

The BELLS of St. JAMES

*news, inspiration,
and opportunities
for ministry*

About Wednesday

*The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright
invites you to
Holy Eucharist and
A Celebration of New Ministry
including
the Installation and Induction
of
The Rev. Mariclaire
Parlee Carlsen
at
St. James
Wednesday
October 8
6:00
Reception Following*

- The Bishop will preach.
- Representatives from a wide range of St. James' ministries will be presenting our new Rector with gifts symbolic of our hopes for the future.
- Tower bell change ringers, the Handbell Choir,

Thursday

October 2, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS



October 4, Saturday

Choir retreat
in the Lawrence Chapel
9a-noon
*a good time to join the
choir as they learn new
music*

October 5, Sunday

regular morning schedule
with services at 8 & 10:30
+
Blessing of the Animals
at the patio on Church St
4:00p

October 8, Wednesday

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Wright
celebrates the new ministry
of Mother Mariclaire
6:00p
*This supersedes all other
Wednesday activities*

October 12, Sunday

regular schedule
+
Adult Confirmation Class
begins in the conference
room 9:30a
[email Mo. Mariclaire in
advance](#)

October 18, Saturday

Retreat "Mindfulness and
Prayer" in our Parish Hall

the Parish Choir, and our youthful Choristers will all be making music.

- The service will be livestreamed.
- The Flower Guild will gather yard greens and prepping flowers on Monday Oct 6, 2-4p. Please bring *anise, camellia sesanqua, and tea olive.*
- The Flower Guild will arrange the flowers on Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:00-noon for display throughout the church. *Join them: no experience necessary!*
- A reception will follow in the parish hall.
- This celebration supersedes all of our usual Wednesday activities, which will resume October 15.

9:00a-noon
all invited for free,
donation of \$10 suggested
+
ECW dinner at
Seven Tequilas, then
parish hall art workshop
4:00p
bring leaves for the art
+
Evening Prayer
for the feast of St. Luke
6:30p

October 19, Sunday
Newcomers' Welcome
reception
parish hall
12:30p
for anyone who feels like a
newcomer
+
Concert by *Coro Vocati*
3p
50% discount for members
of St. James

Livestream HQ - Links & Booklets for Worship at Home

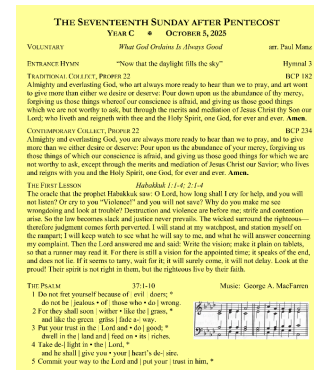


10:30 Service On Line
Click on "live" to see a service
live or archived.

[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.

[Download the
Service Bulletin](#)



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

Acolyte 101 for new and returning acolytes continues at 9am. Last week, the session began in the parlor . There are some new things to learn, so please don't miss.

Serving for Sunday's 10:30 service: **Miller** is the crucifer. **Brooks** and **Matilda** carry the torches. **October 8:** **Lucas** is crucifer; **Elise and Stella** carry the torches. **Greg Matechak** will be there to assist.

Save the Date: Trunk or Treat October 26, in the Church Street parking lot.



*Photos, left: dinner Wednesday, October 1.
Right: Wednesday, Youth learned (and loved!) the game "Four Square."*

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/>



A theme in Sunday's liturgy is how we in the Church must do our work even while others may reap rewards. "Don't lose heart," we read in Habakkuk. At a discouraging time, Paul lays hands on Timothy to rekindle his heart. Jesus asks rhetorically if servants who do just what they are supposed to do deserve any special reward.

The hymns we'll sing echo those themes. Hymn 3 describes serving God from sunrise to bedtime. Hymn 541 expands the meaning of its title, *Ora Labora*, that *work is prayer*, "a high calling [even] angels cannot share." In Hymn 704, Samuel Sebastian Wesley writes music for words by his uncle Charles Wesley, asking for God to light a candle in our hearts with "celestial fire."

