



**St. James
Episcopal
Church**

161 Church Street
Marietta GA 30060
stjamesmarietta.com



Annual Parish Report

November 16, 2025

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Thank you to parishioner Greg Bedingfield for formal portraits of staff, including the photographs in this report of Mother Mariclaire, Dr. Black, and Scott Smoot.

Agenda for the Annual Meeting

1. Call to order / Opening Prayer - Mo. Mariclair

Secretary Business

2. Election of Secretary for the Annual meeting – Gladys Bayliss, corporate secretary.
3. Approval of the minutes of the November 10, 2024, annual meeting of the parish. – Gladys Bayliss

Reports

4. Rector's Report
5. Vestry Report, Bill Eubanks, Sr. Warden. Reports of Committees, Program and Ministry Chairs begin p. 12.
6. Treasurer's Report. Peter Goodwin.
7. 2026 Operating Budget and Current List of Capital Projects presented for Parishioner information and comment. Peter Goodwin

Elections

8. Recognition of outgoing Vestry members - Bill Eubanks, Jim Chester, Wendy Malsby, Nuno Nuñez. - Mo. Mariclair
9. Recognition of candidates for election to the Vestry and election. Bill Eubanks.
10. Prayers for those willing to serve and election. Mo. Mariclair.

Miscellaneous Business

11. Appointed representatives to affiliated organizations: The Cemetery Board - Bill Brumby / Chris Brown representing
12. Wonderful Days. Bill Eubanks

12. Closing remarks and Closing Prayer.

Motion to adjourn the annual meeting. Mo. Mariclair

Minutes of last year's meeting

St. James' Episcopal Church, Marietta, GA
Minutes for Annual Parish Meeting in the Parish Hall, Sunday, November 10, 2024
draft, to be approved at the next meeting

1. Call to order. Meeting called to order at 9:15 by Sr. Warden Bill Eubanks. The Interim Rector Patricia Miller led the prayer.
2. Appointment of Secretary. Sr. Warden appointed Scott Smoot Secretary for the Annual meeting with Tom Jagusch assisting. Approved by acclamation.
3. Cemetery Board appointment. Bill Brumby, president of the cemetery board, asked the parish to nominate Chris Brown to another four-year term. Nominated, Chris was approved by acclamation.
4. Minutes of 2023. The minutes from the annual meeting of the previous year, November 12, 2023, were approved without change by acclamation.
5. Recognition of outgoing Vestry. The Sr. Warden and Interim Rector recognized graduating vestry in the class of 2024, Jeff Picken, Chris Brown, Carolyn Conley, and Sue Hannan. They were thanked for their service and each given a rosary. The Sr. Warden had remaining members of the Vestry stand for recognition of their ongoing service.
6. Introduction and election of candidates. The Sr. Warden introduced four candidates for election to the Vestry – Kirk Brown, Tracye Kamperman, Katey Evans, and Daniel White. He referred everyone to their profiles printed in the Annual Report. Before the vote, the Interim Rector led prayers of thanksgiving for those willing to serve and for the Holy Spirit to guide our choices. With four candidates to fill four seats on the Vestry, the candidates were elected by acclamation.
7. Recognition of the Interim Rector's work. Sr. Warden thanked the Interim Rector for guiding us through a time of anxiety to a time when, as she said in a sermon last week, St. James presents a "mosaic" of joy. After applause, the Interim Rector assured us, "I'm not going anywhere, yet."
8. Licensing of Lay Worship Leaders. The Interim Rector explained the duties of Lay Worship Leaders to serve when clergy are not available for services. She awarded licenses to those who have completed their training; a couple are still working on certification. She said, "There's a lot more to this than just standing up to read from a book." Bill Eubanks, Jane McGuigan, Sue Hannan, Daniel White, Tom Jagusch, Nuno Nuñez, Laura Dabundo, Melinda Allen, Steve Windham, and Tom Wimmer.
9. Staff recognition. Sr. Warden expressed appreciation for members of the staff, and asked those present to stand.

10. Reports of Committees, Program and Ministry Chairs, Clergy and Wardens are all contained in the Annual Report submitted for review. The Sr. Warden recommended that everyone read the details, where they'd find "lots of goodies" about work serving both the people of this community and those outside of the church.

10. Financial reports. The Sr. Warden directed attention to financial tables and text included in the Annual Report. He reminded parishioners that these are only 9-month figures, because the year does not close until December. The Sr. Warden emphasized, "If you would like to make an extra gift to close out the year, be sure it is in to the church office by Dec 26th to ensure it is posted to the 2024 giving statements."

Treasurer Peter Goodwin covered money received, spent, and the fact that we don't have debt or funds in trust.

Revenue includes contributions, rents, and fees. Cash on hand is "pretty stable" in the upper 400k range. Our endowment has increased in value.

Positive trends: cash reserve is 12% higher, endowment 23% higher – "we are digging ourselves out of the pandemic hole." Operating revenues are 18% higher. Expenses are 8% lower. Even annualized, we still could end up with a budget surplus. The Treasurer compared the proposed budgets to those of the previous several years. "Our process is working. We're not getting out of line from our plans."

The Treasurer identified challenges: increasing costs that are beyond our control, e.g., personnel (new rector, eventually more clergy), health care costs, funding new ministries, maintenance of aging facilities. Another challenge is a shift in giving patterns, church-wide, away from pledged giving. Unpledged giving, while welcome, makes planning very difficult.

With these challenges in mind, the Treasurer presented the draft of the 2025 Operating Budget to invite comments and questions over the next week. This year's assumptions about pledged offerings are more conservative, while estimates of unpledged income will be less conservative. It is an "aspirational" budget, but reasonable based on experience. The Treasurer emphasized that the budget forums for parishioners in July were of great help in forming this budget. He forecasts what might be a modest surplus for this year and a modest deficit for next year.

The Treasurer emphasized that this is a draft budget. He invited comments over the next week.

The Interim Rector added that savings in utilities costs stem from increased efficiency due to the new HVAC systems and new exterior doors, which are more solid and better insulated. She thanked donors who made those changes possible, and hinted that donations to replace the remaining HVAC units would be welcome. She reminded all that the parish budget process inaugurated last year will begin anew in July with another series of budget forums.

11. Recognition of the work of the Parish. The Sr. Warden spoke about the financial health of the parish. He confessed that he had been anxious about how to pay the new rectory's salary next year. But we've increased ministry and involvement and still have a healthy financial outlook. He called the proposed budget one of "abundance."

