

# ANCHOR LINES

## MARCH NEWSLETTER

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



March 5, 2025

Volume 29, Issue 3

# LENT & EASTER

at ST. JAMES

**MARCH 5** Ash Wednesday - Services at 7:30 AM, 12:30 & 6:00 PM

**MARCH 11** **Lenten Concert: Monika Cosson, mezzo-soprano.** Concerts are every Tuesday through April 8 at 12:05 PM in the church. Each concert will last 20-25 minutes and will be followed by lunch in Green Hall. See Music page for more info.

**MARCH 12** **Lenten Program Begins** - 5:30-7:00 PM in Green Hall. Program happens every Wednesday through April 9 See inside 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  
**Concert Series** - *St. John Passion* presented by St. James Choir with soloists and instrumentalists. 4:00 PM

**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



\* Lenten Concert series takes place every Tuesday at 12:05 PM in the church, followed by lunch in Green Hall. PLEASE RSVP by the Thursday prior to each event.

\* Lenten Program and Dinners take place every Wednesday night in Green Hall. PLEASE RSVP by the Monday prior to each dinner.

**RSVP to [info@stjamesfairhope.org](mailto:info@stjamesfairhope.org) or call the church office 251.928.2912**

## Capital Campaign

### A Lady with Vision - by Mac Walcott

In cleaning out my desk a few weeks ago, I came across an old binder with "Mary Emma Potts" engraved on the front. In a nutshell, the binder contained a history of our past capital campaigns that have given us the church home we now have. Mary Emma kept a thorough record of newspaper articles, Anchor Lines, reports, and parish meeting notes that tracked our journey from 1988 to 1998, when we finished our last major campaign.

Many of us were blessed to know Mary Emma and her husband Jack. What I remember most clearly about her was her no-nonsense devotion to our church and its mission. She and Jack made a perfect team, delightfully working together for 40+ years in the vineyard we call St. James. Mary Emma had two passions that I remember well. One was a vision for how our youth programs must grow and prosper if the church were ever to do the same. I remember a parish meeting in 1988 to discuss the hiring of a youth minister. Mary Emma stood up and kindly admonished us all to look around at the number of gray heads in the crowd and asked **"Are we doing this for us, or for those who come after us?"** Mary Emma's other passion was our Newcomer's Ministry. Under her leadership, that effort grew to a well-oiled machine. We had monthly training sessions and specific coverages assigned for each service. It was a delight to work with her and she would remind anyone she could that we were all members of that committee! Many churches have iconic lay leaders like Mary Emma and Jack who have plowed the rough ground to make things easier for those who have followed. Our challenge is to learn from them and remember the lessons they taught us. Father De and I had a good visit recently to sit together and review the binder. In walking through this history, I was struck by the similarities of what happened then and what is happening now in our capital campaign journey.

In the late 1980's, we struggled mightily with the concept of growth. For many of us, it was an alien concept, something that those "other" churches did. In 1990, after a couple of years of learning to hear God's calling for our future, we decided to move forward and bought the 9.6 acres we are on now. We talked then about all of the things that might eventually happen in the future on this "giant" parcel (our previous campus was 2.2 acres). We dreamed of parish life buildings, a school, a larger sanctuary, and even an assisted living facility! Through a similar "listening" process that we are using today, our church leaders then developed the vision and design for our new campus. In 1992, the total cost of our new campus was estimated to be \$2.3 million. Then, as now, that was a lot of money, and quite intimidating. Our annual budget then was around \$450,000. We went forward with the 1992 campaign which yielded "only" \$1.7 million. The vestry, in its wisdom, developed a plan to allow us to proceed with the "have to" parts of the campus, with the other parts "shelled-in" for completion in the future. We broke ground in 1993 and dedicated the new church on Easter 1994. In 1996, we started a followup capital campaign with a goal of \$500,000. Its purpose was to reduce some debt and complete the Parish Hall and Christian Education areas. It was successfully completed in 1998. Today, our vestry is wrestling with the same issues: namely, how can we get our wallets to match our will and our vision? In 1992, we went forward with a plan that did not have all of the questions answered immediately, but did have the questions answered over time. We broke ground in 1993 with the confidence that our plan would eventually allow us to complete everything - and we did.

In her new form, I believe that Mary Emma knows what we are up to and will probably be dancing a jig when we break ground later this year. She might also remind us that as our school grows, so grows our church, and so grows God's ministry.



To learn more about the Capital Campaign, visit <https://www.stjamesfairhope.org/giving/capital-campaign>

Click this page to RSVP or email [info@stjamesfairhope.org](mailto:info@stjamesfairhope.org)

# 2025 LENT PROGRAM

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS  
MARCH 12-APRIL 9**

**5:30 – 7:00 PM**

**Dinner, followed by performance  
and discussion**



*The  
Screwtape  
Letters*

**PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN THE MONDAY  
PRIOR TO EACH DINNER  
[INFO@STJAMESFAIRHOPE.ORG](mailto:INFO@STJAMESFAIRHOPE.ORG) OR 251-928-2912**

Join us in Green Hall for a performance style presentation of C.S. Lewis's ***The Screwtape Letters*** by local attorney and actor Bill Watts. Bill has been performing in community theaters in Mobile for more than 35 years and performing *The Screwtape Letters* in churches and other venues since the late 1990s.

