

2025 Adult Formation Report - Annual Meeting

This has been a rich year for adult spiritual formation at St. James Episcopal Church, and God has done good work throughout this community of eager learners. We have hosted many formation opportunities throughout the year which have provided education, study, prayer, and renewal for our members and guests.

On March 30, 2025, Bishop Russell Kendrick confirmed and received 8 adults at St. James. These confirmands spent several weeks learning about the Episcopal Church in Confirmation classes taught by Rev. Amanda Doshier.

The Men's Breakfast continued in its second year meeting every Tuesday morning at 7:00 AM in Green Hall. The men share breakfast and then have a meditation and discussion on a religious theme. Attendance has been high, and this program has been a good opportunity for Christian fellowship for the men of the church. This is currently our fastest growing formation program!

In April the women of St. James held an overnight Women's Retreat at Camp Beckwith for the second consecutive year. They spent time in worship, prayer, and spiritual discussion and also enjoyed some rest and fun! There was a desire among the group to expand the length of the retreat, so the next retreat will be two nights and is scheduled for April 17-19, 2026.

St. James has continued to offer many classes and learning groups to facilitate study and discussion of the Bible and spiritual life for adults in our parish. These classes include the Rector's Forum and the Lectionary Round Table on Sunday mornings. We also continue to offer the Women's Bible Study on Monday nights and the Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study during the week. We have two classes that meet every other Tuesday night on a rotating basis — Questions for a Faithful Heart and a Sacred Ground book group. All of our adult formation classes have strong lay leadership and have attracted great interest from parishioners.

St. James also hosted two large multi-week formation series this year where we served dinner to the parish and provided an educational program on Wednesday nights. In the spring, we offered a six-week Lenten Program which featured the performance and discussion of various chapters of C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*. In the fall we offered a five-week program entitled "Legacy of Love" which featured discussion of topics regarding end-of-life planning presented by Diocesan instructor Mrs. Sue Rollins.

Our parish small groups and supper clubs have continued to meet this year - providing families and individuals formation and fellowship opportunities in close-knit circles that meet in member's homes. Overall, St. James has been able to offer many different avenues for adult formation, and the parish seems excited to participate. We look forward to continuing these options in 2026 and look for ways to grow them and respond to the interests of parishioners.

Submitted by Rev. Amanda Doshier, Associate Rector