12. Nominating committee update. Laura Dabundo, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee is in another round of interviews. “We’re in the fourth quarter, and the ninth inning.” She has heard from Diocesan staff experienced in searches that more clergy have wanted to be rector of St. James at this time than is usual for other churches in the diocese. The Sr. Warden recognized members of the committee. In response to a question, he explained that, once the Nominating Committee has narrowed the field to a few, the Vestry would interview the nominee and make the final choice. This will take time, during which the Interim Rector will remain. He also explained that, when the choice has been made and the contract has been negotiated, the new rector will need time to leave one church and may need time to move here. There also will be an intentional gap of a few weeks between the departure of the Interim Rector and the arrival of the new person.

Sr. Warden answered a question about restricted funds, contributed in 2023 but spent in 2024. “We’re in good shape.” Garry Osborne gave thanks for contributions from the landscaping volunteers.

13. Closing remarks and Closing Prayer . The Interim Rector thanked the people for their contributions and support, and she thanked lay leadership of the church. She assured us that, at the end of this nominating process, the one who is called will have been called by God. She led the parish in prayer.

14. Motion to adjourn the annual meeting. Approved by acclamation.



Dr. Walter Ligon, longtime parishioner, photographs our church with dramatic and lovely skies.

Reports

Rector

Since arriving in May, I have been consistently impressed with the spirit of faithfulness, generosity, and service shown in this community of St. James. This parish is blessed with an abundance of people, ministries, and resources for making Christ known in Marietta. My family and I have appreciated the warm welcome we have received. I am making good progress on my goal of having one on one conversations with as many of you as possible in this first year, but still have many folks to meet with- so please make use of the Calendly to schedule a time to let me know a little about you and your St. James story.

When I first arrived, I reviewed the results of the Congregational Assessment Tool completed during your interim period. It indicated that your three priorities as a congregation were 1) to make necessary changes to attract families with children to our church, 2) to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church, and 3) to create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.).

I have used these three priorities as a framework for these first six months of ministry as your rector.

- 1) **Attract families with children:** We had Parish-wide Game Nights monthly during the summer, gathering for intergenerational fun and fellowship while also maintaining the momentum of the program year for our youth and children. This fall Natalie Fowler and I have worked together to create Wonder Church, a short Eucharist service for young children and their families, as well as Guardians Night Out events following worship for their parents and grandparents. Under the leadership of Bryan Black and Heather Blaylock, we have doubled our youth and children outreach through the choirs, introducing the Cherub Choir for 4 year olds- 1st graders.

Looking ahead, I am working with Natalie Fowler and Bryan Black to reimagine our summer Vacation Bible School to explore faith through the lens of the arts, including music, and advertise it more widely to the community outside of St. James. A hoped-for side benefit is that this will introduce us to potential new members of the Cherub Choir and their families.



In August we welcomed Daysi Turcios as our second paid nursery worker, alongside longtime nursery staff member Melissa Powers, and the nursery is now consistently open and staffed from 9:30-12:30 every Sunday. With the departure of Youth Director Riley Dugan at the end of November, we have the opportunity to reimagine how we staff and resource our ministry to youth and children, including greater opportunity for parent involvement and leadership during the interim time before we identify our new Youth Ministry Coordinator, as well as an Associate Rector with youth and family ministry in their portfolio.

- 2) **Invite and incorporate newcomers into the life of the church:** There is a robust Newcomers Committee at St. James, and we have worked together to make sure visitors are warmly welcomed, encouraged to share their contact information, and then followed up with to share possible connection points to a deeper life at St. James. These are skills committee members have gotten to exercise as we have had many new faces joining us in worship.

In October we had our first of two scheduled Newcomers Receptions for the 2025-2026 program year to welcome anyone who considered themselves new to the parish, share the history of the church and a tour of the entire church building from bell tower to basement theater, and answer any questions attendees might have. We also talked about how to formally become a member of St. James through regular attendance at worship, receiving communion at least three times a year, and making a financial commitment of any size to the parish, and how to request letters of transfer from other Episcopal parishes and full-communion partner churches.

- 3) **Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships:** After the great response to mid-week parish-wide Game Nights in the summer, weekly Wednesday Night dinners started in August. We welcomed Russell Gibbs back as our chef, and are feeding approximately 50 people every Wednesday between Youth Group and Evening Prayer, choir practices, and formation class. These opportunities will continue throughout our program year, including the upcoming intergenerational Advent Wreath making on Nov 30th between services, and a parish-wide Epiphany Party and Holy Eucharist with Blessing of the Chalk on Tuesday, January 6th.

Part of being able to form meaningful relationships is having a clear picture of all the things going on in the church that you can get involved in, and so all parish activity is communicated through the Sunday bulletin insert and The Bells e-newsletter that Scott Smoot compiles and sends out every Thursday. If your ministry or group is planning a special event or a regular meeting, be sure to let Scott know.

The generosity of this congregation is amazing, and our 2025 stewardship campaign theme of Sharing God's Abundance was borne out in the significant increase in pledges Pete Goodwin will tell you about in a few minutes, as well as multiple special collections of funds and food for crisis response, and building a closer relationship with First Presbyterian's Pantry on Church to feed our neighbors, all while continuing to support partners like MUST Ministries and the Center For Family Resources, as well as other local and national organizations through Outreach grants.

This year also brought an astounding testimony to God's Abundance at work in this parish. In October, we received a bequest of approximately \$839,000 from the estate of Austin Lane Brown. Because we have no outstanding debt or maintenance emergencies, we have the opportunity to use this significant gift in any way we choose. In the new year the Vestry will convene a small group representing various ministries of the parish to make recommendations about how we can best use this unexpected and amazingly generous gift to further the ministry of St. James.

It was also a good reminder to me of the rubric directed to clergy on p. 445 of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer:

The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.

If you would like information about how to provide for the ministry of St. James in your estate planning, please contact me directly.

Summary:

New services-

First Wednesday 12:30 Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers in the Lawrence Chapel.

Monthly Wonder Church in the Parish Hall (next one coming up on Nov 22!)

New fellowship events- Summer game nights, Wednesday Dinners, Guardians Night Out, Newcomers Receptions

New formation offerings- Sunday Rector's Forums, adult confirmation classes, and bible studies, Wednesday express formation.

Sacraments: 10 baptized since May, 5 to be confirmed and 4 received/reaffirmed on Dec 7th

Senior Warden

Dear Beloved Members of St. James Episcopal Church,

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your faith, your generosity, and your continued commitment to our shared life in Christ. This past year has been one of growth, renewal, and grace, made possible by the many hands and willing hearts who have stepped forward to strengthen our parish community and to help us live more fully into our baptismal promise.

I am grateful for the leadership of Mother Pat, Mother Mariclair, our dedicated staff, our gifted music ministry, and the many ministry leaders, volunteers, and parishioners who have offered their time, energy, and skills. Your service to one another, to our visitors, to those in need among us, and to our neighbors in Marietta has been a true witness to God's love.



