

**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



### IN REMEMBRANCE

#### JODY STOKES

May 25th, 1935-  
April 4th, 2020



We mourn the loss of JoAnne C. "Jody" Stokes, a longtime member of St. James, who passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, April 4th, 2020. Born to the late Alonzo Clarence Ayers and Frances Leona McBryde on May 25, 1935, she is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 65 years, Beryl N. Stokes, Jr. She is also survived by her children, Toni Stokes Marshall, Lauren Stokes-McClurg (Leroy) and Sandy Stokes (Karen), 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Jody was a strong, gifted and loving woman. She deeply adored so many people in her life and was a devoted and loyal friend. Her passions included cooking, gardening and crafting. She expressed her passions through the Peace Rose Garden Club, cooking for friends and family, and doing things for her church. She truly loved St. James, her church family and her loving God. She was a woman of deep faith and devotion who served on the Altar Guild for many years, and oversaw countless ceremonies at St. James. She was involved in many projects through the Episcopal Church Women, including the annual bazaar and creating ornaments for the Chrismon Tree. For many years she planted tulip bulbs from Holland in the courtyard. Her final gift to St. James was to make all the crosses for Palm Sunday just days before she passed. Jody was also an advocate for children, working as a Guardian ad Litem and fighting for the rights of all she helped. Her home and her heart were open. She hosted many foreign exchange students and fought to bring a refugee family to this country. Most of all, what truly defined Jody, was being a wife and mother. She was the center of our family, of our universe and she fiercely loved us all. Words cannot express how deeply she will be missed by everyone who knew and loved her. In lieu of flowers, a memorial gift may be made to Forward Paths Foundation or St. James Episcopal Church. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

MAY 2020

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)



 **Like us on Facebook!**

**CHURCH VESTRY & STAFF**

**Rector:** Rev'd Thomas Trees  
**Assisting Priests:** Rev'ds Charles Hay, William J. Boyer, James Martin, Ron Peak  
**Assisting Deacons:** Rev'ds Charlie Perrin, 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

**GIVING AT ST. JAMES**

I want to express my gratitude those who have continued giving to St. James during our separation. I am well aware that many of you may experience financial loss, either from your paycheck or your portfolio. If you are at a point of need, let us know. We will see how we can help, and lift you up in prayer.

Several of you have asked how you can do that. At this time you can:

1. Mail it to the church office at:  
**204 N. Lee St., Leesburg, FL, 34748;**
2. Drop it off at church in person (as long as that is feasible). You can come by during church hours, or simply place it in the slot in the office door; or
3. Donate through Paypal on our Church Web site (you can also use your debit card). Just go to [www.stjames-leesburg.org](http://www.stjames-leesburg.org) and open the link on **Giving**.
4. Use your bank's E-Pay system. Several parishioners use this option. The bank arranges for donations to be sent to the church, either automatically each month, or at your direction.

Again, thank you for your continued support and prayer!

***“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1st Corinthians 15:57-58)***

Blessings to you all.  
Tom+

**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 to noon, and Thursdays from 11:00 to noon. 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).

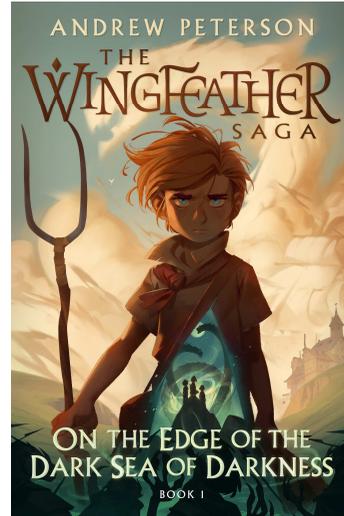
## A QUARANTINE RECOMMENDATION: LISTEN ALONG TO THE WINFEATHER SAGA!