A favorite of many priests is Hymn 312, composed for the 1940 Hymnal by David McKinley Williams. In the text from ancient Syrian liturgy, the poet prays that God will "Strengthen for service...the hands that holy things have taken" in the Eucharist, and will keep the tongues that sang "holy" in church from speaking any deceit. There are verses for ears, eyes, and feet, too -- the whole body of Christ!

The anthem tells us to remember, when discouraged, that God "reigneth," and that "they heart's wishes hath been granted by what He ordaineth." German composer Hugo Distler (1908-1942) set Hymn 390 ("Praise to the Lord"). It sounds light as a Renaissance motet, but it's crafted with 20th century techniques such as changing meters and tricky syncopations. Distler's intricacies are for fun: the high voices rhapsodize on the word "music"; the low voices make an echo after the word "resound" and ring the last word like ponderous tower bells, while the high voices chirp like birds.

"A masterpiece doesn't have to be a big dramatic number," said music director Bryan Black. "A masterpiece can be like a precision-engineered pocket watch." Living by the motto *ora labora*, Hugo Distler expressed intense religious faith in his work, for which the Nazi regime labeled his music "degenerate." He ended his short life in despair, leaving behind the gift of his joyful music.

Music Director Dr. Bryan Black highlights the links between liturgy and music for each week. Email [The Bells](#) with your questions and comments.

Episcopal News and Opportunities

BYC DIOCESE

A Service Project to Support Immigrant Families



hosted by the Diocesan Youth Commission

The 119th Annual Council Service Project

The youth project at Diocesan Council this year will support *El Refugio*.

Organized in 2010, *El Refugio* accompanies immigrants at Stewart Detention Center and their loved ones through hospitality, visitation, support, and advocacy. "We envision a world without immigration detention."

Photo collage: images from El Refugio's website.



Mother Maricclair writes that support for El Refugio "is a natural extension of the work we do and the families we support through Wonderful Days, and a powerful witness to our Baptismal Covenant as we prepare for baptisms on Nov 2."

Nuno Nuñez writes: To get involved with [Wonderful Days preschool](#) , to support it financially, or just to learn more, please reach out to our Executive Director, Martha Tovar, wdpistjames@gmail.com, or speak with any member of our board.

Other St. James members on the board include John Schafer, Jim Chester, Doug Payne, Jane Sanders, Dorsie Kuni, Daniel White, Rick Carpenter, and Catalina Villareal.

Thank you, St. James. - Nuno Nuñez

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers on the altar were given to the glory of God by **Kent & Mary Percy** and **Cheryl White** in thanksgiving for **Jane McGuigan**, for Jane's many years of faithful service and love of this church.

Left: flowers on the altar September 28.

Flowers for Mother Maricclair's Installation. The Flower Guild would like you to help!

- Monday, Oct 6 2-4p Gathering yard greens (*anise, camellia sesanqua, and tea olive*) and prepping flowers
- Tuesday & Wednesday, Oct 7&8, 9a-noon Flower arranging workdays

Baptisms and Confirmation.

- The next date for baptisms at St. James is All Saints Day, Sunday Nov. 2.
- The next date for Confirmation is Sunday, Dec. 7th, at 4PM at the Cathedral of St. Philip.

Please contact Mother Maricclair for more information about participation in either sacrament

Good time to join the choir this Saturday. If you've thought of joining the choir, their "retreat" in our Lawrence Chapel on the morning of October 4 would be a good opportunity. Everyone there will be learning new music, so visitors won't feel any more clueless than anybody

else. To be included, email music@stjamesmarietta.com

Book Club Same Time, but New Place. Meeting on the third Sunday of the month, the Book Club has grown too populous to stay in the Library. They're moving upstairs to room 205. For this month's meeting October 19, they're reading *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby VanPelt. Reviewer is Annice Matechak.



Blessing of the Animals. Mother Mariclaire will bless our animal companions at our porch on Church Street, Sunday, October 5, 4p.

