

Dear Ones and Friends,

I am grateful to be a part of the life of this wonderful parish, especially during this Advent season of hope and expectation, as we prepare for the joyful celebration of the Nativity. I pray that God is preparing your heart for Christ. We have so much to be thankful for, and so many opportunities to give back. Christmas is a time of sharing the joy and love Christ brings into the world. Although joy and hope are associated with this season, it can be a troubling time, as many will be reminded of loved ones who are no longer with us, while others may be affected by difficult life circumstances during this season.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote "Christmas Bells" from the depths of his own despair. He, like many other Americans, had suffered tragic losses during the Civil War. His beloved wife had died from injuries she sustained in an accidental fire and his oldest son had been severely wounded, leaving him disabled. Longfellow was raw with hurt and loss when on that Christmas Eve bells rang out from local churches. He felt mocked as the bells rang their joyful notes and he wondered if anything good could come from Christmas. After writing much of the poem he went to bed filled with sorrow, anger and frustration. The bells rang out the next morning on Christmas Day, and with its arrival his heart had been changed. He wrote the concluding stanza of his poem with renewed hope:

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men."

Be open to Christ's presence this year. Christmas comes to change our hearts. It points us to the joy of Christ, so that we might receive the true gift of Christmas, which lasts far beyond the piles of crumpled wrapping paper, and the empty boxes of opened gifts. Our Lord came into this world of despair and hopelessness to bring us hope and to reassure us of God's presence, here and now. Jesus, the Christ, has come to us in our brokenness offering peace that passes all understanding. He comes to live among us in our hearts; He will prevail, and "the Wrong shall fail".

Join us this Christmas in love, hope, and joy. Let us share in the peace only He can bring. Give the gift of his presence to those around you who may especially need to feel Christ's peace this season—your neighbors, your colleagues, your family and even those you do not know. Be a part of Christ's healing love in this world, and open your heart to those who need you now. Give generously of yourself as we help those less fortunate than ourselves, and join me as we celebrate Christ's arrival.

Your joyful servant in Christ,



Special Services Longest Night

Saturday, December 21 5:30 pm, in the Chapel

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24

4:00, 7:00 & 10:00 pm 4:00 pm ~ Canterbury Choir 7:00 pm ~ Coventry Choir, Brass & Handbells 10:00 pm ~ Adult Choir & Brass All services in the Church. Nursery provided at 4 & 7 pm

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 am, in the Chapel

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 29

9 & 11 am ~ Celtic Harp & Guitar with Christmas Carols

> No services on Wednesday, January 1.

NEWS and EVENTS

Thursday Night Yoga New Time

The Thursday night yoga class which meets in Green Hall will change its time, beginning Thursday, December 5. The new time is 5:45 - 6:45 pm. The class is free and is led by parishioner Stacy Reckeweg and is open to St. lames members and friends.

Altar Guild Polishing Day Monday, December 9



All Altar Guild members are requested to be present on Monday, December 9 from 10 am onwards. Lunch will be provided on polishing day.

Christmas Party for Women Monday, December 9 6:00 pm



The Women's Annual Dirty Santa Christmas Party, will be Monday, December 9, at 6 pm in the Vestry Room of Green Hall. Bring a gift for Dirty Santa, either naughty or nice (\$5 limit please). Bring food to share, either sweet or salty. We will provide libations, coffee, and punch. Poinsettias or gifts will be given to participants to take and deliver to our homebound parishioners before Christmas. Please feel free to invite guests. All women are invited! Contact Michelle Orr at 990-6077 for more information.

20s & 30s Small Group **Christmas Party**

The 20s & 30s Small Group invites all 20 & 30 year olds in the parish to join their group for a Christmas



party, Thursday December 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Katherine Seibt's home. The address is 564 Southern Run, Fairhope, AL 36532. Please contact Anne McEniry at 251-928-2912 or christianformation@stjamesfairhope.org if you plan to attend.

2020 Altar Flower **Dedication Calendars**

The 2020 Altar Flower Dedication Calendars will be available this Sunday, December 8. Elizabeth Redditt will be outside Green Hall between services this Sunday to answer questions. Normally, the notebooks are on the information table under the window by the kitchen. Print your name and contact information on an available spot in the calendar and then fill out a form and place it in the envelope in the back of the notebook. Each arrangement is \$50. If you choose to dedicate both arrangements in the Church, the cost is \$100. The cost for both arrangements in the Chapel is \$50. Send your check to the office or pay online prior to the dedication date.

