

Anchor Lines

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



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

February 5, 2025

Volume 29, Issue 2

Dear St. James,

Some love letters are more challenging to write than others. With a heart full of gratitude for St. James, I am writing to tell you that I have been called to be the next Rector of Holy Nativity in Panama City, Florida.

Being your Associate Priest these last five years has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. My time with you has brought me great joy, and I consider it an honor to have been welcomed into your presence, to know you, and to do ministry together.

You have brought my family in, nurtured us, watched and helped us grow, and built us up to go forth and minister beyond this place. For that, we are truly grateful.

I am thankful to De for his exemplary leadership, mentorship, and guidance, as well as to the staff, vestry, and many ministries I had the privilege of working with during my time at St. James.

Without a doubt, I am a better priest and human being for having known and served you. I will always carry love and gratitude for you. It has been a humbling and holy thing to be invited into your lives. I thank God for each of you and for the parts of our stories that will forever be intertwined.

My last Sunday with you will be February 16, and I look forward to serving and spending as much time with you as possible until then.

My office door remains open, and I look forward to having the opportunity to say goodbye to you personally.

With God's peace,
Forbes+



Sendoff for Father Forbes and the Sirmen Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Join us in Green Hall as we celebrate and say farewell to Father Forbes and his family.
The celebration will take place following the 8:30 and 10:30 services.

UPCOMING EVENTS: *Lent & Easter*

MARCH
4

Shrove Tuesday - Chicken & Waffles in Green Hall at 5:30 PM
(fundraiser for our youth - please come support them!)

MARCH
5

Ash Wednesday - Services at 7:30 AM, 12:30 & 6:00 PM

MARCH
11

Lenten Concert Series begins - see Music Page for details

MARCH
12

Lenten Program Begins - 5:30-7:00 PM in Green Hall.
Program happens every Wednesday through April 9
See below for details!

APRIL
12

Palm Cross Making - 9:00 AM in Green Hall

APRIL
13

Palm Sunday - Services at 7:30, 8:30 & 10:30 AM

APRIL
17

Maundy Thursday - Service at 6:00 PM

APRIL
18

Good Friday - Service at 12:30 PM

APRIL
19

Easter Egg Hunt - 10:00 AM
Easter Vigil - Service at 6:00 PM

APRIL
20

Easter Sunday - Services at 7:30, 8:30 & 10:30 AM



*The
Screwtape
Letters*
2025 LENT
PROGRAM

LENTEN DINNER & PROGRAM BEGINS MARCH 12

This year we will feature a performance style presentation of C.S. Lewis's ***The Screwtape Letters*** by local attorney and actor Bill Lewis. Bill has been performing and directing in local community theaters in Mobile for more than 35 years and performing *The Screwtape Letters* in churches and other venues since the late 1990s.

We'll gather at 5:30 for dinner, then watch a dramatic performance of a different chapter of the book each week. We'll discuss the themes of each letter and learn from C.S. Lewis how to navigate living the Christian Life.

Published in 1942, C.S. Lewis's The Screwtape Letters is the fictional correspondence between two devils trying to tempt a human soul away from God. The satirical novel reveals itself as series of lessons on the importance of taking a deliberate role in Christian faith by portraying a typical human life, with all its temptations and failings, seen from devils' viewpoints.

Parish News & Events

Women's Monday Night Bible Study

The new study focuses on James, the half-brother of Jesus. Join us as Margaret Feinberg, host of the podcast Joycast and beloved Bible teacher and speaker, leads us through a study of the book of the Bible that "sounds more like Jesus than any other letter in the New Testament." If you have questions please contact Babs Stapleton at babs.stapleton@gmail.com.



Tuesday Evening Adult Bible Study

Questions for a Faithful Heart

led by John Olson

This class meets every other Tuesday. Upcoming meetings are on the following dates:
2/18, 3/4, 3/18, 4/1, 4/15, 4/29.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The new study focuses on *The Will of God*

by Leslie D. Weatherhead

(available on Amazon and christianbooks.com)

This class meets in the Vestry Room on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 AM.



