



Walking in Love **Annual Report 2024**

A Celebration of Mission and Ministry at St. James'



St. James' Episcopal Church
Parish Annual Meeting
November 17, 2024

The St. James' mission is to bring people together to be transformed by and to proclaim Christ's love through worship, spiritual formation, and service.

The St. James' vision is to be a place where all are welcome, to feel God's love and share God's love.

St. James' Parish Annual Meeting

November 17, 2024

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Clergy and Staff

Rector	The Rev. Meredith T. Heffner, rector@stjamespotomac.org
Assistant Rector.....	The Rev. James S. Isaacs, james@stjamespotomac.org
Curate	The Rev. Catherine Manhardt, catherine@stjamespotomac.org
Director of Music Ministry and Parish Rentals.....	Newton Lewis, newton@stjamespotomac.org
Sunday School.....	Sundayschool@stjamespotomac.org
Youth Director.....	Maddie Weber, maddie@stjamespotomac.org
St. James' Children's School Director.....	Astrid Crookshank, preschool@stjamespotomac.org
Parish Administrator	Grace Lo, office@stjamespotomac.org
Communications Asst.....	Kirsten Hall, kirsten@stjamespotomac.org
Sunday Sexton.....	Jerome Childress, office@stjamespotomac.org

Wardens, Vestry, and Diocesan Delegates

Senior Warden	Lori Minasian
Junior Warden	Courtney King
Vestry members	Brian Fox, Doug Holy, Brad McCullough, Amy Metcalf, Jennifer Nordin, Susan Olson, Walter Weaver, Ann Venton
Vestry Officers.....	Tracy Lively, Treasurer; Sheryl Cooper, Secretary and Registrar
Diocesan Delegates.....	Laurence Canete and John Combs, Delegates; Yemi Agboola, and Dan Zimmerman, Alternates

ANNUAL REPORT

Rector's Reflection

The Rev. Meredith T. Heffner

November, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On All Saint's Day, I shared with you that earlier in October I was feeling a bit down as I attended the ordination service for six new deacons. I spent most of the service praying about the polarized and anxious state of our country, looking for hope.

To my surprise, I found that hope as we sang the hymn, "I sing a song of the saints of God." I was especially moved by the verse that says— "They loved their lord, so dear, so dear—and his love made them strong. They did what was right, for Jesus' sake, the whole of their good lives long..."

And I rejoiced, knowing, that as members of the communion of saints, especially here at St. James'—in the work we do and the ways we express our love for God—we find our strength and hope. We call this the way we "walk in love..."

In our Annual Report you'll see the many ways we walk in love: through worship and formation; mission and outreach; through our commitment to social justice and the care of creation, and in our efforts to reduce stigma around mental illness.

We walk in love in so many ways—even through our challenges—as we strive to upgrade and renovate facilities, while continuing to work on balancing our budget. We move forward, with courage and strength, knowing God walks by our side.

As the saints of St. James', who are loved by God, we find our strength—together. We find our hope—together. We walk in love—together. And that's what we celebrate today.

I am grateful and blessed to walk with each of you. May God bless you and may God continue to bless St. James'.

Faithfully,

Rev. Meredith

Senior Warden's Report – Building Initiative

Lori Minasian

Dear people of St. James',

In 2019, we were fortunate to receive a generous gift of \$2 million from the Shepard sisters. We began to explore how we might use this gift to improve and renovate our facilities, especially the church building. We took an all-hands approach through a variety of activities, which included small group discussions, walking through the buildings, and a parish-wide survey. Through it all, we asked for input on how to make useful and meaningful changes. This resulted in a list of ideas to enhance the church building and bring it up to date.

We formed a building initiative committee, created a request for proposals and interviewed three different architect firms. We proceeded with Intec and asked them for a design to completely renovate our entire church building. The process was delayed by COVID, but this fall we shared their \$7.5 million plan at our June parish meeting. We all agreed this wasn't feasible at this time.

