

Anchor Lines

St. James Episcopal Church • Fairhope, Alabama



November 4, 2020

Volume 24, Issue 6

FREEDOM AND THE BROAD MIDDLE

"The middle of the road is all of the usable surface. The extremes, right and left, are in the gutters."

—Dwight D. Eisenhower (Republican)

I'm writing to you a few days before election day wondering to myself if we as a nation will be more divided than ever after November 3. Our country has found ways to point fingers back and forth many times before, but lately it feels personal. Just the other day a friend hurled a question at me that's haunted me. Her question, "Is the Episcopal Church more liberal than other Christian Churches?", as if we were picking sides for a collegiate football game.

My rapid answer would be that the Church is not part of a political organization, but we are very interested in right and wrong, social justice, the care and wellbeing of the marginalized, the sick, the poor and the oppressed. Etc., etc. As far as I know, we are intentional in being unique, neither liberal nor conservative, fish nor fowl. The truth is that the answer for one particular parish, will never speak for the whole Church.

On the end of a pier at twilight, a good while ago, some friends and I began walking the treacherous path of discussing church and politics. It's a slippery slope to discuss this sort of thing, even among friends, because people seem to cling pretty tightly to their own particular views of right and wrong. But there we were, free to be open and honest; some very conservative views, some very progressive views and no one irreparably damaged from the conversation because we were intentional about finding common ground in the middle. Through our willingness and vulnerability to have open dialogue, my relationship with all of them has become strengthened, and that has been a wonderful gift through the years.

I often wonder what that evening would have been like if it had occurred during our current polarized state of church and political "pande-mania", where people seem to reside in the "gutters" of the right and left that Eisenhower described. I have hope that my group of friends would still be able to conduct ourselves with the same manner of grace where we found common ground, in the middle of our differing and

heated opinions, simply because of one Latin phrase—via media. It's an ancient phrase from Greek philosophy that means the mean between extremes, the middle way, or the middle of the road, but you will find its roots deep within the teachings of Jesus and tied to the very heart of our Church.

When our Church was being birthed in 1534, Thomas Cranmer saw us as the middle way between Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, Lutheranism, and Reformed Christianity. He also saw this middle way as a means to ensure political stability, because our extremes would be brought together in a common space under God. Since then, many of our greatest thinkers have continued to emphasize the importance of our Church remaining the mean between extremes, a place where traditionalists and liberals can have respectful conversations and even agree to disagree. This is one of the reasons I am so very thankful to be a part of the Episcopal Church, because we seek to find common ground so that we can be better as a whole.

As a Church we believe that God speaks to us and guides us through Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. So in a sense, we can't really understand God on our own. We can get pieces and parts, but it requires conversation and discernment to adequately listen to the Holy Spirit. The same is true with authority, we don't believe that any one individual has complete authority, nor do we believe that only clergy can teach us about God. It takes all of us.

We do believe the Church has authority and the responsibility to teach people what is true and right, but not the authority to tell people how to live their lives. We teach and encourage, but freedom and freewill is one of the greatest gifts God has given human beings. Human beings are given the freedom to apply the teachings of the Church in their own daily lives. The Book of Ecclesiasticus says "It was He who created humankind in the beginning, and He left them in the power of their own free choice. If you choose, you can keep the

commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of your own choice.(15:14-15)"

Choice, then, or responsible freedom is imperative to who we are as a church. Without the right and left extremes, there can be no middle way. We as a Church emphasize an incarnational theology, which is a funny way of saying we take humanity and free will very seriously.

Think of how God operates: God does not violate or take away the gift of choice. God does not give us freedom to choose and then take it away based on how badly freewill is misused or abused. The willing service God wants from us would not be possible if God used force or threats or punishment. God makes his will known, and then leaves it to us to follow through. Even the incarnation came about the way it did so as not to violate the freedom of humanity. But how many times in the course of history has the Christian Church been more arrogant than God himself and forced people into a mold against their will? What a horrible insult when we think we know better than God!

If I were to return to the original question, we are neither fish nor fowl, but maybe we're more like a duckbilled platypus—something rare and unique, ugly to some and beautiful to others, a combination of other denominations, and a necessity in the kingdom of God. I do not believe we are a liberal church, nor are we conservative but perhaps a hybrid, because we wanted to be unique. At times the so-called "national" church seems to be extremely liberal, but remember we are part of a global Church, the Anglican Communion. Our local church, St. James, is how we connect with the voices of our communion, where voices far more conservative or liberal than our own come together to worship God as one community with one Lord.

