

The BELLS of St. JAMES

*news, inspiration,
and opportunities
for ministry*

Message from Mother Mariclaire **Outreach and Missions at St. James**

A blessing of being a new priest in a church community like St. James is that I get to see it all as a brand new visitor might - I don't know which room is called what, yet, or who has always done what, so I have to ask a lot of questions and make new connections. As I get to know all the different ministries in the parish, I thought I'd share about some of them with you here, so no matter how long you've been a part of St. James, you get to see it as a newcomer, too!

Yesterday I got to sit down with Sue Hannan for an introduction to Outreach and Missions at St. James. Outreach and Missions is an umbrella ministry overseeing all the ways we work with those outside of our parish walls to serve our Lord by serving our neighbors. You can find a full list with descriptions by clicking through to our website [here](#)

Some of this work is providing financial support through grants to local charitable organizations or efforts of our national denomination, part is providing people power for regular opportunities to serve in-person, and the rest includes everything from knitting items for populations in need to making sure our free community pre-school has everything they need for their staff and students.

Add to that list Creation Care that keeps us recycling, Supporting Our Troops with care packages and postage, and serving our neighbors through community food pantries, housing, and recovery services. There is an opportunity for ministry at St. James in just about any area you are interested in, so no matter whether you are a lifelong member or brand new like me, grab some friends, find a ministry you are passionate about, and let's get started!

Thursday

June 12, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS



June 15 Sunday

Rite I spoken

8a

+

breakfast

8:45

+

lectionary Bible Study
room 206

9:30

+

Rite II with organ and
choir

10:30

+

Holy Eucharist
at Sterling Estates

3pm

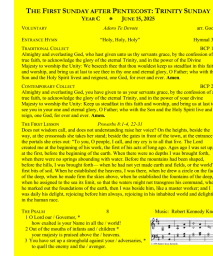
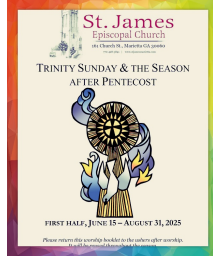
*volunteers appreciated.
Arrive 30 minutes early.*

June 16 Monday

Reach Out Mental Health
luncheon and BINGO
for adults with special
needs

11a

*volunteers, come as early
as 9:30, stay as long as
you like!*



10:30 Service On Line
Click on "live" to see a service live or archived.

[Link to livestream on YouTube](#)

Worship Booklet for the Season after Pentecost
contains prayers, service music, and responses that we will use from Trinity Sunday to late August
[Download Worship Booklet](#)

The Service Bulletin, updated weekly, contains lessons, hymn numbers, and announcements: items that change each Sunday.
Download the [Service Bulletin](#)

50 Guests for first Church Family Night

"We expected around 12," said Nuno Nuñez during Wednesday's Church Family Night. "Thankfully, Elizabeth and I prepared for a few more." Bill Eubanks had just counted 50 guests. They had started arriving at 5:45, so games were already being played at 6:00 when the communications coordinator arrived to take the photos below.



Nuno and Elizabeth Gray Nuñez had brought watermelon, cookies, lemonade and Hibiscus Punch for a crowd, just in case. One youngster, circling the cookies, said, "They went ALL OUT!" Pizza would arrive later.

At 6:30, 19 of the guests took time out for Holy Eucharist. They filled the choir stalls, sang hymns to Dr. Black's accompaniment, and heard the readings for the Feast Day of St. Barnabas, "the encourager." Mother Mariclaire told how Barnabas patched up relations among Paul, Mark, and Timothy after a couple of "mean girl" spats. We left thinking how we, too, can be "encouragers" at church and in the broader community.

While many of the guests brought children, many others came without. Games went on



past closing time, until guests were gently urged to go home.

We plan to have another Church Family night next month, Wednesday July 9th.

Pictures from the Past Week

Saturday, Choruses Combined. Mother Mariclair joined a handful of parishioners who came to hear members of the Georgia Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the Uzee Brown Society of Choraliers in their final rehearsal before they depart for England, Wales, and Ireland this weekend. This time, the audience sat in the choir stalls while the singers filled the front pews.

