

The BELLS of St. JAMES

news, inspiration,
and opportunities
for ministry

Message from Mother Mariclaire Abundance as programs begin

The program year is well underway here at St. James, and signs of God's abundance are blossoming all around our church!

One example is Wednesdays at St. James. These midweek parish fellowship, dinner, and worship gatherings have been so successful we have had to shift the start time back to 5:45 to allow for enough time for everyone to get through the line and eat before Evening Prayer and youth choir practices at 6:30.



Our Evening Prayer service has outgrown the choir stalls

Thursday

August 28, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 31, Sunday

Rite I Eucharist spoken

8a

+

Breakfast

8:45

+

lectionary Bible study
room 205 + Sunday school
upstairs for children age 4
to grade 5 & youth

9:30

+

Rite II Eucharist with choir

10:30

+

hospitality

11:45

+

Youth Group

12:30-2:00

September 3, Wednesday

Youth group

5:30-6:15p

+

dinner for all

5:45

[RSVP at SignUpGenius](#)

+

worship

6:30

+

choirs for age 4 - grade 1
and for grades 2 - 12

6:30-7

+

into the first few pews of the sanctuary...



...and our Cherub Choir welcomes more and more participants each week.



The Express Christian Formation group is well into our first book study, of *How to Focus: A Monastic Guide for an Age of Distraction*, a translation of selections from the writings of John Cassian, and our adult choir continues to offer spectacular music every Sunday, rooted in the hard work they do together late on Wednesday nights.

These are some of the things that I gave thanks for as I filled out my 2026 pledge form online. In the coming weeks, parishioners **Daniel White**, **Tracye Kamperman**, and **Pete Goodwin** will share their own stewardship testimony during Sunday services, describing how they were moved by their own faith and our common life to support this community with their time, talent, and treasure. Their words will be included in *The Bells* each following Thursday.

Our pledge in-gathering is scheduled for Sunday, September 14, and you can submit through the Stewardship page ([2026 Stewardship](#)) of our website, or using one of the lovely orchid colored forms located in the narthex or outside of the parish hall. (Photo: Lanie Baxter with a commitment form and orchids.)

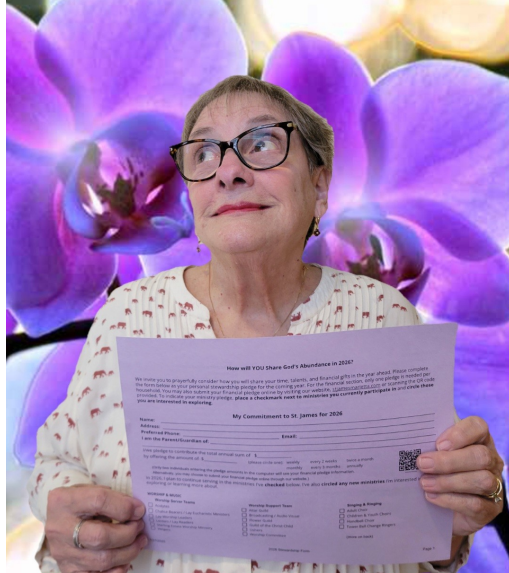
Express Christian
Formation with Mo.
Mariclaire
7-7:30
+
parish choir
7:30-9

**August 30-31,
September 1
Saturday - Monday**
Art in the Park: our lot on
Polk St. lot will be jammed.
Remember to use your
hang tags. **Vehicles
arriving after 11am
Sunday will be charged.**

September 2, Tuesday
St. Anne's chapter meets in
the St. Anne parlor rm. 144
*featuring change ringers
with Cathy Brown and
Charlie Heilker*
10a
+
Bible Study
12:30p

**September 3,
Wednesday**
Knitting for Charity
in the parlor
10a
+
Healing Service
in Lawrence Chapel
12:30p
*email in advance if you
foresee accessibility
problems: we'll find an
accommodation*
+
Centering Prayer
online
4p
+
Wednesdays at St. James
programs for all ages
(details at left)

September 7, Sunday
regular schedule
*with addition of
new Adult Forum*
Jane Austen and Faith
led by Laura Dabundo
in the conference room 127
9:30
+
The first Acolyte 101
training for new and
returning acolytes



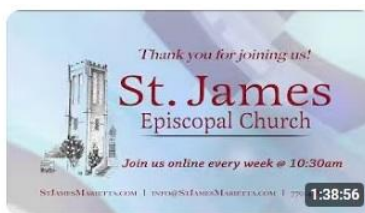
begins in the library
9a

September 14, Sunday
In-gathering of
Stewardship
commitment forms
8:00 & 10:30
+
Supper at The Extension
prepared by St. James
6p
to be involved,
contact [Kay Chester](mailto:kqchester@aol.com)
kqchester@aol.com

Whether you are striving toward the biblical tithe, converting your regular plate offering to a formal pledge in order to help us budget for 2026, or are making your very first pledge of your time to a ministry or guild—thank you!

