

St. James seeks to be a community that grows more Christlike, expressing the love of Jesus Christ in our worship, our outreach, and our commitment to discipleship.

ST. JAMES MESSENGER

A WORD FROM FR. TOM...

Dear St. James Family:

I don't think any of us imagined a month ago what rapid havoc this COVID-19 crisis would wreak on all of us. Life as we know it has come to a halt—and will never quite be the same. We are forced to make adjustments to daily new restrictions of “social distancing” without knowing how long it will last. Our services at St. James have been temporarily suspended, and as much as I would love for us to meet again by Easter, I can't promise that we will.

But I can promise to keep you in communication about the latest developments at St. James. Not only will we continue to send out parish-wide emails, but we now have a Postcall system where I can send messages to you by phone (thanks to the hard work of Deb Carraway). We also have a Facebook page, and an active website now being managed by our parishioner, Jeff Engel.

And—as many of you know—we are worshiping online! You can view our service each Sunday on YouTube (just go to the search bar and type “Leesburg StJames” with a space between the words), or on Facebook, or on the website. For this, too, I am indebted to Deb and Paul Carraway, and Jeff Engel for their hard work in making this happen. We received some wonderful feedback for our service on March 22nd. Thank you! Keep tuning in and letting us know what you think. Your input matters!

I can also promise to keep praying for you and for St. James. I know that you are also praying for me, my family, and our church. That is very encouraging! Crises like this, as painful as they are, can bring out the best in people. I've seen how it has fostered compassion, creativity, and a renewed spiritual commitment already. Our vestry has also been using this time, not just to keep operations going, but to reflect on our long-term calling as a parish. Much fruit is already coming out of our deliberations, which we will be sharing with you down the road.

We don't know how long this crisis will last, but we do know that it will end, and I am certain that we will emerge from it stronger than before. God has a future for St. James. He is preparing us for a Resurrection!

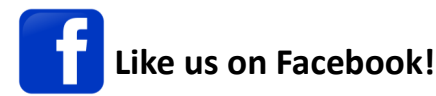
In Christ,
Tom+

APRIL 2020

The Messenger is a monthly publication of St. James’ Episcopal Church in Leesburg, Florida. It is mailed on the last Wednesday of each month and highlights parish news for the upcoming month. Deadline for submissions is the third Wednesday of each month. Submissions should be sent to: Pat Schaefer <office@stjames-leesburg.org>

Church Mailing Address:

St. James Episcopal Church
204 N. Lee Street
Leesburg, FL 34748
Services: Sunday 8:00AM & 10:15 AM
Thursdays Healing Service 10:00AM
Office Phone: (352) 787-1981
Office Fax: (352) 787-1021
Office Email: office@stjames-leesburg.org
Fr. Trees’ email: frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org
Fr. Trees’ cell: (352) 643-1182
Visit our website at: **www.stjames-leesburg.org**



CHURCH VESTRY & STAFF

Rector: Rev’d Thomas Trees
Assisting Priests: Rev’ds Charles Hay, William J. Boyer, James Martin, Ron Peak
Assisting Deacons: Rev’ds Charlie Perrin, Jerry Steidl
Parish Organist/Choir Director: Deb Carraway
Nursery Coordinator: Carmen Rebusmen
Director of Youth and Families: Elizabeth Williams
Minister to Teens: Susie Brewer
Treasurer: Tom Grizzard
Parish / Finance Secretary: Pat Schaefer
Sexton: Doug Ames
Housekeeping: Diane Smith
Vestry Members: Bonnie Binneveld, Ted Bowersox, Marc Crouch, Kristen Daley, Kathy Davidson, Steve Merrill (Junior Warden), Bruce Saylor (Senior Warden), Dick Singletary, Joanie Smalley, Bob Tindall, Steve Treiber, Patti Wolf

EASTER 2020
By Janet Davis

Tornadoes, virus, endless wars;
Easter Day is almost here,
How can we celebrate,
With so much to fear?

Lenten season
Time of prayer;
Time to show
How much we care.