What is AmazonSmile? amazon

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.

It's a Boy!

Congratulations to Dustin & Bailey Mosley on the birth of their first child:

THOMPSON COLE MOSLEY

Born Friday, November 22. 8 lbs 2 oz ~ 20 1/2 in

Average Sunday Attendance

January	502
February	430
March	384
April (includes Easter)	674
May	371
June	366
July	350
August	376
September	365
October	430
November	444
Year-to-date	423

NEWS and EVENTS

Meet our new curate, Forbes Sirmon

Dear St. James Parish,

I am overjoyed to join you at the start of the new year and look forward to getting to know all of you well as we journey along this path in Christ together.

I wanted to take a moment to tell you a little bit about myself. Growing up in Mobile, Alabama I attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church and School from K-12th grade. I spent most of my weekends and summers on the water from the Gulf of Mexico to the Bay, and the Delta. During that time I developed a love for fishing, particularly fly-fishing, and being in the outdoors. I have always found the quietness of nature to be a place where God speaks loudly.

Another passion of mine is music. I have spent time as a guitar instructor

FROM THE Finance Office

So far, we have received 224 pledges for a total of \$899,956. Of the 224 pledges, 23 are brand new pledges and 113 (54%) increased in schools and as a musician performing in venues throughout the Southeast. While doing that I attended the University of South Alabama and received my undergraduate degree from the Mitchell School of Business.

During that time I also began to hear a call to a life of ministry and began serving as a Youth Minister and Musician in church. While discerning a call to ordained ministry, my wife, Haden, and I were married. A couple of years later we moved to Austin, Texas where I attended the Seminary of the Southwest and received a Masters of Divinity degree. During that time we had our first daughter Marion. After graduation we returned to the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and I began my curacy at St. Simon's on the Sound. Shortly after arriving we had our second daughter Anne Haden.



My family and I are thrilled to join the St. James community and can't wait to see what God has in store for all of us together.

Yours in Christ

Forbes+

their pledge from 2019. The number of members who pledged in 2019 but have not yet pledged for 2020 is 56 (\$278,844). If you have not already done so, please turn in your pledge card so that our 2020 budget can be finalized.

In order to be included in your 2019 tax return, contributions

need to be received in the Parish office or postmarked by December 31. Jim Ketchum will be in the office on December 30 & 31 from 9 am to 1 pm. If the door is locked, please leave your contribution in the drop box. If you need to see Jim Ketchum, ring the bell or call 251-928-2912.



St. Patrick's Cathedral, NYC's Michael Hey is Coming to St. James January 24, 2020, 7:00 pm

Juilliard-trained organist Michael Hey's organ recitals have been described as "flashy" and "exciting" (*The American Organist*) and "crisp, clean, and enticingly communicative" (*The Straits Times, Singapore*). As Associate Director of Music and Organist of St. Patrick's Cathedral on New York City's Fifth Avenue, he performs for hundreds of thousands of people each year. Not

exclusively a solo organist, Michael's musical output is greatly inspired and informed by numerous other art forms, especially by classical and modern dance, and he enjoys a widely varied career that includes collaborations with instrumentalists and vocalists, recitals for solo piano, and transcribing for organ and other instruments – all of which enlighten and electrify his solo organ recitals.

This concert series is made possible in part by the Helen Norman Williams Endowment. You can help us expand the series by your tax deductible contribution. Concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, contact 251-928-2912.

Isabelle Demers is unable to perform due to a European concert conflict.

NEWS and EVENTS



The Adult and Canterbury choirs sing at both services December 8.



December 15 at 7 pm

On Sunday, December 15 at 7 pm, come, listen, chant, sing, and enjoy the TAIZÉ style of worship. It's a peaceful, quiet, reflective time. Come as you are. The service lasts approximately 30 minutes.

Storytime with Saint Nicholas Sunday, December 8 10:15 - 10:50 am in Green Hall * Visit with Saint Nicholas * * Hear a story * Make a craft * * Take home a special surprise *



Saturday, December 21 5:30 pm

The holiday season can strike a chord of melancholy, lament, and even grief in many. This time of year more sharply reminds people of lost loved ones, personal setbacks, such as job loss, or other disappointments or regrets in life. One of the greatest acts of pastoral care in this Advent season is to offer a service known as the Longest Night. This is why our Community of Hope lay chaplains are hosting this special service on Saturday, December 21 at 5:30 pm in the Chapel. All are welcome to share in this evening of prayer and healing for those who are hurting in any way this time of year.