Many of the GSO singers are also members of our parish choir, including Music Director Bryan Black. They received a special blessing at the end of the 10:30 service Sunday. *Photo: Mother Mariclair*



Pentecost Sunday: Many worshipers wore red to mark the start of the season of Pentecost, a season all about how to be the body of Christ on earth.

Children joined the choir in procession at Sunday's 10:30 service, waving ribbons of red and images of doves -- two representations of the Holy Spirit that Jesus sent to the church to be our "comforter" and "advocate."



Vacation Bible School: Monday, Mother Mariclair observed an activity at VBS that involved all the children, all the youth volunteers, and a multi-colored parachute. Below, left: Children intent on their art project; right, Children's Ministry Coordinator Natalie Fowler with her hand-crafted castle.



Roofers raced against the weather to replace our old shingles. Sometimes they won; sometimes, they got drenched.



Have some good photos for *The Bells*? Send to communications@stjamesmarietta.com

Children and Youth News



Youth volunteers came in costume to make the "Castle of Courage" a reality for our youngest VBS campers.

With humor, kindness, and a lot of energy, the youth helped with games, music, and art.

Riley has 40 parking spaces available to our parishioners for the Fourth of July.

Drivers with this pass will be able to come and go throughout the day.

Our partners at Cornerstone Parking will be charging the general public for spaces, so these spots will be in high demand.

Use check or cash to pay Riley, beginning this Sunday. Proceeds will benefit the Youth program here at St. James.



Acolyte Schedules are back up on the bulletin board inside the circle lot portico entrance.

Summer programs at Camp Mikell are already halfway to completion! Here's what remains:

Intermediate Camp **June 21 - 27**, rising 8th and 9th Graders

Junior Camp **June 29 - July 5**, rising 6th and 7th Graders

Kid Camp **July 13 - 19**, rising 3rd-5th Graders

Work Camp **July 21 - 27**, rising 10th Graders-Just Graduated

For information, [click here](#).

Contact Us

Natalie Fowler, Children's Ministry Coordinator children@stjamesmarietta.com

Riley Dugan, Director of Youth Ministries youth@stjamesmarietta.com

Keep up with the Diocesan Youth Council at <http://eycdioatl.org/>

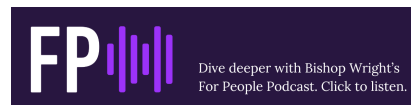
From the Diocese of Atlanta

Diversity: A message from Bishop Robert Wright

How uninteresting and less vibrant the coral reefs, African Savannah and Amazon rain forest would be without their diversity! Creation declares diversity is Godly. That makes God big, generative and courageous.

We, however, tend toward smallness, restriction and fear. It's tragic that people of faith have allowed politics of manipulation to denigrate and weaponize what is the beauty of God's imagination.

God's creative diversity is powerfully and vividly on display on Pentecost -- the birthday of the Church. It's profound that on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit didn't divide the diversity assembled but knit it together, affirmed, enabled and commissioned it. Diversity in nature and in humanity, after all, is a showcase for God's creative genius. We are better together.



Click on the logo above to dive deeper with Bishop Wright's For People podcast.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God by **Elizabeth Kinney** in



loving memory of **M.W. (Bill) Kinney, III** (husband), and in thanksgiving for **Scarlette June Payne**, at the second anniversary of Bill's death June 8, 2023 and Scarlette's first birthday July 4, 2024.

Left: flowers from the altar June 8.

You can dedicate flowers at the registry in the narthex. Ask an usher.

Children are collecting canned food for local food banks . Vacation Bible School has a strong service component. Even after VBS is over, our children will be collecting canned food. Help them by leaving your donations in the shopping cart by the parish hall.

New Place for New Name Tags. Our little name tag basket has been overwhelmed with new orders. If you've ordered one, please look in the rack on your way to church (*see photo below*). The latest additions are listed above the rack. Perfect alphabetical order not guaranteed.



REMINDERS

Prayer list. To receive the prayer list every week, email Cari Edwards elvine@hotmail.com Leave prayer requests in the offering plate or at the desk by the parish office. You can phone in prayer requests 770-428-5841 Mondays through Thursdays, 9-12:30.

Parking passes for St. James. When the church schedules worship or special events, Cornerstone Parking doesn't collect fees at the Polk Street lot. Outside of scheduled times, we each need a parking tag to hang in our autos.



