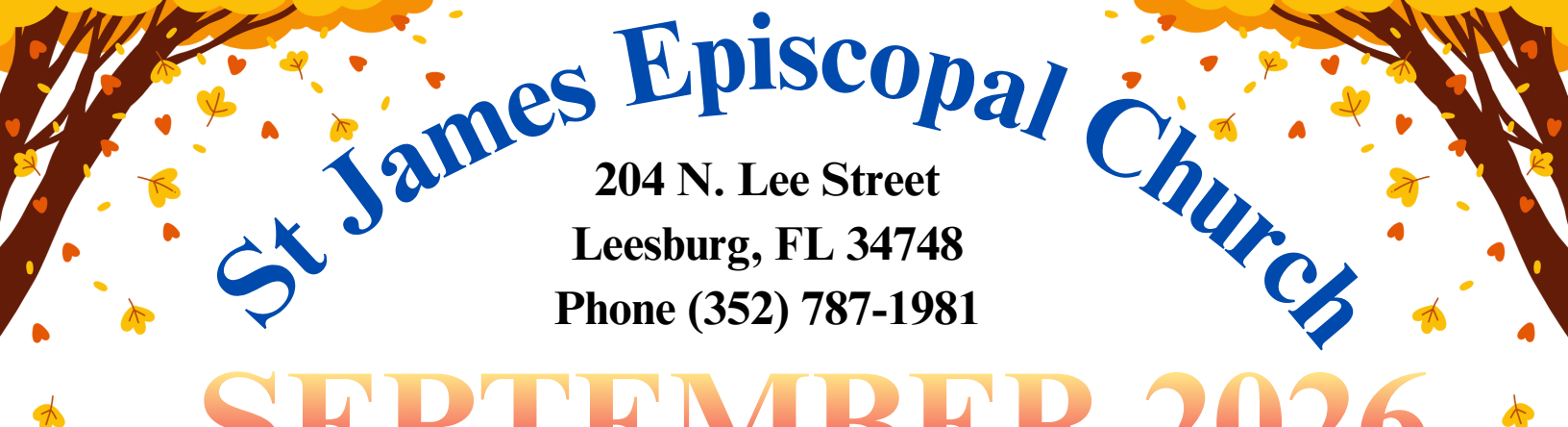




St James Episcopal Church

204 N. Lee Street
Leesburg, FL 34748
Phone (352) 787-1981

SEPTEMBER 2026 MESSENGER

Singing the psalms is one of the oldest and most beautiful traditions of the Christian church, allowing us to connect deeply with the centuries of faithful believers who have gone before us.

Beginning September 6th, our congregation will join this sacred lineage by chanting and singing the psalms together during our liturgies.

Far from just adding more music to our service, singing the psalms engages our hearts and minds in a unique way, transforming these timeless poems of praise, lament, and thanksgiving into a shared, living prayer. By lifting our collective voices in holy song, we allow the rich vocabulary of Scripture to reshape our spiritual lives, deepen our corporate worship, and connect us more profoundly to the global and historic Church.

This new practice is a natural and joyful deepening of our Episcopal identity and liturgical heritage. The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that the psalms were originally composed to be sung, and doing so allows the natural rhythm and emotion of the text to come alive. Do not worry if you are unfamiliar with chanting or reading musical notation; the music and text will be fully printed directly in your weekly bulletins to make participation seamless and comfortable for everyone in the pews.

As we embark on this journey together on September 6th, we invite you to bring an open heart and a willing voice, trusting that this communal offering will enrich our fellowship and draw us closer to God.

If you are interested in previewing the music ahead of time or if you have any questions, please feel free to see John Wilson, our organist.

John Wilson



Singing
the Psalms





SEPTEMBER GRIEF SUPPORT

Our next Grief Support Gathering is this Thursday, September 03, 2026, in the Chapel. Meet and Greet will start at 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall until the weather gets cooler! Bottled water and a small snack (usually chocolate) are provided. Our conversation topic for September is “Working through the Anger Stage of Grief”.

