

The BELLS of St. JAMES

news, inspiration,
and opportunities
for ministry

Message from the Rector Come to the Parish Meeting

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.

Editor's note: This is the opening of Mother Mariclaire's first annual report. To find out how we'll address these priorities, you'll need to read the full report.

[Use this link to download the annual report](#)

Thursday

November 13, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 16
This Sunday

Services 8a (I) & 10:30 (II)

+

Nursery opens early
9:00a

+

Parish Meeting
between services
9:15a

*Adult formation will not
meet; children meet in the
library; youth meet Riley
upstairs*

+

Sterling Estates
Holy Eucharist
3p

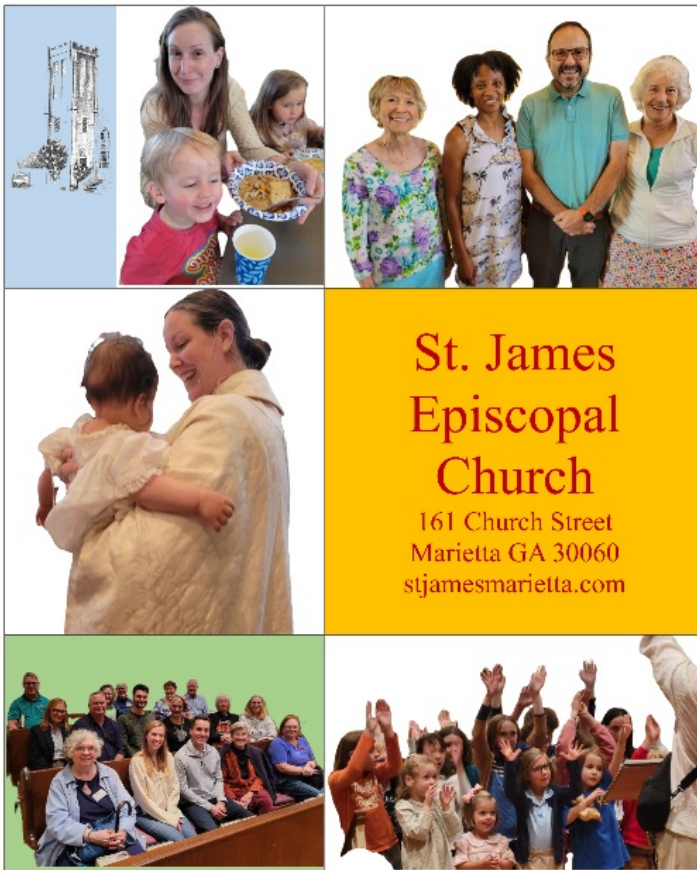


Groceries for neighbors in need

Thanks for Giving
Collections Sundays Nov. 2, 9 & 16



*This Sunday is our last
collection day before we
distribute meals for*



St. James Episcopal Church

161 Church Street
Marietta GA 30060
stjamesmarietta.com

Annual Parish Report

November 16, 2025

[Thanksgiving. Open flyer with list of needs](#)

November 17, Monday
Reach Out Mental Health
lunch and entertainment
for adults with special
needs

11a

Volunteers welcome 1-2
hours early

+

Flower Guild

2-4p

details below in
Announcements

November 18, Tuesday
Volunteers help to box and
bag our groceries

9a - noon

+

Flower Guild prepares for
the Bishop's visit

9a - noon

plus Wednesday,
if necessary, same times

**November 19,
Wednesday**

Bishop Wright joins us to
celebrate Mother
Mariclaire's new ministry at
St. James

6p

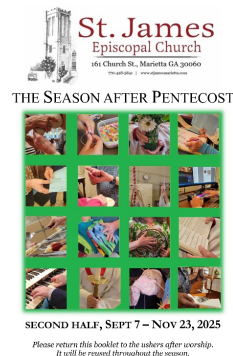
*This supersedes the usual
dinner and programs for
Wednesday the 19th.*

Livestream HQ - Links & Booklets for Worship at Home



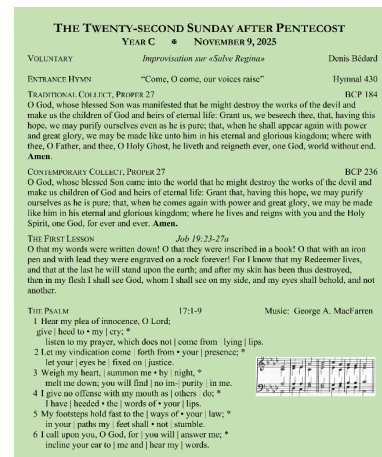
10:30 Service On Line
Click on "live" to see a service
live or archived.