Mark your calendar for the Annual Epiphany Party

Tuesday, January 7 at 6:30 pm

All are welcome to attend the annual Epiphany Party at Augusta Jones' home. Please bring a small treat to share. RSVP is NOT necessary. Just come for a fun evening! The address is 455 South Mobile Street. *Online readers click here for a map.* Please park behind the house on Bay Breeze Lane.

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CHRISTMAS EVE Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00, 7:00 & 10:00 pm 4 pm ~ Canterbury Choir 7 pm ~ Coventry Choir, Brass & Handbells 10 pm ~ Adult Choir & Brass

Nursery provided at 4 and 7 pm.

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all the pageantry including the wise men and candles.

Outreach and Community Events

Becoming Beloved Saturday, December 7 Trinity Episcopal Church, Mobile

7:30 am until 5 pm

Church leaders are invited to this interactive workshop which will provide insights into the causes and effects of racism. Explore unconscious bias, prejudice, white privilege, and ways to work together to Become the Beloved Community. Register at Eventbrite: https://tinyurl.com/ y48prfcu. For more information, contact Gary Moore at psalm82.3and4@gmail.com or 251-928-3311.

Angel Tree Gifts



Thank you to all who have taken an angel from the tree! Please return your wrapped Christmas gifts for Prison Ministry, Ecumenical Ministries, and the Shoulder, by **THIS SUNDAY**, **December 8.** If you have questions, contact Holly Parks at hollyaparks60@hotmail.com.

Christmas for Veterans

Thank you to all who are participating in the Veterans Christmas ministry!



Please remember to return your gifts to Green Hall by **December 15**. If you would like to volunteer to take the gifts to Bay Minette, meet at the church on Christmas Day just before 8:00 am. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Bernhardt at 936-499-5427 or nbernhardt12@gmail.com.



December 15-22

St. James is part of a network of churches that provides temporary shelter, related services, and nurturing support to homeless families with children and to assist them with obtaining suitable and permanent housing. Servants are needed to spend the night, provide, cook, serve meals, etc. The sign-up board is in Green Hall. Prayerfully consider how you can help with this outreach ministry! If you have specific questions regarding Family Promise, contact Nickie Olson at nickie@homesbynickie.com or Evelyn Garrett at evelyntgarrett@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed at St. Paul's (Daphne) Thrift Store

St. Paul's Thrift Shop is in need of additional volunteers. They have openings for cashiers, sorters, pricers,

electronic testers, outside help, and other areas. Attending St. Paul's is not required to volunteer at



the shop. The profits from the shop give back to the community. In May 2019, \$66,000 was presented to more than 25 local organizations. A number of these checks went to community organizations in Fairhope, Daphne, Bay Minette, and other Baldwin County cities.

The hours are from 9:30 am until 4:30 pm, Tuesday through Friday and from 10 am until 3 pm on Saturday. Decorators are also needed who can work on Monday mornings to get the shop ready for the week. So, if you have a knack for decorating, can run a cash register, sort incoming items, or test electronics, this may be an opportunity for someone looking to volunteer.

If interested please contact Rebecca Spann at 251-942-4661 or Manager Kathy Mallory at 251-626-6102.

The Lectionary Schedule

	Date	The First Reading	The Psalm	The Epistle	The Gospel	
	December 8 Second Sunday of Advent	Advent Lessons & Carols				
	December 15 Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:4-9	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11	
	December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25	
	December 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:1-20	
	December 25 Christmas Day	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-12	John 1:1-14	
	December 29 First Sunday after Christmas	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 147:13-21	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18	

Programs for Children and Youth

Christmas Parade This Friday, December 6

Fairhope's Magical Christmas Parade begins at 7:00 pm on Friday, December 6. The St. James school children will have a float in the parade this year. Come out and show your support!

Youth Readers & Chalice Bearers

If you are interested in serving on Sunday mornings at 11 am as a reader or as a lay Eucharistic Minister, please contact Anne McEniry at 251-928-2912 or christianformation@stjamesfairhope. org. Lay Eucharistic Ministers must be confirmed.

GroupMe App

If you would like to be added to the EYC/Youth GroupMe, please email Lanham DiMartino at lanhamdimartino@gmail.com.