Jesus said “Love one another,”
For us then he died:
How can I help you, neighbor?
Can I be by your side?



(Many blessings to Janet on the celebration of her 90th Birthday on March 24th! You are an inspiration!)



GOT PHOTOS???

Our librarian, Margaret Branham, is in the process of putting together memory books for St. James. If you have any pictures of meaningful events that have taken place at St. James please consider sharing them. If you would kindly have them printed, they can be left in the church office and Pat will make sure Margaret gets them, Thank you for sharing!

NEED TO MEET WITH FR. TOM?

If you would like to know when you can come by the church to meet with Fr. Tom, he will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 to noon, and Thursdays from 11:00 to noon. If you would like to arrange for other times to meet, you can contact him by phone or text at (352) 643-1182, or by email at frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org.

I Can Worship Anywhere

Say! I like the Word of God.
I Do! I like to praise His name.
And I can worship in a boat.
And I can read my Bible notes.



I sing about Him in the rain.
And in the dark and with a friend.
I can pray in a car or in a tree.
He is so good, so good, you see!

He protects me like a strong box.
His armor is stronger than any locks.
I'm safe with Him inside my house.
Though He is quiet as a mouse.



I like to worship here and there.
I can talk to Jesus anywhere!
I do so like to praise the Lord!
Thank you! Thank you, for your Word!

An adaptation of Dr. Seuss's GREEN EGGS AND HAM for all God's Children, especially those missing church services and related programs due to the Corona virus

Bonnie N. Binneveld
March 20, 2020
St. James Episcopal Church, Leesburg, FL

GIVING AT ST. JAMES

I want to express my gratitude those who have continued giving to St. James during our separation. I am well aware that many of you may experience financial loss, either from your paycheck or your portfolio. If you are at a point of need, let us know. We will see how we can help, and lift you up in prayer.

For those of you who are able, I would ask that you continue to support St. James through your tithes and generous giving. Several of you have asked how you can do that. At this time you can:

1. Mail it to the church office at:
204 N. Lee St., Leesburg, FL, 34748;
2. Drop it off at church in person (as long as that is feasible). You can come by doing church hours, or simply place it in the slot in the office door; or
3. Donate through Paypal on our Church Web site (you can also use your debit card). Just go to **www.stjames-leesburg.org** and open the link on **Giving**.

Again, thank you for your continued support and prayer!

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1st Corinthians 15:57-58)

Blessings to you all.
Tom+

FOOD BANK

During this difficult time, please keep in mind those that may be in dire need. The Food Bank especially needs contributions, especially of jelly, oatmeal (canisters), and canned fruit with a snap-off lid. If anyone would like to drop food off at the church, please feel free to do so during church hours (Mon-Thurs, 9:00am-4:30pm). Rita Clements has offered to pick the food up and make deliveries to the Food Bank.

ECW MONTHLY UPDATE

The next monthly meeting of the St. James Episcopal Church Women, scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th, 2020 at 10:00 am, has been called off.

Chapter Meetings—April 21, 2020

Please stay in touch with each of the Chapter Chairs for more information on plans for the April meetings as the date approaches. Kudos to those who have made use of social media as a way to hold meetings from a distance! It is essential that we stay connected during this time of “Social Distancing.” Our Chapter Chairs are:

St. Ann	Shirley Dunne (352-314-0048)
St. Cecilia	Terri Ross (407-399-7492)
St. Francis	Dorry Curran (949-633-8471)
St. Mary	Nadine Millet (352-250-4997)



ECW FUNDRAISER: EARTH DAY FAIR

The Earth Day Fair, scheduled for **April 22nd**, has been **postponed**, but **not cancelled**! Stay tuned for our rescheduled date for this important event, which will feature Vendors, Raffle Baskets, Plants, a Butterfly release, and more!



MUSIC MUSINGS April 2020

“I lift up my eyes to the hills...from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth...” Psalm 121:1-2

This is the scripture verse I concluded last month’s Music Musings article with, but it seems totally appropriate to begin this month’s with it, as well. We are in unfamiliar territory as a church, finding new ways to worship, connect, and serve. It is my belief that we will come through this stronger and more equipped for the cause of Christ in our community.