[Link
to livestream
on YouTube](#)



**Worship Booklet
for the Season**
contains prayers, service
music, and responses that we
will use until Advent.

[Download
Worship Booklet](#)



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



Can't see photos in *The Bells*? You never get the blue-shaded "Pulse of the Parish" at the end of this newsletter? You can tell your email service to show blocked or dropped content. Need help? Email communications@stjamesmarietta.com

Children & Youth News

Acolytes scheduled for Nov 16 : Children of **Joni White**.

Guardians Night Out #2 is coming up on Saturday, November 22, 6:30p-9:00p. There's worship for everyone, then the adults slip off to the Square while kids are entertained. Nursery provided! [RSVP here](#)

Pageant! It's that wonderful time of year again—time to get ready for Advent! Our Children's Christmas Pageant is coming up on December 24th, 2024, at the 4 p.m. service. This fun and joyful tradition shares the story of Jesus' birth and lets our amazing church kids shine!

Attached is a google form for the sign up and more information regarding practices. If you have any questions, please reach out! Remember not all practices are required but encouraged. [Google Form](#).



Youth Winter Camp

When: Friday, Jan 2 - Sunday, Jan 4

Where: Camp Mikell, Toccoa

Who: All students (grades 6-12)

Cost: \$150 (scholarships available!)

Sign up by Dec 14 [here](#)

Riley writes: This retreat is for both middle and high school students, although we split everyone into specific age groups for activities and small group time. It's a fun weekend in January that lets kids experience camp in the cool months before the summer. It's also the event where we try to stump Bishop Wright in our "Ask the Bishop" segment before Saturday evening worship! Winter Camp is planned and hosted by our Diocesan Youth Commission, a leadership team of high school students in charge of diocesan youth events during the school year.

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/>

Thanks for Giving: Two Sundays down, one to go!





[Download the shopping list, located on the back of the flier.](#)

Diocesan Council Last Week



Mother Mariclair took these pictures last week at the Cathedral. She thanks these parishioners who gave up many hours of their weekend to represent St. James at this event. L-R Tom Jagusch, Sue Hannan, Sally Karkula, and Winnifred Nweke.

How we Care for each other

From the earliest days of the Church, members have made visits and sent aid to churches in need. This past week, *The Bells* received messages from parishioners engaged in such important

work.

Home visits.

Sol Putzel sent this photo of a visit to Sue McConnell by members of our Lay Eucharistic Visitors. They bring worship and fellowship to members who have been unable to join us in person.



In this recent photo of Lay Eucharistic Visitors, standing from left to right, are Chance (Sue's son), Pete Goodwin, Sara (Sue's daughter), and Karen (Jo's daughter). Sitting from left To Right: Angela (Chance's wife), Jo Ludwig (long time St. James parishioner), Sue McConnell, and Sol.

St. James & Jamaica, a family connection

Member Angela Bent sent this note:

I spoke with Michelle Morris during the coffee hour after the service, this past Sunday and am now aware that some discussions have already begun with regards to hurricane Melissa which has heavily impacted the people of Jamaica, the hardest hit being the parish of St Elizabeth.

My husband is from this parish. Our loved ones live and farm there supplying produce to the hotels in Kingston, Montego Bay and to groceries stores. A strong people with a fragile infrastructure in some parts have experienced the worse hurricane the island has ever encountered.

Where we are in contact with Episcopal church leaders of Jamaica, especially in and around the parish of St Elizabeth, I would like to offer my support to help with the organization of any effort we might pursue to help our fellow human beings in the aftermath of this natural disaster.