Together we have shared joys and faced challenges, and through it all your steadfast presence has been a constant blessing. The work we have accomplished in worship, formation, outreach, fellowship, and parish care could not have happened without your involvement and your prayers. I also extend deep appreciation to all who have supported the ongoing ministries and operations of St. James through your financial giving.

The major milestone this year was the calling of our new Rector, The Rev. Mariclair Partee Carlsen, in May. Her compassionate leadership, thoughtful vision, and hopeful spirit have already encouraged and enlivened our journey together. Alongside the vestry, staff, ministry leaders, and so many of you, she has joined in our prayerful work of listening to the Holy Spirit and strengthening our worship and service both within our parish and in the wider community.

It has been a joy to see renewed fellowship, and a sense of shared purpose flourishing among us. Thank you for fostering that spirit of welcome and connection.

This fall we held our 2025 budget planning workday with staff and ministry leaders, followed by a vibrant Ministry Fair that highlighted the many opportunities for formation, service, and community at St. James. Planning for the 2026 budget is already well underway, allowing us to continue building toward the vision we discerned at the beginning of our rector search.

As we look ahead, I am filled with confidence and hope. Guided by God's grace and strengthened by your faithfulness, St. James will continue to grow as a community of worship, love, and service.

Thank you, truly, for all you do and all you are. It has been a privilege to walk this journey with you. *With deep gratitude,* Bill Eubanks

Junior Warden

2025 Accomplishment Highlights

- Finishing touches on the expanded sacristy with the new piscina.
- The circle lot area and courtyard have now become a beautiful, landscaped attraction with an upgraded watering system. (With countless hours from Bob and Alice Kuzniak and Garry Osborne)
- Replaced all the old, shingled roof along with gutters and downspouts. (With the movie rental proceeds)

Partial list of key Capital Projects in our 3-year plan:

- Pew replacement project
- Paint nave ceiling and light fixture replacement
- Window repair and replacement in the nave, first floor offices, and second floor offices and classrooms
- Continuation of phased replacement of HVAC systems – Parish Hall unit, and the unit supplying the nave
- Organ console repairs
- Uninterruptible power source for audiovisual, broadcasting equipment, and Internet service
- Three doors to replace in Christian Ed. building on the first floor

Submitted by Junior Warden Jim Chester



The production crew that filmed a dramatic series in our buildings in 2025 awarded honorary stunt man status to Junior Warden Jim Chester after he recovered from a disastrous somersault on set.

Music

Music Ministry Report 2025

Bryan Black, Director of Music and Organist

This annual report is an occasion for deep gratitude as I reflect on the ways God has been present in the lives of our lay musicians and how the Holy Spirit has enabled us to serve the parish and the community in Christ's name.

There is a striking paradox at the heart of our shared musical life: we do many of the same things week after week, yet the experience remains endlessly new. Through these hallowed rituals—singing hymns, ringing bells, rehearsing treasured pieces we know intimately—our lives are quietly formed and renewed. At every turn, the Holy Spirit continues to enliven creativity in ways that are uncontrollably filled with promise.



Ensembles and Participants

St. James' ensembles include:

- 28 active adults in the Parish Choir
- 13 in the Chorister Choir
- 5 in the Cherub Choir
- 11 ringers in the Handbell Choir

Our newest ministry, the Cherub Choir, is led by Heather Blalock, a distinguished music educator specializing in young children. They explore the physical sensations of music through rhythm instruments and imaginative tactile games that build foundational musical skills. Their laughter can be heard spilling down the hallway every Wednesday evening.



Highlights from the Past Year

The Georgia Spiritual Ensemble and Dr. Oral Moses returned for the second year to offer a concert and carol sing-along in the Nave; we happily anticipate them for a third year.

St. James provided space for the Georgia Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the Uzee Brown Society of Choraliers to hold three combined rehearsals in preparation for their tour of the UK and Ireland. The professional choir *Coro Vocati* performed for enthusiastic listeners in October, and the Lawrence Chapel will host a GSO chamber music program celebrating its 75th Anniversary Season in November. (Footnote: Many members of the Marietta Music Club, whose vision created the GSO in the 1950s, were devoted St. James parishioners. Several of these names were recently featured in the Marietta Daily Journal's commemorative edition.)

Our handbells were sent out to be polished and have their clapper mechanisms replaced, and a newer Kawai upright piano was moved from an upstairs classroom into the Nave, where it now serves in worship with improved tone and touch. Most notably, the St. James organ turned sixty years old in 2025—an enduring investment that has glorified God and enriched the congregation's worship. This milestone also acknowledges the growing number of small failures and aging materials in the instrument that necessitate a comprehensive response for the future. What an exciting prospect!



Continuing Education

My week of continuing education as an invited participant for a symposium led by Dr. Andrew Root brought together about twenty clergy members (and a couple of pastoral musicians) who attended the event in Grand Rapids, MI. Many of the participants openly confessed to a preoccupation with the seemingly ever-present crisis of decline felt throughout the Church. It was refreshing to consider Dr. Root's theological propositions on ministry in a secular age and embrace a response not based on a competitive business model, but on a spiritual awareness that reawakens our listening as we wait for the God who is God to act in the world.

Global Connections – Ghana

In October 2024, I traveled to Ghana at the invitation of Newlove Annan, a distinguished composer and church musician known throughout West Africa and founder of the Greater Accra Mass Choir.

Before traveling to conduct his choir, I was introduced to Bishop Victor Atta-Baffoe, Bishop of Cape Coast, Ghana, who was coincidentally in residence at Emory University. These longstanding personal connections, along with the Diocese of Atlanta's partnership with Bishop Victor, allowed me to serve as an unexpected messenger on behalf of St. James. Newlove drove me to Cape Coast, where I presented an enormous suitcase of vestments and altar linens from our parish to the cathedral staff. We trust these connections will blossom into meaningful ministries in the future under the guidance of Canon John Thompson-Quartay, Bishop Wright's coordinator for ministry in Ghana.

Looking Ahead

In the year ahead, we look forward to exploring the next steps toward a comprehensive plan for the organ, deepening our engagement with young musicians, and strengthening our partnerships locally and abroad. Each of these initiatives will help sustain the vibrant, Spirit-filled ministry that defines St. James.

Conclusion

In all these ways—through the sound of voices and bells, the quiet work of preparation, and the joy of shared purpose—our music ministry continues to bear witness to the living presence of Christ among us. Every rehearsal and every hymn sung together reminds us that the sacred work of musicking is not about control or perfection, but about presence, surrender, and shared participation in God's work of renewal.

As Andy Root writes:

The power of the cross, the weapon of Roman control, is broken not by the battle for control but by surrender. The cross, the nefarious instrument of control, is transformed into a portal of ultimate uncontrollability. God turns the cross into the uncontrollable mystery of salvation—life coming from death. Modernity's dynamic stabilization and its worship of control for the sake of growth often makes us unable to see life as an uncontrollable pilgrimage in which we seek to encounter the uncontrollable humanity of others and God. (Root, Andrew and Kara. 2025. *A Pilgrimage Into Letting Go*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, page 86.)

