

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ST. JAMES!



Please join us for a



QUILT OF VALOR CEREMONY

Honoring

FATHER BILL BOYER

During the Healing and Anointing Service on
Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at
St. James Episcopal Church.

A handmade quilt by Gail Robinson will be awarded as a powerful reminder of the significance and healing comfort of quilts, especially those made with purpose as meaningful as expressing gratitude to a courageous navy man, Fr. Bill Boyer.



Bill and Nancy's
new address is:

**2065 Cynthia Dr.,
Mt. Airy, NC 27030**

JANUARY 2025

The Messenger is a monthly publication of St. James' Episcopal Church in Leesburg, Florida. It is mailed on the last week 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: Victoria Mymudes <office@stjames-leesburg.org>

Church Mailing Address
St. James Episcopal Church
204 N. Lee Street
Leesburg, FL 34748



SUNDAY SERVICES **8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.**
HEALING SERVICE: **Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel**
FR. TREES' CELL & EMAIL: **(352)-643-118 EMAIL: frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org**
OFFICE PHONE: **(352) 787-1981 FAX: (352)787-1021**
OFFICE EMAIL: **office@stjames-leesburg.org**

Please visit our website at: www.stjames-leesburg.org



Sunday services are livestreamed at 10:15 AM:
Go to YouTube and type
“Leesburg Stjames” or visit our Facebook Page.

CLERGY AND STAFF

Rector	Rev'd Thomas Trees
Deacon	Rev'd Art Hollows
Parish & Finance Secretary	Victoria Mymudes
Parish Organist/Choir Director	John Wilson
Youth Ministry and Choir Director	Elizabeth Williams
Sexton	Wylie Hill

VESTRY MEMBERS

(Senior Warden) Terri Galyon, (Junior Warden) Drew Logan, (Treasurer) Linda Weekley
Bill Binneveld, Rita Clements, Linda Grizzard, David Knowles, Mackie McCabe, Stuart
Mowatt, Marvin Naylor, Dan Robuck, Dick Singeltary .

St. James Prayer List

Call the Church Office (352)787-1981 with additions/deletions

SHORT TERM
(3 Weeks)

Peter Benoit
Renee Bray
Susan Burden
Michele Cowley
Larry Coolbrouth
Connor Davidson
Rebecca Draime
Jimmy Draime
Marge Guiton
Sue Hackney
Kamie Hecker
James Kevin Kaley
Diane Little
Jeffery Millett
Ted Bedell

Diane Neal
Steve Scharber

LONG TERM
(3 Months)

Baby Autumn
Michael Baker
Nathan Battle
Peggy Berutich
Bill Boyer
Joe Branham
Marsha Burdick
Mabel Burns
Judy Cable
Jasmine Cleeton
Paul Dallaire
Carol Davis
Bernie Dodeci



LONG TERM

Beverly Caswell
Jim Christian
Larry Coolboth
Kristin Conner
Birdy Connelley
Beth Crossley
Paul Dallaire
David Dudley
Dottie Elliott
Brook James
Ben Johnson
Keneta Gaillardet
Fr. Charles Hay
Katie Leware
Linda Long
Bill Mann
Becky Mitchel

Jim Mitchell
Brandon Morrison
Belinda Morton Rusk
Jared Mymudes
Curt Oestreich
Cindy Raczkowski
Bubba Robinson
Holly Rouse
Robert Sanchez
Charlie Schaefer
Donna Sharnosk
Jameson Small
Shellwy Thomas
Julitta Velton
Dot Vedder
Kevin Watkins
Helen Williams
Rob Yeager

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

This is a reminder that our next Grief Support Gathering is 3:00 pm on Thursday, January 09, 2025 (2nd Thursday of January due to New Year's falling on the previous day) again at *The Coffee Snob* after closing. If you want to order a drink or something to eat, come earlier.

Our topic for conversation is “*How the Passing of Our Loved Ones Changed Us Forever*”. The loss of our loved ones can show us strength, independence and resilience we didn't know we had. Think about how you have changed.

I've attached the flyer again for sharing. There are also copies at The Coffee Snob. Together, we will “*Move Forward*” during the New Year! Looking forward to seeing you on the 9th.

Hugs and God's Blessings, Susan





LIBRARY CORNER



We are looking forward to the upcoming celebration for [Father Bill Boyer](#), who, along with Nancy his lovely and talented wife, will be with us on January 9th to receive [The Quilt of Honor, in recognition of Fr. Boyer’s service as a U.S. Navy Chaplin](#).