We give through Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). [Link here.](#)

Thinking of Angela, Mother Mariclair found this fitting prayer:

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to all as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope and peace with whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided. For your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you. — Adapted from a New Zealand Prayer Book, page 765



Photos from a posting on Facebook by Rita Ann Brown-Griffith

Parish Prayer List

This week, Cari Edwards sent this special note with the parish prayer list:

It has been a busy few weeks for Congregational Care and the prayer list, but busy does not mean all dire and bad news. Yes, we have lost loved ones dear to us, and we can hold onto each cherished memory of their life. And yet, this week there have also been many shining moments of God's grace . There have been successful surgeries, challenges met, obstacles overcome, good news, and many answered prayers. What a ride!

I have recently received so much appreciation and thanks for your continued prayers lifting up each person on our list. Way to go, guys! Keep up the good work!

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



The collect for Sunday points up a theme of how God is revealed in Scripture. The sequence hymn #632 is addressed to "the Word Incarnate" whose glory radiates "from scripture's page... a lantern to our footsteps" from "age to age."

During communion, there will be a hymn that describes every movement we make at the altar: "Now the silence, now the peace, now the empty

hands uplifted..." leading to our rising to our feet and going out into the world, "heart forgiven leaping" (#333).

For the first time in recent memory -- around 25 years -- children will join the adult choir for the anthem. They will lead the congregation in the refrain for The First Song of Isaiah. Jack Noble White's setting of Isaiah 12 was composed in 1975 for a hundred voice youth choir gathered from across the country in Mobile, Alabama. White found himself inspired by "water gently lapping against the pier" one evening and wrote the simple song that has now remained in print for decades. The congregation is urged to join in!

The opening voluntary, "Blest Be The Tie That Binds," was chosen for the day St. James meets as a parish to celebrate what God has done and give thanks for the beloved community that serves the world as Christ's hands and feet.

The closing voluntary is a lively capriccio by Froberger (1616-67), a predecessor of J.S. Bach whose dramatic style of writing contrasts contrapuntal sections with fantasia-like responses.

Each week, The Bells talks with Music Director Dr. Bryan Black about links between music for the 10:30 service and the liturgy. Email The Bells with your questions and comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers on the altar were given to the glory of God by **Nancy and Bill Eubanks** in memory of **Maxine Burnette Stamey** and in celebration of **Will Eubanks, PhD**

Photo: flowers on the altar November 9.

The flower guild would like your help to flower and green the church:

- Gathering yard greens and prepping flowers on **Monday Nov 17** 2-4pm (anise, camellia sesanqua, and tea olive) in the circle lot
- Flower arranging workdays for Mother Mariclaire's Installation on **Tuesday Nov 18 & Wednesday Nov 19** 9am-12
- Greening the church in preparation for Advent on **Saturday Nov 29**

No experience necessary!

Earring found! Email communications@stjamesmarietta.com to arrange for its return.

Coffee Hour to be Wonderful: Our church houses and supports Wonderful Days Preschool, serving children of local families in need since it began at St. James over 50



years ago. Join Dorsie Kuni, John Schafer, Nuno Nuñez, Doug Payne, and other parishioners who serve the school for coffee hour following the 10:30 service to learn more about how you can support our ministry, Wonderful Days Preschool! *Photo: Wonderful Halloween last month.*

WARNING: More "phishy" emails are coming every week. Some of the latest emails include a photo of Mother Mariclaire, asking the receiver to respond about "a personal matter." But the message is vague and unprofessional. Besides, the return address gives it away: it ends, not with @stjamesmarietta.com, but something bogus like @faithfuture.com

We also had numerous grammatical errors in an email ostensibly from our distinguished retired English professor Dr. Laura Dabundo asking for help with a broken leg. Don't be fooled!

REMINDERS

Could Family Promise be YOUR ministry? Homeless shelters separate older boys and adult men from women and children; we, in partnership with a dozen other churches, have, in the past, helped to keep families together. If you are interested in helping to revive our Family Promise ministry, please complete the linked survey.

[Fill the Family Promise survey here](#)

Jane Austen is Back! It's her 250th anniversary. Seats are filling fast for a talk by our own Austen expert **Laura Dabundo** at the Cobb County Public Library. It's time to reserve your seat now for the event on December 18, 1:00-2:30p. [Find out more and make your reservation here](#), or email Henny Holbrook at henny.holbrook@cobbcounty.gov

Food Pantry next door! Our next-door neighbors have a thriving program to stock empty pantries year-round. Several of our members help. Read more at the website of First Presbyterian Pantry on Church <https://fpcmarietta.org/pantry/>

Bible Study Tuesdays 12:30pm. Come to the Conference Room, 127.