Your joyful servant in Christ,

News and Events

CONSECRATION SUNDAY Celebration - November 15

TAKE ONE STEP UP!

That's what we're hoping you will do with your stewardship card. Pray about our church, the blessings in your life, and the generosity of God. Then make a renewed commitment to Jesus and the work of our church by taking "one step up". Your step chart and your estimate of giving card should arrive in the mail this week and we'll be talking about it during our services on November 8. Your completed card should be marked "Attention: Jim Ketchum" for confidentiality purposes and then either placed in the offering plate at any worship service, mailed back to us at 860 N. Section Street, or placed in the drop box next to the church office door.

You may also fill out your Estimate of Stewardship online. Go to our website under the Give to St. James tab, Estimate of Stewardship. (For our online readers, follow this link.) This information will then be sent directly and securely to our Director of Finance, Jim Ketchum.

The Meal Ministry and the Men of St. James will prepare a **classic BBQ lunch** with sides and dessert. You may stay and eat on the grounds of St. James Church or take it with you. There is no charge for lunch.

**Order your Boxed Lunch by
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9.**

Call 251-928-2912 or email
info@stjamesfairhope.org.



*Please let us know if you will be picking-up
after the 9 or 11 am services.*

Christmas Eve Services

3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm, 9 pm, and 11 pm

*All services in the Church. Nursery provided at 3 pm, 5 pm & 7 pm.**

Reservations are Required by Calling 251-928-2912

during regular business hours (Monday-Thursday from 8:30 - 5:00 pm).

*Before calling, please know the number in your party
and an alternate service time, in case your first choice is full.*

Christmas Day Service ~ 10 am in the Church

Reservations are not required. Nursery is not available.

** Reservations are also required for the nursery. Please read our COVID nursery policies on our website.*

Advent Program

Wednesday Evening Formation for the Whole Family

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23

- 4:00 - 4:45 pm** **Kindergarten - 4th grade**
Meet in Green Hall for activities & lessons with Mrs. Ellen and Mrs. Anne.
- 5:00 - 5:30 pm** **Boxed Dinners available for pick-up - \$5/Person or \$20/Family.**
Email Anne McEniry (christianformation@stjamesfairhope.org) by Monday at 5:00 pm prior to the Wednesday of the program, to place your weekly dinner reservation. (Deadline dates for dinner reservations are 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, and 12/21.)
- 5:30 - 6:15 pm** **Worship in the Church for all ages - a nursery will be provided.**
- 6:30 - 7:30 pm** **Formation for 5th Graders - Adults**
a nursery will be provided at this time for children age birth - 4th grade.
5th & 6th graders meet in the classroom above Green Hall.
7th - 12th graders meet in the youth room.
Adults meet in Green Hall for Theological Conversations with Father De and Father Forbes. Feel Free to bring your favorite beverage.

Thanksgiving Day

Worship Service

Thursday, November 26

10:00 am in the Church

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

ADVENT

LESSONS @ CAROLS

with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 6

at 11 am

Programs for Children and Youth



Brian Smith New Acolyte Coordinator

We would like to welcome and thank Brian Smith for volunteering to be St. James' Acolyte coordinator. Brian and his wife, Amanda, have been members of St. James for 13 years. They have 3 sons, Sawyer, Shepard, and Reid. Brian and his family are active members of the church, and Brian will be a wonderful leader for the acolyte ministry.

Rite 13

Our Rite 13 graduates will have a special service on Sunday afternoon, November 8 for the graduates, their families and friends. Please pray for these young people as they make their journey from childhood to adulthood.

The graduates are: Mary Frances Collins, Isabelle Martin, Ryan Charlton, Wyatt Aiken, Madison Johnson, Skylar Spinks, Anna Bowler Conyers.

Rite 13 classes for current 7th and 8th graders meet on Sundays following the 11 am service. The class takes place from 12:15 until 1:00 pm in the youth room, which is the classroom above Green Hall (the old yoga room).

FIRST TRUNK-or-TREAT a BIG SUCCESS!