Through our shared music ministry, we experience this truth in flesh and blood. We surrender our efforts to control, trusting that God works through the abundant gifts already present in each person. In doing so, we participate in the uncontrollable mystery of life, community, and grace—celebrating a ministry that is firmly rooted in God's presence yet delightfully unpredictable, ever new, and profoundly sacred.

Worship

Altar Guild

Our teams are responsible for the set-up of all services that include weekly Eucharist, weddings, baptisms, and funerals. There are 4 teams with currently around 8 members each. The teams rotate weekly, coming in sometimes during the week to clean up, fill the oil candles, and do the hymn boards. This past year we have been excited to include several new members and are always looking for anyone who would want more information to join. If interested call Jane Sanders, 770 365-8952, or email janepsanders01@yahoo.com

Flower Guild

The flower guild is a healthy and growing ministry here at St. James. Our ministry is focused on enhancing the worship service and glorifying God by sharing His bounty of beautiful flowers.

Fresh flowers from K Mike Whittle Designs adorn the sanctuary every Sunday thanks to generous parishioners who donate flowers along with dedications and thanksgivings. *To give flowers, register in the binder in the Narthex.*

During special seasons of the year, the guild decorates the church with their own arrangements of greens and flowers from parish yards and local florists. In Advent, we green the altar, advent wreath, and the standards. Sarum blue candles on the standards are lit to symbolize hope, expectation, and anticipation. At Christmas, you'll see the altar robed in the bright reds of poinsettias and the windows adorned with wreaths as are the gates and doors. In Lent, you'll see the altar adorned with bare twigs to reflect the season's focus on repentance. At Easter, you'll see the whites of lilies and faint pinks, yellows, and purples of Spring to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. On St. James Day, the church overflows with reds, whites, yellows, and greens to celebrate our patron saint. We also flower the baptismal font for Baptisms celebrated at the church.

No flower arranging experience is needed ... just a desire to beautify the sanctuary, a willingness to learn, and a desire for joyful friendship. Contact luciabird@gmail.com

Worship server teams	Worship support teams	<i>To connect with any of these ministries, email your request to communications@Stjamesmarietta.com</i>
▪ Acolytes ▪ Chalice bearers ▪ Lay Eucharistic Ministers ▪ Lay Worship Leaders ▪ Lectors / Lay Readers ▪ Sterling Estate Worship Ministry ▪ Vergers	▪ Altar guild ▪ Broadcasting / Audio Visual technicians ▪ Flower Guild ▪ Guild of the Christ Child ▪ Ushers ▪ Worship Committee	

Christian Formation for Children

Natalie Fowler, Children's Ministry Coordinator **Present, Purposeful, & Positive**

Our Mission: *To foster an environment that creates and then continues to build up the foundations of active Faith based living.*

Saint James Episcopal Church's Children Ministry is a group of growing young minds that are learning God's lessons through weekly formations. With the goal of growing together, our community- students and teachers- are teaching each other how to be successful citizens, friends, and most importantly Christians. By engaging in age-appropriate open discussions on faith-based ideals and activities that build truehearted foundations, God's word is being understood in a unique way within the children's wing.



Nursery

Our nursery provides a safe and loving space for children six years and under, open Sundays from 9:30AM–12:30 PM. Located on the second floor, it allows parents to attend services with peace of mind. Melissa and Daisy, both Safeguard-certified, lead the nursery with warmth and care—reading Bible stories, encouraging play, and modeling Godly kindness. We are blessed by their dedication.

Sunday School

Our elementary-aged students meet Sundays from 9:30–10:15 AM between services for lessons, discussion, and creative faith-building activities. The program follows a curriculum that connects Bible stories to real-life experiences and decision-making. Each class begins with a short review of the church calendar, followed by scripture lessons and reflection. Teachers and students learn together, creating a joyful and engaging learning environment.

Classes 4th & 5th Grade:

Once a month, older students explore deeper topics that go alongside our monthly lessons. They also practice journaling and using their Bibles, preparing for Youth Group.

Godly Play:

Our younger children, similar to our older kids, get to participate in Godly Play, a hands-on, story-based curriculum that helps them experience and understand the Bible in creative, age-appropriate ways.

Highlights of the Year

Our ministry celebrated faith and fellowship through a variety of events, including:

- Vacation Bible School
- Service Projects (for Mostly Mutts, canned food drives, and more)
- Guardian's Night Out

This year, our Children's Ministry has grown in both numbers and spirit. Together—students, volunteers, and teachers—we continue to build a space where faith is learned, shared, and lived with joy.



Christian Formation for Youth

Riley Dugan, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

As I complete my time here at St. James, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on the growth in faith, and strong sense of community that our children and youth have cultivated. Their faithfulness, compassion, and leadership continue to inspire me, and I look forward with great anticipation to hearing how they will continue to grow in the years ahead.

Our children and youth have built a vibrant, close-knit community grounded in servanthood, faith, and leadership. As we move through this time of transition, I invite you to take a moment to see these amazing young people for who they are, not only the future of the Church, but an essential part of the present Church as well.



We currently have 18 youth on our roster, with about 75% participating consistently in Sunday worship, Sunday School, EYC, and Wednesday night gatherings. This level of engagement is something St. James should be deeply proud of. It speaks to the dedication of our young people and the wonderful support of their parents.

As we concluded our 2024–2025 school year, we celebrated five graduating youth (one of whom began attending regularly during their final month of high school). Each graduate was gifted a personal prayer labyrinth with a guided prayer; a reminder that St. James will always be a spiritual home for them wherever their journeys lead.

Acolyte Ministry

This fall, Dr. Greg Matechak and Wendy Malsby led an in-depth Acolyte training course. Although we did not have new acolytes join this fall, our returning acolytes participated in training sessions from September 7th through October 23rd. These sessions covered the history and meaning of our liturgical traditions, helping our youth serve confidently and reverently at the altar. Our acolytes have grown remarkably in both skill and spirit. I extend a heartfelt thanks to Dr. Matechak for his leadership and mentorship.

Sunday School

At 9:30 a.m. each Sunday, our youth gather in the upstairs classroom with Meg Ramsay and me for Sunday School. Our lessons follow the Year C Gospel Lectionary track, exploring the teachings of Jesus and how they challenge us to grow spiritually, strengthen our faith, and live out the Gospel in daily life. Discussions are lively and thoughtful, connecting Scripture to the real life experiences of our students. With the focus for the children to have good understanding of the lessons during the 10:30 service.