Free books! Browse the Library's table in the Parish Hall from which you may choose as many books as you'd like to take home.

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



Parking passes for St. James. During scheduled church events, Cornerstone doesn't charge for vehicles in our Polk Street Lot. Other times, we do need a parking tag to hang in our autos.

Send your name, your vehicle's make, model, **COLOR** and license plate number to Lucia Bird luciabird@gmail.com or 770.402.0024.

If your vehicle has changed since you got your hang tag, you will need a replacement, so give Lucia the information on the old hang tag, too.

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

Contact Us

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

Mother Mariclair is rector@stjamesmarietta.com

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

Riley Dugan is youth@stjamesmarietta.com

Natalie Fowler is children@stjamesmarietta.com

Dr. Bryan Black is music@stjamesmarietta.com

Scott Smoot is communications@stjamesmarietta.com

Phone 770-428-5841.

Pulse of the Parish

from Scott Smoot, Communications Director

Choral scholar **Nathaniel Davila** presented a recital Sunday night. In Scott Hall of KSU's Bailey Arts Center, we heard live performances of several chamber works by Nathaniel. The theme of the recital was a question, "How do you express character in music?" In a three-movement work for piano, cello, and bassoon, Nathaniel played with the notion that time changes character while character also changes our perception of time.

We also viewed a short film *Distance* for which Nathaniel composed the score. The story is about a relationship when the partners are separated for a summer. The director used split screens to show the action, so Nathaniel created parallel themes. Like parallel lanes of a north-south highway, the characters' themes moved in opposite directions: not a good sign for their relationship!

Another piece featured a choir singing vocalese in close harmony over, and sometimes against, a tonal background created by instruments.



At the conclusion, Nathaniel thanked **Dr. Black**. "I have learned so much from **St. James**," he said. In the photo, he's pictured at the piano, surrounded by members of the

choir.

Personal note: Since last week, when my mother **Frances Smoot** died in her sleep the day after her 91st birthday, I've heard from many St. James friends who have sent their prayers, emails, and cards. I've even had air - hugs from people who know I'm not a natural hugger. Thank you! With **Mother Mariclaire**, my brother, sister, and I are planning a memorial service for the morning of January 17.

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

[Contact Us](#) [Livestream](#) [Bulletin](#) [Giving](#) [Social Media](#)



*news, inspiration,
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Message from the Rector
Can we top that?

Dear Ones,

What glorious celebrations we had last weekend as we marked our observances of the Feasts of All Saints and of All Souls! The long tables outside the crowded parish hall laden with Low Country Boil delicacies, the booming "We will!" that resonated from the congregation during the baptisms at our 10:30 service, the packed pews in our Lawrence Chapel as the bagpiper thrummed outside along with the rain for our 4PM All Souls Vigil service - these are the memories that I will treasure from this first big fall weekend at St. James. A big thank you to all who made our festivities and observations possible!

In case you thought we couldn't top the busy-ness of the first weekend of November around here, this Friday and Saturday sees our parish delegates heading with me to the annual Diocese of Atlanta Council, where we will take our share in the councils of the Church and participating in the legislation and administration of our diocese.

The following Sunday, Nov 16th, will be our own Annual Meeting, where we will do the business of our parish like electing vestry members and reviewing our 2026 budget, and hear updates on all of the ministries of the church.

On Nov 23rd we will say farewell to Riley Dugan at coffee hour after the 10:30 service, and he will lead his final Turkey Bowl event with the youth of our EYC.

Then Advent begins on Sunday, Nov 30th, which we will mark with an intergenerational wreath making event in the parish hall between services. Bring your own wreath form from home if you have it, as well as some greens from your yard to share. We will have candles and wreath forms available for those who need them.

Thursday
November 6, 2025
UPCOMING EVENTS

November 9, Sunday
regular schedule
[link to the schedule](#)
+
choir retreat 2.0
12:30p
+
Concert of new music by
choral scholar
Nathaniel Davila
at KSU Bailey Performing
Arts Center
7:30pm
RSVP [at this link](#).



*Sundays Nov 9 & 16, we're
collecting groceries
for the needy. Open flyer
[with list of needs](#)*

November 10, Monday
Funeral for Gary Bain

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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