosophy"**. You can come by and raise any question on the Bible, theology, or philosophy you want. We resume our meetings on January 6th.— Fr. Tom

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**



Adult Sunday School with Fr. Tom continues with the course, "The Faith We Confess: A Look at the Thirty-Nine Articles. We meet each week in the Parish Hall at 9:15am. Our class will resume again on January 10th.

## **THURSDAY HEALING EUCHARIST**

Our Thursday Morning Healing Eucharist services have now resumed each Thursday at 10:00 in the Parish Hall.





## ECW MONTHLY UPDATE

St. James ECW is ending this calendar year on a positive note due to the success of our Jody Stokes' Gift Shop. The shop opened in October, with the help of donations from the Stokes family as well as many other parishioners and friends of St. James. Rita Clements and Marie Crouch have put in countless hours of loving labor to make this shop an inviting place to visit. Their staff of volunteers works tirelessly to raise money so that we can continue to fund our many missions throughout the community and world. We are a non-profit enterprise that is thankful for the lovely room provided by the church and all the work put in by Steve and Linda Merrill on our beautiful, sturdy red doors. Ronnie Young's stained-glass tulips add a spectacular touch to the room. We are working on plans for offering soups and casseroles for sale during the winter months. In addition, the board has met regularly - either in a Covid cautious situation or electronically - to keep our projects moving along in such ways as we can. We continue to need and welcome your support through donations, shopping, and prayers as we move into 2021 with hopes of a more peaceful new year for all. Bonnie Binneveld, President

### FOOD DROP PROJECT

**Blessings abundant as the December ST.JAMES FOOD DROP brought in many pounds of food and revenue to buy additional food:**

#### December FOOD DROP:

**Donated: : 1381 pounds of food  
\$1461.00**

**8 MONTHS TOTAL:  
12,616 pounds of food  
Monetary: \$13, 131.00**

**Wishing you the blessings of Peace, Love and Joy this Christmas and always.**

**Prayers remain with you . Stay safe and we look forward to our January FOOD DROP on January 20, 2021 , the third Wednesday of the month.**

**Gratefully yours,  
Rita**



## MUSIC MUSINGS January 2021

*"This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,  
Time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone...  
or by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
Can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again."*

I shared this hymn with you several years ago, but it seems as if this is a good time to share again. This inspiring hymn text, written by Brian Wren in 1978, gives us a sense of God's renewing power, and it reminds us that it is Christ Who brings us true life and liberty. Leaving what has been a difficult year, and transitioning into a new one with all its promise, may we be reminded that God is still calling us to be renewed, to live lives of purpose and joy.

I am incredibly grateful to all who have journeyed with us through this challenging year: singers and instrumentalists, readers and techies, and all who prayed and encouraged us at every turn. We have seen God's hand at work through it all.

So, friends let's remember, and then move on, into the future God's has for us... Prayers for a beautiful and blessed 2021!!

Deb





- 1 Elizabeth Graham
- 4 Laura Braun  
Harper Bennet
- 5 Jeanne Menichino  
Michele Drawdy  
Kathryn Ostrander
- 7 Carol Domnisse
- 9 Steve Treiber
- 10 Cameron Reid
- 11 Steve Boney  
Iris Robuck
- 14 Linda Tucker
- 15 Mary Hooper  
Cile Oldham  
Elijah Trees
- 18 Brenda Carter  
Marc Crouch  
Robert Braun  
Stuart Mowatt

- 18 Michael Gray
- 21 Dianna O'Kelley  
John Drawdy
- 23 John Oldham  
Shelly Logan
- 24 Barbara Logan
- 26 Carole Fischer  
Joanie Smalley  
Ryan Oldham
- 27 Debi MacIntyre
- 28 Ronnie Young
- 29 Austin Breeden
- 30 Keneta Gaillardet  
Sue Greenwood  
Sharon McCabe
- 31 Joe Branham  
Jack Jones  
Ansley Gray



- 12 Ray & Anne Ozanne
- 14 Bob & Susan Cyrus

- 21 Larry & Paula O'Connor
- 27 Ronnie & Nancy Young



Thank heaven that we have made it through 2020. It wasn't easy, but with many prayers, masks and of course social distancing we made it, Thanks be to God. And thanks be to God for the dedication of many scientists who have worked so hard to produce a vaccine to protect us.

The Daughters of the King will begin 2021 with prayers for the people of our parish and the world for their good health and safety.

As always, the women of St. James are invited to join us. We will be meeting on Wednesday, January 13th, at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. Come and thank God for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life.

### JODY'S GIFT SHOP

St. James ECW now has a small but lovely gift shop at 204 N. Lee Street just across from our administrative office. We are open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00-2:00 and on Sundays between services. We will also open for you by appointment if those hours don't work. We have a little bit of everything, and our merchandise is ever changing. So try to come visit us and support our ministries by shopping at Jody's Gift Shop... GET READY FOR THE VALENTINE SEASON!!



Many thanks to Ronnie Young, who hand made this lovely tulip stained-glass window for the Gift Shop in memory of Jody Stokes! Jody was well known for overseeing the tulips that graced the grounds of St. James every spring for many years.





# 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 8:00 Eucharist 10:15 Eucharist Family Sunday	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 ECW Board Mtg 10:00 ECW General Mtg	<b>6</b> 1:00 Coffee & Philosophy	<b>7</b> 10:00 Eucharist	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00 Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist	<b>11</b> 10:00 DOK Board Mtg	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 DOK General Mtg 1:00 Coffee & Philosophy	<b>14</b> 10:00 Eucharist	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:00 Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> ECW Chapter Mtgs (10:00 St. Ann's Chapter Will meet in Parish Hall)	<b>20</b> 1:00 Coffee & Philosophy 5:00 Finance Meeting	<b>21</b> 10:00 Eucharist 6:00 Vestry Mtg	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:00 Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 1:00 Coffee & Philosophy	<b>28</b> 10:00 Eucharist 6:00 Annual Parish Mtg	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 8:00 Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist						