

# Anchor Lines

St. James Episcopal Church • Fairhope, Alabama



June 5, 2019

Volume 23, Issue 05

## A Life Among the Thorns



Jesus' commentary on communication, also known as the Parable of the Sower, can be found in the synoptic gospels; Mark, Luke and Matthew. The abridged version states:

A farmer went out to sow seed in a field. Some of the seed fell on the walking path and the birds devoured it. Some of the seed fell on hard ground and died because the seed could not establish sustaining roots. Some of the seed fell among thorns but the thorns grew up and choked the young plants. But some of the seed fell on well prepared soil and brought forth fruit—in some cases a hundredfold.

In a veiled manner Jesus was speaking to the crowd and to us about how his teachings are received. He goes on to explain that some people hear his teachings but they only half-listen, and the message really doesn't take, as if the words are removed before there was an opportunity to process it. Others will act like they hear and understand, but are really indifferent or even hostile to his message. These are people who are like hard ground. They really never allow the message to get through, because it runs contrary to what they really want. Still others are interested in following, but life gets in the way—worrying about tomorrow, making more money, having fun, and all those other things that somehow become

more important than God in their lives to the point the message is choked out. The final group, whom Jesus calls 'good soil,' are the people who hear and respond, and then live their lives differently. They do the best they can to grow closer to God, and hopefully pointing the way towards the Kingdom for all others to see. God is the sower, the Gospel is the seed, and the soil is our hearts.

This parable always feels personal. Be the fruitful soil. Be the fruitful soil. And yet, how do we become that really rich and fruitful soil here in this life? Here with the hard soil and among all of the thorns, with all of our personal desires, cares and concerns demanding our more immediate attention, how are we to be fruitful?

The first step for all of us is to listen, but that of course requires our time. It's ironic, isn't it? We will resolve to spend an hour each day exercising our mortal bodies, but we will not spend half that time each day in God's presence, listening, conditioning our hearts and our eternal soul. The second step is to be open to receive what's being given, and then allow the message truly to re-shape and re-orient your life. As in any relationship, it takes practice and dedication.

If by chance you're struggling in the thorns, right next to the hardened soil, remember you are not alone. I hope

you know that you can become the 'soil' God longs for you to be. I hope you also understand that ultimately the responsibility is yours and yours alone. Sooner or later you are going to have to answer for yourself as to whether or not the Gospel is for you. No slick sermon or creatively written article can do that for you.

Thank you for hearing the message of the kingdom, responding eagerly to its call, and living out life to the best of your abilities.

Your joyful servant in Christ,

### Pentecost Parish Celebration Sunday, June 9



Immediately following the 10 am service, in Green Hall

Church provides fried chicken, tea, lemonade, water & desserts.

Sign-up to bring one of the following:

Green Salad    Potato Salad  
Pasta Salad    Cole Slaw

**Wear red to symbolize the flames of the Holy Spirit!**

Sign-up in Green Hall, call the Parish office at (251) 928-2912, or email Elizabeth at [info@stjamesfairhope.org](mailto:info@stjamesfairhope.org).

# Happening This Summer...

## Wednesday Summer Evening Programs

### Fun for the whole family!

## JUNE 19

### Field & Board Games

Tug of war

Sack races

Wheelbarrow races

Jenga

Connect 4

Cards



*in the parking meadow*

## JULY 10

### Sandwiches, Sundaes and LEGO Movie II



*in Green Hall*

## JULY 24

### BINGO NIGHT



*in Green Hall*

All evenings start at 5:30 pm and include dinner. Cost is \$3 per child, \$5 per adult or \$15 max per family. Sign-up in Green Hall, call the parish office at 928-2912, or email [info@stjamesfairhope.org](mailto:info@stjamesfairhope.org).

### St. James' Official T-Shirt Design Competition

This summer, St. James is having a T-shirt design competition. The St. James decal will be used on the front of the shirt. **The**



**winner's design will be printed on the back of the shirt.** Individuals, teams, artists ... all are welcome to submit an entry **by June 30, 2019**. Voting will be done by the parishioners of St. James during the month of July, with the winner being announced in early August. T-shirts will be available for sale at Rally Day.