In Christ,
Mo. Mariclaire+

Livestream HQ - Links & Booklets for Worship at Home

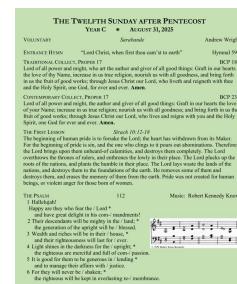


10:30 Service On Line
Click on "live" to see a service
live or archived.

[Link
to livestream
on YouTube](#)



**Worship Booklet
for the Season**
contains prayers, service
music, and responses that we
will use until 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](#)



Missing photos in *The Bells*? Missing the blue shaded "Pulse of the Parish" at the end of your issue? You can tell your email service to show blocked or dropped content. Need help? Email communications@stjamesmarietta.com

QR Queries: How do QR Codes work?

Now that QR codes have come to St. James, they truly are ubiquitous. If you know how to use them, you can RSVP for dinner under 30 seconds with the little square at the back of the service

bulletin. The QR code on display at the entrance to the parish hall gives you a convenient way to charge your dinner. Soon, you'll be able to skip the plate offering and charge it with a QR code in the pews. (Won't the ushers be relieved!)



But if you don't know how to use them, they can be frustrating, or even alarming. "They're a scam!" said one woman who'd heard that on local radio. Another parishioner said, "I took a picture of it, but nothing happened."

To use a QR code, open the camera on your device and simply aim it at the QR code. Once the little squares are in focus and your hands are steady, a web address will pop up on your screen. Tap that address (not the shutter-button) and the desired page will open up.

QR codes are similar in concept to those bar codes that the world has known since the early 1970s. Called QR for "quick response," the little squares and spaces direct our devices to a certain web site, then to a certain page on the web site, and maybe to a particular image or paragraph on that page, all in an instant, without our having to type an address or number.

Afraid of a scam? Look for identification in the address when it pops up on your screen. For example, the QR code for next week's Wednesday night dinner will bring up this address to your screen:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549AEAA2DA1FCC52-57902018-wednesday>

You recognize "Sign Up Genius" and "Wednesday" in there, so you can relax.

Stewardship Commitment Forms

When you fill out a stewardship form to indicate your interest in different ministries, you help the Vestry and the leaders of those ministries to estimate what resources we'll have this year for the work we plan to do.

You may print the stewardship form at home with [this link](#).

We'll place a box for completed forms by the parish hall. In-gathering of all forms is set for Sunday, September 14.

How will YOU Share God's Abundance in 2026?

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you will share your time, talents, and financial gifts in the year ahead. Please complete the form below as your personal stewardship pledge for the coming year. For the financial section, only one pledge is needed per household. You may also submit your financial pledge online by visiting our website, stjamesmarietta.com or scanning the QR code provided. To indicate your ministry pledge, place a checkmark next to ministries you currently participate in and circle those you are interested in exploring.

My Commitment to St. James for 2026

Name: _____
Address: _____
Preferred Phone: _____ Email: _____
I am the Parent/Guardian of: _____

I/we pledge to contribute the total annual sum of \$ _____
by offering the amount of \$ _____ (please circle one): weekly monthly every 2 weeks every 3 months twice a month annually

(Only two individuals entering the pledge amounts in the computer will see your financial pledge information.
Alternatively, you may choose to submit your financial pledge online through our website.)

In 2026, I plan to continue serving in the ministries I've checked below. I've also circled any new ministries I'm interested in exploring or learning more about.

WORSHIP & MUSIC	Worship Support Team	Singing & Ringing
<input type="checkbox"/> Acolytes	<input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Choir
<input type="checkbox"/> Chalice Bearers / Lay Eucharistic Ministers	<input type="checkbox"/> Broadcasting / Audio Visual	<input type="checkbox"/> Children & Youth Choirs
<input type="checkbox"/> Lay Worship Leaders	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower Guild	<input type="checkbox"/> Handbell Choir
<input type="checkbox"/> Lectors / Lay Readers	<input type="checkbox"/> Guild of the Christ Child	<input type="checkbox"/> Tower Bell Change Ringers
<input type="checkbox"/> Sterling Estate Worship Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Ushers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vergers	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship Committee	(more on back)

7/27/2025 2026 Stewardship Form Page 1

Children & Youth News

On our way to Sunday school. Natalie sent us these photos of enthusiastic kids rushing to lessons on "listening to God" and fishing to feed 5000. In September, the topic is "Power of

Parable."

