

The BELLS of St. JAMES

news, inspiration,
and opportunities
for ministry

Message from Mother Mariclair Heart

Ezekiel 11:19-20

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

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

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

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

Thursday

June 5, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS



June 9 all week

Monday-Friday
Vacation Bible School
9a-noon

Registration has closed.
Questions? Contact

youth@stjamesmarietta.com



June 11 Wednesday



Baptism warmed our hearts last Sunday.

In our recent study of the Book of Jonah, we talked a lot about God's justice and mercy and how it compared to our own. This is what Jonah was reacting against when he had his epic sulk on the hillside above Nineveh, angry because God didn't destroy the city as Jonah had prophesied. In that instance God sent a castor bean plant to grow over Jonah, providing him with shade from the harsh sun, then sent a worm the next day to attack the roots of the plant, so that it wilted and died. The loss of the shade caused another outburst from Jonah, leaving God to explain that the anger and loss Jonah felt in that moment over the plant should help him understand why God was unwilling to destroy the inhabitants of Nineveh -- "more than a hundred twenty thousand people, and also many animals."

We don't know if this lesson in empathy made any difference to Jonah, as the book ends there, but I like to think that in that moment his eyes were opened to the worth of those he would have seen destroyed, and his stone heart was broken open, replaced with a heart of flesh.

Dinner and Game Night
for our Church Family
Bring your own games

6 - 8p

+

Holy Eucharist
for the Feast of St.
Barnabas

6:30p

*All participants are
encouraged to attend the
service and then return to
the parish hall for games*

June 15 Sunday

Rite I spoken

8a

+

breakfast

8:45

+

lectionary Bible Study
room 206

9:30

+

Rite II with organ and
choir

10:30

+

Holy Eucharist
at Sterling Estates

3pm

*volunteers appreciated.
Arrive 30 minutes early.*

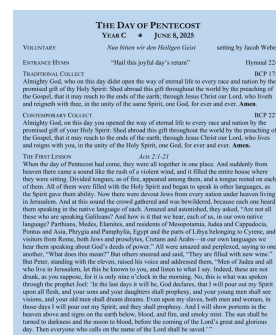
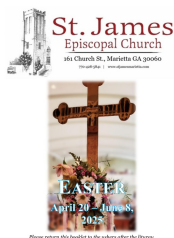
June 16 Monday

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

10a

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

Livestream HQ - Links & Booklets for Worship at Home



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

Easter Season Worship

live or archived.

[Link
to livestream
on YouTube](#)

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](#)



Good News for *Bells* fans!

Your Communications Coordinator has heard from several readers who have shared *The Bells* with friends and family. That makes him smile (*photo at left*).

Sharing *The Bells* is one way to fulfill what Mother Mariclaire preached about last week, the "high calling for each of us" to let the world see the difference that Christ makes in our lives together.

Tech Tips

TIP 1: Anything at the top of our email that asks if you want to *Show blocked content?* or *Trust sender?* indicates that you're not getting all the pictures! Similarly, something like *See full email* at the bottom means that you're not getting announcements and fun features. Click on those messages to get the whole package!

TIP 2: Here's an easy way to share an issue of *The Bells*: Use the link at the bottom of your issue to download the print version (or "PDF"). You can then attach that document to an email, pictures and all.

Invitation to Music Saturday Morning

St. James has generously hosted joint rehearsals for the Uzee Brown Society of Choraliers and the Georgia Symphony Orchestra Chorus in preparation for a combined concert tour of the United Kingdom and Ireland later this month. You are warmly invited to "eavesdrop" on our final rehearsal this Saturday (June 7) at 10:00 in the Nave. Since the seventy singers will be seated in the pews, please take a seat in the Chancel near the organ. We deeply appreciate St. James and would be delighted to share our music with you.

With appreciation,
Dr. Bryan Black
Dr. Uzee Brown, Jr.



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

Children and Youth News



Riley, Natalie, and Mother Mariclair invite the whole church family to our first Games Night, June 11. It begins with pizza at 6. Holy Eucharist follows at 6:30 for those who wish to attend (everyone, we hope!). Then it's just games. Bring your own to share!

Please help us to order the pizza by registering at [Sign Up Genius](#) and let us know in the "comment" section about any **food allergies**

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

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

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

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



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

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](#).

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/>

Education for Ministry moving Forward

Registration has begun for next year's Education for Ministry (EfM), even as participants from St. James celebrated completion of 2024-2025. The group mentored by Sue Hannan and Sharon Menear had lunch at 7 Tequila, where the group mentored on line by Scott Smoot and Susan Rouse had dinner a few hours later.

Tuesday's dinner was the first time for all of the online group to meet face-to-face. *In the picture at left*, Front, L-R: Mentors Scott and Susan; Jessica and Joyce, both members of St. Theresa. Back, L-R: Donfred, also of St. Theresa, and St. James parishioners Lanie and Daniel.

EfM participants study the Old Testament, New Testament, church history, and theology & ethics. Until now, they all spent one full year on each topic. That four-year program remains, now called "EfM Classic."