Last week we had a quick socially distant visit over our back fence with Doug and Linda Ames. Our boys were starting to get sour from all the "sameness" of quarantine life. I asked the Ames' what they were doing to pass the time. They recommended a fantastic read along being done by the author of **The Wingfeather Saga**. There are four books in this hero's journey. We are only two books deep and can't wait to hear what happens to the three children, their dear mother and feisty, piratey grandfather. The author, **Andrew Peterson**, has three almost grown children. The book sounds like it was born of years of bedtime stories read to his children. It has become a highlight of our evenings to get ready for bed, turn the lights down and listen to a well read tale of adventure, danger and familial togetherness.

We have been tuning in at 8:30 each evening on **YouTube -The Wingfeather Saga**. All the previous nights are on there too, if you want to catch up. We definitely feel like we are witnessing something historical with our kids. We are hoping to look back on these times and feel like it was an adventure, surrounded by danger, cloaked in familial togetherness to conquer this virus quest!

If you feel like you could use a little adventure and a way to escape your "sameness" you can take the journey with us. The books are \$10 each and can be ordered through his website at [www.rabbitroom.com](http://www.rabbitroom.com).

-Kathleen Trees



ST. JAMES YOUTH  
LESSONS



## WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP CONTINUE!

During this difficult separation, I have been very encouraged by your faithfulness in worshipping with us on YouTube. We have recorded six Sunday services so far, including our Easter Eucharist. Many of you came by the church during Holy Week to pick up packets of bread and wine so you could participate while you watched. We are having Holy Eucharist again on May 3rd, and many of you are responding to that as well. I am also grateful to see your participation in my YouTube Sunday School class on the Thirty-Nine Articles. I have gotten some great feedback already.

I am also happy to see us meeting by Zoom. Our vestry recently had a Zoom meeting with Fr. Scott Holcombe (our Canon to the Ordinary), and Susie Brewer has had Zoom Bible studies with our teens. Deb Carraway is Zooming with the choir, and one ECW chapter has also utilized it.

Beth Williams is staying in touch with our families through her Facebook group called **Focus on the Inside: St. James Youth Lessons**. It is a private group that allows you to participate safely through pictures, videos, and the like. You can message Beth to join the group if you want to be part of it. Beth put together a wonderful video skit for the group with her son Gideon on "wisdom". It can also be viewed on the St. James Facebook page, and is well worth watching!

We are still waiting for the time when we can all come together in person. But for now, God is meeting us in creative ways!

Tom+

## ECW MONTHLY UPDATE

The *Spring Luncheon* of the St. James Episcopal Church Women, scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 11:00 am, has been called off.

### Chapter Meetings—

Please stay in touch with each of the Chapter Chairs for more information on plans for the May meetings as the date approaches. Kudos to those who have made use of social media as a way to hold meetings from a distance! It is essential that we stay connected during this time of “Social Distancing.” Our Chapter Chairs are:

St. Ann	Shirley Dunne (352-314-0048)
St. Cecilia	Terri Ross (407-399-7492)
St. Francis	Dorry Curran (949-633-8471)
St. Mary	Nadine Millet (352-250-4997)



### ECW FUNDRAISER: EARTH DAY FAIR

The Earth Day Fair, scheduled for **April 22nd**, has been **postponed**, but **not cancelled!** Stay tuned for our rescheduled date for this important event, which will feature Vendors, Raffle Baskets, Plants, a Butterfly release, and more!



### MUSIC MUSINGS May 2020

Dear Friends,

**I don't know about you, but some days (especially lately) I feel as if I'm walking through a dark valley...so far down that the sides close in quickly, and the daylight is fleeting. Being a confirmed introvert, I enjoy a fair amount of alone time, but really this is even more than I know how to manage! I miss "my people," and our time together. Choir rehearsals rejuvenate me, and Sundays are the icing on the cake, when we get to lead people in the worship of our amazing God through word and song. I long for those days to return.**