While the reality of a large renovation is currently not feasible, the Vestry, with the guidance of the building initiative committee, has worked to break the needed renovations into smaller, more reasonable projects. This way, we can focus on the projects that need to be completed for the health of the building structure along with some that would refresh and add life to our space.

Implementing this plan of discrete projects would require use of Shepard Funds or finding other financing. We'll make that decision once we have the pricing.

The first stage includes:

- Addressing the drainage and flooding issue in the undercroft
- Enhancing our sanctuary, to add light, offer greater access to bathrooms, and making the space behind the altar more usable.

We will share the plans after our Annual Meeting. We are excited and welcome your feedback. We think you'll like what you see.

Please join me in thanking the members of our Building Initiative Committee: Andrew Huck, Courtney King, Tracy Lively, Joyce Nohowel, Dave Schuessler, Sandy Soundararajan, Ken Van Valkenburgh, Gary Widrick, and Phil Willems.

Sincerely and with much gratitude,

Lori Minasian, Senior Warden

A SNAPSHOT OF THE YEAR

Worship, Special Services, Events and Activities

Sunday worship average attendance

- Average Sunday attendance of 126 (in person + online)
- Combined virtual and in-person worship, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services (Jan-September 2024)
- Worship at 10:30 a.m. broadcast on YouTube

Special services and programs

- Potomac Area Interfaith Community (PAIC) Thanksgiving service; “Harvesting Peace” hosted by St. James’ November 15, 2023
- Advent
 - . Advent Lessons and Carols
 - . Advent Quiet Day
 - . Online Advent resources and devotionals
- Christmas Eve Services and Paper Bag Christmas Pageant with visit from a donkey



L-R: Rev. James S. Isaacs, Asst. Rector;
Rev. Meredith T. Heffner, Rector
Rev. Catherine Manhardt, Curate
(with James, our patron saint,
watching over on All Saints Sunday)



Paper Bag Pageant participants

- Lenten services and events:
 - . Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and White Elephant Bingo
 - . Ash Wednesday services and Ashes to Go
 - . Lent Madness!
 - . Seven Locks Rd. Lenten Ecumenical Series, “Who Said Lent Can’t be Fun?”
 - . Stations of the Cross
 - . Online Lenten resources and devotionals

- Holy Week and Easter services:
 - Holy Week Worship: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday
 - Easter Sunday and children’s egg hunt
- Pentecost “Peace Be with You” in many languages
- Celebrated our high school graduates
- Feast of Saint James worship and parish picnic
- Rally Day celebration and picnic with St. James’ Children’s School
- St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals worship service and drive through blessings
- All Saints Day Remembrance worship with blessing of new All Saints Banner and surprise visit from a special Saintly Guest (see first photo!)
- Healing Prayers and laying on of hands on the fifth Sunday of the month

Sacramental Events: 3 Confirmations, 8 Funerals, 3 Baptisms

Fellowship and Community Life

- Movie Night, *Millions*
- “Stitching Together” craft group, first and third Wednesdays
- “Seven Minute Stories” conversations at coffee hour
- Trunk or Treat (with food donated to Manna)
- Feast of Saint James parish picnic
- Coffee hour prayer sharing
- Men’s Wednesday morning Bible Study and Prayer
- Summer Tai Chi
- Book Club Discussions by Zoom
 - *Bad Weather Friend*, Dean Koontz
 - *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, James McBride
 - *Origin*, the 2023 film
 - *Home Before Morning*, Lynda Van Deventer
 - *Lady Tan’s Circle of Women*, Lisa See
 - *Minding Frankie*, Maeve Binchy
 - *The Berry Pickers*, Amanda Peters
 - *The Covenant of Water*, Brendan Slocumb