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community)

EYC meets after the 10:30 a.m. service, beginning with lunch in the Parish Hall. Lunch has generously been provided by parent volunteers. We begin each meal with a sung prayer, and it has been wonderful to see members of the parish joining in with our youth. This shared meal is simple but deeply meaningful. Breaking bread together is for laughter, connection, and community building.

Following lunch, we gather in Child Hall upstairs for our EYC program. We begin each session by sharing our “highs and lows” of the past week and “what we’re looking forward to,” giving space for our youth to speak honestly about their week and to listen and support one another. Afterward, we engage in fun and fellowship with games like Bible Pictionary, St. James Jeopardy, and Throw Throw Burrito. We close each EYC meeting with Noonday Prayer or a short prayer if time is running short. This gives us time to pray together before we part ways and see each other Wednesday night.

Our youth also play a vital role in parish life, volunteering for and participating in events such as Trunk-or-Treat, the Christmas Pageant, Vacation Bible School, Family Game Night, and Guardian’s Night Out.

Wednesday Nights

This fall, we reintroduced Wednesday night gatherings from 5:30–6:15 p.m., something that has been missing from St. James since before COVID. These evenings have been a wonderful success and a joyful addition to our parish life, offering our youth another opportunity midweek for connection, reflection, and spiritual growth. During this time, we have read through the Book of Daniel and have held meaningful discussions on humility, exploring what it means to put God and others before ourselves. These lessons have encouraged our youth to see their faith as both personal and communal.

It has been one of the greatest blessings of my life to serve as your Director of Children and Youth Ministries these past 5 years. I am endlessly proud of these young people and the

community that supports them. St. James is truly a place where children and youth are known, loved, and nurtured to grow in Christ and become the best versions of themselves they can be. Thank you for the honor it has been to serve here. I wish nothing but the best for the future of St. James.

Christian Formation for Adults

Centering Prayer

The Centering Prayer Group meets online every Wednesday at 4:00 pm for ninety minutes. We develop our practice of centering (contemplative) prayer as taught by Father Thomas Keating, Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault, and others. Centering prayer supplements other kinds of prayer, inviting us to open ourselves to God's presence and action through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We seek to become detached from our thoughts, thereby coming closer to our true selves made in the image of God and grow closer to God.

Each meeting begins with a brief check-in, followed by a reflective reading from Scripture or other sources to set the stage for a twenty-minute session of silent prayer. We conclude by discussing a book or Scripture passage (sometimes using the method of Lectio Divina). Some of the authors that we have read this past year are Cynthia Bourgeault, Thomas Merton, and James Martin.

We hosted our second retreat this past October with our speaker being Mark Dannenfelser from the Mindfulness Center of Atlanta. We had a wonderful turnout for the event and shared delicious food. Some members from the Daughters of the King chapter assisted us in the retreat. We are already planning to host Carl McColman for our retreat next fall.

Our group averages seven members and we would welcome more. As a community, we support one another through life's challenges and celebrate our shared joys, nurturing a strong spiritual bond. – Billie Shook

St. Anne's Chapter

St. Anne's Chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month, September through May, at 10:00 a.m. in the St. Anne's room behind the office area. Following a business meeting, we enjoy fellowship and programs on a variety of topics which enrich our Christian life.

This year, so far:

- We have learned about the history of bells in churches and the art of change ringing. Cathy Brown had so much to tell us, we have invited her back in February to pick up where she left off.
- We have paid a visit to the Old Zion Baptist Church Museum for a guided tour. Besides being very informative and entertaining, it was wonderful to spend time with the ladies of Zion.
- We enjoyed learning about The Making of the King James Bible in November.

We are looking forward to a presentation from our own Scott Smoot in January on The Bible as Literature. In March, we have the Kuzniaks giving a travelogue featuring churches in and around the Mediterranean based on their several trips to the region. April will find us in the St. James Cemetery to hear some surprising stories about some of the Saints at rest there. (Here is a tease: one is a convicted murderer!). We finish up in May with Mary Nimsgern and friends reminiscing about the Polk Street Players!

St. Anne's project to frame and hang in the hallway gallery portraits or photographs of all our rectors (26 in all) saw two added last year – Rev. J. J. Hunt and Rev. Landon Randolph Mason and will soon see two others – Rev. Dr. George Philetus Hebbard and Rev. James Stuart Hanckel on our wall. We now have 24 accounted for – so only 2 more to go!

Other projects include the planting and maintenance of St. Anne's Courtyard and the updating and decorating of our meeting room. This year we were the beneficiaries of the Murdoch filming. The room was painted; new drapes and blinds were added. We have a new smart TV for playing DVDs and streaming content from the internet and a new plate rack to complete the re-vamp! Come join us and have some fun. We would love to have you.

Education for Ministry (EFM)

A re-vamped curriculum this year has received plaudits from participants in Education for Ministry (EfM). For 50 years, this distance learning program from the School of Theology at Sewanee has integrated Bible, church history, and theology, all applied to reflections on experience and contemporary culture. Participants bond during their years together through worship, study, and learning each other's life stories.

New this year is an expanded use of media and a whole new slate of authors and materials. Also, EfM now offers a fifth year that takes a "wide angle" view of all four years' subjects.

Scott Smoot mentors a class on Zoom early Monday evenings. Sue Hannan and Sharon Menear co-mentor a group in person on Tuesday mornings. Both seminars seek new participants for the 2026-2027 school year. To visit a class, please contact Sue at suehannan46@gmail.com or Scott at his personal email, SmootWS@yahoo.com. - Sue Hannan and Scott Smoot

Other opportunities for Adult Formation

- **Bible Study** on Tuesdays at 12:30p
- **“Express” adult formation** class led by Mother Mariclair for 25 minutes on Wednesday evenings (between evening prayer and adult choir).
- **A Sunday morning study group** meets with Tom Cook in room 205, 9:30-10:15. They embark December 7 on a study of *An Ethic for Christians & Other Aliens in a Strange Land* by William Stringfellow.
- **Daughters of the King**, a community of women committed to study and prayer, usually meet the first Sunday of each month at 12:15 in room 205.

To connect to any of these groups, email communications@stjamesmarietta.com

Hospitality / Fellowship

Men's Group

Fellowship and Intergenerational Relationships. Bible study, Devotional opportunities, and Prayer. Service and collaboration. We develop healthy relationships with other men. Oh, and lots of fun, smiles and laughter, not to mention we regularly break bread together. - Bill Eubanks

Other Opportunities for Hospitality / Fellowship

- The **Book Club** meets on the first Sunday of each month.
- **Coffee Hour** hosts collect finger foods and array tables for fellowship after the 10:30 service. Episcopal Church Women arrange numerous convivial activities during the year, such as painting workshops and the upcoming bake sale and Advent craft activity.
- The **Breakfast Crew** serves up the best breakfast deal in town Sundays from 8:45-9:45
- The **Wednesday night supper** club assists Chef Russell Gibbs in serving parishioners of all ages who come to our programs.
- A **Special Events group** sets tables for receptions that follow concerts, funerals, and special celebrations.

