

The BELLS of St. JAMES

news, inspiration,
and opportunities
for ministry

To make your 2026 pledge in support of St. James, click [here](#). Thank you to all who have already made their pledge! -Mother Mariclaire

Stewardship Message from a parishioner **Why I give to St. James**

Good Morning. I am Pete Goodwin, your Treasurer.

Put your calculators away: you will be relieved to hear that I'm not about to provide a financial report!

Actually, that would have been relatively easy compared with the question I am meant to address this morning: Why do I give to St. James – both in terms of time and money? Why give to the church generally or to this or any church in particular?



Treasurer Peter Goodwin.

The short answer is because St. James is my spiritual home. By that, I don't mean the buildings and grounds – I mean the St. James community – I mean all of you. Here, amongst you, I met Jesus for the first time and learned that Jesus saves us, not only for the world to come, but also for the world we are in right now.

Before I first came to St. James almost 10 years ago, I

Thursday

September 18, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 21, Sunday

Holy Eucharist

Rite 1 spoken

8:00 a

+

Breakfast

8:45

+

Acolyte 101

library

9:00

+

Adult formation offerings:

Bible Study in room 205,

Jane Austen and Faith in

room 127

9:30

+

Nursery, Children's Sunday

school, and Youth Group

9:30

+

Holy Eucharist Rite 2 with

organ and choir

10:30

+

Hospitality

11:45

+

Daughters of the King

room 205

12:15

+

attended many churches over many decades – including Presbyterian, Congregationalist, Unitarian, Methodist, and Anglican churches. I called myself a Christian, but I followed my own lights rather than Jesus Christ. Jesus, to me, was a sort of “life coach” I brought in only when I was in over my head, rather than my creator, redeemer, and sustainer.

When it came to giving to the church, whichever church I happened to be attending at the time, my giving tended toward being what Jesus warns us against when we give: it was competitive, seeking of praise, transactional, and an act mostly in service of ego. I worried how my gift stacked up against others. I worried about recognition and praise. And I worried if I was making a good deal – what was I getting from the church in return?

Despite occasional pangs of guilt, my efforts were not strong enough to change my giving behavior or my cynical attitude toward giving. Change required the power of Jesus acting within me, and through the love of others who are part of the continuing incarnation – that’s this congregation.

At St. James, I met Jesus – not in private study or on a mountain top talking with a guru - but in this community – amongst all of you – in worship, at Eucharist, in the EfM classroom, in Tuesday Bible Study, in Lay Eucharistic Visits, at Sunday breakfast, at Parish events, in centering prayer, at the celebration of Baptisms and Feast Days, and even during Vestry and Finance Committee meetings, not to mention the dozens and dozens of other ministries and programs that flourish at St. James.

And as that was happening, Jesus was changing my attitudes about a great many things, including giving to the church and how I view my neighbor. Jesus is with us all to the end of the age, and especially with those who suffer, including the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and those in prison; and, at one point or another, we all suffer.

Giving of time, talent, and treasure eventually transformed into my affirmation that I am a follower, however faltering at times and imperfect, of Jesus Christ, who created us, forgave us our sins, and gave us salvation, not as a reward, but as free gift to all in divine love. That affirmation, and the deepening realization of its truth, has now become for me an expression of great joy. Perhaps that is what St. Paul meant by a “cheerful giver.”

Amen.

Youth Group
12:30-2p
+
Book Club in the library
*bring drinks; sandwiches
provided*
12:15
+
Holy Eucharist at
Sterling Estates
3:00pm
all are invited

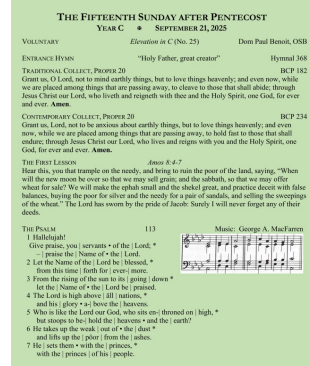
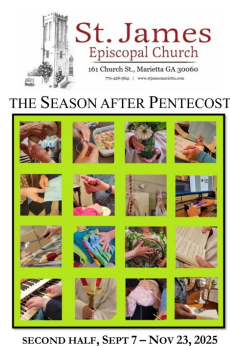
**September 24,
Wednesday**
Evening Prayer
6:30
+
Parish Choir rehearsal
7:30
*other activities are on Fall
break with the local
schools*

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 5, Sunday
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 Mariclair
6:00p
*This supersedes all other
Wednesday activities*



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*? 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

New School Year, New Wonders at Wonderful Days

Nuno Nuñez writes: Wonderful Days Preschool is back in action on the St. James campus this Fall. After a quiet Summer, it is indeed wonderful to have our staff and happy children back in their classrooms and playing outside.

Wonderful Days Preschool is a Jubilee Ministry, having served those in our neighborhood for over 50 years. We wouldn't be able to do it without all of the love and support St. James puts into this ministry. From our annual race fundraiser, to gifts given at Christmas, to serving on our board, you make so much possible. We give much thanks to and for you.



This year we are especially thankful. You may have noticed that our kids are being picked up in a snazzy new bus this year. This was made possible through a generous grant of fifty thousand dollars from Cobb EMC. This allowed us to replace the bus that had served us well over the last two decades. Our new wheels provide additional safety features and a door that opens at the push of a button, rather than using the vintage hand crank. Our driver will have to get their workout elsewhere now. Thank you to everyone who was a part of this process.