Easter egg hunt



Parish picnic



Blessing of the Animals



Trunk or Treat

- *The Dutch House*, Ann Patchett
- *The Lost Bookshop*, Evie Woods
- *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, Lisa See
- *The Violin Conspiracy*, Brendan Slocumb
- *The Women*, Kristin Hannah
- *This is Happiness*, Niall Williams



Faith Formation and Discipleship

Children's Programs

- St. James' Children's School Chapel, two times per month
- Sunday School during 10:30 worship: "Weaving God's Promises"
- Summer Sunday School: "Sermons4Kids"
- All Saints Day paper plate Saints



Sunday School

Adult Faith Formation

- Advent FaithTalks based on the book *Advent of the Savior*
- Regional Advent Quiet Day
- Lenten book study: *Living Well Though Lent*
- Wednesday night Easter Series: *Toward Holy Ground*, Margaret Guenther
- Monday night Benedictine Study began in October (to continue into 2025): *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily*, Joan Chittister
- Thursday "Exploring our Faith" virtual study:
 - *Journey Through the Psalms*, Denise Dombkowski Hopkins
 - *The Screwtape Letters*, C. S. Lewis
 - *Re-Membering God – Human Hope and Divine Desire*, Tobias Stanislas Haller



MERCY Youth Group Activities

- Christmas Party
- Wreaths Across America
- Caroling at Nursing Homes
- Parent and Team Talks/Games
- Skyzone Trampoline Park
- Peeps Dioramas
- Service Project Round Robin
- Mission Trip with Appalachian Service Project



Youth Mission Trip

- DC Central Kitchen
- Planting Trees at St. James'
- Laser Tag
- September Cookout and Speaker
- Decorating Pumpkins, Trunk or Treat

Parish Ministries

Building Improvements Initiative: See Jr. Warden's Report

Care for Creation

- Organized a spring parish work day on April 20 to remove non-native invasive species, in collaboration with the Cub Scouts
- Led a four-week adult formation series during the season of Easter highlighting the commission's work. Topics included: solar energy, community action and advocacy, increasing native plants on our grounds, and ethical and sustainable food choices
- Supported advocacy for climate related bills in the Maryland State Legislature with Action in Montgomery, Interfaith Power & Light, and other community partners
- Obtained 19 native trees and shrubs from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources through Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake's Trees for Sacred Spaces program; organized a parish work day to plant these trees on Oct. 5



Part of the grounds clean-up team removing invasive plants



October 5 tree planting!

- Coordinated with St. James Children's School to obtain 8 native trees from the Tree Montgomery Program, to be planted later this year or in 2025
- Received two awards from Montgomery County at the inaugural "Climate Solutions for Congregations" event in recognition of our greenway shared with Beth Sholom and our efforts to restore native plants to our property
- Continued to increase the number of native plants on our parish grounds

- Continued to maintain the memorial garden as well as the native plant beds in the back parking lot
- Continued to provide education and consultation around sustainable and humane food choices for parish events
- Continued working with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, Interfaith Power and Light, and the Montgomery County Green Bank to install solar panels on the parish hall roof

Communication

- Social Media:
 - . Posted services and events on Facebook, 997 followers (up from 681)
 - . Posted services, events, and photos on Instagram
- Broadcast worship to YouTube and posted worship videos on YouTube and Vimeo; 186 YouTube subscribers (up from 159)
- Improved quality of sound for viewers at home by establishing direct recording connection with the sound system
- Updated parish hall bulletin boards with weekly announcements and event photos; created State of the Parish slide shows of parish life; maintained website photo galleries and calendar
- Offered weekly News and Notes emails with links to parish worship and events
- Shared “About Today’s Music” and Ministry Minutes in Sunday bulletins



Facilities - The commission is responsible for:

- Maintaining our buildings, seeing to it that repairs are made when needed including plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning;
- Tending our grounds, including the Memorial Garden;
- Having our alarm systems monitored and inspected regularly. This year, we are working on getting a new alarm system installed for our school and parish hall;
- Finding contractors to deal with unexpected events such as the fascia on the parish hall roof falling down, and ongoing issues like water going into the undercroft.