Our conversation topic for September is “Working through the Anger Stage of Grief”. The role of anger is often misunderstood. It can be an ally during the grief process and guide us toward self-awareness. Recognizing anger and understanding it can help us process our grief more effectively. Join us as we discuss ways of dealing with anger in healthy ways and help us take actions to move forward.

Hope to see you this Thursday, September 3rd at St. James Episcopal Church’s Chapel . Our grief support group is open to anyone who has lost a loved one and needs support from others who know firsthand what they are going through.

Blessings to all of you, *Susan Cyrus, Grief Support Facilitator*

Connect Orientation Series

In order to have people learn more about St. James, a series of Power Point presentations is provided several times a year. These sessions are designed to explain various aspects of St. James to people who are new to the congregation. However, they are open to everyone, and every session to date has included both "new" and "old" members. The sessions stand independently -- you do not need to come to all of them. Pick and choose the ones that interest you. Each session lasts about 30 minutes. The presentations take place in the Parish Hall, starting

September 6th: The History of St. James

September 13th: Why We Do What We Do (A Look at the Liturgy)

September 20th: Missions & Ministries at St. James

All sessions will run from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Ronald McDonald House

It is always exciting to be able to find a large source of flip tops! Last month I had an occasion to fly Delta to Manhattan. Along the way the attendees began to serve Coca Cola, in red cans with flip tops. As they came to our section I stirred up my courage and talked about collecting the tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. When exiting the plane, I was handed a paper cup filled nearly to the brim with flip tops. Returning to Orlando, I presented the same song and again was given a part-full cup of flip tops. Lessons learned, Ask!



Presented by Jeff Brooke-Stewart

Thursdays from 6:30-7:30

in the Parish Hall

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 3RD

The Gospel according to John is an amazing affirmation of our Lord's earthly life and message.

It is at once both deeply spiritual and challenging. While serving the same purpose, it is in many ways unlike the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Matthew is eager to show Jesus as the fulfillment of the ancient Hebrew prophecies, Mark reaches out to the busy reader who wants a complete yet concise account, and Luke, with a physician's eye to detail, fills in so much background.

While confirming the message of those evangelists, **John takes a deeper approach with an emphasis on Jesus as fully divine and yet fully human.** Begotten not made as we say each week. That at the beginning, the divine Jesus was with God and was God. He is the light of the world, the water of life and the source of salvation. Through John, we meet Jesus speaking with many regular folk. People like Lazarus, Mary and Martha, Nicodemus and an anonymous Samaritan woman who's life was changed and who immediately became an evangelist herself! I love this Gospel and look forward to sharing it.

We will read the Gospel together, word by word, pausing to reflect and to discuss and to question. Always an open conversation where any question or comment is welcomed.

Please consider joining us each Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. I find the **"ESV Scripture Journal of the Gospel According to John"** very useful. It is available from Amazon as a ring back copy of the Gospel with a lined blank page facing each page of text to take notes or questions. Just \$10.28 - or of course bring your own Bible.

If you are interested in being part of this, I would truly love to hear from you. Please feel free to reach out to me at **(401) 486-6871** or email me at **jbrookestewart@aol.com**

This will help me know who will be attending so that we can prepare the meeting space accordingly. It will also allow us to keep everyone informed and reach out to you if there are any unexpected changes to the meeting schedule in the coming months.

Blessings, *Jeff*





+ JUNIOR + **BROTHERHOOD** **OF** **ST. ANDREW**



SCHEDULE



Meetings are in the St. Nicholas House from 12:30–2:00.

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
AUGUST	16	12:30–2:00	Parent meeting
	23	12:30–2:00	Attend JDOK Candlelight Service
	30	12:30–2:00	Meeting
SEPTEMBER	13	12:30–2:00	Meeting
	20	12:30–2:00	Meeting
	27	12:30–2:00	Meeting
OCTOBER	4	12:30–2:00	Meeting
	11	12:30–2:00	Meeting
	18	12:30–2:00	Meeting
	25	12:30–2:00	Meeting
NOVEMBER	8	12:30–2:00	Meeting and Food Collection
DECEMBER	13	12:30–2:00	Service Day: Christmas Caroling



PRAYER • STUDY • SERVICE

Brothers in Christ.



