

Anchor Lines



St. James Episcopal Church • Fairhope, Alabama

December 7, 2022

Volume 26, Issue 12

Christmas at

St. James 
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

PERGOLES *MAGNIFICAT*
ST. JAMES CHOIR & STRINGS
8:30 & 10:30 AM SERVICES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

COOKIE DECORATING FOR SANTA
ALL AGES WELCOME
2:00 - 4:00 PM IN GREEN HALL

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

HOLY EUCHARIST AND
CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS
10:30 AM IN THE CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT
5:30-7:30 PM
IN THE CHAPEL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
10:30 AM
IN THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

EPIPHANY FEAST OF LIGHTS
5:00 PM IN THE CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 PM

WITH THE CHILDREN'S CANTERBURY CHOIR

7:00 PM

WITH SOLOISTS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS

10:00 PM

WITH THE ADULT CHOIR

in the Church

NURSERY AVAILABLE AT 4:00 AND 7:00 PM

860 N. Section St. Fairhope, AL 36532 stjamesfairhope.org 251.928.2912



Christmas Flowers and Christmas Giving

Click [here](#) to complete this form online!

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 Monday, **December 12** will be included in the bulletins at all Christmas services. The cost is \$25.00 *per dedication*. Please use a separate form for each dedication. Additional forms are available in the Parish office and on our website at stjamesfairhope.org.

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.*

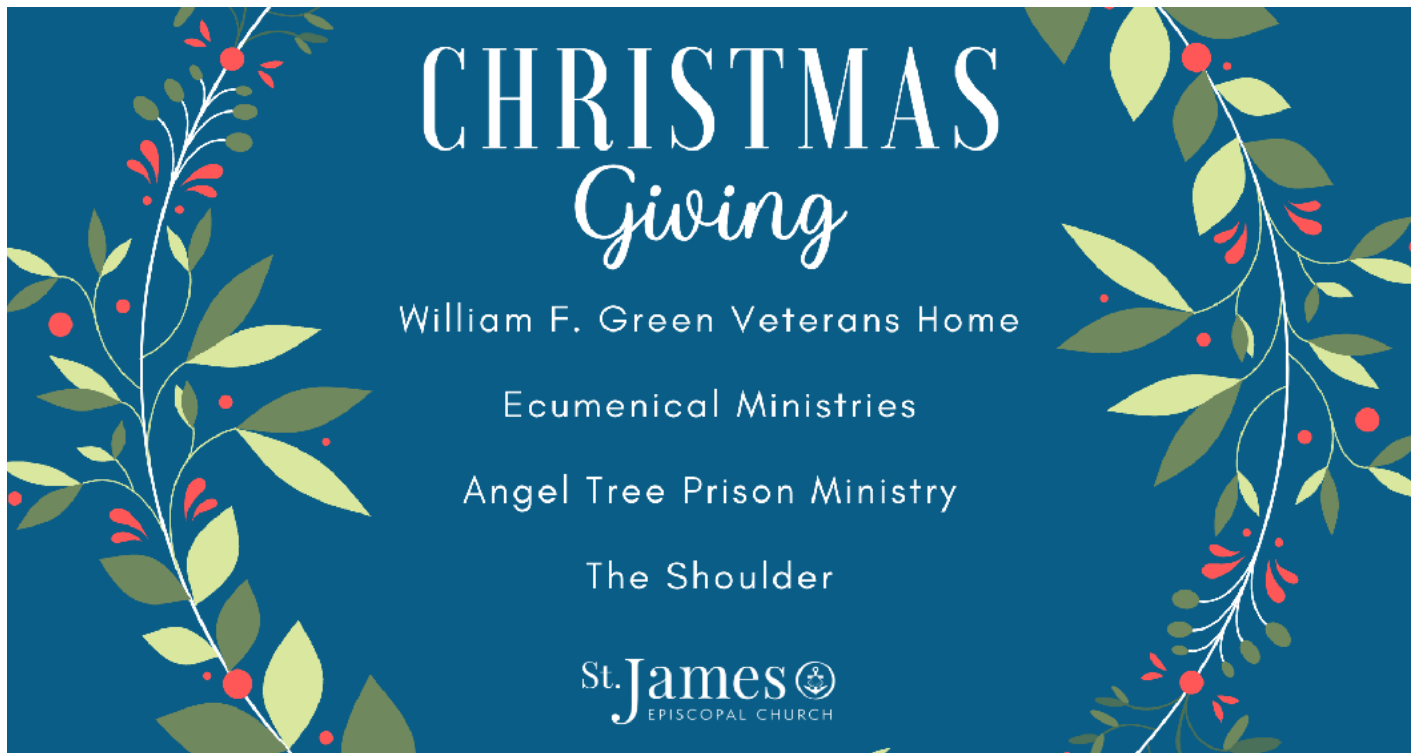
***** PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION *****