By the time you read this article, a small ensemble from the choir will have sung the following anthem for our “virtual worship” on March 29. It is entitled, “He’ll Be There,” and I pray that you will be blessed by both the text and music in the days ahead:

**When in darkness and in shadows, heavy burdens we must bear.
Call unto God, the Lord of love, and always know that He’ll be there.
*Therefore be strong and courageous, be not afraid, nor dismayed.
For the Lord, our God will be with you,
Wherever you go, whatever you do, He will not forsake you.***
**On the journey through the darkest vale, in the seasons of despair,
Call unto God, the Lord of love, and always know that He’ll be there.
*Therefore be strong and courageous, be not afraid, nor dismayed.
For the Lord, our God will be with you,
Wherever you go, whatever you do, He will not forsake you.***
**Forever God will guide you, forever He’s beside you.
He will be your strength and comfort, put your trust in God
*Therefore be strong and courageous, be not afraid, nor dismayed.
For the Lord, our God will be with you,
Wherever you go, whatever you do, He will not forsake you.***

God will not forsake you, friends; be blessed and be well,

**Deb Carraway
Director of Music**



- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Keith Burnett | 16 Charles Ransom |
| 4 Gerald Steidl | 17 Steve Millett |
| Bob Clements | 20 Court Hintze |
| 5 Carl Sanderson | Meg Johnson |
| Ann Disch | 21 Jeff Binneveld |
| Kathleen Trees | 22 Wendy Breeden |
| 7 Charles Doty | Tanina Singeltary |
| 8 Gary Neumann | Christopher Battle |
| Robin Bourne | 25 Carmen Rebusmen |
| 9 James Soltysiak | 26 Dick Singeltary |
| 10 Alfonso Luongo | 27 Sharon Bowersox |
| Megan Stokes | 28 Jack Sergio |
| 11 Kathleen Maguirean | John Knowles |
| 15 Carol Hilbish | 29 Margaret Jackson |
| 16 Russ Vance | |



- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 Ronald & Susan Luth | 18 Tom & Linda Grizzard |
| 5 Jim & Wendy Breeden | 21 David & Cherie Knowles |
| Jack & Patricia Jones | 23 Marc & Marie Crouch |
| 15 Nigel & Patricia Bailey | Drew & Shelly Logan |
| 17 John & Nancy Russell | |

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not mentioned, please call the office at 352-787-1981 so we can be sure to have it on file.



A Prayer from the Daughters...

*Lord, please increase my inner strength.
Remind me that, although I seem powerless,
your power knows no limits, and
you will provide whatever endurance I need
to see me through this current crisis.
Amen.*

While the Daughters' monthly meetings are on hiatus for the time, we encourage you to stay connected, and to continue to uphold the two Rules of the Order: The Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service!

NEW PARISH HALL CABINET

Thank you, Ross Belson, for taking the time to design and build our new cabinet in the Parish Hall! The workmanship is impeccable, and the TV lift works brilliantly! Especially beneficial is the laptop stand for Sunday School. We can't wait for classes to resume, so we can continue utilizing your gift!



BABY WADDELL

Congratulations to Katie and Trey Waddell on the birth of their third child (and first son), Dewey Alfred Waddell IV (AKA "Trevor"), on February 25th!

Trevor is also the grandson of Rob and Amy Bowersox, great-grandson of Ted and Sharon Bowersox, and little brother to Allison and Avery!





2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<i>Join us in Worship!</i>			1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion	6 Monday in Holy Week	7 Tuesday in Holy Week	8 Wednesday in Holy Week	9 Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	11
12 Easter Day	13	14	15 Finance Meeting 5 pm	16 Vestry Meeting 6 pm	17	18
19 2nd Sunday of Easter	20	21 ECW Chapter Meetings (Consult Chapter Chairs)	22	23	24	25
26 3rd Sunday of Easter	27	28	29	30		