*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



**Rose Garden  
Annual Cleanup**

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their Saturday to spend time in the St. James Rose Garden. We are grateful for the hard work of the volunteers who keep this beloved area looking its best.



This form can be filled out online at <https://www.stjamesfairhope.org/events/easter-flower-dedications>.

**E A S T E R F L O W E R D E D I C A T I O N**

Remember or honor a loved one with flowers on the altar at Easter. Please **print** your dedication neatly on the form below. Flower dedications received by **Monday, April 14** will be included in the bulletins at all Easter services. The cost is \$30.00 *per dedication*. Please use a separate form for each dedication. 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. (Alternate payment options available online)*

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

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*Parish News & Events*

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



Join the women of St. James for a weekend at beautiful Camp Beckwith! Enjoy a time of renewal, spirituality, and fellowship, in a peaceful and relaxing setting. Register online at <https://www.stjamesfairhope.org/events/womens-retreat-2025> or return the registration form below.



**RETREAT SCHEDULE**

**Friday, April 4** - Weekend begins at 4:00 PM with a hospitality hour, followed by dinner, program, prayer, and s'mores around the fire.

**Saturday, April 5** - Morning prayer on the bay, program, activities involving arts/crafts, yoga, Bible study, leisure time to enjoy nature, walk the labyrinth, or visit with friends. Retreat will end on Saturday afternoon at 4:00 PM with a closing Eucharist.

**COST**

Single occupancy: **\$140** Double occupancy: **\$117** Commuter: **\$85**

**\*Rates include all meals\***

**W O M E N ' S   R E T R E A T   R E G I S T R A T I O N**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle **ONE**:      Single Occupancy                  Double Occupancy                  Commuter

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobility Issues (walker, wheelchair, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to pay?:      Check                  Online                  Venmo

*Checks may be mailed or dropped off at the church office.  
860 N. Section St. Fairhope, AL 36532  
Venmo: @stjamesfairhope*

**To pay using the church's online payment portal, log in and choose Women's Retreat from the dropdown menu.**

*Music News*

- ❖ **March 16 - Taizé Service** at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. Taizé is a simple, meditative candlelit service filled with songs, scripture, prayers and silent reflection. This service lasts about 30 minutes.
- ❖ **April 13 - Bob Chilcott's St. John Passion** at 4:00 PM in the Church, performed by the St. James Choir with soloists and instrumentalists. Chilcott's mighty setting of words from St. John's Gospel is a dramatic yet optimistic retelling of the Passiontide story.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Lenten Concert Series*

**MARCH 11 - APRIL 8**

Concerts will be held on

**Tuesdays at 12:05 PM in the church.**

Each concert will last approximately 20-25 minutes.

**Lunch will be served in Green Hall following each concert.**

**Concerts are free and open to the public.**

**\$5 suggested donation for lunch.**

**PLEASE RSVP BY THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO EACH CONCERT  
INFO@STJAMESFAIRHOPE.ORG or 251-928-2912**



**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*



## Children & Youth/School News

### Important Dates for Children & Youth:

- March 9 5pm-6:30pm Jr. High EYC
- March 9 6pm-7:30pm Sr. High EYC
- March 12 4pm-5:15pm 5th-12th grade Postcard Ministry
- March 16 5pm-6:30pm Jr. High EYC
- March 16 6pm-7:30pm Sr. High EYC
- March 19 5pm Jr. and Sr. High EYC Prodissee Pantry and Dinner
- March 23 11:45am-12:30pm Youth Confirmation Class
- March 23 12:30pm Youth Confirmation and Sr. EYC Lunch
- March 23 5pm-6:30pm Jr. High EYC
- March 23 6pm-7:30pm Sr. High EYC
- March 26 4pm-5:15pm 5th-12th grade Postcard Ministry
- March 30 Youth Confirmation
- March 30 5pm-6:30pm Jr. High EYC



St. James School's annual Mardi Gras Box Parade was a success! Thank you to the parents, teachers, and volunteers who helped make this beloved event so fun and special!

### Important Dates for St. James School:

- March 1 - April 18 - Honey Baked Ham Fundraiser. See information below.
- March 1 - Open Enrollment for the 2025 - 2026 School Year begins (30months - 2nd grade)
- March 3 - Summer Camp Registration Begins March. Registration forms available on our website, [www.stjamesfairhope.school](http://www.stjamesfairhope.school)

## MARCH OUTREACH

Please help us collect much-needed supplies during March. Collection bins are located in the school and in Green Hall.

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

- Band Aids
- Neosporin
- Sunscreen
- Individually wrapped snacks items

Ecumenical Ministries, Inc. is a non-denominational, comprehensive social service agency providing aid to low-income families and individuals in Baldwin County.

## St. James Episcopal School

Honey Baked Ham Gift Card Fundraiser

**20% OF PROCEEDS  
GO DIRECTLY TO OUR SCHOOL!**

**MARCH 1 - APRIL 18**

Scan the code to order yours today!

<https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/StJamesEpiscopalSchool>



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

**Parish Office Hours**

**Monday - Thursday**  
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

**Friday ~ CLOSED**

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

## OUR CLERGY



Rev. De Freeman,  
*Rector*



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 **APRIL 2, 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](mailto: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](http://www.stjamesfairhope.org).