Given by: _____

Email: _____ phone: _____

Circle **ONE:** In memory of In honor of In thanksgiving for
 Name(s): _____

Please use a separate form for each additional dedication. Each Form is \$25.00
 Mailing address: St. James Episcopal Church, 860 North Section Street, Fairhope, AL 36532.



We still have tags available for Angel Tree Prison Ministry, The Shoulder, and veterans.

All Ecumenical Ministry tags have been claimed - thank you!

REMINDER: Veterans gifts are due back to the church by December 18.

Angel Tree and The Shoulder gifts are due back by December 10.

Formation & Worship

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH
Christmas Party
 & *Dirty Santa Exchange*
 DECEMBER 19
 6:30-8:30 IN THE VESTRY ROOM

PLEASE LET
 MICHELLE ORR
 (251-490-6077)
 OR
 ELIZABETH ORR
 (251-510-5137)
 KNOW IF YOU
 WILL NEED THE
 NURSERY

DRINKS
 AND
 MUSIC
 PROVIDED!

ALL WOMEN OF
 THE CHURCH
 WELCOME!

St. James 
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WHAT TO BRING:
 WRAPPED DIRTY SANTA GIFT (\$5-\$8)
 SWEET OR SALTY DISH TO SHARE (OPTIONAL)
 CHRISTMAS CANDIES AND CARDS FOR OUR
 HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

All
 women of
 the church
 are
 welcome!

**Women's Monday Night
 Bible Study will end on
 December 12. Stay tuned
 for information for the next
 study!**

Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study

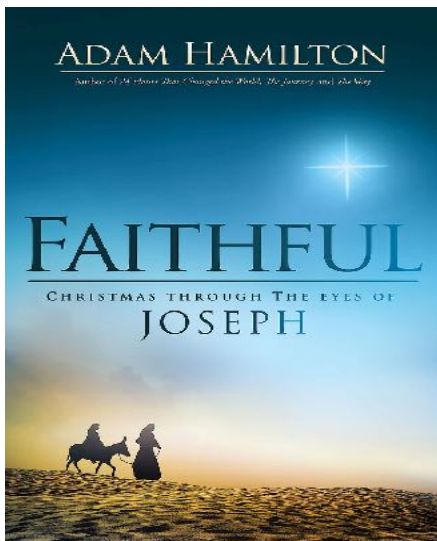
The group meets in the Vestry
 Room from 9:30 - 11:30 AM.
 Contact Elaine Pannell for more
 information.

pannell3264@yahoo.com

St. Anthony's Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a method of
 meditation used by Christians
 placing a strong emphasis on
 interior silence. It is also an
 ancient form of meditation with
 roots in monastic traditions of
 St. Teresa of Avila and St. John
 of the Cross. We begin with a
 prayer, are silent for 20 minutes
 while returning our focus to
 God, and end with a prayer. This
 takes 20-25 minutes and we
 meet at 12:30 on Wednesdays in
 the Chapel. Anyone is welcome
 to come regularly or drop in at
 that time.

Contact Shannon Spinks at
shannon@gatewaysourcing.com
 if you have questions about
 Centering Prayer.



From the Office

Monthly Financial Report

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER PLEDGING FOR 2023

	October	October	YTD	YTD	YTD	ONE MONTH POST CONSECRATION SUNDAY: 2022 146 PLEDGES \$672,667 2021 143 PLEDGES \$679,616
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2021	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
Church Income	\$137,562	\$109,053	\$1,083,789	\$1,093,326	\$1,018,964	
Church Expense	\$110,473	\$128,298	\$1,127,851	\$1,193,167	\$1,087,910	
School Income	\$45,079	\$88,672	\$683,626	\$533,441	\$485,879	
School Expense	\$87,894	\$78,524	\$614,179	\$624,179	\$403,152	

*Please remember you can set up your recurring gifts online by clicking this link.
Gifts may be made by ACH or credit card.*



Amazon Smile is an easy way to donate to St. James! You shop, you donate.

