

The BELLS of St. JAMES



news, inspiration,
and opportunities
for ministry

Message from Mother Maricclair From the Pages of Forward Day by Day

Editor's note: Mother Maricclair wrote meditations on daily scriptures for the magazine *Forward Day by Day* in its issue for the winter of 2020-2021, a time of deadly political violence and a spike in COVID deaths. Your communications director, still a teacher at that time, blogged about her meditations.

Here's Scott Smoot's post from January 31, 2021:

I've found comfort and some amusement in the pages by Maricclair Partee Carlsen, rector of a church in Pennsylvania.

Carlsen likes food.

Rev. 19.9 reminded her of Fr. Robert Farrar Capon's spiritual memoir - *cum* - cookbook *The Supper of the Lamb*. As the "alchemy" of cooking transforms ingredients into something "magical," writes Carlsen, "the rough parts" of our lives combine in "a whole that transcends its constituent parts, all through Christ's love and the heat of struggles and mistakes."

From gardening, she knows that "first fruits" (James 1.18) are the prettiest of the season, but the smaller, lumpier fruits at the end of the season are just as nutritious and frequently sweeter -- and she's sure God loves those of us who may feel more like the latter than the former.

Among all the Advent readings about dire end times, she pulls out another kitchen reference from Zechariah 14.21: When Messiah comes, even the ordinary cooking pots will be sacred as the vessels on the altar.

Rev. Partee Carlsen responds to readings from Luke 16. When Jesus says "Whoever is faithful in little is faithful in much" (16.10), Carlsen says that, just as little lies can escalate in a dangerous way, a "small instance of love

Thursday

May 15, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS



May 18 Sunday

Rite I

8a

+

Rite II with choir

10:30a

+

Youth Group
wraps for the year

12:30

+

Holy Eucharist at
Sterling Estates
3p

May 19 Monday

Reach Out Mental Health
lunch for adults with
special needs

10a



*Reach Out needs
volunteers! Show up
before 10, stay as long as
you like.*

can snowball into a life lived with tenderness, compassion, and grace."

Noting in the parable of Lazarus that all the dialogue occurs between the rich man and Abraham, she wonders what Lazarus would have to say. She asks us to consider who we are in that story.

About James, Carlsen guesses that he probably "wasn't much fun to know," but she thanks God for people like him, "speedbumps for the rest of us who lack their discipline...with one toe in the fountain of life."

The ominous promise to separate sheep from the goats (Mt. 25.32) prompts Partee Carlsen to observe that all of us are goats some of the time, sheep some of the time. Drawing on several other parables of Jesus, she opines that Jesus searches for the sheep in us, "searching for us like lost coins, lighting lamps, sweeping out the farthest corners, refusing to count us as lost." She adds, "We are compelled to do this same searching" in strangers we meet.

Look to this space next week for a message from Mother Mariclaire.

May 20 Tuesday
Worship committee
conference room
2p

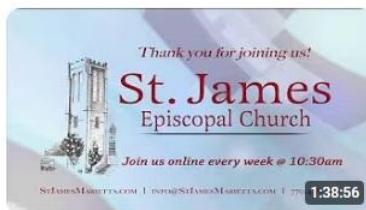
May 21 Wednesday
Wonderful Days
prepares for graduation
*Parking spaces by the
dumpster will be closed off*
9a - 1p
+
Evening Prayer
6:30p

May 22 Thursday
Wonderful Days
graduation, parish hall
10a
Parish invited!

May 26 Monday
Memorial Day
The Church office will be
closed.

May 29 Thursday
Ascension Day
celebrated with
St. Catherine church
and St. Benedict church
at St. Benedict
2160 Cooper Lake Rd SE,
Smyrna 30080
6:30p - 8p

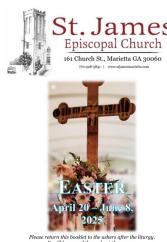
[Livestream HQ - Links & Booklets for Worship at Home](#)



10:30 Service On Line

Click on "live" to see a service live or archived.

[Link
to livestream
on YouTube](#)



Easter Season Worship Booklet

contains prayers, service music, and responses that we will use from Easter Sunday to June 8.

[Download Worship Booklet](#)



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

PHOTOS FROM SUNDAY MAY 11



Mother Mariclaire met with Youth in the Parish Hall to answer their questions for her. Photo: Bill Eubanks. (Inset) She also answered questions for the younger children upstairs. Photo: Lisa Brown.

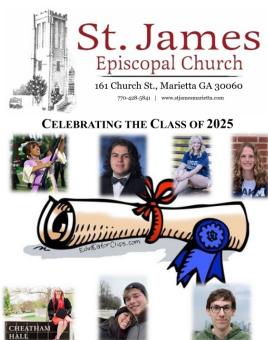


The children's choir sang before the 10:30 service. Youth singers in the back row brought depth to the choir's sound in a sweet song that related all mothers to mothers of Moses, Samuel, and

Jesus. Photo: Jeff Picken.