Confirmation 2025

Please contact Natalie Smith at stjameseyc@stjamesfairhope.org if you are interested in confirmation classes, or have questions. Confirmation is open to adults, and youth in 9th grade and up.



LEADER NEEDED
for

MEAL
MINISTRY



The Meal Ministry is currently seeking a new leader. The mission is to provide meals to members of our parish as they recover from illness, injury, or hospitalization. This ministry is well-established and relatively easy to helm. It is organized into 12 teams with each team serving one month of the year.

If you are able to lead this group, please contact Father De at rector@stjamesfairhope.org

Parish News & Events

Now Registering!

ST. JAMES WOMEN'S RETREAT

APRIL 4-5
CAMP BECKWITH

To register online, visit <https://www.stjamesfairhope.org/events/womens-retreat-2025>

Now Registering!

DIOCESAN MEN'S CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 2
CAMP BECKWITH

To register or learn more, visit <https://www.diocgc.org/event-registration>
Registration forms are also available in the church office.



Rose Garden
Spring Cleanup

Saturday,
February 22
10:00 AM

No experience necessary!
Please bring your own
gloves, clippers, or whatever tools
you prefer to work with.

St. James
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FEBRUARY OUTREACH!



"Gently Used Shoes" is a caring ministry created by
parishioner Bob Douglass.
Please bring your gently used athletic shoes of all sizes to the collection
box in Green Hall beginning in February.
If you need more information,
please contact Bob at bdouglass104@gmail.com

Children & Youth Important Dates:

- February 9** Confirmation Class following the 10:30 Service
- February 9** 5pm-6:30pm Jr. High EYC
- February 9** 6pm-7:30pm Sr. High EYC
- February 12** 4pm-5:15pm 5th-12th grade Postcard Ministry
- February 16** Confirmation Class following the 10:30 Service
- February 16** 5pm-6:30pm Jr. High EYC
- February 16** 6pm-7:30pm Sr. High EYC
- February 19** 5pm Jr. and Sr. High EYC Prodissee Pantry and Dinner
- February 23** Confirmation Class following the 10:30 Service
- February 23** 5pm-6:30pm Jr. High EYC
- February 23** 6pm-7:30pm Sr. High EYC
- February 26** 4pm-5:15pm 5th-12th grade Postcard Ministry



Our youth had a blast on their recent trip to Universal Studios in Orlando!

Upcoming Music Events

February 16 - Men's Sung Compline
7:00 PM in the church

March 16 - Taizé
7:00 PM in the chapel

Lenten Concert Series

MARCH 11 - APRIL 8

St. James is excited to offer a free Lenten Concert Series beginning
Tuesday, March 11!

Concerts will begin at 12:05 PM, last approximately 20-25 minutes, and will take place in the church or Green Hall depending on the performance.

Lunch will be served in Green Hall following the concert.

Concerts are free and open to the public. \$5 suggested donation for lunch.

March 11 - Monika Cosson, mezzo-soprano

March 18 - Robert Pritchard, flute

March 25 - East Bay Woodwind Quintet

April 1 - Helen Rodgers, organ

April 8 - Rebekah Atkinson, harp

Girls & Boys Choir

The St. James Girls and Boys Choir rehearses on

Tuesday afternoons from 4:00-5:30 in the Choir Room.

Interested in joining? Contact Joe Setzer at organist@stjamesfairhope.org

Capital Campaign

Growing Faithfully
and **MOVING FORWARD**



Our Growing Faithfully Capital Campaign is ongoing!

To see all updated renderings and learn how to contribute to
this vital campaign,

please visit our website at

<https://www.stjamesfairhope.org/giving/capital-campaign>

School News

Wow, what a January! We finally got the opportunity to see what a real winter wonderland looks like in the South. I hope that everyone had a chance to experience the joys of the winter weather and just take a moment and be still. I have loved hearing the excitement in our school children's voices as they've shared stories about the snowmen they built and the snowball fights they had.