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in using your regular Amazon login information.
3. Select your charity (St. James Episcopal Church)
4. Start shopping! Remember to check out at smile.amazon.com

The L e c t i o n a r y S c h e d u l e

Date	The First Lesson	The Psalm	The Epistle	The Gospel
3 Advent December 11, 2022	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Psalm 146: 4-9	James 5: 7-10	Matthew 11: 2-11
4 Advent December 18, 2022	Isaiah 7: 10-16	Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18	Romans 1: 1-7	Matthew 1: 18-25
Christmas Eve December 24, 2022	Isaiah 9: 2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
Christmas Day December 25, 2022	Isaiah 52: 7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)	John 1:1-14
January 1	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:15-21

News & Events

St. Nicholas Visits St. James!



Thank you to St. Nicholas for visiting Green Hall this past Sunday! The children were delighted by stories, cookies, crafts, and of course, the opportunity to take pictures with St. Nick!

Children and Youth News



COOKIE DECORATING
for Santa

Thursday, December 22
2:00 - 4:00
in Green Hall

All ages welcome!

St. James
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Epiphany




FEAST OF LIGHTS

Sunday, January 8
5:00 PM.
in the Church

Children/Youth Formation

LOCATIONS & LEADERS

LOOK FOR THESE SIGNS ON THE DOORS TO YOUR CLASSROOM

	CLASS	LOCATION	LEADER(S)
	Godly Play Pre-K-3rd grade	Classroom #2 (last room on left in the school downstairs)	Rotates
	What's in the Bible? Grades 4-6	Classroom #8 Upstairs in the school	George Huckabay
	Rite 13 7th & 8th grades	Classroom #5 Upstairs in the school	Ellen Huckabay & Karen Myrick
	Senior High 9th - 12th grades	Classroom #7 Upstairs in the school	Meg Willett & Bettie Norton



St. James
EPISCOPAL CHURCH Youth

CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 18
5:30 - 7:00 in Green Hall

WEAR A TACKY SWEATER OR YOUR FAVORITE FESTIVE ATTIRE!
WE'LL HAVE FOOD, GAMES, AND LOTS OF FUN!

Music News

Pergolesi

Magnificat

St. James Choir & Strings

Sunday, December 18, 2022

8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship services



Sunday, December 18, 2022

8:30 & 10:30 AM

Worship services

Pergolesi *Magnificat*

St. James Choir & Strings

The Magnificat is a hymn expressing joy and thanksgiving, sung by the Virgin Mary.

Francesco Durante composed two versions of his Magnificat in B Flat - the four-part version that we will sing, and a more elaborate five-part version featuring two sopranos. The composition date of either version is unknown, but both likely were written in the 1740s. Some controversy surrounds the Magnificat. Although scholars traditionally agree that Durante composed this Magnificat, in 1910 musicologist Giuseppe Radiccioli attributed the work to Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, Durante's talented pupil. That myth has followed the work ever since.

Concert Series Schedule Change: Please note that Edisher Savitski will now perform on February 5, 2023, at 4:00 PM in the Church.



What is Compline?

In short, Compline is a sung prayer service. Compline consist of psalms, short passages from scripture, an office hymn, canticle, litany, collects and additional prayers. The offering of prayer in the evening, by laity or clergy, has sometimes been described as the "goodnight prayer of the church". It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night. Compline is offered when the work of the day is completed, and the quietness of evening settles over the hearts and minds of those who have come together in thankfulness for the blessings of the day, and in anticipation of God's gift of a new day.

A Junior-Senior Moment: Interview with Seminarians Drew Downey & Stephen Pecot

Drew and Stephen are students at Virginia Theological Seminary and sponsored by St. James. Stephen is a Senior and will graduate next May. Drew began seminary in August and is currently a Junior (the name for first-year students) and will graduate in 2025. Virginia Theological Seminary, located in Alexandria, Virginia is the largest of the accredited seminaries of The Episcopal Church and was founded in 1823.

What has this year of seminary been like so far? What does the rest of the year look like?