Little Thomas Oliver York IV seemed to thoroughly enjoy his baptism. He's pictured here after the 10:30 service with his father, his mother Lauren, and big sister Madeleine. Photo: Kristin Picken.



[Download the graduates' tribute booklet.](#)

Seven graduates were honored on Sunday with a special booklet detailing their achievements and plans. [You can download a copy of the booklet here.](#) Riley gave each a spiritual guide with a labyrinth that fits in the palm of your hand. Many Episcopalians use the labyrinth to center themselves on Christ. The instructions say, "No tricks: follow the path and you will find the center." Riley is pictured here with four of the graduates, cake, and the labyrinth. Photo: Bill Eubanks



Sunday evening, these gift bags were taken to the women who are residents in the rehabilitation program at **The Extension**. Each bag contained a selection of personal care items and a small bag of chocolates and mints. Our volunteers delivered these along with Sunday Night Supper on Mother's Day. This is often a difficult day for the women who are separated from their families and their children while they are seeking recovery from substance abuse. These gift bags from St James make a real difference for the women, and they appreciate being remembered.

Kay Chester and Carolyn Conley, Co-chairs
Sunday Night Supper at The Extension

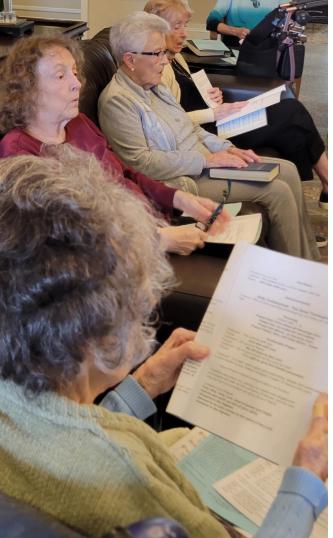
Email your good photos to communications@stjamesmarietta.com

Opportunities to Reach Out Next Week

Sunday. We take Holy Eucharist to **Sterling Estates** this Sunday at 3p. During the service, some guests appreciate help with the prayer book and hymnal. Volunteers who arrive thirty minutes early will help to set up the communion table and chairs.



Thursday. We celebrate graduates of **Wonderful Days Preschool** at 10 in the parish hall. You're invited to enjoy their program and to show your support. The school serves children of low-income families. John Schafer (below) and other St. James members are on the board. They support the school all year with fund-raising, driving the bus, and washing lunch dishes.



Monday. Volunteers for **Reach Out Mental Health** will serve lunch and lead BINGO for around 70 adults with special needs. Guests will arrive Monday around 10:30; volunteers arrive 9:30 and stay as long as they like!



...and don't forget Tuesdays! Throughout the year, volunteers from St. James and other churches **help feed families in our community**. Volunteers pack food each Tuesday morning in Smyrna. , Tuesday evenings, volunteers help to register families, manage traffic, and distribute food at the Presbyterian church next door.

To find out how you, too, can volunteer, email luciabird@gmail.com or visit the volunteer training page at the [website for the Center for Family Resources](#) (CFR)

Children and Youth News

Youth "braved the rain" and had a great time at the Renaissance Festival, writes Kristin Picken. These are her photos. Cora, Miller, Stella, Thomas, and Sam pose at the outset of their journey. Inset: Cora battles Sam, left, and Thomas, right.



Vacation Bible School June 9-13

To register, scroll down the screen at <https://www.stjamesmarietta.com/vbs-2025>

We are seeking volunteers to help with all aspects of the program:

- Leading small groups of children
- Helping with crafts, music, or games
- Preparing snacks
- Decorating and setting up classrooms
- Greeting families and offering hospitality

To volunteer, go to [VBS Volunteer](#)

Details are out for the **summer programs at Camp Mikell** in 2025!

Mini Camp **May 23 - 25**, rising 1st and 2nd Graders with parent or guardian

Youth Camp **June 1 - 7**, rising 10th Graders-Just Graduated

Performing Arts Camp **June 8 - 14**, rising 4th-9th Graders

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](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

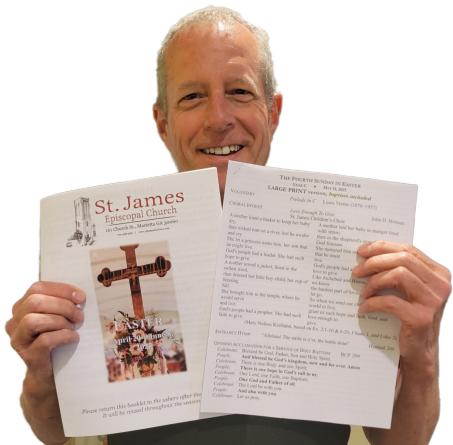


Flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God by **Judy Auld** in loving memory of **David Auld** on the first anniversary of his death.