JUNIOR DAUGHTER OF THE KING SCHEDULE

*All meetings are Sundays from 12:30-2:00 PM
in the St Nicholas House.*

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
August	16	12:30-1:00	Parent Meeting
	23	12:30-1:30	Reception, Candlelight Service, Study Guide Distribution
	30	12:30-2:00	Study Session 1
September	13	12:30-2:00	Study Session 2
	20	12:30-2:00	Study Session 3
	27	12:30-2:00	Study Session 4
October	4	12:30-2:00	Study Session 5
	11	12:30-2:00	Study Session 6
	18	12:30-2:00	Study Session 7
	25	12:30-2:00	Study Session 8
November	8	10:15-2:00	Installation service, meeting, & food collection
December	13	12:30-2:00	Service Day: Christmas Caroling





CATECHESIS of the GOOD SHEPHERD ATRIUM

*A Montessori-based approach to
Christian formation*



BEGINNING WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

WEDNESDAYS • 5:30–6:30 PM



ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE
AT ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

204 LEE STREET
LEESBURG, FLORIDA



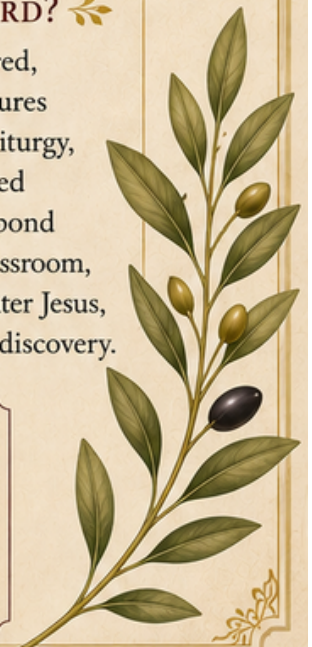
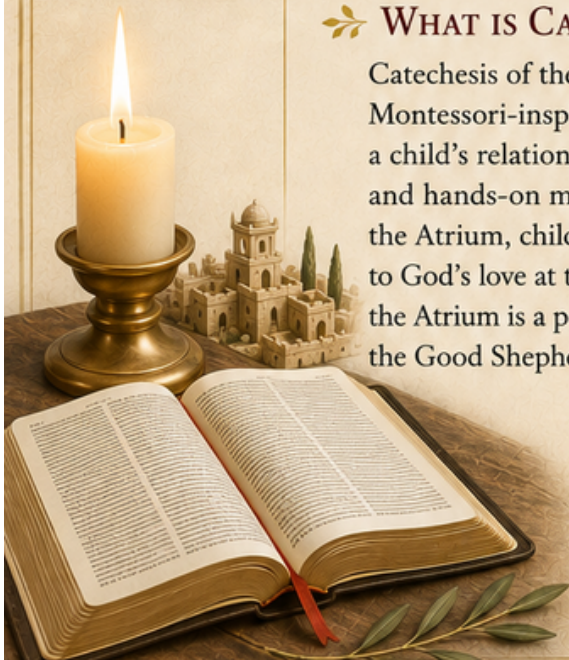
WHAT IS CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD?

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a Christ-centered, Montessori-inspired approach to faith formation that nurtures a child's relationship with God through Scripture, prayer, liturgy, and hands-on materials. In a specially prepared space called the Atrium, children are invited to wonder, reflect, and respond to God's love at their own pace. Rather than a traditional classroom, the Atrium is a peaceful environment where children encounter Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and grow in their faith through joyful discovery.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO SIGN UP CONTACT

Lara Lahey, M.Ed., M.A.
407-461-7014





St. James Choristers



CHILDREN & YOUTH CHOIR

Lift Your Voice. Share His Love. ♥



All children and youth are invited to be a part of this joyful ministry of music and faith!

You can sign up for 1, 2 or all 3 sessions.



SESSION ONE

Rehearsals 5:00-5:30pm

September 9, 16, 23, 30
October 7, 14



SINGING IN THE
10:15 AM SERVICE

OCTOBER 18



SESSION TWO

Rehearsals 5:00-5:30pm

October 21, 28
November 4, 11, 18



SINGING IN THE
10:15 AM SERVICE

NOVEMBER 22

Rehearsals will include
Christmas music
preparation.