Stephen:

This year includes hands-on experience, discussions with our diocese, and preparing to make the entry into ordained ministry. I have continued an internship at a local church (Aquia Episcopal Church in Stafford, VA). But the best thing of all has been having my wife Travis with me for senior year. In the first week of January, I will take the General Ordination Exams, or GOEs. It is three days of exams covering six subject areas such as theology, liturgy, ethics, and scripture. During the spring, I will be attending our diocesan convention in Pensacola as well as finishing my last semester of classes. God willing, I will be ordained as a deacon just prior to graduation in mid-May (with ordination to the priesthood later in 2023). After graduation, Travis and I will pack up and head back home. No doubt there will be many a tearful goodbye to the friends we have made here over our three years.

Drew:

It is hard to believe that Chris and I are finishing our first semester, and it has been a time rich with community and spiritual growth. This new chapter has been difficult and yet rewarding. I say difficult because it meant leaving our family and friends to relocate north – I am told Virginia is considered “the south” but no one has heard of Conecuh Sausage so I’m still unsure. It is rewarding because we are living, worshiping, and growing our spiritual formation in a community with students and staff from different states, countries and even continents. Each week I join a small small formation group at a professor’s home where the students alternate preparing a service of prayer and snacks. It is a beautiful way to grow closer to God and the people around all of us. In the spring semester I will continue some 2-part classes such as Old Testament, New Testament, and Contemporary Witnesses. I am also looking forward to taking some new classes such as “Evangelism” and “The Inklings.” The latter class will discuss themes found in the works of C.S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Dorothy Sayer. I will also be gearing up for my Clinical Pastoral Education assignment over the summer months where I will be serving as a chaplain at a local hospital. I hear it is a tough, but rewarding opportunity.

What has it been like for your spouse?

Stephen:

Travis (Youngblood Pecot) stayed in Fairhope until now for two reasons: our youngest son James was still in school and because of the pandemic. With James in the US Navy and with the Covid pandemic abating, we felt the time was right for Travis to join me at VTS. We live in a lovely apartment on campus with our cat Josie and dog Piper, and Travis works at the campus pub and coffee shop. With her background in hospitality, she has found joy in fulfilling her personal ministry by showing people warmth, love, and a welcoming spirit. She has thoroughly enjoyed being part of the community here. As many of you know, she loves horses and has found friends and fun in the equestrian community in nearby Maryland. There is tremendous value that VTS offers which, with the support of St. James, has made this one of the best years of her life. She does miss her St. James family as well as Fairhope.

Drew:

Chris is working for a local bank called Burke and Herbert and is enjoying his new role as Assistant Branch Manager. He is learning new policies and procedures and is enjoying making new friendships among his coworkers. Thanks be to God for Chris for all his patience with me, and his help in making our new apartment feel like home. While I was in class during August term he was unboxing, assembling and arranging our household items. Some days he is able to make it home to attend evening worship with me. He also attends functions outside of the classrooms where we seminarians are able to “let down our hair” and enjoy some time of fun and fellowship. We have been a support team for each other and I am thankful each and every day for the amazing love he shows not only me, but also the community in which we live.

How does seminary compare with the typical college experience?

Stephen:

It has a college feel, and yet it doesn’t. Since I went to a large state school more than 25 years ago, I find that a campus with less than 200 students—and with faculty also living here in community—results in a more family-type experience. We ascribe to the model of “Chapel, Class, Lunch”: we attend daily services in our chapel, go to class, and eat lunch as a community. Most students live on campus, though there are some commuters. Many other things are typical college: we have study groups, meet with professors, and participate in committees.

Drew:

Seminary is quite different than my undergrad college experience. Truly living in a community means I not only study, worship and eat alongside my fellow students but also the teachers. It is not uncommon to have the Dean of Students, or one of the professors to sit down across from me at a table during lunch. At first it was a stressful experience, but once I realized they were not going to grill me on parsing a Greek sentence, or the eschatological themes in Mark I began to relax. Instead we talk as friends would about where we were from, our family, what brought us to the Episcopal Church, and how the weekend/week treated each other. One of the reasons I decided to attend VTS is their main purpose is driven by formation and the education of future leaders of church. There are other divinity schools that are tied to colleges with an undergrad presence, but I was looking for a school whose attention was to the church. My parents can attest I enjoyed my time at Auburn – maybe a little too much.

A Junior-Senior Moment: Interview with Seminarians Drew Downey & Stephen Pecot

What about outside of class? Are you involved with any activities and programs?