You may recall the many books Nancy has written; we have copies of most of them in our Parish Library, so we will place them on the Parish Hall book truck prior to January, 9th. REREAD Nancy’s books, which include the story of our Jamaica Medical Mission, as well as short biographies of many members of our congregation. It would make a truly complete occasion to honor both of the Boyers for their dedication, humanity, leadership and love for us all.

Happy New Year, and remember Reading is FUNdamental.

MTB

INVITE-WELCOME-CONNECT UPDATE

Connecting Newcomers to St James

Connecting is the process of making Newcomers feel like they belong. At St James our process involves the following:

- *Contacting them,
- *Being available to them
- *Helping them see where they fit in within St James
- *And, Tracking their status

Bob Tindall has done a super job of preparing and presenting the 3-part series, “The History of St. James, Why We Do What We Do” for newcomers. Bob has also put together a small group of people, called “Liaison” to St. James. These Liaisons make first contact, via the mail.

This small group could certainly welcome growth. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please contact [Bob Tindall at \(717\) 575-3092](#). walruselecta@gmail.com

Need to Meet with Fr. Tom?

If you would like to come by the church to meet with Fr. Tom, he will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to noon, and Thursdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.. 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.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND VESTRY ELECTION

Mark your calendars for the **138th Annual Parish Meeting** which will take place on **Sunday, January 19th, 2024 at 11:30 am** in the Parish Hall. Lunch will be included (we will provide the meat; please bring a side dish). We will review key events from 2024, confirm our budget, elect four new vestry members, and look forward to what God has in store for us in 2025.

The Vestry Nominating Committee has chosen four candidates, whose biographical information is included in this Newsletter. Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting. If anyone intends to nominate someone, please let us know by the week before the meeting, so that names and information can be made available.

Qualifications for vestry nomination are:

- 1) Communicant in Good Standing at St. James;
- 2) No less than 18 years old;
- 3) Faithful in religious attendance;
- 4) Financial supporter of record to the general parish budget;
- 5) No spouse serving concurrently on the vestry.

(Also Note: During the Sunday School hour on January 19th, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., we will offer a specific overview of our parish finances and our budget before the Annual Meeting.

MEET OUR VESTRY NOMINEES!

CLAIRE BROOKS

I was a previous member of the vestry from 2017-2020. I enjoyed that time learning how the vestry works and the responsibilities it takes.

In my career, I currently work as a middle school librarian and teacher. I also taught elementary school for many years.

I am a third-generation member of St James and, while there is pride in that, it is not the reason I am still a member. The spirituality and love that I feel in this church are what have kept me attending. I was blessed to be able to share this with my two daughters as well and I know that they felt the love of Jesus as they attended. (Continued on next page...)



(Claire Brooks, Continued...)

I am grateful for the many opportunities for stewardship, both minor and major. And I appreciate how no one is pressured to do more than they can at different points in their life. I certainly have had years where I did more or less activities depending on my personal life. Thankfully, I have been able to be more active lately and have participated in the Alpha course, as a greeter, and as a Eucharistic Visitor. All of these have helped me to grow spiritually and to make connections with other members in our church. I am grateful for my church family.

TONY COBB



My name is Ta’Kee Anthony Cobb, better known as “Tony”. I was born in Chicago Illinois, and mostly raised in central Florida. I’m 27 years old, and I first started attending St. James in 2021. I was baptized on New Year’s Day, 2022. I serve in the Tech Booth, on the Jamaican Medical Mission, on Alpha, and as a Lay Eucharistic Minister. In 2025 I’ll be joining the Eucharistic Visitor, and Stephen Ministries. I also been a part of the Grief Support Group.

I’d love an opportunity to join the Vestry to further be a part of and give back to a church and congregation that has so richly given to me. I can also be a voice for the newcomers and further be a part of and bring forth the vision of St. James.

SUSAN CYRUS

I grew up in Eastern Tennessee, was a member of Church of the Brethren, and attended East Tennessee State University with a B. S. Degree in Elementary Education. After graduation in 1969 I started my career in education, teaching and serving in various Curriculum roles in Sumter County School System. During that time I continued my education by obtaining a Masters Degree at Rollins College and a Specialist Degree in Administration and Supervision from Stetson University. After transferring to the Lake County School System in 1989, I served as an administrator in Eustis and Principal of Tavares Elementary for 12 years.