SESSION THREE

Rehearsals 5:00-5:30pm

November 25
December 2, 9, 16, 23



SINGING IN THE
10:15 AM SERVICE

DECEMBER 13 & 24

Rehearsals will include
Christmas music
preparation.



Come grow in faith, make new friends, and share the joy of music!



St. James Episcopal Church
204 Lee Street, Leesburg, Florida
(352) 787-1981

Questions? Contact:
Lara Lahey, M.Ed., M.A.
407-461-7014



		1
6 15th Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 Eucharist (RITE I) 9:00 Signs & Grace Course (Parish Hall) <i>9-12 Jody's Gift Shop Open</i> <i>GRAND OPENING!!!</i> 10:15 Eucharist (RITE II)	7 Church Office Closed 	8
13 16th Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 Eucharist (RITE I) 9:15 Connect Series (Parish Hall) <i>9-12 Jody's Gift Shop Open</i> 10:15 Eucharist (RITE II) 12:30 JDOK / JBSA Program (St. Nicholas House) 2:30 Dulcimer (Parish Hall)	14 3:00 Stephen Ministry 6:00 Beginner Ukulele 7:00 Advanced Ukulele	15 Chapter Meetings 10:00 St. Anne's (Parish Hall) 10:00 St. Francis' (St. Nicholas House) 3:00 St. Cecalias (Parish Hall)
20 17th Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 Eucharist (RITE I) 9:15 Connect Series (Parish Hall) <i>9-12 Jody's Gift Shop Open</i> 10:15 Eucharist (RITE II) 12:30 JDOK / JBSA Program (St. Nicholas House)	21	22
27 18th Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 Eucharist (RITE I) 9:15 Connect Series (Parish Hall) <i>9-12 Jody's Gift Shop Open</i> 10:15 Eucharist (RITE II) 12:30 JDOK / JBSA Program (St. Nicholas House) 2:30 Dulcimer (Parish Hall)	28 6:00 Beginner Ukulele 7:00 Advanced Ukulele	29

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
² 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Chapel) 5:00 Choristers (St. Nicholas House) 5:30 Catechesis 6:45 Adult Choir	³ 8:30-12-Library Open 10:00 Healing & Anointing (Chapel) 11:00 Fellowship (Parish Hall) 3:00 Grief Support (Chapel) 6:30 Bible Study - Gospel of John (Parish Hall)	⁴ 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open	⁵
⁹ 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Chapel) 2:00 Daughters of the King (Parish Hall) 5:00 Choristers (St. Nicholas House) 5:30 Catechesis 6:45 Adult Choir	¹⁰ 8:30-12-Library Open 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 10:00 Healing & Anointing (Chapel) 11:00 Fellowship (Parish Hall) 6:30 Bible Study - Gospel of John (Parish Hall)	¹¹ 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open	¹² 11:00 ECW  KICK-OFF COFFEE (Parish Hall)
¹⁶ 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Chapel) 5:00 Finance Committe (Fr. Tom's Office) 5:00 Choristers (St. Nicholas House) 5:30 Catechesis 6:45 Adult Choir	¹⁷ 8:00 Butterfly Garden Weeding Day 8:30-12-Library Open 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 10:00 Healing & Anointing (Chapel) 11:00 Fellowship (Parish Hall) 6:30 Bible Study - Gospel of John (Parish Hall) 6:30 Vestry (St. Nichoals House)	¹⁸ 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open	¹⁹
²³ 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Coffee Snob) 5:00 Choristers (St. Nicholas House) 5:30 Catechesis 6:45 Adult Choir	²⁴ 8:30-12-Library Open 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 10:00 Healing & Anointing (Chapel) 11:00 Fellowship (Parish Hall) 6:30 Bible Study - Gospel of John (Parish Hall)	²⁵ 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 6:00 English Dance (Parish Hall)	²⁶
³⁰ 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Chapel) 5:00 Choristers (St. Nicholas House) 5:30 Catechesis 6:45 Adult Choir	SEPTEMBER 2026 		



The Martha and Mary Chapter of the Daughters of the King welcomed three new Daughters on Sunday, August 23rd.