VBS Board of Directors

A VBS Board of Directors is forming soon-if interested in serving on the

VBS board, contact Ellen Huckabay at childrensministries@stjamesfairhope.org.

Epiphany Feast of Lights Sunday, January 5 at 5 pm



Hear the St. James children and adult choir tell THE STORY of the birth of Christ through interpretive dance, readings, music and costume. Experience the candlelit pageantry including Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, friendly beasts, angels, sheep, and the wise men! Rehearsal is following the 11 am service on Sunday, January 5 for pre-K 4 through 6th graders. The service begins at 5 pm.

If you would like to usher for the service, please contact Anne McEniry at christianformation@stjamesfairhope.org. If you would like to help with the service, please contact Ellen Huckabay at 251-928-2912 or childrensministries@stjamesfairhope.org.

Youth Ski Trip January 18-21, 2020

Beech Mountain, NC For 8th - 12th graders

The deadline to register for the January 2020 EYC Ski trip has been extended to **December 8**. The cost of the trip is \$400 and that includes the ski rental and most meals. The cost for snowboarding is \$435. In order to reserve your spot, a deposit must be received in the parish office by 5 pm on December 19. **Space is limited!** If you are interested in attending, please email Anne at *christianformation@stjamesfairhope.org*.

COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP June 6-13, 2020

Any youth 16 or older may travel to Costa Rica without a parent. Anyone under 16 years of age, must have a parent escort. The cost is \$1,500. Participants will continue the construction work that was begun last summer on a church in Palmares, and provide an afternoon VBS to the children. If interested, email Anne at *christianformation@stjamesfairhope.org*.

Youth Calendar of Events						
DATE	WHO	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE/INFO		
Sunday, December 8	Grades 7 - 12	Construct & Decorate Gingerbread Houses	5:30 - 7 pm	Dinner begins at 5:30 in Green Hall.		
December 8 & 15	Rite 13 (7th & 8th graders)	Classes	12:10 - 1:00 pm	Classes will resume January 5, 2020.		
Sunday, December 15	Grades 7-12	Tacky Sweater Christmas Party	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Meet in the youth room for a Christmas movie. Bring your favorite holiday snack to share. Email Anne if you plan to attend.		
Thursday, December 5, 12 & 19	Girls in grades 7-12	Advent Bible Study with Lanham DiMartino	6:00 - 7:00 pm	Dinner provided. Contact Lanham through GroupMe if you plan to attend.		

If you would like to be added to the weekly EYC newsletter, please email Anne McEniry at christianformation@stjamesfairhope.org.

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School News

The first annual Zebedee-do-dah Fest was a huge success thanks to the outpouring support of our sponsors, silent auction donations, parents, parishioners, and community. Proceeds of \$25,000.00 were raised through this event. These funds will be allocated to scholarship development and future development of St. James School. The event was held on an afternoon that was a cool, crisp, fall day. We had a delightful venue at the Fairhope Brewery with wonderful musical entertainment provided by Robert Sully. Father De and Mother Mary Jayne kept the taps pouring and everyone enjoyed a delicious low country boil.

All of this was made possible by the execution of Jennifer Lambert,

Committee Chairman and the Zebedee-do-dah Committee: Lauren Arington, Torey and Lacey Andrews, Mary Lib Baxter, Lisa Carter, Jim and Cindy Foley, George and Ellen Huckabay, David Johnson, John and Laura Port, Steven and Milly Schlautman, Candice Smith, Elizabeth Thomason and our event photographer Chelsea Dreyfus.



Thank you to all of our Zebedee Do-Dah Fest Sponsors

Chicken Salad Chick Hancock Whitney Bank Fairhope Brewing Company Barton Law, LLC BBVA Mr. & Mrs. Chris Campbell Diegmann & Henderson OB/GYN Smart Bank 110 Recruiting Audet Electric Bug and Bears Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cancienne

Eastern Shore Children's Clinic Farni and Farni Dentistry Hard Rock Stone and Tile Rick Phyfer State Farm Agency Sun Coast Energy

November was a very busy month for our school parents with our first fundraiser. Our school children have enjoyed learning about farm animals. Mac Walcott brought several of his farm animals for the students to see and learn about. The children have also been learning about the First Thanksgiving. We celebrated the First Thanksgiving in Green Hall with a traditional Thanksgiving meal complete with Pilgrims, Native Americans and turkeys. Parents, grandparents and friends got to enjoy this special day with our children. Our students also participated in a community service project. They

collected non-perishable food items to donate to Prodisee Pantry for Thanksgiving Baskets. During our weekly Chapel service, the children placed their collections at the altar and Mother Mary Jayne blessed the donated items.