Mental Health Ministry

- Strengthened supportive community and promoted mental health education through 50 “Stronger Together” weekly zoom discussions, with group members rotating leadership of this gathering each week
- Led monthly “Praying for our Mental Health” Zoom gatherings to offer support to those with mental illness, and those who love them
- Led Second Saturday monthly nature walks in winter, spring, and fall to support and promote mental wellness and appreciation of creation
- Posted weekly “Stronger Together” topics on the St. James’ website Mental Health page
- Continue to pray for those living with mental illness and those who love them in the weekly Prayers of the People at worship



Mental Health Nature Walks

Mission and Outreach Initiatives

- Purchased and filled 60 backpacks for children in need in Montgomery County, distributed by Interfaith Works
- Volunteered at the Interfaith Works Clothing Center
- Volunteered at Comfort Cases, packing bags for foster youth
- Collected many bags of cold weather clothing for the Interfaith Works Clothing Center
- Provided monthly meals for the Interfaith Works Women's Shelter at Crabbs Branch
- Wrote Christmas cards and gifted \$50 Amazon and Giant gift cards to all (over 80) of the students at the Bishop Walker School
- Donated money to, and prayed weekly for, the children and employees at our partner church and school in L’acul, Haiti, Bon Samaritan.
- Donated weekly Sunday Manna Food Center donations
- Supported Cub Scout Pack 1306



Backpack Project



Volunteering at Interfaith Works Essential Needs Center

Racial Justice Committee

- Organized two additional events in St. James' "Love & Justice" series featuring Gigi Nelson from our EDOW Committee on Diocesan Reparations, and Sophia Kelleher from CASA Maryland
- Worked with other local congregations and organizations to support the Interfaith & Social Action Pavilion at the Scotland Juneteenth Heritage Festival
- Attended community actions on March 17 and October 15 with Action in Montgomery to advocate for issues around education, housing, and health
- Began a third Sacred Ground Circle
- Continued to explore ways to learn about the history of our parish's property



Advocating for justice with Action in Montgomery

St. James' Children's School

- Provided a full day preschool education and childcare program for 90 Students enrolled throughout the year
- Offered a school-age program in the parish hall during the summer, supporting families with older siblings including a one-week Vacation Bible school program with church families
- Employed 21 full-time and 13 part-time teachers (along with 10 subs and two regular volunteers) to provide care 11 hours a day for working families in our community.

Pastoral Care

- Connected to parishioners through phone calls and emails
- Distributed prayer shawls by request to those in need of comfort
- Commissioned Lay Eucharistic Visitors to provide communion and pastoral care to those at home
- Provided meals for families in need
- Sent grief booklets to those who have lost loved ones



Pocket prayer shawl

ST. JAMES' PARISH MINISTRY LEADERS AND GROUPS

St. James' continues its mission and ministries thanks to the work of many parishioners. Thank you to all who give of time, talent, and treasure for St. James'. Though we tried to include everyone in the list below, we apologize for those whose names or ministries were accidentally omitted. To get involved, more information is available by contacting the parish office at office@stjamespotomac.org.

Administration Commission and Nominating Committee

The commission is responsible for these projects:

- Annually assembling a nominating committee to recruit parish members to run for the vestry and for diocesan delegate and alternate positions.
- Identifying personnel matters that need vestry approval.
- Updating the personnel manual.
- Ensuring that recommendations are in line with the parish by-laws.

Commission members: Joyce Nohowel and Trish Powell, Co-chairs; Jennifer Nordin; Vestry liaison; The Rev. Meredith Heffner, Rector; Grace Lo, Parish Administrator.

Nominating Committee: Sampson Annan, chair; Suzanne Anderson Lin, Susan Olson, Carolyn Ragland, and Kara Smigel.