After marrying my husband, Robert R. Cyrus, I started attending and was confirmed at St. James Episcopal in 1986. Retirement in 2006 afforded me time to become more involved by serving on the Altar Guild, Invite Committee, and as Vice President of Programs for ECW.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Congratulations to Jeff Brooke-Stewart and Carole Warner, who were married at St. James on Sunday, December 15th.

“God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. *Amen*”



A STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU



¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” (Ephesians 4:10)

We’d like to thank all of you who made your financial commitment to St. James for 2025. If you would still like to make a pledge, you can send in your card, or contact the church at office@stjames-leesburg.org, or 352-787-1981.

GIVING ENVELOPES for 2025 are now available for pick up in the Parish Hall. Thank you for your generosity!

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Happy New Year Everyone!

Many have asked me to lead a study of The Revelation to John, the last book of the New Testament and commonly known simply as Revelation. This book is quite a mix. It contains some very straightforward words that are clear and always timely. Other parts are majestic and stirring. Yet other parts are apocalyptic and are laid out in mystical inspiring spiritual terms. Sometimes difficult, but always rewarding, the book is rich in symbolism. The ESV version of the scriptures describes Revelation as one of the most complex books in the Bible.

So I invite you to join this study. We begin on **Thursday January 23 at 6:30 in the Parish Hall.**

Bring your Bible and your inquisitiveness.

-Jeff Brooke-Stewart

VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP- BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

The video discussion group that began when our Alpha program concluded will continue to meet in January and February. Instead of meeting weekly, we will meet on the third **Tuesday of January (1/21/25) and the third Tuesday of February (2/18/25) at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall.** Please bring your bag supper to enjoy a time of fellowship together before we watch and discuss the videos.

We will be exploring short videos presented by J. Warner Wallace, a former cold case detective who began his journey towards Christ by using the same investigative techniques to analyze Christianity as he did to solve crimes. He now shares quick answers to common atheist challenges to our faith.

ST. JAMES SPIRITUAL FORMATION COURSE COMING IN MARCH!

Our parish Spiritual Foundation Committee is offering a new St. James Spiritual Formation Course this Lent. The course is intended for anyone at any stage of their spiritual journey. The course will explore issues like getting to know God better, listening and talking to God, how the Bible was transmitted over time, collaborating with God in stewardship and ministry, following God together as a community, and sharing our faith with others. The plan is to offer the course on Tuesday evenings from 3/11-4/8. There will also be a workshop day on Saturday 4/5. The course will involve some lecture material, class discussions, small group conversations, and interactive experiences.

About 25 people have signed up for the course, just via word-of-mouth.

We still have room for many others! We will also offer the course on Thursdays at 11:00am if there is sufficient interest.

Please contact Dorry Curran at (949)633-8471 or tinkrvl@gmail.com if you would like to participate. Please also let her know if you would be interest-

INTERGENERATINAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES!

RED LETTER EDITION

STARTING JANUARY 12TH

@ 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST IS INCLUDED!

(Susan Cyrus, Continued...)

For several years I have worked at the Annual Bazaar, Taste of St. James, Jody's Gift Shop and conducted research on the history of our Crucifix. After the loss of my beloved husband in 2021, I formed and continue to facilitate a monthly Grief Support Ministry open to members and nonmembers of St. James. The group continues to grow as we "Move Forward" through our Grief Journeys. New members of our congregation have added as a result of attending this ministry.



BERT SOFIELD

Robert (Bert) Sofield has been married to Karen Gabriel-Sofield for 17 years, between them they have 5 children and 12 grandchildren. They have been members of St James for 15 years after making Leesburg their home permanently relocating from Edison, NJ. Bert is a retired Battalion Chief from the Edison Division of Fire and Rescue where he served 35 years.

He has held the rank of Firefighter, Firefighter Paramedic, Lieutenant, (Engine Company Officer), Captain, Department Training Officer (As Training Officer he was responsible for training new hires, training and maintaining certification of all department personnel both career and volunteer totaling 375 members.) He also held the position of City Wide Tour Commander (senior tour chief) and served as the Township Deputy Director of Emergency Management for 8 years.

Bert is a graduate of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, and attended Trenton State College (Now the College of New Jersey) in NJ. He holds multiple accreditations and Certifications related to the fire service, Emergency Medicine, and Emergency Management.