Lara Lahey, Deni Lawrence and Victoria Mymudes

Rev'd. Thomas Trees officiated and Heather Herrigton represented the Diocese of Central Florida. *Catherine Holt*

ECW is an international organization comprised of hardworking and devoted “Martha’s and Mary’s “who prioritize fulfilling the Great Commandment and work as a sisterhood to meet the needs of our church and community.

The St. James Chapter of ECW has been an important mission of our church since the beginning and remains the primary outreach arm. Much of our charitable giving is financed through our fundraising projects. Because of your vital support and generosity, our mission remains successful. Our ECW was able to provide over **\$20,000 in Charitable Giving** to our local community during 2025-2026.

St. James ECW fosters a loving sisterhood dedicated to serving God, the Church and the community.

Sincerely,

Barnelia (Barney) Woodward, 2026-2027 President

ANNUAL ECW KICK-OFF COFFEE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH



11:00 A.M. in the Parish Hall



Bring your daughters and invite your friends to join us for a morning of fellowship, friendship, and fun as we share what we have planned for the 2026–2027 ECW year.

Come learn more about our women’s ministry, upcoming activities, and the ways ECW supports our St. James community and outreach efforts.

We would love to see you there!

Barnelia Woodward, ECW President 2026-27



ECW CHAPTER MEETINGS ~ SEPTEMBER 21ST

10:00 a.m. ~ St. Anne’s (Parish Hall) Study: Walk In Love Episcopal Beliefs

10:00 a.m. ~ St. Francis’ (St. Nicholas House) Study: Walk In Love Episcopal Beliefs

3:30 p.m. ~ St. Cecilia’s (St. Nicholas House) Study: The Parables (Parish Hall)

ST. MARTHA’S CHAPTER

This group focuses on Christian Fellowship and is especially popular with busy working women and mothers of younger children.

This Chapter meets monthly usually in the evening and at a restaurant. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Lara Lahey at the following:

(407) 461-7014 or lara.lahey@yahoo.com

DO.THE.GOOD.
2026 TASTE OF ST JAMES
Friday, October 2nd
Come Hungry For a Night
Of Good-Hearted Culinary Rivalry
to Benefit the
Jamaica Medical Mission



- Discover new delicacies!
- Vote for your favs with cash!
- Bid on fantastic auction items!

For Tickets, call
352-787-1981
Or Scan the QR Code with
your phone camera ->

6-8PM
PARISH
HALL

Tickets
\$30/
person



LIBRARY CORNER

I'm starting off with a **BIG THANK YOU** to the lovely ladies, **BETHANY** and **VICTORIA** in our **PARISH OFFICE**, for the expert help they have provided in the management of our Parish Library! That would be the **UPDATED PRINT-OUT** of the **EXCEL FILE CATALOG**, listing 1,404 books available for your reading pleasure, and **INCLUSION OF THE LIBRARY CORNER ARTICLES IN THE MESSENGER!** Bethany and Victoria respectively. Heartfelt thanks again, dear friends.

Then you are invited to the library to browse the shelves for the **NEW BOOKS ADDED**, 56 of them, including **EAT THIS BOOK**, introduced by Fr. Trees in a recent sermon, and **MY BELOVED**, the latest Mitford saga book, discovered by yours truly in a recent trip to Barnes & Noble.

Plus, don't forget our **JUVENILE (CHILDREN's) COLLECTION** recently rearranged in the St. Nicholas House. We are blessed to have an exceptional collection of inspirational literature for both the young and mature, ready to enhance our Biblical and Book of Common Prayer collections.

Don't let the road to a divine, Christian life pass you by due to lack of readership. Come by and check out books from **YOUR PARISH LIBRARY. MARGARET BRANHAM, LIBRARIAN, STANDING BY.**