Stephen:

There is no shortage of things to do around DC and on campus. Aside from being minutes from the Smithsonian and the vast array of museums and exhibits, the region is steeped in history. On campus, many students take on pet projects throughout the year which anyone can plug into. Currently, we have a Christmas Angel Tree program. In March, VTS will host its second annual Out of the Darkness Campus Walk (which I started with a classmate and professor) to raise public awareness about issues surrounding mental health. Last month, VTS students worked with a local church to pack over 10,000 meals for local food banks. We even have a proper fall formal, called the Advent Affair, where Travis and I are looking forward to dressing to the nines, sipping wine, and dancing the night away as classes end for the fall semester.

Drew:

I am currently staying active in a few clubs and societies around campus. I am the treasurer for the Student Aid Society which helps assistant seminarians who may need financial help for any sort of need such as broken computers, vehicle repairs, plane tickets home, or medical bills. I am also on the Cultivate VTS Committee which helps bring attention to the calling we as Christians have for being proper stewards of the bounty God has entrusted to us. I am coordinating the raised garden beds on campus that faculty and students to use. I am also involved in the choir and a bell ringer for the call to worship.

What has been most surprising? The most challenging?

Stephen:

The most surprising part of seminary was learning about the diversity of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. There are classmates from India, Israel, Kenya, Liberia, and Mexico as well as most of the USA; I work for a professor who is a Baptist preacher; classmates are Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, Unitarian, and Lutheran; at a service you might hear multiple languages spoken. It has been enriching to be exposed to the many ways people around the world are oriented to the message of Christ. As far as challenging, it was building community remotely at the beginning of seminary (which we called “zoominary”). It is easy to build connections in the same room; but what about over video? Creating sustaining connections is vital in education, and it was difficult—though not impossible—to do so in my first year. It just required much more creativity and flexibility. But from those challenges comes a lot of resilience and ideas that I will bring back to our diocese.

Drew:

One of the big surprises I realized was not being able to do all the assigned readings. De, Forbes, and Amanda each gave me this advice. I can now report their advice was accurate. The amount of reading material we are given are substantial. I have learned the material not only guides us in our in class learning, but they also serve as a source of knowledge to take with us when we graduate. For me the most challenging part of seminary is being away from home during the holidays and major moments in our lives. For the majority of our lives, Chris and I, have been able to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with our family and friends. While we have been able to wish our loved ones “happy birthday” or “happy Thanksgiving” via face-time and phone calls nothing beats being able to hug your mama. It is going to be different not being home for Christmas, but we will still be surrounded by our VTS family. We do look forward to the time when we will be able to come home and visit with everyone.

Any last words for the St. James community?

Stephen:

This journey of ministry and discovery was inevitable but made infinitely more possible with the prayers, kind words, and financial support that the St. James community showered upon us over the past three years. I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart. If you are in the Alexandria area before May, get in touch with us! Lastly, to know that St. James has been blessed with Amanda Doshier’s presence and ministry has made the connection between St. James and my own seminary experience even more rewarding. I am constantly amazed at the myriad ways in which God works in our lives, and the best is yet to come. God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.

Drew:

Chris and I would just like to thank you all for the prayers, phone calls, texts, books, and financial assistance you have given to us so far this year. We would not be able to make this possible without each and every one of you. May the Lord of peace, hope, and love continue to bless you all. Chris and I wish you all a wonderful Advent, and a very Merry Christmas.



*Pictured left to right:
Stephen, Travis, Chris, and Drew*

Parish Life News

St. James 
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AND COMMUNITY OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL

invite you to

THE SERVICE OF THE

Longest Night

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

5:30 - 7:30 IN THE CHAPEL

The holiday season can strike a chord of melancholy, lament, and grief in many. This time of year sharply reminds people of lost loved ones, personal setbacks such as job loss, or other disappointments or regrets in life. St. James Episcopal Church and the Community of Hope invite you to join us for the

Longest Night on Wednesday, December 21 at 5:30 PM in the Chapel.

Yoga Classes

YOGA WITH JANE

Monday
9:30 AM Gentle Yoga in Green Hall
1:30 PM Chair Yoga in Green Hall

Friday
7:30 AM Yoga Flow upstairs in the choir room



YOGA WITH STACY

Thursday
5:45 PM Flow Yoga in Green Hall
or via Zoom

For Zoom link, contact Stacy at stacy.reckeweg@gmail.com



\$3.00 per person or \$10.00 per family Pay when you eat.

