

St. James' Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 2, 2025

Note: Copies of the 2024 Annual Meeting minutes were made available online in advance of the meeting as well as Clergy, Officer, and Ministry Leader reports.

The Rev. Chad T. Martin opened the Annual Meeting at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall with an Opening Prayer. He welcomed those attending, and noted the online availability of 36 pages of annual reports of Clergy, Officers, and Ministry Leaders. Hard copies are available through the Church office. He then reviewed the agenda.

Don Scheuerman moved approval of the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Michael Fabian and approved unanimously.

Father Chad thanked the parish for its spirit and hospitality, and shared what an honor it was to serve with you. He noted the reports reflect the health and vitality of the Church.

He then reviewed St. James "By the Numbers" for 2024:

- 63 new members for a total of 795 Church members
- 233 Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) with an average of 26 per Sunday streaming. In comparison the ASA for the VA Diocese is 88 and nationally it is 60.
- 964 Christmas attendance at 3 Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day
- 125 participated in small groups, Adult Forum, and Bible studies
- 19 were baptized
- 18 confirmed and received
- 76 Home Communion visits
- \$26,188 donated to local charities through Christmas and Easter offerings with an additional \$7,000 donated to local non-profits from the Alternative Gift Fair
- 3,300 Pounds of food donated to Loudoun Hunger Relief
- 5,290 Meals served through Grace To Go
- 100+ gifts for children of incarcerated parents donated through the Prison Fellowship

Father Chad then noted the new staff hired in 2024: Stephenie Sanders, Part-time Communications Coordinator; Daisy Cruz and Valerie Evans as Nursery workers, and Jessica Eastridge as Children's Formation Minister. Josh House came to St. James as a seminarian on June 30, 2024. He is a student at Virginia Theological Seminary. In addition, Father Chad thanked Dr. Steven Cooksey for his continued service as Director of Music, Organist and Choirmaster. He also recognized Kay Gregg, Verger; Adan Cortes, Lead Sexton, and noted Adan has been faithfully serving St. James for 18 years. He also recognized Gustavo del Callejo, Sunday Sexton, and noted Janet Stayrook's retirement as Pre-School Director with Kim Carren serving as interim Director and expressed appreciation to Laura Heyer, Preschool Assistant. He gave an update on the Pre-School Search Committee, which is currently putting together a job

description for Director of the Pre-School with a goal to post the position by late February. He encouraged parishioners to check out the new Pre-School website.

Father Chad shared exciting news that Kara Laughlin, seminarian will be ordained as a Deacon on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at St. George's Episcopal Church in Arlington, VA. He noted it will be live streamed for those unable to attend in person.

The Rev. Marybeth Sanders-Wilson, Associate Rector for Family Ministries and Pastoral Care, spoke to the highlights of her year including the re-launch of the Children's Formation curriculum facilitated by the hiring of Jessica Eastridge as Children's Formation Minister. In addition, thirty children were welcomed at Vacation Bible School, seven youth were prepared and confirmed, and the Fifth Sunday Family Service was started.

In 2025 her goal is to have more intergenerational gatherings and foster a seamless sense of welcome and inclusivity of all, regardless of age or ability. She shared that there are 14 active members of Pastoral Associates and an active Card Ministry, which now includes communication to college students. She also noted those who assist with funeral receptions, and the hospitality it represents and the appreciation expressed to her by families of the departed. She indicated the work is quiet and behind the scenes, but has a huge impact. She noted there are eight eucharistic visitors bringing communion to those shut-in.

Scott Briles, Sr. Warden, shared he was optimistic as to the future of St. James, and grateful for the clergy. He thanked parishioners for their volunteer work without which the Church could not function as efficiently as it does. He also thanked the parish for pledging and indicated it was not too late to pledge for 2025.

Scott gave an update on the two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants the Church has received, each \$150,000 for security enhancements. The grants are based on reimbursements and currently St. James was not authorized to spend the funds. In closing Scott shared that it had been an honor to serve as Sr. Warden.

Father Chad then recognized members of the Executive Committee including Scott Briles, Sr. Warden; Tony McGraw, Jr. Warden; Stacy Cleveland, Treasurer and Jane Roth, Register.

Tony McGraw, Jr. Warden, referenced his written report, but spotlighted visually the major property initiatives of 2024. These included completion of Phase II of the stone restoration project including Rittenhouse, the Wirt St coffin porch, and the Parish House entrances. Also highlighted was the Boiler Room roof replacement, iron railings installed at the bell tower entrance, Sacristy steps, parking lot steps to the playground and Wirt St. entrance to the Parish Hall. He noted the garages demolition to applause, and the placement of a garden and tool shed behind the Parish House. The Parish House ramp was repaired and stained with lighting at the back porch enhanced and comfortable seating now available. The Sacred Soil Society completed extensive landscaping projects including dead tree removals and planting of two Japanese trees behind the Janney House. Four pews were re-configured to accommodate accessibility and

wheelchair placement in the middle of the Church vs. in the back. Tony thanked the members of the Property Committee, and said it was a privilege to serve as Jr. Warden.

Stacy Cleveland, Treasurer, gave an overview of the Church finances, highlighting 2022-2024 as a season of growth and investment. These investments included projects totaling \$1M, paid for from long-term gifts. The deficit at the end of 2024 was less than budgeted. The budgeted deficit for 2025 is (\$103,000), which will be paid for from reserve funds. Expenses are growing faster than revenues. The Finance Committee has started to look at opportunities for reducing expenses, along with the Stewardship Committee reviewing lessons learned.

She expressed appreciation to an anonymous donor who is funding Holy Cow Consulting, who will do a parish assessment, which was done originally by the Discernment Committee during the search for a new Rector. This assessment will help to understand the hopes and dreams of the current parish, and help to ensure priorities are aligned. It will also facilitate communications. She thanked parishioners for their prayerful generosity, and encouraged those who have not yet pledged for 2025 to do so, so we know your plans.

Stacy announced there will in-depth budget reviews for Ministry Leaders on February 23 and 24, 2025 with details to follow. She ended by saying it was a privilege to serve.

Father Chad then thanked the outgoing Vestry members: Scott Briles, Troy Harry, Kathleen Greenough, and Melissa Sutton and announced those to be voted upon for the Class of 2028: Michael Fabian, Dick Hersh, Senta Keegan, and Bryan Welsh.

Chris Hatch moved the four candidates be accepted as noted with Kathleen Stethem seconding the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Father Chad adjourned the meeting with a prayer at 9:40am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Roth, Register