As we move into February we have so much to look forward to. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day and learning about Our Country, Past and Present. The first graders will be preparing for their Living History Museum presentation on February 21. We will end February with all the revelry of our famous annual Mardi Gras box parade, so get prepared to let the good times roll. We invite you to come and join us as our St. James School Krewe will roll on February 27th at 9:00am in the parking lot. No throws but there will be lots of waves and smiles. Come and see some fabulous box floats!

Enrollment for the 2025 - 2026 school year is now open. We are adding an additional PK2 class and a 2nd Grade. In an effort to continue to grow we need your support in sharing our school with friends and tagging us on social media. If you have any questions please know you are always welcome to contact me personally.

This year we are going to offer 7 weeks of Summer Camp. I am delighted that Miss Sophia Soliday will be our camp director this summer. She has a great summer planned for all of our campers. Camp registration will begin for non St. James students on March 3. Camp information can be found on our school website.

I know you all received a letter from Father Forbes about his new position as Rector at Holy Nativity in Panama City. It saddens me to see Father Forbes leave. He has served as our School Chaplain and played such an important role in the life of our school community. He has gathered every week to lead our school chapel services not only in the liturgy but in song, teaching the children new songs and playing his guitar. Father Forbes wrote our school prayer that the children recite everyday and he also wrote the "Birthday Song" that the children sing in chapel to celebrate their special day. Chapel is at the heart of every Episcopal school and Father Forbes has made ours an important part of our school life. Thank you for always being at our school functions, cheering us on or just there to welcome and bless us. You have been a chaplain, teacher and friend. Thank you and best wishes from our St. James School Family!

Blessings,
Shelley Miller

ARE YOU STILL LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT FIT THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

Schedule a tour and explore our exceptional academic programs, dedicated faculty, and nurturing community.



LEARN MORE &
SCHEDULE A TOUR



St. James
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

stjamesfairhope.school
860 N. Section St • Fairhope, AL 36532
251.928.2912







SUMMER CAMP

COUNSELORS WANTED!

June 9 - July 25

Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Looking for a fun summer job?
St. James Episcopal School is looking for enthusiastic, energetic, and responsible summer camp counselors, ages 16 and older.

Stop by our office to pick up an application, or submit your resume to
schooldirector@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

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Fairhope, AL

OUR CLERGY



Rev. De Freeman, *Rector*



Rev. Forbes Sirmon,
Chaplain & Associate Priest



Rev. Amanda Doshier, *Associate Rector*

OUR VESTRY

Margaret Cadden, *Senior Warden*
Bruce Stone, *Junior Warden*
Mary Mullins Redditt, *Clerk*
Amanda Montz, *Treasurer*

Class of 2025

Tracy Corte
Jim Daniell
Dee Gambill

Class of 2026

Dan Campbell
Bill Dowdle
Jennifer Lambert
Misty Whitehead

Class of 2027

Bettie Norton
Bruce Stone
Cappi Sully
Ken Talbert

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
6:30-8:00 PM, Women's Bible Study, Vestry Room

TUESDAYS:

7:00-8:00 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast
6:00-7:30 PM - Adult Bible Study every other Tuesday

WEDNESDAYS:

7:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Chapel
9:00-11:00 AM Adult Bible Study, Vestry Room
12:30 PM Centering Prayer
7:00 Adult Choir Practice

THURSDAYS:

12:00 PM Healing Service
5:45 PM Yoga, Green Hall
7:00 PM Chess, Green Hall

3rd SUNDAY of the Month:*

Parish Breakfast - Following the 7:30 service, and
between the 8:30 and 10:30 services.
7:00 PM Taizé or Compline

ANCHOR LINES DEADLINE: THE NEXT ANCHOR LINES WILL BE PUBLISHED **MARCH 5, 2025**. 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.