

The BELLS of St. JAMES

news, inspiration,
and opportunities
for ministry

Message from the Rector Prayer for Thanksgiving

Dear Ones

Thanksgiving is one of only two secular holidays that get their own collects in the Book of Common Prayer- the other is Labor Day.

You can find the Thanksgiving Day collect on p. 194 (Rite I) and p. 246 (Rite II) of the BCP, and it's a great blessing to use before your Thanksgiving meal.

Personally, I prefer the Rite I language as it has a little extra majesty with its formality and arcane usage:

Thanksgiving Day

Almighty and gracious Father, we give thee thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we beseech thee, faithful stewards of thy great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

You can hear this collect live at Evening Prayer at 6:30PM on Wednesday, Nov 24th on Thanksgiving Eve. All other usual Wednesday programming is taking the night off for the holiday this week, and the parish office will be closed on Thursday and Friday.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving this week I encourage you to take some time to name all the things that you are grateful for- better yet, in the case of those who you are thankful for, tell them!

As for me, I am grateful for each and every one of you- for the staff, for longtime members and the newly baptized, for our elders and our babies and everybody in between, and for the visitors in search of a spiritual

Tuesday

November 25, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 26, Wednesday
**Evening Prayer
TOMORROW
at 6:30**



Enter by the red door on
Polk and Church St.,
at the top of the ramp

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Nov 29, Saturday

home who have ventured into our doors on a Sunday or a Wednesday for worship and a sense of God's presence and grace.

Thank you for all that you do to make St. James the abundant corner of God's kingdom that it is!

In Christ,
Mo. Mariclaire

P.S. While you are shopping for ingredients for your Thanksgiving feast, throw a couple packages of diapers in your cart for our Children's Sunday School Advent Diaper Drive, in support of the Pantry on Church. Any size is welcome, though I'm told size 6 go the fastest among the 400 families that receive needed food and supplies there every Tuesday. Look for the donation box in the Parish Hall!



Nuno and Laura lead Evening Prayer on Wednesday at 6:30. Start your holiday with this brief, quiet, intimate service of readings and prayers.



This Sunday, between services, join in wreath-making with worshipers of all ages. If you have Advent wreath forms, please bring them; if you have none, Natalie has forms for you. Photos from last year.

Flower Guild greens the church. 9a-noon
Please join us!

Nov 30, Sunday
First Sunday in Advent!
[link to regular schedule](#)

+
Advent
wreath-making event
between services: bring
your wreath forms from
home (if you have any!) as
well as evergreen clippings

Wednesday, Dec 3

Holy Eucharist with
prayers for healing
Lawrence Chapel
12:30p
+
Wednesdays at St. James
resume with dinner,
worship, and programs for
all ages

5:30p
[RSVP Here](#)

Sunday, Dec 7
[link to the regular
schedule](#)

Note: New Book Study for
adult formation, 9:30,
room 205. For info, email
[communications@
stjamesmarietta.com](mailto:communications@stjamesmarietta.com)

Special Music Events
Advent Lessons and Carols
Sunday Dec 14, 6:30p

+
Concert & Caroling,
Georgia Spiritual Ensemble
Dr. Oral Moses, director
Sunday Dec 21, 4:00p

Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, Dec 24
Children with pageant 4p
Choir and brass 7p
Choir and brass caroling at
10:30p, service 11p

Livestream HQ - Links & Booklets for Worship at Home

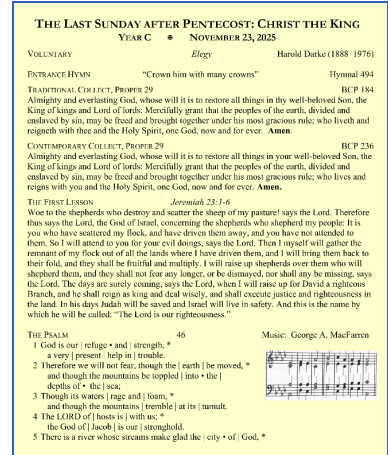


10:30 Service On Line
Click on "live" to see a service
live or archived.

[Link
to livestream
on YouTube](#)



**Worship Booklet
for the Season**
contains prayers, service
music, and responses that we
will use until the Sunday
before Christmas.
[Link to the Worship
Booklet](#)



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

Children & Youth News

Acolytes scheduled for Nov 30 : The crucifer is **Thomas**. Torch-bearers are **Brooks** and **Miller**.



Mother Mariclair sent photos from the worship service that opened "Guardians Night Out" last weekend. Called "Wonder Church," the service included music with Riley Dugan for the last time, playing guitar with Sam Gribble.

We gave Riley Dugan a beautiful send-off with a "Holy Huddle" of everyone. The youth and their delighted parents gave him an autographed collage of photos from their time with him. Then there was one last game of Winston Bowl!



Riley isn't far away, though. His new position at the Cathedral will take him to the DYC Winter camp. Here's the info on *that*:

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



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.](#)

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/>



This Sunday's music embodies the anticipation and warmth of the Advent season.

Bach's organ prelude on *Wachet auf* ("Sleepers, Wake!") is among his best-known works. It offers a characteristically elegant synthesis of counterpoint against the hymn tune which beings the worship service. This three-part texture "sandwiches" the melody between the constantly moving pedal notes and a counter melody in the

right hand which illuminates Bach's genius as a composer. It also features the organ's unique capacity to simultaneously voice three separate musical ideas—a triumph of instrumental evolution and a delight to the listener. (And a bit of a challenge for the organist, too.)