Bring your pooch to the porch on Church -- or your cat, iguana, goldfish, horses -- we've seen them all!

Let them be restrained or in a carrier, please.

You may bring a photo instead: they're still a blessing, still being blessed.

Carolyn Conley sent her photo of three delightful creatures who wait for blessings of the edible kind: Molly, Aiofe, and Katie.

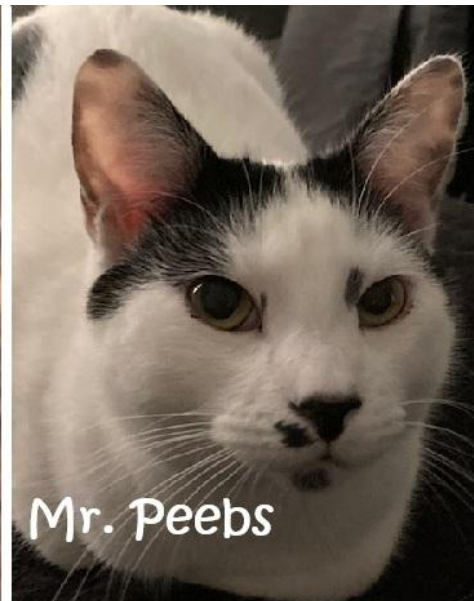
Nancy Eubanks sent photos of her beloved cats.



Cleo



Lemieux



Mr. Peebs

Retreat at St. James "Prayer and Mindfulness"

Saturday October 18, 9a-noon, our Centering Prayer group offers a free retreat to us and to other parishes. The leader will be Mark Dannenfelser, founding director of The Mindfulness Center of Atlanta. Participants at the retreat will explore how intention, attention, and consent open us to God's transforming presence.

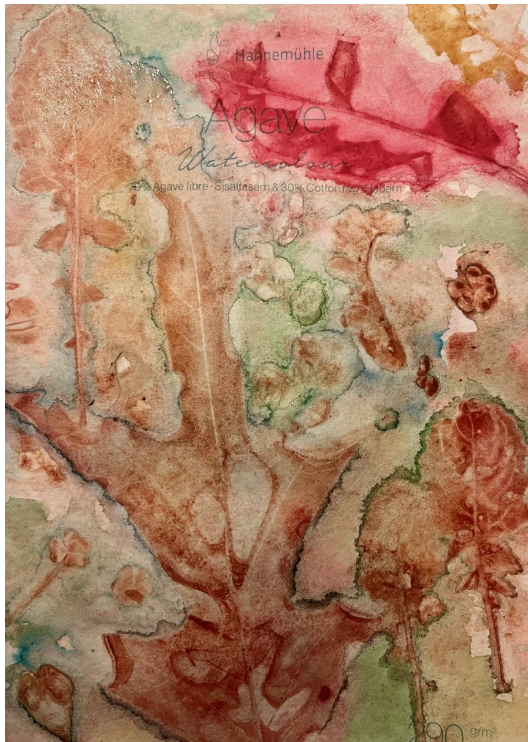
The retreat is free. A \$10 donation is recommended, cash or check only, please. Send any questions to Billie Shook at billiemusicshook@gmail.com



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

Two October Offerings for the Women of St. James .

- Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will meet at Seven Tequilas restaurant for early dinner at 4:00 Saturday, October 18, then go to the parish hall for art with Kate Daniels. She says to bring a gallon ziplock baggie containing leaves with a strong vein pattern and flowers that will press flat. With watercolor, you will produce your own beautiful paper, such as the sample below on the left.
- ECW joins the women of our sister parish St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church for "The Saints Harvest Stroll" Wednesday October 22, 5:30-8:30pm. Lots of tips and FAQs answered in the flier below, on the right. Copies of the flier are out on the communications table by the parish hall. You can open a PDF of the flier with [this link](#).



St. James Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, Nov. 16

Between the 8a and 10:30a services, there will be no Bible Study or Adult Formation this day, and nursery care will be provided, so all may be present for this meeting.

