



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

*HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ST. JAMES!*



We celebrated the joy of Advent and Christmas with our first visitation from Bishop Justin Holcomb on December 17th! His sermon on *The Magnificat* pointed us to the abundant grace God poured upon us in sending us his Son to be our Savior and King.

Bishop Justin confirmed and received eleven members of St. James: Eric and Lysie Anselmo, Amy Careins, Birdy Connoly, Ralph Lambert, Jorge Fernandez, Audrey Logan, Hailey Pearson, Angel Pearson, Beth Williams, and Gideon Williams. He also prayed a special blessing over our children who completed their Communion class: Cregg Careins, Anna Delgado, Maggie Graham, and Sochi Nwosu.

Congratulations, and many blessings to you in 2024!



JANUARY 2024

The Messenger is a monthly publication of St. James' Episcopal Church in Leesburg, Florida. It is mailed on the last week 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)



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 Deacon:** Rev'd Art Hollows  
**Parish Organist/Choir Director:** John Wilson  
**Youth Ministry and Choir Director:** Elizabeth Williams  
**Treasurer:** Linda Weekley  
**Parish / Finance Secretary:** Pat Schaefer  
**Sexton:** Wylie Hill  
**Housekeeping:** Diane Smith  
**Vestry Members:** Bill Cauthen, Dorry Curran, Danny Delgado (Senior Warden), Harry Hackney, Terri Galyon, Linda Grizzard, David Knowles, Chris Leware, Drew Logan (Junior Warden), Mackie McCabe, Dick Singeltary, Linda Weekley

## St. James Prayer List

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

### LONG TERM

Judy Cable  
 Dottie Elliott  
 Joyce Huey  
 Charles Hay  
 Charles Stephens  
 Jim Mitchell  
 Doug Springmann  
 Janet Davis  
 Ron Vedder  
 Paul Smigel  
 Kurt Cessna  
 Helen Williams  
 Bishop Michael Curry

Fr. Bill Boyer  
 Mabel Burns  
 Shirley Long  
 Jesse Jones  
 Spencer Eaton  
 Robbie Eaton  
 Charlie & Lorraine Johnson  
 Kim Wicklund  
 Kevin Carter  
 Brian Tuttle  
 Kathryn Knight

### SHORT TERM

Olive  
 Nick Martin  
 Ginger Butler  
 Joe Branham  
 Larry Bonofiglio



### **GRIEF SUPPORT**

**The Grief Support Gathering will meet Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 3:00 PM at the home of Susan Cyrus (1652 Love's Point Dr). The topic: "Making New Year Resolutions for our Grieving Souls"**  
 Want to find out more? Contact Susan Cyrus at (352) 636-8969

### *In Memoriam*

We offer our condolences to the family and loved ones of Wilma Braun, who passed away on December 16th, and Carolyn Orme, who passed away on December 30th.

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,  
 And let light perpetual shine upon them.  
 May their souls, and the souls of all the departed,  
 Through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

### A NEW YEAR'S READING LIST FROM FR. TOM...

Some have asked me for a list of books that have influenced my sermons and teachings that I can recommend for further reading. Here is a sample of some authors (in alphabetical order) you might want to consider in this New Year:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer:	<i>Life Together</i>	C.S. Lewis	<i>The Problem of Pain;</i>
Gerald Bray:	<i>The Faith We Confess</i>		<i>Miracles; Mere Christianity</i>
G.K. Chesterton:	<i>Orthodoxy</i>	Brant Pitre:	<i>Jesus and the Jewish Roots</i>
Jim Davis & Michael			<i>of the Eucharist</i>
Graham:	<i>The Great Dechurching</i>	Lee Strobel:	<i>The Case for Miracles</i>
Tim Keller:	<i>Making Sense of God</i>	N.T. Wright:	<i>Simply Christian</i>

### ...FROM JOHN, OUR ORGANIST

Thank you to all who helped to make this Christmas season a special one. Our services and programs here at St. James were worshipful and inspiring and an extension of the love this congregation shares with our Lord and with each other. All this is made possible by the commitment and dedication from each of you and our St. James ministries and staff. I pray God's blessings for everyone in the coming year and I am both excited and humbled to be with you all. Happy New Year!



### MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Join us for our **Men's Prayer Breakfast** on **Wednesday, January 17th, 2024, at 8:00am** in the Parish Hall. We are going through *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis.

### THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Jeff Brooke-Stewart continues to meet for his Bible study on Thursdays at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall, resuming on January 4th. They are finishing the final three chapters of the Gospel of John, verse by verse. *"Thomas said unto him, 'My Lord and my God!'" (John 20:28)*

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND VESTRY ELECTION

Please mark your calendars for the **137th Annual Parish Meeting** which will take place on **Sunday, January 28th, 2024 at 11:30 am** in the Parish Hall. Lunch will be included. We will review key events from 2023, confirm our budget, elect four new vestry members, and look forward to what God has in store for us in 2024.

Qualifications for vestry nomination are:

- 1) Communicant in Good Standing at St. James;
- 2) No less than 18 years old;
- 3) Faithful in religious attendance;
- 4) Financial supporter of record to the general parish budget;
- 5) No spouse serving concurrently on the vestry.

During the Sunday School hour on January 28th (from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.), we will offer a specific overview of our parish finances and our budget before the Annual Meeting.

### ST. JAMES INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our **Red Letter Edition** Sunday School is back, starting on January 14th at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall.

For each lesson we seek to apply the words and actions of Jesus in a lively and interactive setting, focusing on the Sunday's Gospel reading. Breakfast is included!

Our schedule for January is as follows:

- |                            |              |  |
|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| January 14 <sup>th</sup> - | John 1:43-51 | Jesus Meets Nathanael<br>("An Israelite in Whom There is No Deceit")           |
| January 21 <sup>st</sup> - | Mark 1:14-20 | Jesus Calls Peter & Andrew, James & John<br>("I will make you Fishers of Men") |
| January 28 <sup>th</sup> - |              | <i>Financial Summary before Annual Meeting</i>                                 |

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

The Christmas Luncheon was well attended as sixty-two of our members enjoyed a musical entertainment featuring Sarah Araque's memories of Christmas in Ecuador. This was followed by a choral presentation by Sarah and a group from our talented choir, leading the audience in a spirited sing-along.

Our next General Meeting will take place on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and will feature a presentation by Eileen Tramontana, the Director of the Trout Creek Nature Center.

Chapter meetings will take place on January 16th and 17th

The Coat Drive for the Homeless will continue through the month of January. There are boxes for donations in the Parish Hall. Please consider donating, as we will continue experiencing cold temperatures in the next few months.

Ronald McDonald House

Members of St. James and their friends have made great strides in collecting Pop Tops for the RMD House. Thank you one and all! Keep pulling for RMD in 2024.

Happy New Year!

### MONTHLY FOOD DROP

Our St. James FOOD DROP "SCORED" as volunteers, Terri and Van Galyon, Tanina Singletary, Jan Tindall, Rita Clements and Ninas Bonney, met 33 cars with their food, money and drivers. It was a group effort as it was demonstrated: .....A life of purpose is the Purpose of Life.....

COLLECTED:	985 pounds of food \$850.00
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TOTAL TO DATE:	40,284 pounds of food \$49,062.00
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When you visit the grocery stores, look for BOGO while sharing with and keeping the Leesburg Food Bank in mind. Your generous support is awesome as we continue to support those in our community. Our next FOOD DROP will take place on the third Wednesday, January 17, 2024, from 9:00-12:00. God's blessings go with you!

**Jody's Gift Shop** will reopen January 7, 2024

### JAMAICA MEDICAL MISSION UPDATE

Since the "Taste of St. James" last September we have been very busy acquiring our supplies for the mission in February 2024. We want to thank you again very much for your donations and your support of the mission to enable us to do this.

So far, we have 30 + boxes packed up and inventoried of the specific over-the-counter medicines and supplies that we need to run the week-long mission at St. Marys' in Port Maria, Jamaica.

In the past we have done things differently and asked for supplies, but we have found this to be difficult and very time consuming as for entering each item for inventory. It is also not cost effective for shipping. This year we have purchased our needs through only a few stores where the items are the same brand and the expiration date the same.

Some of you have inquired as to how you can help. We're glad you asked. Gift Cards to Sams, Walmart, Dollar Tree and Amazon will be much needed in the future.

As we prepare for the 2024 Mission, so far, we have approximately 50 volunteers ready to attend in February. January 2024 we will drive our supplies to Miami where they will be put on a boat and shipped to Kingston and then they will be retrieved and taken to St. Marys' in Port Maria.

Thank you again for your continued support!!

Stuart Mowatt, 954-552-0932 / Sharon McCabe, 352-267-8188

### LIBRARY CORNER

First of all, thank you for your readership and visits to your parish library during the past year. It has been my great pleasure to help find good books for our congregation, and to answer a few theological and local history questions, and to host Thursday morning outreach and refreshment time in our library, with Cherie Knowles. Also, with excellent help from Terry and Nancy Mitchell, a new edition of THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS OF ST. JAMES has been completed and printed by our friends at Minuteman Press. After presenting this update during our Nov.11 Bazaar, it is now available in Jody's Gift Shop. Don't miss getting one for your family.