Care for Creation: This group explores ways to be better stewards of the Earth, "our island home." They sponsor volunteer activities, maintain the church's rain garden, identify ways to make our church more "green," and teach us creation-friendly practices so we can make a difference at home. *Webpage:* stjamespotomac.org/parish-ministries/care-for-creation.

Mission statement: We believe that our world is sacred, having been created by God, through Christ and in Christ. We are therefore committed to promoting respectful care for God's creation and in particular to work against climate change and on behalf of climate justice.

Group members: Doug Holy, Nancy Gossett, Jeanne Lehning, Donna Judkins, Catherine Manhardt, Kirsty Mitchell, Marta Vogel.

Children's School: A mission of the Church, St. James' Children's School is a state approved non-public school for nursery and preschool students ages 2 to 5, with full day child care for infants and toddlers. In addition to general school readiness, Bible curricula, and enriching school activities, there is a chapel service for older children and Spanish classes for children over 2. Separate karate and soccer programs are onsite and available for families. The school uses the state approved Creative Curriculum in all classes in addition to foundational social emotional activities to make sure every student is ready for Kindergarten. *Director:* Astrid Crookshank. *Website:* stjameschildrensschool.com.

Christian Education and Formation: This commission includes the Benedictine Prayer and Study Group, The Thursday "Exploring our Faith" Bible Study, Sunday FaithTalks, Ecumenical Lenten series, and Children's Education. Children's formation occurs through Sunday School, Children's Chapel, and other special events. Nursery care and Sunday School assistance is provided by Shirine Kohan. Middle and high school students receive further fellowship and education through our Youth Group.

Sunday School: St. James' Sunday School meets in the undercroft at 10:30 a.m. during worship. Children preschool age through grade five are invited to participate, and older children (and adults!) are invited to volunteer. Contact sundayschool@stjamespotomac.org.

Children's Ministries coordination: Jennifer Nordin, vestry Liaison; Marisol Castro, Sunday School teacher; The Rev. Meredith Heffner.

Youth Group: St. James' youth participate in games, lock-ins, service projects, discussions, and mission trips or retreats. They are part of the regional MERCY Youth group with St. Francis, Potomac and Christ Church, Rockville. *Youth Director:* Maddie Weber, maddie@stjamespotomac.org.

Communications Commission: This commission promotes timely transmission of information through digital communication, social networking, video recording and live-streaming of worship. They also manage our website and produce welcoming materials that explain our ministries, encourage participation, and invite members to share their talents. If you have an interest or experience in video, graphic design, social media, web design, marketing, or journalism, come share your talents with us! *Commission members:* Amy Metcalf, vestry liaison; Dawn Iype, Kirsten Hall, and Kara Smigel.

Facilities Commission: This commission oversees maintenance and work on the parish hall, the church building and grounds, and the Memorial Garden. Occasional work days are held for painting, cleaning, and garden care. Anyone may adopt a section of the property for ongoing care or volunteer for other one-time or ongoing property maintenance responsibilities. If you have expertise to share with us on issues like electrical or plumbing, are handy with tools, or love gardening, we would love to hear from you! Contact the parish office at office@stjamespotomac.org or 301-762-8040.

Fellowship Commission: This commission helps coordinate parish activities which promote fellowship among our members. Fellowship events include: movie nights, Trunk or Treat, Saint James' parish picnic, and Rally Day. Ongoing fellowship groups are the Men's Prayer Breakfast, and our Book Club. This group also offers conversation and prayer circles at coffee hour, to build supportive and friendly community.