Make your Sunday morning *better!* Have breakfast at


PARISH BREAKFAST
December 18
Between the services

Reservations are not necessary.

St. James 
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Confirmation

INTERESTED IN CONFIRMATION CLASSES?



CONFIRMATION CLASSES ARE OPEN TO YOUTH (9TH GRADE AND UP) AND ADULTS, AND WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY 2023.

PLEASE CONTACT ELLEN HUCKADAY IF YOU'D LIKE TO SIGN UP.

St. James 
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRISTIANFORMATION@STJAMESFAIRHOPE.ORG

School News



November was a fun filled month at St. James Episcopal School! The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students enjoyed a field trip to the *Nensies Jr.* performance at the Fairhope Civic Center. As an added bonus, they got to see one of their classmates, Pippa Dryer, perform in the play. The Kindergarten class had their first field trip to Page and Palette for a very special story time with Sherri Rinker, beloved author of *Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site*.

All of our students participated in the Annual Veterans Day Program. The day was celebrated with school families, friends and members of our parish. Special thanks to John Port for organizing this lovely tribute to our Veterans.

On Sunday, November 13th, during the 10:30 am service we celebrated Episcopal School Sunday. I was so proud of our students who participated in the St. James School Choir! I appreciate all of our St. James School families who came to worship with us for Episcopal School Sunday.

To complete our November activities, the PK- 4 classes presented our Thanksgiving program. This presentation was complete with Pilgrims, Native Americans and the cutest turkeys! Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a Thanksgiving picnic on campus with our children.

We kicked off the holiday season participating in the annual Fairhope Christmas Parade. I am so thankful that we were able to share the joy of our St. James children with a fun night for everyone.

The students and staff are anxiously awaiting the Advent and Christmas season. We can't wait to share all of the holiday magic we experienced in next month's Anchor Lines. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Blessings,
Director

Shelley E. Meier



JOIN US FOR A
Holiday Kickoff
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8
5:00 PM
CAROLING
"THAT'S MY DOGG" FOOD TRUCK
SPECIAL VISITOR FROM THE NORTH POLE!

Invite your friends! All are welcome!



**Parish Office
Hours**

Monday - Thursday
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday ~ CLOSED

OUR CLERGY



Rev. De Freeman, *Rector*



Rev. Forbes Sirmon, *Associate Priest*



Rev. Amanda Doshier, *Deacon*

OUR VESTRY

Jeanie Smith, *Senior Warden*
Lauren Arington, *Junior Warden*
Bruce Stone, *Clerk*
Katie Smith, *Treasurer*

Class of 2022

Elizabeth Erwin
Shannon Pesnell
Tracy Corte
Mary Statkewicz

Class of 2023

Bebe Goetter
Earl Jackson
Chris Nelson

Class of 2024

Ben Coddling
Peter Gaillard
Laura Jones
Matthew Myrick

Weekly Recurring Schedule

SUNDAYS:

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church
9:40 - 10:20 AM Christian Formation & Fellowship
*see our Christian Formation section for all of the different
classes offered on Sunday this year
10:30 AM* Holy Eucharist in the Church *also online
Children's Chapel at 10:30 AM
Nursery available at both services

MONDAYS

9:30 - 10:30 AM Gentle Yoga, Green Hall
1:30 - 2:30 PM Chair Yoga, Green Hall
4:00 - 5:00 PM Canterbury Choir rehearsal
6:30 PM Women's Bible Study, Vestry Room

TUESDAYS

5:45 - 7:30 PM Men's Bible Study, Vestry Room

WEDNESDAYS:

7:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Chapel
9:30 AM Adult Bible Study, Vestry Room
12:30 PM Centering Prayer
7:00 - 8:30 PM Adult Choir rehearsal

THURSDAYS:

5:45 PM Yoga, Green Hall
7:00 PM Chess, Green Hall

FRIDAYS:

7:30 AM Yoga Flow, upstairs in the choir room

3rd SUNDAY of the Month:

9:30 - 10:30 AM Breakfast
7:00 PM Compline in the Church & online
or Taizé in the Chapel

*For staff email addresses or other contact information, go to the
About Us tab on our website at stjamesfairhope.org*