To connect to any of these groups, email communications@stjamesmarietta.com

Outreach & Missions

The Outreach Mission of St. James Episcopal Church is to encourage its members to be both mindful of and responsive to the needs of others, to respect the dignity of every human being, to work actively sharing the love of Christ.

Reach Out Mental Health, serving luncheons with Bingo--2025

Reach Out is part of Outreach and serves monthly lunches to disabled adults in the area. There are about 7 daycare centers that bring our guests to the Parish Hall for a simple lunch, dessert, and playing Bingo---with prizes! An amazing and loyal group of parishioners come together the 3rd Monday of every month to prepare sandwiches, drinks, set the tables, and create the gift table that is overloaded with prizes---which everyone wins! At Christmas the party is for 2 days so that all the groups can enjoy the holidays with a special chicken lunch, as well as receiving a gift from St. James to each person. If interested in joining the fun, just show up and pitch in---even Mother Mariclaire will be seen doing the Hokie-Pokie, helping with Bingo and blessing the food--what a delight!

Supporting Our Troops

This ministry has sent monthly goodie boxes to many, many individuals who serve our country. The boxes are filled with homemade baked goods, snacks, personal care items, and much more. The box recipients share with all the troops in their camp. We currently send 5 boxes each month, and the postage for each box is \$31.00. We would love the participation of more St. James members by sharing the names of deployed service members and contributing goodies for the boxes. We also happily accept postage donations (make checks out to St. James and mark "Troop Support" on the memo line). - Anne Patrick and Annice Matechak

Partnerships, local and global

We work with the Center for Family Resources, The Extension, The Pantry on Church, MUST Ministries, Holy Comforter Friendship Center, Emmaus House, Family Promise of Cobb County, Church of the Common Ground, Knitting for Charity, Wonderful Days Preschool, Episcopal Relief and Development, and Supporting Our Troops. Among ministries we supported this year are ROMH, Circles Cobb, the local branch of the national Circles USA "Building Community to End Poverty."

For the **Women's Extension**, we serve meals on the second Sunday of each month. We also have been able to donate new towels and bath cloths, sturdy coat hangers, clothing, shoes and socks, and new underwear. Many women enter the facility with few personal belongings and meager financial resources.

Again this year the St. James group **Knitting for Charity** has made winter scarves that will be given to the women of the Extension at Christmas. Also, 90 knitted blankets were blessed in the week of Veterans Day and donated to formerly homeless veterans in their new Atlanta home provided by the group Tunnel to Towers.

To volunteer or ask for more information talk to Kay Chester (kqchester@gmail.com or 770-422-3191) or Carolyn Conley (cconley@uab.edu or 205-910-4727)



With support from St. James and Cobb EMC, the Wonderful Days Preschool was able to buy a new bus.

St. James may re-connect with **Family Promise**, a network of churches who take turns once a quarter to give living space and meals to families experiencing homelessness. While typical shelters segregate mothers and children from their fathers and big brothers, Family Promise keeps families together. Let us know if you're interested in bringing this ministry back to St. James.

To connect with any of these ministries, email communications@stjamesmarietta.com

Pastoral Care

Congregational Care, a.k.a. Pastoral Care, involves over 50 lay members of the congregation who provide resources, support, prayers, cards, meals, and home communion to our homebound families and those facing health challenges. Our work includes:

Prayer list: The list of requested prayers is updated weekly and includes those who are ill with new concerns, those who have long-term concerns, those who have died, families of the deceased, and those blessed with thanksgivings. This list is provided on request only.

Calls: Regular contact is maintained with people who have requested prayers and includes bereavement calls. A group of dedicated parish members are assigned people from the prayer list to call at least monthly. Updates are reported to the Congregational Care chair who will then contact clergy if further action is needed. Any other appropriate member or group who may be able to help is also notified.

Cards: A committee of parish members maintain contact with past and present members of the church who are not attending regularly due to a variety of reasons, including health, distance, and transportation. The method of reaching them is through sending notes and cards with the assurance that they are not forgotten.

Flowers: Volunteers deliver the altar flowers to parish members who are homebound, ill, or have had recent surgery, or to local care facilities. By sharing the altar flowers, our St. James community is sharing a part of the church liturgy, and recipients can join the spirit of worship and experience the love of our church through the flowers.

Home visits, communion: Along with St. James Clergy, Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) visit homes, hospitals, and care facilities to provide support, offer prayers, and deliver communion to the ill or homebound, especially when requested.

Meals: On occasion, meals are provided on a short-term basis for those who need help after surgery, on treatment days, or because of family crisis.

Memorials: Notes are written to acknowledge memorial gifts. Both the contributor and recipient families are contacted. Records of these contributions are also kept for church records.

Funerals: Water and coffee are provided in the parlor area for the bereaved during any visitation and prior to the service. Any reception would be the responsibility of the family, friends, or other parish members.

Health ministry team: A newly formed group provides occasional health education, such as blood pressure screening or other preventative health information, and oversees our emergency equipment such as the AED units.

All subcommittees of Congregational Care have been active and have expanded their services this year. It is with joy and love that all the team members reach out to others in our congregation. - *Fredericka Garlinghouse and Cari Edwards, Congregational Care Co-Chairs*

Evangelism & Stewardship

Communications 2024

Telling parishioners and visitors what we've done and what we're planning is the bulk of the communications director's job. Such information comes out in announcements in the bulletin, features in the weekly newsletter *The Bells*, on Facebook, and in slides on the hall screens.

But cute pictures, in-jokes, and shared memories of meaningful occasions help members to bond. These also appeal to visitors, conveying a sense of the creative energy, serious devotion, and mutual affection of our members.

In 2025, I've learned by experimentation how to utilize features of the movie software to make our weekly newsreels, with still more to learn. I also have a new desktop computer that's faster and more versatile than the old one.

Thanks to volunteers Eileen Hilburn and Bill Eubanks, the church's website continues to become a more hospitable place for the casual visitor and, for members, a more user-friendly interface with the REALM platform.

Thanks to many parishioners who send photos, stories, and announcements. If you have good news to share about your experiences at St. James, please send it to Scott Smoot, communications@stjamesmarietta.com



Library Committee

Beginning with clearing out and finding new homes for various unrelated items left in the library, the Library Committee – Glenda Hogg, Eleanor Johnson, Kristin Picken, and Nancy Eubanks – has been busy!

A deep cull of shelved books as well as the massive stacks of donated books is still underway. Eleanor Johnson is working on books still useful, but in need of repair. As we have worked, Glenda Hogg has pulled books of a significance to our church archives, which need to be carefully preserved. Books deemed too out of date or damaged beyond repair were recycled by Kristin Picken and Bill and Nancy Eubanks. Other culled books were offered to parishioners on a display table in the Parish Hall.