Commission members: Brandi Page and Yolanda Lavery

Book Club: Cheryl Stafford

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study: Sampson Annan

Finance Commission: This commission is responsible for assisting with the overall financial management of the parish. The commission, working closely with the treasurer of St. James', reviews revenue and expenses of the church and oversees banking, audit, record keeping, bonding, insurance, and other financial requirements in accordance diocesan requirements. Responsibilities include:

- Assisting with the Annual stewardship campaign
- Coordinating the process of preparing the operating budget, along with the vestry and other commission chairs
- Monitoring fundraising activities such as the Food Certificate Ministry
- Counting all financial contributions and other monies coming into St. James', with the assistance of a dedicated group of Tellers

Commission members: Rev. Meredith Heffner; Tracy Lively, Treasurer; Lori Minasian, Sr. Warden; Courtney King, Jr. Warden; Ann Venton, vestry liaison; and Sandy Soundararajan, Chair; Ed Ellis, and Dan Zimmerman, members. *Rentals:* Newton Lewis; *Tellers:* Jane Lorenz, Chair; Beverly Bartolomeo; Elaine Buschor; Pat East; Jill Fritz; Alice Morrison.

Mental Health Ministries: This commission plans programs to support and educate parishioners about mental health in order to reduce stigma, provide resources, and better understand how to care for one another in times of mental illness and stress. *Mental Health Leaders Group:* James Isaacs, Chair; Brian Fox, vestry liaison; Sampson Annan; DeAtley Barish; Lisa Peterson; Sandy Soundararajan, and Doug Throckmorton. This year Alex Trouteaud stepped down as “Stronger Together” facilitator.

“Stronger Together” weekly mental health discussion group: All are welcome to join the discussion 7-8 p.m. by Zoom on Thursday evenings. The group introduces a different mental health topic by short video or article, followed by discussion. Ministry leaders and participants rotate facilitation.

“Prayers for Mental Health” monthly prayer meeting: All are welcome to gather for about 15-20 minutes on Zoom to pray for loved ones living with mental illness and those who care for them. Facilitated by members of the Mental Health Leaders group.

“Stitching Together” craft group: This informal group began in 2024 and meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the church flower room at 3 p.m. for fellowship, stitching, mending of vestments and altar hangings, and the occasional group project (such as making pocket-sized prayer shawls for our PAIC Thanksgiving worship). We invite anyone who likes to make things—or wants to learn—to join us. Contact Kirsten Hall, kirsten@stjamespotomac.org.

Mission and Outreach Commission: The Mission and Outreach (M&O) Commission helps coordinate parish programs for volunteer service and oversees the distribution of St. James’ funds to benevolences outside the parish. It also supports our Mental Health Ministries, Manna Food Center, Samaritan Ministries, Interfaith Works, Bon Samaritain Parish L’Acul in Haiti, and the Bishop Walker School.

Commission members: The Rev. James Isaacs, Chair; The Rev. Catherine Manhardt, Laurence Canete, Jennifer Gartin, Brad McCullough, vestry liaison, Alice Morrison, Ann Venton, and Harley Venton.

Music Ministries: *Director of Music ministries:* Newton Lewis, newton@stjamespotomac.org

The St. James’ Singers (choir) has become the St. James’ Chamber Singers, meeting only on Sunday mornings as able and providing choral anthems and leading the responses in the liturgy. They sing music from a variety of traditions. New members are welcome at all times!

The St. James’ Ringers (bell choir) has been rehearsing on regularly on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and have been playing monthly as a group and additionally in small groups to augment music at some services.

We have also brought in instrumentalists such as the Capital City Strings, David Chentian on cello, brass musicians, our own Brandi Page on violin and Steve Linehan-Reckford on cello, and more! If you want to share your talents and enrich our worship, please contact Newton Lewis.

Pastoral Care Commission: St. James’ is blessed with a loving and caring community that provides care to its members during times of need or crisis. Pastoral counseling and spiritual care are the responsibility of the parish clergy. Susan Olson is vestry liaison and chair.

Requesting Pastoral Care: If you have a specific need, or know of someone who does, please let us know. You may contact the parish office, or you may also request care by using our the “Contact Us” form on stjamespotomac.org. You will receive a confirmation email once it is submitted and then be contacted by a member of the clergy or pastoral care team.