In this issue of *The Bells*, Riley reflects on the painting activity that the youth enjoyed on Sunday. See below.



The youth group at St. James meets three times a week. Join Riley for Wednesdays at St. James, beginning at 5:30pm; meet upstairs Sundays in the Youth Suite at 9:30a, and stay for lunch and fellowship Sundays 12:30-to-2p.

Wednesday dinner is an event for all ages, with activities for Youth Group, for young Cherubs age 4 - grade 1, and for Choristers grade 2 - high school. [RSVP for Wednesday September 3 with Sign Up Genius](#)



Acolyte 101 for new and returning acolytes will be Sunday September 7, 9am in the library with Wendy Malsby and Greg Matechak.

Acolytes for Sunday 10:30 service Lucas Fortenberry is scheduled to be crucifer this Sunday, with torch bearers Elise and Matilda Reynolds.

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/>

Finding God in the Brushstrokes

reflection by Riley Dugan, Director of Youth Ministries

This past Sunday, our EYC gathered to paint along with a Bob Ross video. What started as a lighthearted and silly idea quickly turned into something much deeper; an experience that was relaxing, joyful, and surprisingly spiritually fulfilling.



As I looked around the room, I was struck by the art these kids were creating. It was more than just paint on canvas. God was moving through their creativity. Each painting was a reflection of the unique heart and perspective of our youth. Even though we were all following the same Bob Ross tutorial, no two paintings were alike. The colors were different. The landscapes varied. Each one told a different story.



Bob Ross once said, "It's the imperfections that make something beautiful, that's what makes it different and unique from everything else." That quote came to life in front of me. It reminded me how God delights in our individuality and how He uses our differences to create beauty, not just on canvas, but in life.

This little art session turned out to be more than just fun; it was a quiet reminder of how God works through joy, creativity, and community. I encourage you to take a walk past our Youth Room upstairs and see the art our students have created. I am very proud of every child that comes through our Youth Program. Each person makes every Sunday a new experience.

There are several opportunities coming up for adults who seek to broaden their knowledge base and to deepen their faith in fellowship with a friendly group.

We offer two different Bible studies during the week . Sundays, Tom Cook leads discussions of the gospel in the Lectionary for the morning, room 205 at 9:30. Tuesdays, Bill Eubanks and Fredericka Garlinghouse lead Bible Study in the conference room, 12:30-1:30.

Wednesdays at St. James, Mother Mariclair leads a continuing group discussion of *How to Focus: A Monastic Guide for an Age of Distraction*, a translation of selections from the writings of John Cassian. This is part of an evening that includes dinner at 5:45 and worship at 6:30. They meet in the conference room 127 from 7-7:25p.

Coming up: JANE AUSTEN AND FAITH , Sunday Sept. 7th through Sunday Oct. 5th, 9:30- to 10:15, with Laura Dabundo, Professor of English Emerita and some-time scholar of Jane Austen. *Laura writes:*

It is a truth universally acknowledged that there are some Episcopalians who might like to learn more about and discuss the faith of Anglican Jane Austen (1775-1817), author of six novels, who is being widely celebrated in this, the 250th anniversary of her birth.

- September 7th, Introduction to the class and to Jane Austen's life and works*
- September 14th, Anglicanism of her day, late 18th-early 19th centuries
- September 21st, Jane Austen's three prayers and her faith (I will make these prayers available in advance)
- September 28th , a portion of a paper I will have presented at Emory U. the Saturday before, partially on her faith
- October 5th, the faith we find in *Sense and Sensibility* (1795, first drafted; 1811, revision published)
- October 12th , no class for I shall be at the Annual General Meeting of the Jane Austen Society of North America in Baltimore

*Motivated students are invited to start reading *Sense and Sensibility* in order fully to participate in the discussion on October 5th. Any edition is acceptable.

Special Morning Retreat on Mindfulness in Prayer, Saturday October 18, 9a-noon . The fifth opportunity coming up for adults at St. James is a retreat here in our parish hall, brought to us by our Centering Prayer group. The leader will be Mark Dannenfelser, founding director of The Mindfulness Center of Atlanta.