Margaret Braham

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Dr. Terrell Bounds Gloria Flad	14th Lelaini Travers Cecilia Rebusmen	24th Michael Meyer Leanne Trees
2nd Lorraine Johnson Bob Tindall	15th Jean Christian Mick or Rev'd Beth Hall	25th Susan Soltysiak Patti Wolf
4th Haley McCabe	18th Meredith Bhatt Tom Grizzard	26th Cobe Smalley Peter Trees
6th Steve Holt	Pat Schaefer	27th Bernie Dodeci Tammie Hudson
8th Joyce Walworth	19th Shirley Herring Hailey Pearson	28th Dot Vedder
9th Sochi Nwosu	20th Sofia Lahey	30th Sean Graham Dorry Curran
11th Charlotte Boudreau	21st Paige Sahab-Binneveld Matthew Hill	
12th Joshua Bills Wendy Krauss Scott Sharer	22nd Barbara Comstock	
13th Aime Marie Jandzinski		

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1st Joseph & Margaret Branham	17th Mark & Peggy Steeves
8th Lonnie & Meg Johnson	18th Roger & Kimberly Reitter
11th Dale & Aimee Marie Jandzinski	19 th Shaun & Victoria Mymudes
14th Bob Jr. & Kitty Bryan	28th Fred & Dee Kermode
15th Nigel & Patricia Bailey	30th Jason & Gretchen Amber Gray

AUGUST FOOD - DROP



Volunteers, Tanina and Dick Singeltary, Terri and Van Galyon, Jan Tindall, Bob and Rita Clements with dog, Kobi met our faithful food and monetary givers for the HOT DAY IN AUGUST FOOD DROP!

COLLECTED: 538 Pounds of Food from St. James 50 Pounds of Food ~ Harris Chain Sail
588 Pounds of Food \$800.00 & Power Squadron Club

TOTAL TO DATE: 55,198 POUNDS OF FOOD \$63,280.00

In the past, we experienced that cold weather conditions had not stopped our faithful givers at St. James and this past month, the hot August temperatures did not stop us either. Thank you! We continue to challenge the summer weather and look forward to your wonderful support as our Leesburg Food Bank remains open for our community outreach ministry .

See you at the **next FOOD DROP, Wednesday, September 16th from 9:00-12:00.** Our community needs us. Blessing to all and stay cool. *Rita Clements*



ST. JAMES PRAYER LIST



The St. James Prayer List is organized into two sections: A **Short-term list and a Three-Month List**. Names are initially placed on the short -term list for three weeks, after which they are moved to the three-month list. At the end of the three -month period, names will be removed unless a request is made for them to remain.

Please call the church office if you would like to place someone on the Prayer List. (352) 787-1981 / office@stjames-leesburg.org

Short Term ~ 3 Weeks

Alex Biby	August 23rd	David Healey	August 10th
Martha Biby	August 23rd	Larry Coolbroth	August 10th
Tom Dalton	August 23rd	Dott Vedder	August 10th
Shirley Dunne	August 17th	Dee Kermode	August 9th
Mary Hooper	August 15th		

3 Months

Michael Saylor	August 3rd	Jim Gustafson	July 13th
Cricket Morrison	August 3rd	Bonnie Kern	July 13th
Charlie Johnson	July 28th	Jan West	July 13th
Kay Haddenham	July 28th	Jim Hooper	July 13th
Kristen Daley	July 18th	Sam Kingsbury	June 11th
Alexis Dunmire	July 16th	Jim Mitchell	July 10th
Cheryl Dudley	July 15th	Gabie Millett	July 10th

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Services:

8:00 a.m. (Rite 1) & 10:15 a.m. (Rite II)

Healing & Anointing Service:

Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Church Office Information

Monday-Thursday ~ 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday ~ 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Closed ~ Saturday & Sunday

(352) 787-1981 / office@stjames-leesburg.org

CLERGY & STAFF

Rev'd Thomas Trees,

Rector

(352)-643-1182 / frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org

Rev'd Dr. Sebastiana Springmann

Priest Associate

Rev'd Art Hollows

Deacon

Victoria Mymudes

Parish Secretary

John Wilson

Parish Organist/Choir Director

Wylie Hill

Sexton

VESTRY

**(Senior Warden) Cherie Knowles, (Junior Warden) Bert Sofield,
(Treasurer) Nigel Bailey**

Members: Bill Binneveld, Claire Meade, Rita Clements,
Tony Cobb, Susan Cyrus, Sean Lahey, Nancy Moran, Stuart Mowatt,
& Dee Saylor.

OUR MISSION

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