To dedicate flowers for the altar, sign the registry in the narthex. Ushers there can help you.

Did you know that volunteers take flowers from our altar to members of our church family who are shut in? You can be involved!

Left: flowers on the altar May 11.



LARGE PRINT service bulletins and seasonal worship booklets are now available in the Narthex. Mother Maricclair has asked for 20 copies to be made available, and more, if there's a demand.

You should be able to find your large print copies next to the wireless hearing system. If not, ask an usher.

NAME TAGS are waiting for **Kathleen Burgess**, **Rebecca Gayle**, and **Lloyd and Nancy Hill** in a basket on the communications table by the parish hall .

We Join the People of St. Benedict and St. Catherine for Ascension

Mother Maricclair writes: The 40th Day of Easter is Ascension, a principal feast of the church! **St. Benedict's** will join fellow Episcopalians in Cobb county from **St. Catherine's** and **St. James** for a fun and different celebration! We'll walk the Stations of the Resurrection outdoors at 6:30 with Holy Communion, and celebrate (with cotton candy*) Jesus being taken up in a cloud. Come keep the feast together. St. Benedict is located at 2160 Cooper Lake Rd SE, Smyrna 30080.

*Why Cotton Candy on Ascension Day? Acts 1:9!

REMINDERS



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, and the license plate number. 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](#).

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.

Contact Us

*Program staff available via email Sunday - Thursday;
office staff, Monday - Thursday, 9am-3pm*

Mother Mariclaire is rector@stjamesmarietta.com
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.

Evening Prayer Wednesdays



Join ten-to-twenty-five worshipers for Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 6:30p. It's a spoken service, led by our Lay Worship Leaders, with readings from Scripture and shared prayers from the Book of Common Prayer. The service is both casual and reverent.

Pulse of the Parish

from Scott Smoot, Communications Director

The bucks that stopped here are moving on. ("Dear Buck," said **Lanie Baxter**, "we will miss you!")

All the portraits of shady-looking lawyers have disappeared.



With them go the 2019-vintage desktop computers, boxes of fake legal documents, South Carolina lawbooks with the shelves that bore them, and heavy ornate furniture. Also gone are yard upon yard of thick cables, the trucks and cranes that filled our parking lots, and sheets of plastic wrap that protected our carpets when filming crews came in.

In other words, the filming of ***The Murdaugh Murders*** has finished. This week, the post-op crew removes the set pieces and restores our walls and halls to their ante-Murdaugh condition.

I was at church before 7a on Friday for the last day of filming. **Jim Chester** relieved me around 10a. **Bill Eubanks** was here that evening from around 4p to 8:39p when the director yelled, "It's a wrap!" Bill wrote in an email that there was "much applause and hooting."

The end came not a moment too soon, according to Bill, since the thermostat had been reset to cool the actors and crew who were crammed into our conference room with hot lights. "I won't say it was cold," Bill wrote, "but we pulled everything out of the kitchen freezers and huddled inside to warm up!"

The production wrapped early despite an unwelcome interruption. All work suspended when the fire alarm went off. Only later did Bill discover why: the Fire Safety Officer had unwittingly set off the system himself. A responsible party with the studio was relieved to hear it: "At least we know none of the crew was trying to get to recess early!"

The very next morning, a crew that Bill re-named "Tony and the Divine Dustbusters" came in to prepare the church for services. They cleared walkways, vacuumed, mopped, and wiped surfaces.

On Thursday morning this week, **Mother Mariclaire** will join **Bill, Jim Chester, Building Superintendent Erik Lins**, and the studio's site manager **Lia Towers** for a walkthrough of our campus inside and out. They will compare church furniture and decor to photographs made in January. They'll also check on floors, ceilings, walls, doors, walkways, landscaping etc. to list items for repair, cleaning, and painting.

Then this adventure will be over for good. "Unless," **Sue Hannan** wondered. "What if Murdaugh wins an appeal?" Stay tuned.

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

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From the Senior Warden
A Prayer

Dear Holy Spirit, Breath of God, and Giver of Life,
We thank you in gratitude and awe for the joy of this past Sunday – the first with our new rector, Mother Mariclaire.

Thank You for filling our sanctuary with joy, laughter, and radiant smiles, for the songs that lifted hearts, and the tears that softened them.



Thank You even for the technical hiccups, reminding us that grace is found not in perfection, but in presence, perseverance, and community.

We give thanks for the sacred conversations at "Ask Any Questions," for the openness shared, the curiosity embraced, and the connections formed in the Spirit of

Thursday
May 8, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9 Friday
TOMORROW
Filming concludes

STAY AWAY please!

May 11 Sunday
Mother's Day
Rite I
8a
+
Rite II baptism with choir
10:30a
with recognition of our graduates

May 14 Wednesday
Evening Prayer
6:30

May 18 Sunday
Rite I
8a
+
Rite II with choir
10:30a

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



St. James
Episcopal Church

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