The students and staff are anticipating the Advent and Christmas season. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Priority enrollment is going on now for current students as well as parishioners. Open enrollment begins January 2.

Therey E. Milen





ANCHOR LINES

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATION

Remember or honor a loved one with flowers on the altar at Christmas. Please *print* your dedication neatly on the form below. Flower dedications received by Wednesday, **December 18** will be included in the bulletins at all Christmas Eve services. The cost is \$25.00 *per dedication*. Please use a separate form for each dedication. Additional forms are available in Green Hall/Parish office/Narthex.

Completed order form and check payable to **St. James Flower Fund** may be mailed to the church, returned to the parish office, placed in the "Drop Box" or placed in the Sunday offering. *Please turn in your check and your form at the same time*.

*** PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION ***

Circle one:	In memory of	In honor of	In thanksgiving for		
Name of Loved One:					
Given by:					
Email:			_Phone:		
	Please use a separate form for additional dedications				

Please use a separate form for additional dedications.

Mailing address: St. James Episcopal Church, 860 North Section Street, Fairhope, AL 36532.

CHRISTMAS EVE HELP NEEDED

Additional servants are needed to help clean up and reset the Church between services on Christmas Eve. If you are interested in helping with this task, please contact John Glover at 251-422-5202.

Looking for a Stocking Stuffer?

St. James T-shirts would make a great stocking stufferonly \$15.00. Get yours in the parish office!



Need a last minute gift idea?



St. James has prints of the Jo Patton church watercolor available for \$60. Proceeds go to the organ fund. Call 928-2912 and ask for Elizabeth Phelps or Helen Rodgers.

Decorating Cookies for Santa

Monday, December 23 10 am - 12 pm, in Green Hall



Children should be accompanied by a parent,

grandparent or adult sitter. Each child will take home

6 decorated cookies for Santa.

There is no charge, but please email

Ellen Huckabay

at childrensministries@stjamesfairhope.org by Thursday, December 19 to reserve your spot !!



We are a community anchored in Christ, seeking God sharing His love and serving others

860 North Section Street Fairhope, AL 36532 251- 928-2912 phone 251- 928-3889 fax Web: www.stjamesfairhope.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit # 16 Fairhope, AL

Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

7:30 am, Holy Eucharist in the Chapel 9:00 & 11:00 am, Holy Eucharist in the Church 10:15 am - Christian Formation for All Ages Nursery available at 9 & 11

THIRD SUNDAY of the Month at 7:00 pm:

Taizé in the Chapel or Sung Compline in the Church

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, Frank Stabler Director of Christian Formation: Anne McEniry Associate for Children's Ministries: Ellen Huckabay Associate for Nursery Care and EYC: Lanham DiMartino 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.

Parish Office Hours

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

Current Recurring Events

- Sunday, 7:30 am, Holy Eucharist, in the Chapel
- Sunday, 9:00 am, Holy Eucharist, in the Church (nursery available)
- Sunday, 10:15 am, Christian Formation for all ages
 - Sunday, 11:00 am, Holy Eucharist, in the Church (nursery available)
 - Monday, 8:00 & 9:45 am Yoga, Upstairs Green Hall
- 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, 3:30, Canterbury Choir practice
- Wednesday, 6:45 pm, Adult Choir practice
- Thursday, 5:45 pm, Yoga, Green Hall
- Thursday, 7:00 pm, Chess, Library

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Closed Wednesday, December 25 & Thursday, December 26. Open Monday, December 30 & Tuesday, December 31 from 9 am - 1 pm. Closed Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

Open Thursday, January 2, 2020, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

Anchor Lines Deadline: The Next Anchor Lines will be published **JANUARY 8**, **2019**. 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—To have the newsletter sent via email, please call the church office or email communications@stjamesfairhope.org. requesting to be added to the distribution list. In addition, the newsletter is available on the website at www.stjamesfairhope.org. Special thanks to Virginia Stabler, Barbara Arnold, Linda Jamieson, and Judy & Bobby Yarbrough who serve by preparing the Anchor Lines for mailing.