I shall be very busy during the last days of the Christmas season and into the upcoming season of Epiphany with reorganizing our library collection and preparing an annual report for all of St. James.

I sincerely hope that your new New Year's Resolutions include a dedication to visit your PARISH LIBRARY, located in Room 6.

HAPPY READING NEW YEAR - Margaret Branham, Parish Librarian

- 1 Elizabeth Graham
- 3 Laura Braun  
Harper Bennett
- 5 Bert Sofield
- 9 Steve Treiber  
Amy Careins
- 10 Steve Boney  
Iris Robuck
- 13 Robert Geyer
- 14 Linda Tucker
- 15 Mary Hooper  
Cile Oldham  
Elijah Trees
- 18 Brenda Carter  
Marc Crouch  
Stuart Mowatt  
Michael Gray  
Karen Sofield




- 19 John Wilson
- 21 Dianna O'Kelley
- 22 Terry Mitchell
- 23 John Oldham  
Shelly Logan
- 24 Barbara Logan
- 26 Carole Fischer  
Joanie Smalley  
Ryan Oldham
- 27 Debi MacIntyre
- 28 Ronnie Young
- 29 Art Hollows  
Austin Breeden
- 30 Keneta Gaillardet  
Sue Greenwood  
Robin Crabtree  
Sharon McCabe
- 31 Joe Branham  
Gary Abbott  
Ansley Gray



12 Ray and Ann Ozanne

27 Ronnie and Nancy Young



The Daughters of the King meet the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00PM in the Parish Hall. Our next meeting will be on **January 10, 2024**. All women are invited and welcome to attend. We will have a teaching on the meaning of "Epiphany".

### ECW GRAND AUCTION

After a long hiatus (thanks to COVID), the ECW Grand Auction is back on the schedule. We will be holding the Grand Auction (both the Live Auction & the Silent Auction), on Friday, February 9, 2024, starting at 6:00 PM. Tickets for the event are \$5, and will be sold after the services during the month of January.

The schedule for the Grand Auction is:

- 6:00 Doors open; Silent Auction starts  
Complimentary hors d'ouvers will be served;  
drinks available for a donation
- 7:00 Live Auction begins
- 8:00 Silent Auction ends

The Grand Auction is a huge fund-raiser for ECW, enabling it to do a lot of charitable work. In order to make the evening a success we need two things:

**1. Donors.** We would appreciate the donation of items for both the Live Auction and the Silent Auction. In the past, a wide variety of items have been proven to be a success for the auction: all sorts of gift baskets; wine; hand-crafted items (such as quilts, wooden crafts, wreaths, etc.); hosting a dinner (this is very popular); vacation rentals; theater tickets; rounds of golf; etc. The only category that is not accepted is artwork (with the exception of Donna Tweedle's painting). All items must be approved by the Auction Committee, who will determine whether it is best served in the Live Auction or the Silent Auction. **DO NOT** just drop items off at the Office.

**2. Bidders.** We need you to come, have a good time, and donate for a good cause.

If you would like to donate an item, please contact Bob Tindall directly at:


- a. (717) 575-3092, or
- b. walruselect@gmail.com

### Need to Meet with Fr. Tom?

If you would like to 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 by phone or text at (352) 643-1182, or by email at [frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org).



# 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> 9:00 ECW Board Mtg 10:00 ECW Gen'l Mtg.	<b>3</b> 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>4</b> 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 3:00 Grief Support	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 1st Sunday after Epiphany</b>  8:00 Eucharist 10:15 Eucharist/ Baptism	<b>8</b> 6:30 Stephen Ministry	<b>9</b>	<b>10 12:00 Coffee &amp;                    Philosophy</b> 2:00 DOK 4:00 Jubilate 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>11</b> 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist 2:00 Jackson/Susens	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> ECW Chapter Meetings	<b>17</b> 8:00 Men's Prayer 12:00 Coffee & Philos. 4:00 Jubilate 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>18</b> 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 6:30 Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24 12:00 Coffee &amp;                    Philosophy</b> 4:00 Jubilate 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>25</b> 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Diocesan Convention (Winter Park)
<b>28 4th Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Finance Summary 10:15 Eucharist 11:30 ANNUAL MTG	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31 12:00 Coffee &amp;                    Philosophy</b> 4:00 Jubilate 7:00 Adult Choir			