Thank you, thank you, thank you, (I cannot say it loudly enough or too many times) for making our first St. James Trunk-or-Treat and movie on the meadow an overwhelming success! From the creative parishioner trunks, to the youth who helped with games, and the community who came out to trick-or-treat, every piece of the day was perfect. In this wild year, I am so thankful that we had the opportunity to do something fun, safe, and festive for Halloween and Fall.

Ellen Huckabay 

Jr. & Sr. Acolytes

All juniors and seniors who would like to serve as crucifers, please email Anne McEniry at christianformation@stjamesfairhope.org. Crucifers are now serving at the 9 & 11 am services on Sunday mornings.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Vestry nomination forms will be coming soon to the Narthex, Green Hall, and the Parish office. Be thinking of a parishioner who is an active member in "good standing" and has not served on the vestry in the last 3 years. Forms will be due in the parish office in early December. Mark your calendar for the annual meeting scheduled for January 24. More details coming soon.



What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support St. James every time you shop at Amazon, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same prices, selection, and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with



the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to your favorite charitable organization. So pick us as your favorite charity! Just search "St. James Episcopal Church Fairhope" when asked to pick your charity of choice.

More News

A Thank you Note from Mother Mary Jayne

Sweet Cards. Happy Balloons. Poignant Notes. Banners big and small. Smiling eyes behind masks. Precious Happies. Special Momentos. Unforgettable Memories. Drive-by good-byes.

We did it: A Good Good-Bye.

My dear St. James Family, I thank you from the bottom of my very full heart for all that you have given to me, and for all of you who have allowed me into your lives to be present with you. You are a wonderful people, God's people. And now we venture forth to be who God calls us to be, especially in this crazy year called 2020.

I thank De, our rector/my rector and colleague, for welcoming me into the midst of the depth of the ministry of this parish to serve with and beside him. I honor my incredible colleagues—your amazing staff, who work with open hearts, bright minds, and their own, individual spirits. And I express my love for you, the people of this parish, who, I know, are striving to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. I have witnessed it: You have inspired me and ignited me.

You shall always be in my heart and prayers. And I am a better person and priest for having known and been with you for the time that God has given us.

God's peace and love,
Mary Jayne+



St. James Concert Series Quintessential Harp Duo



Friday, November 13 – 7 pm

**Concerts are free and open to the public,
HOWEVER, due to Covid-19,
reservations are required and seating is limited.**

For reservations call 251-928-2912
Monday-Thursday 8:30-5:00 pm.

*For more information on the
Quintessential Harp Duo,
go to our website
under the Concert Series tab.*

SUNG COMPLINE November 15 at 7 pm

You have another opportunity to experience sung Compline. On Sunday, November 15 at 7 pm in the church, come as you are, just to be present, listen, and enjoy. If you want to learn more about Compline, go to our website under the Worship tab and watch one of our videos from a previous service. Compline is also available online on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel for those who wish to worship from home.

School News

Fall is in the air at St. James Episcopal School.

Our school halls were decorated with pumpkins, spiders, and bats as the children anxiously awaited Halloween. Many of our school families enjoyed the Trunk-or-Treat, which was a fun-filled afternoon. The annual Storybook Pumpkin Carving Contest was a huge success, and we raised \$256.00 for the purchase of new library books. Thanks to everyone that participated and voted! October ended on a festive note. The children came to school in their costumes and had a special trick or treat route through our beautiful St. James campus. Thanks to the church staff and parent volunteers for making it extra special by distributing treats and candy.

As part of our Christian formation, the children have been studying Saints with Miss Anne during Godly Play and in their classrooms. On November 2nd we culminated our study with a beautiful All Saints' Day chapel service presented by our first graders. They dressed up and described St. James, St. Anne, St. Frances, Mother Teresa and Florence Nightingale.

Our students will observe Veterans Day with special parent visitors from the United States Coast Guard and the United States Marine Corp. Each child will receive an American flag and toy soldier with a special prayer.

We look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with our friends and families and wish each of you all the blessings of the Thanksgiving season.

We are thrilled and excited to announce that we will be offering PreK2 through 2nd grade next year. Priority enrollment is currently open for St. James Episcopal Church members and school families. Enrollment will open to the public on January 25th. Tours are available Tuesday – Thursday after 5:00 pm. Please call or email the school for more information.