A new option allows a "wide angle" view of the program in a single year. Newcomers to the program and graduates are encouraged



to try that new Wide Angle option.

The worship, fellowship, and reflection will continue, as essential to the program as book study.

We had some good news about a graduate of our St. James EfM program, Erica Andersen. Just this past month she has become a curate at St. Andrews in McKinney TX. Many of you will remember her from years when she attended St. James with her husband, two sons and little daughter. In the photos below, we see her today and, in 2019, her fourth year of EfM, when she led a reflection with the class. Back then, she had just begun to discern a call to priesthood.



Erica recorded her tribute to EfM in a promotional video from 2020. That short video and several more can be found online at our [St. James EfM class visitors' center](#). You'll see many faces familiar to you, including **Nuno, Sharon, Mariel, Billie, Peter, Sue, Susan, and Katey.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the altar were given by **Jeffrey Robinson** to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Troy and Mary Ellen Williams** on the 83rd anniversary of their wedding June 8, 1941.

Left: flowers from the altar June 1.



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

Children are collecting canned food for local food banks . Vacation Bible School has a strong service component. During VBS June 9-13, our children will be collecting canned food. Help them by leaving your donations in the shopping cart by the parish hall.

More new name badges are ready for **Marcia and Steve McLean, Steve Windham, Bill and Nancy Eubanks, Matilda and Elise Reynolds, and Clare Nesmith**. We make these in batches of eight, because the expensive label paper is arranged with eight names per page. Now you know!

Badges are in a basket on the communications table by the parish hall, waiting to be picked up by **Kathleen Burgess, Rebecca Gayle, and Lloyd and Nancy Hill**.

New! Schedule time with the Rector at <https://calendly.com/rector-stjamesmarietta> The website is easy to use. Open dates are highlighted on a calendar. Choose a day, then opt for a "check in" of 15 minutes, "chat" of 30, or a full coffee hour. This link will show in the "contact us" portion of *The Bells* from now on.

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, 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](#).

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-1pm*

Mother Mariclaire is rector@stjamesmarietta.com

- Emergency phone or text: 678.369.1775
- Meet with Rector. Sign up at <https://calendly.com/rector-stjamesmarietta> for a 15m check-in, a 30m chat, or a coffee hour

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

Good news for St. James can sometimes be a challenge for the communications director.

For example, the **ushers** told me they ran out of bulletins Sunday. 170 used to be enough, but we were short 60! That's even though I printed 12 of the new **LARGE PRINT** bulletins.

Two hymns during communion used to be enough, but **Dr. Bryan Black** has prepared the **choir** for three in recent weeks, requiring the Communications Director to squeeze another line into the bulletin. Even so, Bryan had to improvise an interlude. I used to print out **name tags** about once every couple of months, always in batches of eight. I've done two batches in three weeks. (Y'all come get yours on the communications table by the parish hall!)

Sue Hannan and **Bill Eubanks** have been handing me names and addresses to add to our *Bells* subscription list. I've been pleased to see a gradual rise in the percentage of recipients who actually open the newsletter. It's at 59%. I remember crossing the threshold to 50%.

There were a lot of photos to download of St. James people who attended the joint celebration of **Ascension** with St. Benedict and St. Catherine. **Mother Mariclaire** reflected, "It wasn't a competition, but" She paused. "We *were* well-represented." I hope you enjoyed seeing all the photos up on our hall monitor for last Sunday.

Besides all this, **Riley and Natalie** have 31 kids (21 families) signed up for **Vacation Bible School** next week. We're already planning for the **Ministry Fair August 3** -- with this "heads up" to **leaders of groups** who will want to prepare inviting displays. We got national recognition with the **North American Guild of Change Ringers** in their latest newsmagazine *The Clapper*, where our own **Mary Platt** submitted a report on membership that included our own **Aidan Fortenberry**. **Sharon Menear** reported that the **healing service** on Wednesday was well-attended and beautiful.

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



Message from Mother Mariclaire
On p. 833 in your Prayer Book...

From Prayers and Thanksgivings in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, p 833

63. *In the Evening*
O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

The Prayers and Thanksgivings section in the back of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer is easy to overlook, but it is a rich resource for just about any circumstance. It contains collections of prayers narrowing in from the world all the way to family and personal life, along with a section of thanksgivings that is equally comprehensive.

Need a message for a birthday card? Choose from 50 or 51. A blessing before a family meal? 45 or 70.

One I pray often is 59, *A Prayer for Quiet Confidence*, which is perfect for everything from calm centering before a difficult conversation to the waiting room before surgery.

Thursday

May 29, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY
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

June 1 Sunday
Regular schedule

+
Training for Vacation Bible
School volunteers
noon

+
Daughters of the King
(DOK) room 206
12:15p

June 3 Tuesday
St. Anne's Chapter
end of year luncheon

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



St. James

Episcopal Church

161 Church St., Marietta GA 30060

770-428-5841 | www.stjamesmarietta.com



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