Lay ministries include:

Food Ministry: Donations of homemade meals are appreciated and will be called for as needed. Please contact the office if you would like to be notified of a parishioner's need for meals. A list of all ingredients must accompany the meal, and re-heating instructions are much appreciated. Contact: Susan Olson and Carolyn Ragland.

Grief Ministry: Using Stephens Ministry resources, appropriate grief support services are distributed to those who have lost loved ones in our parish. Contact: Randy Cooper.

Prayer Shawls: Each year, the Prayer Shawl Ministry lovingly and prayerfully knits prayer shawls that are blessed during St. James' worship services and then distributed to members, family, friends and neighbors in need. Kirsten Hall, coordinator; prolific stitchers: Carol Barrick, Beverly Bartolomeo, Elaine Buschor (delivering shawls), Joyce Graf, Deborah Talley, Mindy Van Valkenburgh, and others.

Racial Justice Committee: This group is working to develop the vision and response of the St. James' community, to create a fair and just society, and to heal divisions, so that we may live in justice and peace. *Commission members:* Sampson Annan, Ed & Linda Ellis, Carrie Fox, Meredith Heffner, Doug Holy, James Isaacs, Beda Jean-Francois, Barbara Kamyra, Yolanda Lavery, Catherine Manhardt, Brad McCullough, Kirsty Mitchell, Susan Olson, Trish Powell, Susan Schuck, Katherine Weaver.

Worship Commission: This commission plans and prepares for all worship services and coordinates those who support and assist in worship. This includes musicians, ushers, flower guild, altar guild, lectors, intercessors, acolytes, our Sunday Morning Prayer Team, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers.

Commission members: The Rev. Meredith T. Heffner; John Eisold, Chair; Lori Minasian, Vestry liaison; Sampson Annan; Kirsten Hall (liaison to Flower and Altar guilds); Jeanne Lehning; Newton Lewis, Music Director; Amy Black Metcalf; and Sarah Padgett.

Acolytes: Acolytes assist in worship, carrying the cross and Gospel book, lighting candles, and assisting at the Eucharist. Interested youth are welcome to join us! Contact Rev. Meredith, rector@stjamespotomac.org.

Altar Guild: This team works behind the scenes to prepare for and clean up after Sunday worship and special services. *Members:* Carol Barrick, Beverly Bartolomeo, Elaine Buschor, Pat East, Jill Fritz, Jennifer Gartin, Kirsten Hall, Sam and Jane Ireland, Jean Jackson, Alice Morrison, Susan Olson, and Lisa Peterson.

Flower Guild: Guild members purchase, arrange, and distribute flowers for worship services, and requests at baptisms, funerals, and weddings. *Members:* Carol Barrick, Joyce Graf, Kirsten Hall, Yolanda Lavery, Jeanne Lehning, Maureen Murphy, Charlotte Soundararajan, Sarah Padgett, and Elizabeth Riel.

Lectors and Intercessors: Lectors read portions of the scriptures and lead the intercessory prayers during worship.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Rector trains and Kirsten Hall coordinates. LEMs serve the chalice and sometimes bread at the altar during communion.

Music Ministries: Newton Lewis (see Music Ministries, above)

Prayer Team: Sampson Annan. New team members are needed to offer prayers individually for anyone who comes to the kneelers during communion.

Continued on back page

Special Liturgies: Jeanne Lehning. This ministry aims to deepen our worship with meaningful liturgies, music, and ways to mark special days.

Ushers: Amy Black Metcalf, coordinator. Ushers greet parishioners, guide them to seats and communion, and respond to emergencies during the worship service. They note attendance, monitor the facilities, clean up the pews after worship, and ensure that the building is secured.

Video Recording and Live Stream Worship: Dawn Iype, Kirsten Hall, Kara Smigel, and Bennett Soundararajan. We welcome volunteers to learn how it works. See Communications, above.



St. James' Episcopal Church

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