Rather than utilizing a card catalog, we have engaged the resources, Tiny Cat and Library Thing, as St. James' online catalog and means for checking out books. Using our donated computer, the

books will be scanned and matched with inventory bar codes which will bring our library up to 21st century standards. That work will begin in November, when the final sorting is complete.

When our online catalog is up and running, a short video as well as written instructions will be available to parishioners to help facilitate the use of our exciting new system!

We are grateful for the budget funding allowing us to purchase these new resources and to acquire new volumes on topics of interest to St. James parishioners. Please let any Library Committee member know if you have topics, authors, or specific books you'd like to see in our library.

With the help of Leigh and Tom Cook, Cari Edwards, Eleanor Johnson, and Betty Haverly, our library décor has been freshened up as well. The lovely wood chairs have returned, newly reworked and reupholstered, artwork has been reframed, and a matching pillow has been added to help make the room warm and welcoming.

Remember, while we continue to work, books can still be checked out! And follow The Bells each week for updates on our progress in the library.

Thank you for your patience as we work to help make the library more relevant and user friendly - the best it can be!

Newcomers

The Newcomers Committee continued its mission of extending a warm and thoughtful welcome to guests and visitors of St. James throughout the year.

Our primary method of outreach remains the distribution of welcoming kits, which include a bag of un-popped microwave popcorn with a note reading, "Thanks for popping IN," along with small gifts, a personalized note, and a coupon for Sunday breakfast. Each kit also provides a concise summary of church activities, worship service times, and Sunday School offerings to help newcomers stay informed and engaged.



During the past year, the committee distributed over 40 visitor kits to guests of St. James. Visitors are also encouraged to sign the guest book, providing their contact information so that a member of the committee may follow up with a welcoming email.

Since January, the committee has sent approximately 35 follow-up emails to new visitors. Based on recurring attendance, we estimate that 20–25% of visitors have returned for subsequent services or events.

We are also pleased to report an estimated 20+ new members and families that have joined the St. James community this year or shown continued interest.

Additionally, the committee hosted a Newcomers Event in mid-October for new parishioners. The event featured a guided and interactive tour of the church, including a presentation on its history and a scavenger hunt, followed by snacks and refreshments. The event was well attended, and the committee plans to host another in Spring 2026.

The Newcomers Committee remains committed to fostering a welcoming environment for all who enter our doors and to helping each visitor find a sense of belonging within the life and ministry of St. James.

Opportunities for Service in Evangelism and Stewardship

Parishioners work with **Archives**. Several serve answering phones and opening doors as **Front Office Volunteers**. We have a very active group involved in **Gardening and Landscaping**. The **Safety Committee** keeps eyes open for risks all year long.

The Treasurer's Report below will mention other important committees who oversee our budget and properties.

Financial Report and Budget

Treasurer's Report – Peter Goodwin

Overview

In many ways, including financially, this has been an extraordinary year for St. James. Due to the immense generosity of a former parishioner, Austin Lane Brown, St. James received a substantial financial gift from his estate (\$839k). For the time being, until the Rector and Vestry decide after careful deliberation how these funds will be best utilized, these funds reside in an interest-bearing money market account, which has increased our cash balances to atypical levels. Compared with this time last year, balances in our cash accounts have increased by 190%. Over the same period, our endowment funds have increased by a somewhat more modest, but still impressive, 11%. St. James continues to carry essentially no debt.

Operating revenues, on the other hand, were essentially flat, increasing by 1%, while operating expenses have increased by 8%. Through September 30th of this year, St. James has an operating deficit of <\$22k>. If we stay on budget for the remainder of 2025, we project an operating deficit of <\$42k> for the calendar year. This is a conservative projection given that contributions tend to increase toward the end of the year.

The draft operating budget for 2026, which remains work in progress, shows a deficit for the calendar year of <\$29k>. To date, pledged giving for 2026 is up 19% compared with the *total* pledged for 2025. An increase in pledged giving as a percentage of total (unrestricted) giving facilitates the formulation of more accurate operating budgets.

Budgets, being projections based on multiple assumptions, often turn out to be inaccurate – for 2024, as an example, the budget projected an operating deficit of <\$52k> when the actual result was a +\$32k surplus. Nevertheless, the ideal is always to maintain a balanced budget, given that substantial operating deficits year after year will eventually become unsustainable.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to the St. James Finance Team, which is broadly representative of the Parish and includes the Finance Manager (**Lindsey Trost**), the Rector (**Mother Mariclaire Partee Carlsen**), the Sr. Warden (**Bill Eubanks**), Vestry members (**Tom Jagusch and Winifred Nweke**), non-Vestry parishioners (**Chris Brown, Sue Hannan, Harry Hargrove, and David Sanders**), and those managing weekly deposits (**Lanie Baxter, Sue Hannan, Harry Hargrove, and Alice Kuzniak**). The Finance Team has continued the process begun at the start of the transition period in January 2023 to strengthen the transparency, security, efficiency, and internal controls regarding everything St. James does from a financial standpoint.

Future Challenges

Future financial challenges fall into three broad categories: (1) upward cost pressures, (2) stewardship, and (3) the percentage of pledged giving as a percentage of total (unrestricted) giving.

Increasing costs are not, of course, unique to St. James, but they will render it increasingly difficult to balance the operating budget. Such costs include the Diocesan assessment, which increases as operating revenues increase, personnel costs such as costs associated with hiring a second, full-time priest, healthcare costs, costs of maintaining, repairing, and insuring aging physical facilities, and costs associated with starting, restarting, and expanding various ministries. Moreover, the costs of needed capital outlays, such as HVAC and roof replacements, organ refurbishment, and pew replacement will likely continue to increase at least for the foreseeable future.

Although stewardship is a continuing challenge for any church, the unusually large gift from the Austin L. Brown Estate shines an especially bright light on how best to steward the tremendous financial resource that has been entrusted to St. James. The absence of any pressing financial crisis affords the Rector and Vestry some breathing room to explore fully and evaluate carefully the various options.

The long-term trend among many churches has been a shift away from pledged giving to non-pledged giving. While this trend has held true for St. James over recent years, there has been a dramatic reversal for 2026 (as previously noted). However, we will not be able to assess the full impact of this reversal for another year or so. By then, we will have more information to answer such questions as: Did increased pledged giving correspond to reduced non-pledged giving? Did an increase in pledged giving correspond to a higher percentage of unfulfilled pledges vs. total pledges? Will the trend of increased pledged giving continue for 2027?

Summary of Financial Information

A. MONEY RECEIVED (through Sep. 30th)

SOURCE	\$ - rounded to nearest \$1,000
Contributions (General Opex)	567,000
Contributions (Restricted)	784,000*
Other Income	53,000
Walker & Withers Distributions	3,000
Total	1,407,000

* Includes \$600,000 initial payment from the Austin L. Brown Estate.
Does not include \$239,000 final payment received in late October 2025.