To receive a parking tag, contact Lucia Bird luciabird@gmail.com or 770.402.0024 with your name, make and model of your vehicle, the license plate number, and the vehicle's **COLOR** (this is a late addition to the notice). If your vehicle has changed since you got your hang tag, you will need a replacement, so give Lucia the information on the old hang tag, too.

Your *pledge* helps the Vestry plan for the year . [Pledge here.](#)

Contact Us

*Program staff available via email Sunday - Thursday;
office staff, Monday - Thursday, 9am-1pm*

Mother Mariclaire is rector@stjamesmarietta.com

- *Emergency phone or text: 678.369.1775*
- *To sit down with the rector, sign up for a 15m check-in, a 30m chat, or a coffee hour at <https://calendly.com/rector-stjamesmarietta>*

Riley Dugan is youth@stjamesmarietta.com

Natalie Fowler is children@stjamesmarietta.com

Dr. Bryan Black is music@stjamesmarietta.com

Scott Smoot is communications@stjamesmarietta.com

Phone 770-428-5841.

Pulse of the Parish

from Scott Smoot, Communications Director

Before the 10:30 service, there was a last-minute scramble when the scheduled acolytes didn't show up. **Mother Mariclaire** praised **Sam Gribble** for filling in, and he modestly deflected the praise. He explained that he earns community service points for acolyting. "It might get me out of a ticket if I ever have to go to Traffic Court." That's the kind of imagination we Episcopalians appreciate!

From a set location in South Carolina, parishioner **Andrea Keener** emailed us a photo of the building that Universal Studios is using for the exterior of the **Murdaugh** family law office. (We, of course, were the interior.) She was delighted to learn that people there at the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery knew **Riley Dugan** and all the **Malsby family**. They knew all about a new rector's arrival.

The movie project is a gift that keeps on giving. The new roof we've received this week was paid for largely by remuneration from the movie studio. We're all dazzled by the newly-pressure-washed sidewalks in early morning sunshine.

Wednesday, the studio's Assistant Location Manager **Angel Santiago** sent **Chris** from the Set Decoration team to re-install blinds from the Murdaugh set to the window in St. Anne's Parlor. **Cari Edwards** was here to supervise, and she told Chris, "I'm not always easy to please, and I'm *very* pleased!" For his part, Chris was pretty blasé about doing window treatments for movie stars. "I just try to stay out of their way, " he said.



Cari shared a photo with *The Bells* that Angel's team took before they transformed the genteel room to the bad guy's law office. The artwork looks much better with blue walls, Cari said, and the shade of blue is "darn close" to the shade traditionally associated with **St. Anne's** daughter **Mary** (yes, *that* Mary). *Photo: St. Anne restored and improved this week; inset: a photo from February 24.*



Know any good news items about goings-on in the parish? *Share them with me at the [communications](#) desk.*



Message from Mother Mariclaire Heart

Ezekiel 11:19-20

I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, so that they may follow my statutes and keep my ordinances and obey them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

This passage from the readings for Morning Prayer stuck with me all day long. It is one of my favorite images from scripture, one I find comforting as well as challenging. God, looking upon his beloved humanity, his creation, sees how our hearts have become hardened against each other in judgment, hatred, fear. These stone hearts of ours are what make it possible for us to build walls between ourselves and others, to ignore their humanity and view them as "other," reducing strangers only to their constituent parts or the groups they belong to, the ways they are different from us.

In doing so, intentionally or not, we are putting ourselves in the place of God, determining who is worthy of God's grace. Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber likes to say "every time we draw a line between ourselves and others, Jesus is always on the other side of it." A hardened heart makes empathy and compassion impossible.

God, in his divine mercy, reaches across our handmade boundaries, into the recesses of our hearts, and replaces those hearts of stone with hearts of flesh -- warm, beating organs yearning to please him and giving us strength to welcome the stranger, heal the sick, liberate the captive. It's a conversion that can happen daily, even hourly.

Thursday

June 5, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS



June 9 all week
Monday-Friday
Vacation Bible School
9a-noon

Registration has closed.
Questions? Contact
youth@stjamesmarietta.com



June 11 Wednesday

You can download a PDF of this newsletter suitable for printing. [Link here](#)



St. James Episcopal Church

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