### Where in the world is St. James?

This summer, take photos of you and your family—near and far—on vacation or just hanging out around town. **We want to see the St. James decal in your photo.** When you post to social media, use the hashtag

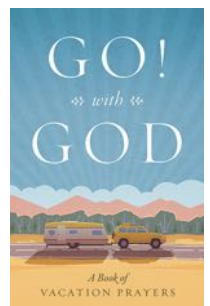
## #stjsummer

Need another decal? Stop by the Parish office and pick one up.



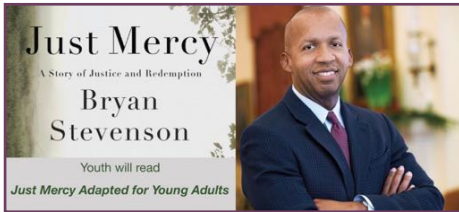
### Go! with God

Summer vacation is a fun time for families to rest after the hustle and bustle of the school year. While on vacation or stay-cation this summer, remind yourself and/or your family to reflect on God's presence in the beautiful scenery, and the sights and sounds of nature which you experience. As a spiritual aid, pick up a copy of **Go! with God, A Book of Vacation Prayers** in Green Hall. The devotions, arranged by topic, from fishing to fast food, picture taking to postcards, laundry to getting lost, are a brief reminder that God never takes a vacation from watching over, providing for, and loving each of us.



# Christian Formation

## All-Church Summer Read A Seven-Week Book Study



Together as a parish this summer we will read, study, and discuss *Bryan Stevenson's Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* AND *Just Mercy Adapted for Young Adults: A True Story of the Fight for Justice*.

For seven weeks, **Sunday, June 16 to Sunday, July 28**, immediately following the 10 am service (from 11:15-ish until noon), we will explore the memoir of an attorney who is affecting positive change in our judicial system by representing people who were wrongfully incarcerated. Topics of discussion will be based on themes from the book, as opposed to a chapter-by-chapter type study. So get your book and start reading!

**Week 1, June 16:** A parish-wide forum in the Chapel will introduce us to the program with Bryan Stevenson's TED Talk.

**Week 2, June 23:** Facilitator-led small groups will discuss the theme of proximity.

**Week 3, June 30:** Facilitator-led small groups will discuss the death penalty.

**Week 4, July 7:** A parish-wide forum in the Chapel will be introduced to the Diocesan Commission on Race & Reconciliation.

**Week 5, July 14:** Facilitator-led small groups will discuss the incarceration of children.

**Week 6, July 21:** Facilitator-led small groups will discuss restorative justice.

**Week 7, July 28:** A guest speaker for a parish-wide forum in the Chapel.

We hope you will join in the conversation!

## Women's Monday Night Bible Study

The Women's Monday Night Bible Study recently enjoyed a road trip to Em Johnson's lovely miniature donkey farm. Mrs. Johnson raises a special breed of donkeys called crossback donkeys. These animals have a distinct marking of a cross on their backs. After an alfresco dinner, the group watched the feeding of the geese, llamas and donkeys. The group is currently studying *Famous Donkeys of the Bible*, a study by Brant Baker.



## St. James' Small Groups

St. James began small study groups last fall. We currently have 2 groups that meet at parishioners' homes, (one meets on Friday evenings and the other on Sunday evenings) for fellowship and study. Each group meets once a month. We are looking to expand our program to four groups in the fall.

Lucy Lety shares her thoughts on the small group:

*I loved the St. James small group because it allowed us to make meaningful connections with other church members, sharing our faith and journey. Having the small groups gather in a home and share a meal made it extra special.*

If you are interested in joining a small group for study & fellowship, contact Anne McEniry, Director of Christian Formation, in the parish office at (251) 928-2912 or email her at [christianformation@stjamesfairhope.org](mailto:christianformation@stjamesfairhope.org).