The offertory anthem, John Ness Beck's "Every Valley," with its confident, melodic promise, is a modern choral gem that feels both familiar and fresh.

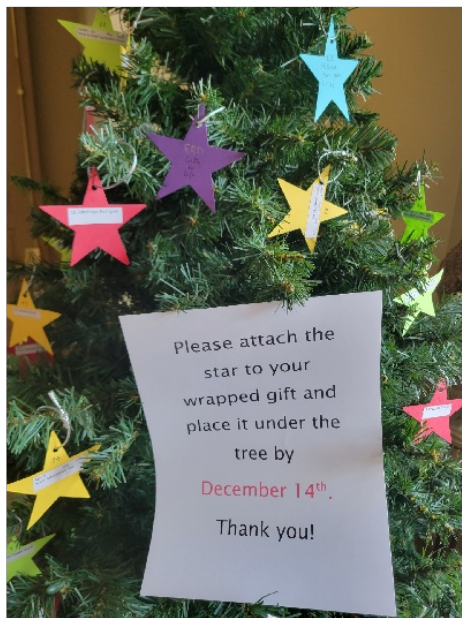
The hymn "O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light" sung during the Eucharist provides a moment of calm simplicity. The tune can also be heard in Brahms's motet *O Heiland, reiß die Himmel auf* which develops the atmosphere with rich, yearning harmonies. [Link here to a recording on YouTube.](#)

The Welsh composer William Mathias's bright, rhythmic service music will carry us through Advent. St. James has used his setting of the *Sanctus* often, but the *Kyrie* and *Agnus Dei* have not been sung recently. Did you know that the husband of a St. James choir member studied music with him? The mystery person will be revealed in this column next week.

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.



e.g., livestock, clean water, medical aids for children with special needs



many alumni of Wonderful Days

Visit the GIVING TREE at the foyer entrance to the Parish Hall!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Advent greenery is given by the Flower Guild.

The Flower Guild needs your help to green the church for Advent this Saturday, 9a-noon. *No experience necessary!*

Photo: flowers on the altar November 23.

Artisans' Bazaar at Sterling Estates, Friday Dec 5, 10am-3pm. Sterling Estates is a retirement community in West Cobb, where many of our parishioners live. We share communion there every 3rd Sunday of the month.

The bazaar next Friday is "a big deal" says Joan Hargrove, a member of St. James. Her own creations are on sale at the bazaar.

Diaper Drive. Our children are collecting diapers for the Pantry on Church, a



commodity in high demand. Size 6 is most-requested.

Photo: That's our down payment, as of 11/25.

LOST AND FOUND: We're looking for a broach of **green jade** and **small red beads**. We have found a goldish button off the sleeve of a jacket by a well-known clothier.

Email

communications@stjamesmarietta.com to help return these items.



Feeling Dis-Mayed?

Some parishioners were dismayed to find that former Rectors Scott May and Karen Evans are missing from our hall of rectors. Relax: it's for a purely technical reason.

To make room for two newly-discovered images of rectors from the 19th century, St. Anne's Chapter had to bump Scott and Karen off the wall. But the photos of Scott and Karen are grayscale, while Roger and Mariclaire have already begun a new wall, in color.

Until St. Anne's can get color images, we won't see Scott and Karen for awhile.

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 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.



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

Monday, the buzz in the hallway outside the church office was still about Wednesday night's celebration of our new ministry. Someone observed that the **Bishop** was taken aback by the strong response when he asked if all those present will support Mother Mariclair in her ministry. "**We will!**" resounded.



This photograph from Wednesday's installation and other wonderful photographs taken that night by our **Diocesan Photographer Easton Davis** can be viewed and downloaded at the Diocesan website [here](#).

I was relieved of my duty to photograph the reception, thanks to **Mary Percy**, who made it her mission to photograph everybody there. She got pretty close to achieving that goal! I'm putting a collage of three photos here, and others in a slide show on the hall monitor this Sunday.



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



Message from the Rector
Celebration of New Ministry: Photos

Dear Ones,

Thank you so much for a beautiful Celebration of New Ministry on Wednesday night! I know many hands went into making the sanctuary, flowers, music, food, and hospitality to our bishop and other guests as fabulous as they all were, and I appreciate how much care everyone took with it all. I am so happy to be your rector, and look forward to the future of our ministry together- and to the good trouble we will get into in Jesus' name along the way!

In Christ,
Mo. Marielair +



Thursday

November 20, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 22, Saturday

Guardians Night Out

6:30-9:00P

Nursery provided

[RSVP here](#)

Nov 23, Sunday

regular schedule [\(link\)](#)

+ ECW Bake Sale after services

+ Farewell to Riley at Coffee Hour following the 10:30AM service - come celebrate his time with us and send him to his next role in good cheer!

Nov 26, Wednesday

Church closed.

Enjoy Thanksgiving!

Nov 30, Sunday

First Sunday in Advent!

[link to regular schedule](#) + Advent wreath-making event between services: bring your wreath forms from home (if you have any!) as well as evergreen clippings

Wednesday, Dec 3

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



St. James

Episcopal Church

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