After retirement from the Edison Fire Department he took a position at Middlesex County Fire Academy as Fire Instructor for 10 years. During this time he instructed firefighters and other emergency service personnel in basic and advance fire suppression, strategy and tactics, emergency medical care, hazardous materials operations, technical rescue, motor vehicle extrication, confined space rescue and other special operations including the incident command system. He was raised Episcopalian and his entire family belonged to St Peters Episcopal Church in Perth Amboy NJ, (oldest parish in NJ 1687) many of his family members including both his parents are buried on the grounds. He served on the Vestry there and has also served on the auditing committee and as Chair of the building and grounds committee.

ECW ST. JAMES WOMEN IN ACTION!

As ECW heads into the new year there is much to celebrate. Over 50 women attended our December holiday luncheon and enjoyed an enticing array of tasty foods, enjoyable entertainment, and a bit of business. Thanks goes to Babs Treiber’s hospitality team and many women who contributed samples of their cooking talents. Our special guests, the Lahey family, donned period costumes and shared interesting historical detail about the carols we sang as they accompanied on piano, viola, and cello. [Thanks to the Laheys!](#)

Chapter Meetings resume on January 21st:

St. Anne’s in the Parish Hall and St. Francis’ in the St. Nicholas House, both at 10 a.m.;

St. Cecilia’s in the Parish Hall at 3:45. Please join us.

We look forward to the continuing work of Karen Sofield and Dee Saylor with gratitude for their ongoing creative approaches to boosting our charitable giving.

The 2024 **Holiday Bazaar** earned **\$6,084** and there are several fun-filled fundraising events on the horizon:

The yard sale on January 25th, 9 to 1 p.m. Reserve a table by January 15th. You pay **\$20** for the table, but the profits are yours.

The Live Auction and the Silent Auction, February 1st led by Bob Tindall. Always a fun evening, and a generous boost to our giving fund!

Table Scapes. Led by Karen Sofield, March 22nd. 5 p.m. Hosts sign up to design a table décor and serve 6 guests for an atmospheric evening and wonderful brisket meal prepared by Chef Bert Sofield.

We anticipate another year of supporting the growth and outreach of St. James

Click here to visit the ECW webpage for more details: stjames-leesburg.org/ECW.html. Or go to the St. James Home Page, Ministries, then find ECW on the drop-down menu.

Connect Orientation Series

This series will run the last two Sundays in February and the first Sunday in March:

February 16: The History of St. James

February 23: Why We Do What We Do (A Look at the Liturgy)

March 2: Missions & Ministries at St. James

All sessions will run from **9:15 to 9:45**
in the St. Nicholas House.

ST. JAMES POLO & T-SHIRTS

Men’s Polo Shirts Sizes		Women’s Polo Shirts Sizes	
Sm, Med, Large, XL	\$25 each	Sm, Med, Large, XL	\$25 (short sleeve)
2XL, 3 XL, 4XL, 5XL	\$30 each.		\$30 (¾ sleeve)
		2XL, XL, 4XL	\$30 (short or ¾ sleeve)

Children’s Polo Shirts Sizes	Screen Printed Tee Shirts
Sm, Med, Large, XL \$25 each	Adult : S, M, L, XL \$15
	2XL, 3 XL, 4XL \$20
	Children’s: S, M, L, XL \$15



MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The men of St. James are invited to join us on the third Wednesday of every month at 8:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Our next meeting is scheduled for **January 15th.**

Please join us on the second Wednesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall . Our next meeting is **January 8th.**

ECW GRAND AUCTION SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025

6:00 PM: Doors Open; Silent Auction Begins; Complimentary Appetizer **7:00 PM: Live Auction Begins**
Beverages Available for Donation

It's hard to believe, but the ECW Grand Auction is one month away! Be sure to mark you calendar for this wonderful evening. At this point, we need you to do three things:

- (1) Pray for the success of this huge fundraiser for ECW's Outreach Programs.
- (2) Consider donating something for either the Silent Auction or Live Auction.
- (3) Buy your ticket. Tickets are **\$5**, and are available after both Services each Sunday in January.

If you are considering a donation, you will need to speak with Bob Tindall since not all items are suitable for this type of auction. You may contact him via email, phone or text: walruselect@gmail.com or (717) 575-3092. All sorts of things are being donated: various baskets; gift cards; dinners; wine tasting; dance lessons; vacation get-aways.

PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF ITEMS AT THE PARISH OFFICE!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth Graham	1st	Terry Mitchell	22nd
Laura Braun	4th	John Oldham	23rd
Bert Sofield	5th	Bill Cauthen	21st
Steve Treiber	9th	Jason Gray	21st
Amy Careins	9th	Shelly Logan	23rd
Steve Boney	11th	Barbara Logan	24th
Iris Robuck	11th	Carole Fischer	26th
Bob Geyer	13th	Joan Smalley	26th
Linda Tucker	14th	John Oldham	26th
Mary Hooper	15th	Deb Macintyre	27th
Elijah Trees	15th	Ronnie Young	28th
Brenda Carter	18th	Art Hollows	29th
Marc Crouch	18th	Keneta Gaillardet	30th
Stuart Mowatt	18th	Sue Greenwood	30th
Mitchell Gray	18th	Sharon McCabe	30th
Karen Sofield	18th	Joseph Branham	31st
John Wilson	19th	Gary Arbott	31st
Dianna O'Kelley	21st	Ansley Gray	31st

ANNIVERSARIES

Ray & Ann Ozanne	12th
David & Denise Lawrence	13th
Ronnie & Nancy Young	27th



DECEMBER FOOD DROP

So faith, hope, love abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.
Corinthians 13:13

With love, volunteers, Tanina and Dick Singeltary, Jan Tindall, Terri and Van Galyon, Barbara Logan and Rita Clements met our generous and cheerful food and monetary givers for the December Food Drop:

COLLECTED: 447 POUNDS OF FOOD \$592.00
TOTAL TO DATE: 48,818 POUNDS OF FOOD \$57,419

We look forward to the **NEW YEAR 2025** wishing you **CHEER** and knowing ;
**THE GREATEST POWER WE CAN FIND
IN THE WORLD IS GOD'S LOVE.**

Thank you for your wonderful support for the
LEESBURG FOOD BANK and look forward to the next FOOD DROP ,
Wednesday, January 18th from 9:00-12:00.

MESSENGER MAILING LIST

We are in the process of updating our mailing list for the Messenger. Currently, the Messenger is sent out by both postal mail and parish-wide email. Copies are available in the church that may be picked up. You can also view the Messenger on the front page of our St. James website. We are aiming to streamline our mailing list for those who wish to continue receive the Messenger by postal mail. If you would like to be kept on our list, please send us an email letting us know at office@stjames-leesburg.org

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING

Please join us on **Friday, January 17th at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall** for a fun evening of dancing and fellowship. The **tickets are \$10.00** per person. Water will be provided, but everyone is encouraged to bring a refreshment. For more information, please contact the church office: **352-787-1981.**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				LIBRARY OPEN 8:30-12		
			1 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 4:00 Jubilate 6:00 Bell Choir 6:45 Adult Choir	2 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop 6:30 Bible Study	3 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open	4
5 2nd Sunday After Christmas 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist	6 7:00 Ukulele Practice	7 9:00 ECW Board Mtg. 10:00 General Mtg.	8 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 2:00 Daughter's of the King 4:00 Jubilate 6:00 Bell Choir 6:45 Adult Choir	LIBRARY OPEN 8:30-12 9 10:00 Healing Service 10:00 Quilt of Valor Father Bill Boyer 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop 3:00 Grief Support 6:30 Bible Study	10 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open	11
12 1st Sunday After The Epiphany 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Holy Baptism	13 7:00 Ukulele Practice	14 10:00 ECW Chapters	15 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 4:00 Jubilate 5:00 Finance 6:00 Bell Choir 6:45 Adult Choir	LIBRARY OPEN 8:30-12 16 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop 6:00 Vestry	17 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 6:00 English Country Dancing Parish Hall	18 
19 2nd Sunday After The Epiphany 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist 11:30 ANNUAL MEETING	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY 3:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Ukulele Practice	21 6:00 Video Discussion Group: J. Warner Wallace	22 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 4:00 Jubilate 6:00 Bell Choir 6:45 Adult Choir	23 LIBRARY OPEN 8:30-12 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop 6:30 Bible Study: Book of Revelation	24 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop DIOCESAN CONVENTION (Fri-Sat Vero Beach)	25 ECW YARD SALE 
26 3rd Sunday After The Epiphany 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist	27 7:00 Ukulele Practice	28	29 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 4:00 Jubilate 6:00 Bell Choir 6:45 Adult Choir	3 LIBRARY OPEN 8:30-12 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop 6:30 Bible Study: Book of Revelation	31 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open	