## The Lectionary Schedule

Date	The First Reading	The Psalm	The Epistle	The Gospel
June 9 Day of Pentecost	Genesis 11:1-9	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	Acts 2:1-21	John 14:8-17, 25-27
June 16 First Sunday after Pentecost Trinity Sunday	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Psalm 8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15
June 23 Second Sunday after Pentecost	I Kings 19:1-15a	Psalm 43	Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 8:26-39
June 30 The Third Sunday after Pentecost	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62

# Stewardship Corner

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”  
 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

God speaks to us every day in different ways. We are called to be kind, patient, help others, listen, and spread Christian love. Sometimes the call God puts on our heart is easy—sharing a hug, rejoicing in song during service, or even just a kind smile to a stranger. However, often we are called to more challenging endeavors—giving of our time when we are exhausted, our patience when we are spent, our blessings when we feel we have worked so hard to accumulate them. But when we truly listen to the Lord and rejoice in His

mighty works, the burden becomes light. God sustains us when we give with a joyful spirit, whether earthly wealth or our time and spiritual gifts. We are each called to a different spiritual stewardship path, but we should always give what we have in joy, spreading God’s love, and remembering that all we have is a gift from above from a God who loves.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”  
 1 Peter 4:10

*Elizabeth Orr*

St. James Vestry Member

*Note: Each month, a member of our vestry will share their insights from the “stewardship corner.”*

# Updating the Church Records

This summer we are updating our records. Please help us by going to our website at [stjamesfairhope.org](http://stjamesfairhope.org) and filling out the **DIRECTORY UPDATE** form. You will find it under the “Communications” tab, under “Forms.” **Even if you believe we already have all of your information**, please do this for us so we can check our records. Thank you in advance for your participation.



## Choose Us! St. James Fairhope

Do you shop on Amazon? If so, start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) instead of [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). If you will make this simple change, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. So choose us, St. James, Fairhope!

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

# FINANCIAL MATTERS:

## ONLINE GIVING

Did you know you can pledge or pay for most things at St. James through our online portal? Go to our website, [stjamesfairhope.org](http://stjamesfairhope.org), and click the “Give to St. James” tab at the top of the page. If you are logging in for the first time,

your name and email address must match the information we have for you in our church database.

If you have trouble logging in, contact our Director of Finance, Jim Ketchum, in the Parish office at (251) 928-2912.

## Figures from the Finance Office

	May 2019 Actual	May 2019 Budget	Year-to-date 2019 Actual	Year-to-date 2019 Budget	May 2018 Year-to-date Actual
<b>Income</b>	\$78,711	\$94,308	\$477,253	\$473,390	\$457,646
<b>Expense</b>	\$87,897	\$90,341	\$441,950	\$454,126	\$454,583

**School Operating Income \$15,281 with Operating Expenditures of \$17,671.**

**Note: Preliminary Results**

## Average Sunday Attendance

January	502
February	430
March	384
April <i>(includes Easter)</i>	674
May	371
<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>468</b>

# Opportunities to Serve



## Sunday Servants

Beginning in September, St. James will need more servants for the 7:30 am Sunday service: ushers, lay readers, and chalice bearers. This summer, take time to prayerfully consider if this is something you would like to do. Sign-up at our Rally Day event this fall, call the parish office at (251) 928-2912, or email Jennifer Glover at [communications@stjamesfairhope.org](mailto:communications@stjamesfairhope.org).

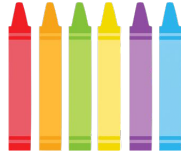
## Sunday Teachers for Children's Ministry

Teachers are needed for **summer Sunday school** for grades K-6th grade. The subject for the summer is **Jesus' Miracles**. A different miracle will be discussed each week. Serve for one week or all! You pick. **Leaders are also needed for Children's Chapel** during the 10 am church service **as well as nursery volunteers**. If you are interested in serving in any of these ministries, contact Anne McEniry at [christianformation@stjamesfairhope.org](mailto:christianformation@stjamesfairhope.org).

## Vacuum the Church Kneelers

We need 3 young families who would be interested in vacuuming the kneelers in the Church. They need to be vacuumed once a month, so with 3 families, that translates into a once-per-quarter job. It takes about 20 minutes and can be done at your convenience. Call the Parish office if you would like to help with this task.

