

Anchor Lines

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



St. James Episcopal Church | 860 N. Section St., Fairhope, AL, 36532 | 251.928.2912 | stjamesfairhope.org

December 6, 2023

Volume 27, Issue 12



Christmas

Service Times

Service of the Longest Night

Tuesday, December 19 at 6:00 PM in the chapel

Sunday, December 24

Advent IV (regular Sunday service) at 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 PM, 7:00 PM & 10:00 PM

Adult choir sings at 7:00 PM service

Nursery available at 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist at 10:30 AM

The church office will be closed the week
following Christmas.

We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.

Christmas Flower Dedications

The form below may be cut out and returned to the church office - PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY. If you'd prefer to complete your form online, visit our website [here](http://stjamesfairhope.org). You are also able to pay for your dedications online. Questions may be directed to Leslie at communications@stjamesfairhope.org.



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 11, 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.

Parish News & Events



Women of the Church

Christmas Party & Dirty Santa Exchange

DECEMBER 18 AT 6:00 PM

IN THE VESTRY ROOM

What to bring:

- ★ Dirty Santa gift (\$10.00 or less) for exchanging
- ★ Sweet or salty dish to share
- ★ Candy or notes to place in small bags to accompany flowers for homebound parishioners.

Refreshments will be provided!

For more information contact

Michelle Orr

251-490-6077

or mollieathome77@yahoo.com

The Mary & Martha of Bethany Chapter of

The
Order
of the
Daughters
of the King

New Member Interest Meeting

Sunday, December 10
11:30 - 1:00
Vestry Room

For questions, please contact Sara Majors
saramajors@aol.com

Parish
BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Following the 7:30 service
AND between the 8:30 & 10:30
services

Green Hall
\$3 per person
\$10 max per family
Reservations not necessary
Venue now accepted!

St. James
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AND COMMUNITY OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL
invite you to
THE SERVICE OF THE

Longest Night

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19
6:00 PM IN THE CHAPEL

THE CHAPEL WILL BE OPEN BEGINNING AT 5:30 FOR
ANYONE SEEKING QUIET, PERSONAL TIME FOR PRAYER.
THE SERVICE WILL BEGIN AT 6:00.

St. James
Cookbooks
Still
Available!

These beautiful books make great
holiday gifts! Stop by the church
office Monday through Thursday,
8:30 - 5:00, or look for one of our
cookbook team members on
Sunday mornings.

\$25

Parish News & Events



Calling all angels, shepherds, sheep, and wise men! Our **Epiphany Feast of Lights** is open to children and youth ages 3 and up. Please contact Natalie at stjameseyc@stjamesfairhope.org if you'd like to participate in this beloved annual event. Dinner will follow that evening in Green Hall.

ANNUAL Parish Meeting

**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 7**

We will have
one service on
this day
at 10:00 AM

St. James 
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Our annual parish meeting will also take place on January 7 in Green Hall - children will practice for Feast of Lights in the church while adults are in the meeting.

Parish News & Events

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. Confirmation classes are open to all adults, and youth 9th grade or above. If you are interested in being confirmed, received, or re-affirmed into the Episcopal Church, please email the church office at info@stjamesfairhope.org

Confirmation CLASSES

BEGINNING
JANUARY 21

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CONFIRMATION CLASSES,
EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE
[INFO@STJAMESFAIRHOPE.ORG](mailto:info@stjamesfairhope.org)



Altar Guild

POLISHING DAY

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 16**

10:00 – 1:00

LIGHT LUNCH PROVIDED

St. James
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Mary & Martha of Bethany Chapter of
the Order of the Daughters of the King

January Coat Drive

The DOK will collect new and gently used coats
to help those experiencing homelessness.

**COLLECTION BOXES WILL BE LOCATED IN GREEN HALL
AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR.**

SAVE THOSE COATS AND BRING THEM IN JANUARY!



Parish News & Events



Altar Guild Luncheon

St. James staff and Altar Guild members enjoyed a luncheon in Green Hall on November 29. Highlights included a delicious and beautifully decorated lunch, presentation of a gift to outgoing Altar Guild head Elaine Estefan, and unveiling of new vestments and altar paraments. (Vestments modeled by our very own Mother Amanda Doshier!) Thank you, Elaine, for your service, and thank you to the Altar Guild for this wonderful luncheon.



Reminder from the church office:

In light of an increase in scam emails and texts, it's a good precautionary measure to change your Instant Church Directory password.

Remember:

Father De, Father Forbes, Mother Amanda, and the church staff, will never email or text you asking for gift cards, money, or secretive meetings. Always check the email address; if it's not from a @stjamesfairhope.org address, it is not authentic.

If you need assistance with Instant Church Directory, please call the church office at 251.928.2912

Children & Youth News

Upcoming Events

December 10th: Meet St. Nicholas! (special guest appearance and introduction of St. Lucy) 9:45 AM in Green Hall

December 10th: You Group 5:30-7:00 PM

December 13th: Prodissee Pantry youth outreach 5:00 PM

December 17th: EYC Christmas Party 5:00-6:30 PM

December 21st: Cookie Decorating in Green Hall 2:00 - 4:00 PM

December 24th: No Sunday School

December 31st: No Sunday School



Thank you to our youth who cooked a delicious spaghetti dinner for our annual Advent Wreath Making event on November 29!