Call for Vestry Nominations

At our Annual Meeting on Nov 16, 2025, we will be electing 4 new vestry members.

Candidates for Vestry must be a member of St. James in good standing, which means:

- Not less than 18 years of age
- Baptized, as recognized by the Episcopal Church
- Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church
- On the membership rolls of St. James either through baptism here, confirmation or reception into the parish, or a recorded transfer of membership from another Episcopal Church to St. James.
- A regular communicant of the parish, having received Holy Communion at St. James at least three times in the preceding year,
- Is known to the Rector or Treasurer as having made and maintained a financial commitment (pledge) in support of St. James in the preceding year.

In addition the Candidate should evidence:

- A commitment to Jesus Christ, the Gospel, and His Church
- Regular attendance at church services
- Good stewardship in all areas of our Church life
- The acceptance of responsibility to attend Vestry meetings (the 3rd Monday of each month at 7PM), annual Vestry retreat (Jan 30-31, 2026), and a commitment to complete one's term on the Vestry.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else as a Candidate, please use [this form](#) . If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please first obtain their consent.

Mail the form to St. James, 161 Church Street, Marietta GA 30060 *attn: Vestry Nomination*. Sundays, you may drop the completed form in the plate or slide it under the door to the church office.

REMINDERS

Wednesdays at St. James. You can count on our serving dinners on Wednesday **except** October 8, when the Bishop's visit to celebrate Mother Mariclaire's new ministry will supersede all other activities.

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;

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

For photos of our life together, we depend on parishioners to send us JPEGs or PNGs.

Mother Mariclair took pictures at **Sterling Estates** where St. James celebrates Holy Eucharist at 3:00 on the third Sunday of every month. The photos are spliced together below.



Thanks to **Rose Whittingham** for a great photo of **Reach Out Mental Health** from the third Monday in September. The ladies in the photo are leading a dance for the guests, who are adults with special needs. The next of these luncheons will be 11:00am on October 20. Please join in the preparations, beginning at 9:30.



Bill Eubanks sent photos from two weekday services. First is from Monday's special

evening prayer for the feast day of St. Michael and All Angels. Then there's a photo from our historic Lawrence Chapel when **The Rev. Clare Nesmith** celebrated Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing, something we offer at 12:30 on the first Wednesday of every month. As it was October 1, the feast day for St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Clare shared a relic obtained during a visit to France.





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



Meet The Rev. Clare Nesmith
Have we met before?

After a clergy conference this week, our rector is taking time away with her family for fall break. In her absence, our celebrant this Sunday will be The Reverend Clare Nesmith.

"Nesmith" rhymes with "tree-smith." If the name rings a bell and the face looks familiar, you're not experiencing *déjà vu*. Clare's ties with St. James go way back.

She worshiped with us Sunday at the 10:30 service. When she assisted Interim Rector Mother Pat at Easter, she unintentionally caused a stir. Many of us, seeing her in vestments and hearing her name, thought that we were getting a sneak peek at the new rector. It was plausible: *Clare* or *Mariclair*, they're pretty close.



Before that, we had seen and heard her when she joined our choir for several weeks. She was re-connecting to her longtime friend, our music director Dr. Bryan Black. Clare was a professional singer retained to sing solos for Bryan's choir at the Methodist church where he previously served.

Thursday

September 25, 2025
UPCOMING EVENTS

September 28, Sunday
Regular Sunday Schedule
except that after-church
youth group won't meet

October 1, Wednesday
Healing Service in our
Lawrence Chapel
12:30p

+ Youth Group 5:30

+ Dinner 5:45

[RSVP for Dinner](#)

+ Evening Prayer, Cherub
Choir, Choristers 6:30

+ Adult formation 7:00

+ Parish Choir 7:30

October 4, Saturday
Choir retreat
in the Lawrence Chapel
9a-noon
a good time to join the
choir as they learn new
music

October 5, Sunday
regular morning schedule
with services at 8 & 10:30
+ Blessing of the Animals
at the patio on Church St

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



St. James

Episcopal Church

161 Church St., Marietta GA 30060

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