## Crayon Collection



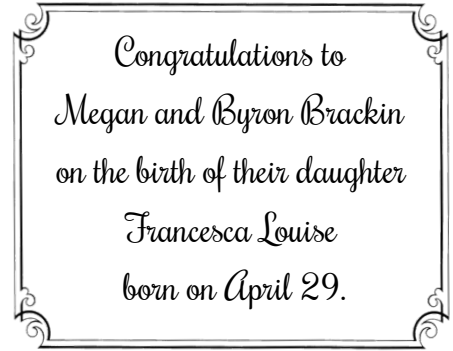
St. James' youth are collecting used crayons and we need your help. Please bring your old crayons in the month of June to the labelled collection box in Green Hall. No need to sort or peel them. The donations we receive will be sent to the Crayon Initiative a non-profit that makes recycled crayons and distributes them to children's hospitals. Thank you in advance for your help!

## Are you feeling called to serve, but don't know where to start?

Check out our **Ministry Guide** which lists all the activities of the church, (copies are scattered around the church campus and can also be found on our website at [stjamesfairhope.org](http://stjamesfairhope.org)). You can also call the parish office and let us know where your interests lie. We will find somewhere to plug you in!

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The summer servant schedule is available online. Log-in to the **Ministry Scheduler Pro** App or website to see full schedules, request subs and more! If you have trouble logging in, contact the Parish office at (251) 928-2912.



Congratulations to  
 Megan and Byron Brackin  
 on the birth of their daughter  
 Francesca Louise  
 born on April 29.

## Planning for the Celebration of Pentecost

*From Helen Rodgers, Director of Music Ministries*

Planning the music for Pentecost gets me all excited!

Our service opens with Maurice Duruflé's variations, interspersed with verses chanted by St. James' cantor, Frank Stabler. Duruflé (1902-1986) had an affinity for Gregorian Chant and this comes from Prelude, Adagio and Choral varie sur le theme du "veni creator", Op. 4.

This is followed by our spirited singing of "Hail thee festival day" (salve feste dies) text: Fortunatus (ca. 540 – 600) Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, first published in the English Hymnal of 1906.

At the offertory, the choir sings another setting of "Salve feste dies" set by New York City's Trinity Wall Street organist Larry King (1932-1990). We are assisted by Deanna Dalrymple on the orchestral chimes!

During the communion sung prayers, the St. James people ask the Holy Spirit to come to us as we repeat the Taize chant "veni sancte spiritus."

We also sing long time St. James favorite "Spirit, spirit of gentleness" (not chant-based) by contemporary American composer James K. Manley.

The Postlude is back to Duruflé for the last variation: a brilliant toccata that presents the Veni creator theme in the organ pedals.

So, three chants from the early church continue in contemporary settings.

Why do we celebrate feast days? In Leviticus 23, God commanded the Israelites through Moses to observe certain annual feasts—a sort of divinely-given church calendar. With the death and resurrection of Christ, that cycle of feasts became obsolete; Jesus, the Lamb of God, was the perfect and final Passover sacrifice (Hebrews 9:1-14) and the church throughout the ages has established a calendar of holy days to celebrate the events of Jesus's life, including Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost. Composers are divinely inspired to create beautiful music for these events.

Soli Deo Gloria!

*Helen*

# St. James

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

The curtain closes on our first full school year at St. James Episcopal School. The year's end brings with it a tremendous sense of accomplishment. The positive results can be attributed to a wonderful group of students, parents, and staff. Special thanks to the St. James Parish for your endless support that contributed to the success of our school.

During our last week of school, the students presented a "School Days" program showcasing everything they had been learning over the past year. The children performed proudly for family and friends. The children also enjoyed a "Fun Day" on the last day of school which included water play and a lunch that was provided by Cactus

Cantina which was attributed to our successful Spirit Nights. The last day ended with a Kona Ice truck visit which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

We are eager for our second year when we will build on our experiences and continue our momentum. As we move forward, we will be adding two new classes: one for 2 1/2-year olds and another for kindergarten. We will be reaching out to you to help us get our new classrooms set up and ready for the 2019-2020 school session. Please be on the lookout for the Giving Tree that will be coming soon to Green Hall.

*Shelley E. Miller*

Shelley Miller, Director of School



For more photos, like our facebook page @stjamesfairhope or @stjamespreschoolFH or follow us on instagram @stjamesfairhope.