Shelley E. Miller

Shelley Miller
 Director, St. James Episcopal School
schooldirector@stjamesfairhope.org



Outreach

Christmas Giving Tree

COMING SOON

As in years past, we will have the opportunity to share Christmas joy with children and adults in need by choosing a name from the Giving Tree and purchasing holiday gifts for them.

The Giving Tree will be available outside Green Hall on Sundays, starting on November 22. Outreach Committee members will be available to answer questions, if you need help choosing a name or want to learn more about that person's wish list.

Gifts will be collected at the church and are due by December 7. Volunteers will deliver them to recipients. Look for more information in upcoming Anchor Lines emails and at the Giving Tree table.

If you're joining in worship online rather than coming in-person, you can request a name electronically and we will arrange

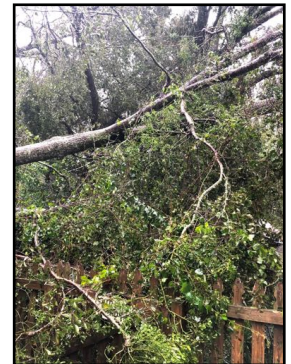


to pick up your gift if you can't drop it off at the church. Please email 2020angeltree@gmail.com for more information on receiving a Giving Tree name electronically, or for any information about this ministry.



Volunteers Still Needed for Hurricane Clean-up!

We have received many requests from parishioners who need help clearing trees and debris from their property. If you would like to volunteer your time to help parishioners in need, please email christianformation@stjamesfairhope.org. You may also call or text Anne McEniry at 251-597-5598. She is coordinating our efforts. Thank you in advance!



The Lectionary Schedule

Date	The Reading	The Psalm	The Gospel
November 8, 2020 23rd Sunday after Pentecost	<i>1 Thessalonians 4:13-18</i>	<i>Psalm 70</i>	<i>Matthew 25:1-13</i>
November 15, 2020 24th Sunday after Pentecost	<i>1 Thessalonians 5:1-11</i>	<i>Psalm 90:1-4, 8-12</i>	<i>Matthew 25:14-30</i>
November 22, 2020 Christ the King	<i>Ephesians 1:15-23</i>	<i>Psalm 95:1-7a</i>	<i>Matthew 25:31-46</i>
November 26, 2020 Thanksgiving Day	<i>2 Corinthians 9:6-15</i>	<i>Psalm 65:9-14</i>	<i>Luke 17:11-19</i>
November 29, 2020 The First Sunday of Advent	<i>Isaiah 64:1-9</i>	<i>Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18</i>	<i>Mark 13:24-37</i>

**Reservations are required for
Christmas Eve Services this year.
Please see page 2 for details.**

Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

8:00 am ~ Morning Prayer, in the Church
with Reserved Sacrament
9:00 am ~ Holy Eucharist, in the Church
11:00 am - Holy Eucharist, in the Church (in-person & online)

WEDNESDAYS:

10 am ~ Morning Prayer (in-person & online)

THIRD SUNDAY of the Month:

Sung Compline at 7:00 pm, (in-person & online)

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Currently Closed to Visitors
Friday: CLOSED

The St. James Staff

Parish Administrator: Meghan Fancher
Director of Music Ministries: Helen V. Rodgers
Associates for Music Ministries: Asheton Green, Frank Stabler
Director of Christian Formation: Anne McEniry
Associate for Children's Ministries: Ellen Huckabay
Director of Finance: Jim Ketchum
Director of Communications: Jennifer Glover
Administrative Assistant: Elizabeth Phelps
Director of St. James School: Shelley Miller
Housekeeping: Rose Collins
Sexton: Mike Costigan

For staff email addresses or other contact information
go to the *About Us* tab on our website at stjamesfairhope.org
or [click here for St. James Staff.](#)

ANCHOR LINES DEADLINE: THE NEXT ANCHOR LINES WILL BE PUBLISHED **DECEMBER 2, 2020**. PLEASE EMAIL INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE TO JENNIFER GLOVER, AT COMMUNICATIONS@STJAMESFAIRHOPE.ORG, NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE PUBLISHED DATE.

READ THE ANCHOR LINES ONLINE—Call the church office or email communications@stjamesfairhope.org and request to be added to the distribution list. In addition, the newsletter is available on the website at www.stjamesfairhope.org.