Mark Dannenfelser will lead the retreat at St. James on Saturday, October 18, 9am-noon

Dannenfelser "brings together mindfulness, contemplative wisdom, and psychological insight in a way that is accessible, grounded and deeply human.... His work is rooted in a reverence for nature, silence, and the arts."

Participants at the retreat will explore how intention, attention, and consent open us to God's transforming presence.

The retreat is free. A \$10 donation is recommended, cash or check only, please. Send any questions to Billie Shook at billiemusicshook@gmail.com

[Link to the complete flier for more information](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers on the altar were given to the glory of God by **Jim Caswell** in loving memory of **Patricia Caswell** (d. 24 August 2018) and **James Caswell** (d. 11 September 2023). Sunday would have been their 62nd wedding anniversary.

Dates in September are open for flower dedications. Register in the notebook located on a table in the narthex at the entrance to the church. An usher can help.

Volunteers take flowers from the altar to shut-ins who tell us that they appreciate the flowers and the visit. To volunteer, email communications@stjamesmarietta.com

Left: flowers on the altar August 24.

The St. Anne's Chapter's first meeting of the new year is coming up on Tuesday, September 2, in our newly-painted and refurbished quarters. We have a variety of interesting programs scheduled every month on the first Tuesday. We invite the parish to come see what we're about.

Our first program is open to anyone interested – and many of you will be! Cathy Brown and Charlie Heilker will talk to us about our change ringers' ministry and the story behind our bells. We will take a "field trip" up to the loft to see the bells and get a feel for how everything works.

We meet at 10 o'clock for a short business meeting with the program beginning around 10:45. There will be light refreshments. Hope you will join us! - *Glenda Hogg*

REMINDERS

Prayer list. To receive the weekly prayer list, email Cari Edwards selvine@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. Cornerstone Parking doesn't charge us fees at the Polk Street lot during scheduled church events. 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 make an appointment 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

Thanks to **Kristin Picken**'s display in the parish hall, where our Library volunteers offer books culled from our collection, I picked up for free a yellowed paperback of English poetry and re-read William Wordsworth's "Lines composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey on revisiting the banks of the Wye during a tour. July 13, 1798."

Five years after the poet visited a ruined church in a clearing of woods by the River Wye, he comes back to reflect. He recalls how the beauty of this place has sustained him during times of struggle since then, and he looks ahead, too:

The picture of the mind revives again:
While here I stand, not only with the sense
Of present pleasure, but with pleasing thoughts
That in this moment there is life and food
For future years.

By coincidence, Youth leader **Riley Dugan** was working this past week on the art project that he describes so thoughtfully elsewhere in this week's newsletter. Like Wordsworth, the young artists experienced beauty captured in *their artwork*, and they experienced how the Spirit is *leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us* ("A General Thanksgiving" BCP p. 836).

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



Wednesdays at St. James

photos and text by Scott Smoot,
Communications Coordinator

As weeks roll by from Sunday to Sunday, worship should be the hub of the wheel, not just another spoke. That's what Mother Mariclaire preached a few weeks ago.

Now, to help keep Christ at the hub, we offer **Wednesdays at St. James**: worship, fellowship, and Christian formation in the middle of the work week for all ages.



At 5:30, Riley takes youth of middle and high grades on adventures of the spirit. It may not be Grand Canyon or another Braves game, but it'll be fun.

Thursday

August 21, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 24, Sunday

Rite I Eucharist spoken

8a

+ Breakfast

8:45

+ Ictionary Bible study

room 205 + Sunday school

upstairs for children age 4

to grade 5 & youth

9:30

+ Rite II Eucharist with choir

10:30

+ hospitality

11:45

+ EYC Youth Group

12:30-2:00

August 25, Monday

Wonderful Days preschool

first day of school

9a

August 27, Wednesday

Youth group

5:30-6:15p

+ dinner for all

6:00

[RSVP at SignUpGenius](#)

+ worship

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



The image shows a black and white illustration of the St. James Episcopal Church building, a tall, narrow structure with a steeple. To the right of the illustration, the text "St. James Episcopal Church" is written in a large, serif font. Below this, the address "161 Church St., Marietta GA 30060" is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. Further down, the phone number "770-428-5841" and the website "www.stjamesmarietta.com" are listed. At the bottom, there is a black button with a white Facebook 'f' icon and the text "Share This Email".

St. James Episcopal Church | 161 Church Street | Marietta, GA 30060 US

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