## Upcoming Events for Youth

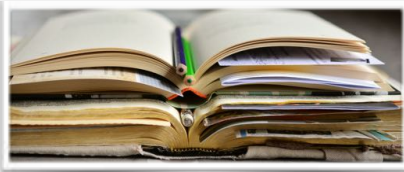
Date	Time	Activity	Location
June 12	5-7 pm	Scavenger Hunt (with prizes), games, and dinner	Youth Room
June 19	5:30 - 7 pm	Family field and board games with grilled hamburgers	Parking Meadow
June 26	11 am -1 pm	Bring a lunch & an eno, frisbee, etc. to the picnic area	The Fairhope Pier

# VBS 2019 ~ June 2-5

VBS is off to a great start! The theme this year is *To Mars and Beyond, Explore Where God's Power Can Take You!* Find more photos on our facebook page @stjamesfairhope.



## Take Care



Last month on May 14, St. James presented **Take Care**, a parish forum to explore pastoral and family planning for aging and end of life. It was so well received that we have decided to repeat the forum in the fall.

Come hear from our expert panel of parishioners who understand medical, legal, psychological, and financial issues. In addition, our clergy will provide guidance when planning for a funeral, our Memorial Garden Committee will explain how to make arrangements, and outside resources will also be available.



**This event is for adults of ALL AGES. It is never too early to plan for your future wishes.** Look for more details coming soon.



## Worship Schedule

**Sundays in Summer:** 8:30 & 10 am, in the Church  
*Nursery available at 10 am.*

**Second Sunday of the Month at 7:00 pm:**

Taizé in the Chapel or Sung Compline in the Church

*See summer schedule below.*

**Wednesdays:** 7 & 10 am, in the Chapel

## St. James' Staff

Rector: The Reverend De Freeman

Associate Priest: The Reverend Dr. Mary Jayne Ledgerwood

Parish Administrator: Meghan Fancher

Director of Music Ministries: Helen V. Rodgers

Associates for Music Ministries: Asheton Green and Frank Stabler

Director of Christian Formation: Anne McEniry

Associate for Children & Youth: Sarah Ford & Katie Drummond

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](http://stjamesfairhope.org) or [click here for St. James Staff.](#)

## Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday: CLOSED



## Recurring Weekly Events

- Sunday, 8:30 am, Holy Eucharist, in the Church
- Sunday, 10:00 am, Holy Eucharist, in the Church (nursery available)
- Sunday, 11:15 am, Christian Formation, beginning **June 16.**
- Monday, 6:00 pm, Centering Prayer, Church
- Monday, 6:30 pm, Women's Bible Study, Vestry Room
- Monday, 6:30 pm, Men's Bible Study, Upstairs Green Hall
- Wednesday, 7:00 am, Holy Eucharist, Chapel
- Wednesday, 9:30 am, WAMBS Bible Study, Vestry Room
- Wednesday, 10:00 am, Holy Eucharist & Healing service, Chapel
- Wednesday, 6:45 pm, Adult Choir practice
- Thursday, 6:00 pm, Yoga, Green Hall
- Thursday, 7:00 pm, Chess, Library



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

**Compline, June 9 at 7 pm in the Church**

**Compline, July 14 at 7 pm in the Church**

**Taizé, August 11 at 7 pm in the Chapel**

**ANCHOR LINES DEADLINE:** THE NEXT ANCHOR LINES WILL BE PUBLISHED **JULY 10, 2019.** PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE TO JENNIFER GLOVER NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE PUBLISHED DATE. EMAIL NEWS TO JENNIFER GLOVER AT COMMUNICATIONS@STJAMESFAIRHOPE.ORG.

**Read the Anchor Lines online**—To have the newsletter sent via email, please call the church office or email [communications@stjamesfairhope.org](mailto:communications@stjamesfairhope.org), requesting to be added to the distribution list. In addition, the newsletter is available on the website at [www.stjamesfairhope.org](http://www.stjamesfairhope.org). *Special thanks to Frankie Sherrin, Virginia Stabler, Barbara Arnold, Linda Jamieson, and Judy & Bobby Yarbrough who serve by preparing the Anchor Lines for mailing.*