**However, I know that the promises of this amazing God are ever true: He is our rock and our fortress; He is our refuge and strength; He upholds us with His righteous right hand. And the promises continue to flow generously from His heart to ours. The first Sunday in May our ensemble's anthem will feature this beautiful scripture paraphrase of Psalm 23 (musical setting by Allen Pote). Please enjoy this text as a gift from God's heart to yours.**

*The Lord is my shepherd, nothing shall I want.  
My shepherd makes me lie in fields of green, leads me beside still waters.  
The Lord is my shepherd, who restores my life  
Leads me in the paths of righteousness for the sake of the Lord's name.  
And even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and staff they comfort me...  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies,  
You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows!  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
And in the house of my God I will live forever!!  
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...*

As we enter another month of our new normal I hope you will be encouraged through the music in worship, hearing God whisper to you in both the peaks and valleys of life.

Deb Carraway  
Director of Music



- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Brian Brooks    | 19 Marie Crouch       |
| 2 Rylan Beck      | 20 Helen Williams     |
| 7 Butch O'Kelley  | Sarah Araque          |
| Chris Meade       | 21 Sadie Rae James    |
| 8 Connor Rebusmen | 22 Colten Northcott   |
| 9 Isabella Rey    | 25 Sydney Johnson     |
| Olivia Grizzard   | Dot Hay               |
| 10 Kim Gustafson  | 26 Karen English      |
| Ivey Young        | Nadine Millett        |
| 11 Anne Bernardi  | 27 Janet Fiebke       |
| 13 William Boyer  | 28 Charles Johnson    |
| Gretchen Gray     | Allison Waddell       |
| 14 Charles Hay    | 30 B. Murray Tucker V |
| 15 Paul Motto     | Linda Hopkins         |
| 16 Shirley Dunne  | B. Murray IV          |
| Rebecca Hill      | 31 Amy Bowersox       |
| 18 Ted Bedell     |                       |



- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 Butch and Dianna O'Kelley | 21 John and Gail Robinson     |
| 9 Paul and Sarah Sisson     | 23 Pratt and Brenda Carter    |
| 10 Paul and Charlene Smigel | George and Robin Rebusmen     |
| 12 John and Debi MacIntyre  | Babs and Steve Treiber        |
| 13 Tom and Mary Grizzard    | 25 Russell and Jerrie Jacobus |
| 16 Ted and Patti Wolf       | 27 Durham and Kimmey Young    |
| 19 Ted and Sharon Bowersox  | 31 Mackie and Sharon McCabe   |

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not mentioned, **please** call the office at 352-787-1981 so we can be sure to have it on file.



While the Daughters' monthly meetings are on hiatus for the time, we encourage you to stay connected, and to continue to uphold the two Rules of the Order: The Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service!

And we still remain active, as we are admitting two new prospective Daughters into a period of discernment!

## FOOD BANK

During the month of April your generosity helped St. James donate almost 300lbs of food along with monetary donations. They were especially happy to receive the filled Easter eggs that were donated. They immediately started dividing them up for each of the many small children who would not be receiving anything and they were anxious to see the smiles they would bring.

Kudos also to Janet Davis, who, in lieu of her 90th Birthday Party, coordinated a drive for the Food Bank that yielded 1,000 pounds of food and \$1,000 in giving!

Your contributions continue to make a profound difference. The demand is escalating as the reality of lost jobs is realized.

## HOLY MATRIMONY



Our congratulations to **Van and Terri Galyon**, who were united in marriage at St. James on Saturday, April 18th (the participants were: Van, Terri, Fr. Tom, and Kathleen).

*God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. Amen.*

# May

# 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Join us in Worship and Sunday School on YouTube!</i></p>					1	2
<p>3 Fourth Sunday of Easter (Holy Eucharist)</p>	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>10 Fifth Sunday of Easter HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!</p>	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>17 Sixth Sunday of Easter</p>	18	19	<p>20 5:00 Finance Meeting</p>	<p>21 6:00 Vestry Meeting</p>	22	23
<p>24 Seventh Sunday of Easter</p>	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>31 The Day of Pentecost/ Whitsunday</p>						