Christmas Giving

Thank you to everyone who responded so quickly and generously to our Christmas giving opportunities - all tags/angels have been spoken for at this time. Because of you, these organizations will be able to fulfill all holiday needs!

Our school is still collecting toys for Toys for Tots through December 15. See information below.



St. James
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS
COLLECTION FOR

TOYS FOR TOTS

Help support our school's outreach for December! The Toys for Tots collection box is located in the school office.
NEW, UNWRAPPED toys will be collected through December 15.

Don't forget to support our parish school this holiday season!

Collecting for Toys for Tots through 12/15!

School News



Dear Parish Families,

I am grateful to be part of this wonderful school especially during this season as the children have such hope, joy, and expectation. The students and staff are anticipating the Advent and Christmas season.

We kicked off the holiday season with our lighting of the school Christmas tree, caroling, and a special visit from Santa (aka Ed Shell). This was a fun evening for our students, staff and school families.

I invite you to join us for the fun activities that we have planned at school.

For our December outreach project we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for “Toys for Tots” sponsored by the United States Marine Corps. A collection box is located in our school hall entrance.

We will collect items through December 15.



Look for the St. James School float in the Fairhope Christmas Parade on December 7th.

Our annual Christmas program will be presented by all of our school children on December 14th at 9:00 am in the church. You will not want to miss this presentation of “The Story of Christmas - A Nativity Tale for Children”.

Re-enrollment will begin on January 3rd and run through January 31st.

I, along with the staff, wish you all the joys and peace of the season. We wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Blessings,



*Music News**A note from Helen...*

Dear St. James Family

Thank you for the wonderful sendoff reception, precious Jo Patton chapel painting, and carefully worded notes and gifts. I loved every open mic story! The slide show brought back so many happy memories and I trust those memories blessed you as well.

I thank you too for your continuing prayers for my recovery. It was fascinating to sit in the congregation these last weeks after years on the bench not knowing what you were up to. I was disturbed by how few of you are singing. Here are some parting thoughts:

Have you heard the St. Augustine quote that "he who sings prays twice?" Where else can you get a bargain like that?

Sing the hymns and the service music! Sing the communion songs! I promise you it is cheaper than therapy and you will feel better! Take joy in your choir. They support you in your efforts to sing. It is 10 degrees warmer where they sit, no fancy church clothes, same ole robe, lots of stairs to climb; not to mention the commitment to rehearsals and church attendance. What a group!

Thank you for all the opportunities you gave me for growth.

Soli Deo gloria!

Helen



From the Finance Office

Did You Know: An FYI on Qualified Charitable Distributions.

A QCD is a charitable giving opportunity available to IRA owners who are over 70 1/2.

An individual donor can contribute up to \$100,000 per year in QCDs, as long as that individual is 70½ years old or older. For married couples, each spouse can make QCDs up to the \$100,000 limit for a potential total of \$200,000. As a result, donors may avoid being pushed into higher income tax brackets and prevent phaseouts of other tax deductions.

Normally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable when funds are received. But with a QCD, these distributions are tax-free as long as the funds are directly transferred from your IRA custodian, and payable to a qualified charity, such as St. James. Your QCDs can be counted towards satisfying your required minimum distribution for the year, as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits to a charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from your taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower would reduce the amount of taxes owed for the year.

If you are considering a charitable donation, a CPA or financial advisor can help you minimize your tax liability and maximize the value and impact of your gift by choosing the right strategy for donating to St. James Episcopal Church.

Have you visited the Pathways to Generosity page on our website? You can find everything there, including:

1. An introductory video message from Father De.
2. Daily devotional videos recorded by the Pathways to Generosity team and others.
3. Our "Storybook" that contains personal stories of giving and what inspires us.

Visit our website [here](https://www.stjamesfairhope.org/giving/stewardship) or at <https://www.stjamesfairhope.org/giving/stewardship>

ESTIMATE OF GIVING

Pathways TO GENEROSITY

My 2024 contribution is \$_____ per:
week month year

☐ Please reserve envelopes for me. ☐ Please have a member of the clergy contact me.

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

By request, this estimate of giving may be changed at any time.

If you are unable to give financially but would like to give of your time and talents, please contact finance@stjamesfairhope.org.



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
www.stjamesfairhope.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

OUR CLERGY



Rev. De Freeman, *Rector*



Rev. Forbes Sirmon, *Associate Priest*



Rev. Amanda Doshier, *Associate Priest*

OUR VESTRY

Jeanie Smith, *Senior Warden*
Lauren Arington, *Junior Warden*
Mary Mullins Redditt, *Clerk*
Katie Smith, *Treasurer*

Class of 2023

Bebe Goetter
Earl Jackson
Chris Nelson

Class of 2024

Ben Coddling
Peter Gaillard
Laura Jones
Matthew Myrick

Class of 2025

Margaret Cadden
Tracy Corte
Jim Daniell
Dee Gambill

Weekly Recurring Schedule

SUNDAYS:

7:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel
8:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church
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
6:30 - Women's Bible Study

TUESDAYS

5:45 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS:

7:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Chapel
9:00 AM - Wednesday Morning Bible Study
12:30 PM Centering Prayer

THURSDAYS:

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

3rd SUNDAY of the Month:

9:30 - 10:30 AM Breakfast

*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 **JANUARY 10, 2023**. PLEASE EMAIL INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE TO 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.