Now that the new signage has been installed be sure to wave to the kids as you see the brightly colored Wonderful Days Preschool bus around town in the mornings. We are blessed to provide families in need with bilingual preschool education, two free meals a day, and daily transportation. We still have spaces available for this school year. We are always looking for ways to support our Wonderful Days families. Help us in welcoming them as part of our community.

We would also like to give a big thank you to Roger and Christina Toland who have served faithfully on our board as Treasurer and Secretary. They even came back from out-of-state for one last board meeting this last month. Your dedication has been immense. Thank you for blessing us with your Time, Talent, and Treasure.

If you are interested in supporting, getting involved with, or learning more about Wonderful Days Preschool, please reach out to our Executive Director, Martha Tovar, wdpistjames@gmail.com, or speak with any member of our board. Thank you, St. James.

Children & Youth News

The Youth trip to Mountasia was fun for the kids and the adults, too.



Acolyte 101 for new and returning acolytes will continue at 9am in the library with Wendy Malsby and Greg Matechak. There are some new things to learn, so please don't miss.

Crucifer for Sunday 10:30 service Joni White

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

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/>



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 Dannenfeler, founding director of The Mindfulness Center of Atlanta.



Mark Dannenfeler "brings together mindfulness, contemplative wisdom, and psychological insight in a way that is accessible, grounded and deeply human.... His work is rooted in a reverence for nature, silence, and the arts."

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](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This just in: We give thanks for the birth of **August James Hearn**, grandchild of **Kevin and Tracye Kamperman**, and for his **mother Maggie and father Patrick Hearn**!

Flowers on the altar this week were given to



the glory of God by **Kent and Mary Percy** in loving memory of their parents **Rhea & Elizabeth Percy** and **Fulton & Evelyn Cocks**.

Volunteers take flowers from the altar to shut-ins who tell us that they appreciate the flowers and the visit. To volunteer, email communications@stjamesmarietta.com

Left: flowers on the altar September 14.

Flowers for Mother Mariclair'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. Phillip. Please contact Mother Mariclair for more information about participation in either sacrament.



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

Send a photo of your animal to *The Bells* to help us promote the event.

Photo: Brandy Smoot relaxes in the back seat following a productive Litter Patrol in the parking lot at Publix. She cleaned up crushed cookies and some French fries; Scott disposed of the wrappers.

St. James Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, Nov. 15

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.

Hall of Rectors enters new century

Two new portraits are joining the hall of rectors, thanks to St. Anne's Chapter.

Photo: the newly framed portraits wait in the St. Anne's parlor to be hung in the hallway by the parlor.

Pictures of the rectors of St. James from the 1840s forward have hitherto been in black and white. The technical innovation of color



was not introduced, presumably to give the display a tasteful uniformity.

Now that one wall is full, Cari Edwards says, St. Anne's begins a new wall for the new century.

By this Sunday or next, our first two rectors appointed in the 21st century, Roger Allen and Mariclair Partee Carlsen, will be on display.

Call for Vestry Nominations

At our Annual Meeting on Nov 15, 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.

REMINDERS

Wednesdays at St. James, yes - but NOT next week!

Next Wednesday, we'll have Evening Prayer at 6:30 and Parish Choir rehearsal at 7:30, but dinner and other activities will be on break with the local schools.

You can count on our serving dinners for our Wednesday programs from now until the week before Thanksgiving, with only one other exception: on Wednesday, October 8, the Bishop's visit to install our new rector will supersede all other activities. The night before Thanksgiving, there

will be no Wednesday program. Thanks to Rose Whittingham for the dinner photo.



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 Mariclaire 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

Pulse of the Parish

from Scott Smoot, Communications Director

On his way from the parish hall to church Sunday mornings, **Bob Kuzniak** frequently sings his favorite hymns and songs of the Big Band era. He likes music to be "uplifting."

So he voiced some doubts about our use of unfamiliar service music by living composer **Gerald Near**. It wasn't uplifting, he said; it doesn't have a tune.

I pointed out that Near is emulating ancient chant. Bob appreciates the difference in chanting. Instead of fitting words to a tune, the composer of chant elevates the text, sometimes stre-e-tching syllables for emphasis. A communion hymn for a recent service was like that, "Where true cha-a-rity and lo-ove dwell" (Hymnal 606). Unlike tunes, made of repeated phrases with chords and a beat, a chant is all melody, smooth and sweet. Our word *melody* derives from *meli*, the Greek word for honey.

Bob conceded that some songs are uplifting even when they don't swing like the Spiritual that the choir sang last week. There's a piece Bob loves, with instruments playing chords under a flute melody. It all builds slowly to a high point, then falls. It's not a tune, but it's very musical and uplifting.

This week, by coincidence, the choir's anthem follows that same trajectory, reaching a climax at the text "They shall mount up with wings as eagles" (Isaiah 40:31): the voices rise while the chords in the organ add glorious color to the eagle's flight. Guess who wrote it? Gerald Near!

Bob also conceded, as we'll be singing this music through late November, "I'll get used to it."

Still, for Bob's sake, I've started sketching out service music that we might use in the future, based on Glenn Miller tunes. But we have to wait 16 years until Miller's songs go into public domain. Until then, you can imagine the Gloria to the tune of "In the Mood," and "Sanctus" *à la* "Moonlight Serenade."

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



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+

Daughters of the King

room 205

12:15

+

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



St. James Episcopal Church

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