B. MONEY SPENT (through Sep. 30th)

PURPOSE	\$ - rounded to nearest \$1,000
Expenses (General Opex)	642,000
Expenditures (Restricted)	206,000
Total	848,000

C. OTHER KEY FACTS (as of Oct. 31st)

Property Sale, Exchange, & Mortgage Transactions	None
Secured Debt	None
Unsecured Debt (Excluding Credit Card)	None
Funds Held in Trust	None
Cash	1,269,000 (\$ - rounded to nearest \$1,000)
Endowment Funds Managed by the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF)	794,000 (\$ - rounded to nearest \$1,000)

D. DRAFT OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2026

REVENUES	2026 \$	2025* \$	Notes
Pledges	700,000	600,000	2026: 144 / \$678k (\$4.7k avg.); 2025: 139 / \$570k (\$4.1k avg.).
Plate Receipts	17,000	15,000	
Non-Pledge Offerings	250,000	300,000	Recent increases in pledges have reversed the trend toward non-pledged giving.
Other Income	62,000	55,080	Facilities use fees, Wash. Ave. lease (\$27k in 2026), Polk parking fees.
Parish Org. Income	28,450	10,000	Sunday breakfast. 2026 adds Wed, night suppers.
Total Revenues	1,057,450	980,080	

*** 2025 Third Amended Operating Budget.**

EXPENSES	2026 \$	2025 \$	Notes
Personnel	662,848	571,044	Clergy & lay staff pay & benefits.
Christian Formation	10,300	13,025	Adult & children's education, VBS, children's chapel, youth ministry.
Administration	71,950	59,300	Office expenses, insurance, financial expenses.
Building & Grounds	45,000	43,500	Repairs, maintenance, pest control, inspections, supplies, upgrades, etc.
Diocesan Support	79,901	80,090	Amount submitted by Diocese & approved by Vestry.
Fellowship	31,150	14,000	Sunday breakfast, Wednesday night suppers, Parish dinners/receptions.
Worship	6,094	4,925	Altar Guild, Vergers, Acolytes, Ushers, LEMs, Liturgy.
Music Ministries	38,855	34,260	Supplies, instruments, musicians, continuing education.
Pastoral Care	1,450	1,100	Caring for those in trouble, hardship, or other need.
General Ministries	42,000	39,000	Newcomers, evangelism, marketing, outreach, Diocesan Council, Vestry.
Utilities	96,425	97,100	Gas, electric, water, communications, trash disposal, alarms.
Total Expenses	1,085,973	957,344	
Net Total	<28,523>	22,736	

Nominees for Vestry

Cari Edwards *nominated by Nancy Eubanks*

My involvement at St. James has included several aspects of our church life, including *operations* (counting, Congregational Care ministries, maintaining the prayer list and calling those on it, Flower Guild, and safety committee), *worship* (Altar Guild, Lector, and a sometimes-usher on Christmas morning), *fellowship* (breakfast, coffees, formation classes, low-country boil, etc.), and *ministries* (thrift shop, Children's Education classes and Vacation Bible School, flower delivery, Family Promise, Reach Out Mental Health when extra help was needed, and participation in other projects, especially annual events). I have also been involved, sometimes as lead, with coffee hour, receptions and funerals, ECW, St. Anne's Chapter, Mystery Dinner, Daughters of the King; I have also been involved, sometimes as lead, with coffee hour, receptions and funerals, ECW, St. Anne's Chapter, Mystery Dinner, Daughters of the King; I continue as a Youth Prayer Partner. I have been a Wonderful Days board representative, researched a church safety plan and pews, and was an *attempted* bell ringer. In other words, I consider myself a worker bee. It would be an honor to serve St. James as a vestry member, and my duty would be fulfilled with responsibility and dedication. Thank your for your consideration.



Harry Hargrove *nominated by Bill Eubanks*

A native Alabamian, born in Mobile 1944, Harry has been married to Joan Arnold Hargrove for 56 amazing years. Currently they reside in Marietta at Sterling Estates senior living community. Daughter Elizabeth Lowman and her family reside nearby in Acworth. He earned a BA from the University of Memphis. He worked in television broadcasting/ production (public and commercial). He was 26 years in the U.S.Navy, with service in Vietnam. He retired as a Captain. He provided tactical analysis and support for the U.S. Navy (Atlantic Analysis Corp., TRW), and Government Relations/Customer Support for The Boeing Co., Washington DC.



Harry is a lifelong Episcopalian. At Trinity Church, Clanton, AL, he served as member of the Vestry, the Treasurer, a member of the interim and rector search committees, and Diocesan Convention delegate. At Church of The Holy Comforter, Vienna, VA, he was a member of the Vestry, delegate to Diocesan Council, and diocesan regional representative. For the Diocese of Alabama, he was Treasurer, Chair of Finance Department, Chair of Trust Fund Trustees, and member of Diocesan Council. At St. James, he continues to serve as a member of the Finance/Budget Committee and counter. He is active in the men's group and the Sterling Estates Ministry.

Garry Osborne *nominated by Bill Eubanks*

With a BA from Berry College and MEd from the State University of West Georgia, Garry has had a career in marketing and management, including being Vice President of Sales & Marketing. He has owned a small business. He has also been an educator in the Cobby County Schools, teaching AP Economics, IB Economics, and AP American Government. He has served as HOA President for a 735 home community and COA President for a 32 home, 55+ community. He has worked with a Board of Directors, developing budgets and communicating with stakeholders.



He has attended St. James and contributed for over 40 years, though he has only recently been confirmed. He was Chairman of the St. James Landscape Committee (2024-2025), developing and managing the St. James Landscape refreshment projects on Polk Street, at the sign on the corner of Polk and Marietta Parkway, and at the west side entrance. “I am a jack of all trades, but master of none.”

Jeff Picken *nominated by Scott Smoot*

My wife Kristin and I have been members of St. James for over 16 years. We joined just before our daughter Cora was born.

Shortly after joining, we took the Episcopal 101 class. As an avid runner, I soon became involved with the Wonderful Days of Winter 5K and through that, joined the WDP board. I eventually went on to become the Board Chairperson.

After finishing my tenure with the WDP Board and Involvement with the school, I joined the vestry, serving a two year term, calendar years 2023 & 2024.

During my time on vestry, we were in the midst of our search for the new rector and trying to define who we are as a church.



I am devoted to the success and growth of the church and its mission. I want to support the new Rector and her vision for the future, as well as the Vestry and their guidance.

Outside of church, I am the CEO of my family’s business in Kennesaw GA. We manufacture and market air fresheners that we sell to retailers.