

St. James



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
AND SCHOOL



Ministry Guide

2026-2027

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our website.



860 N. Section St. | Fairhope, AL 36532 | (251) 928-2912 | stjamesfairhope.org

Worship Ministries

Acolytes

All young people at St. James in grades 5-12 are invited to serve as acolytes. After being trained by clergy and staff, acolytes serve in various roles during Sunday morning worship, and at other services as requested. The acolyte's service is an offering to God.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild prepares the church and chapel for Sunday, weekday and special services such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Its members maintain the liturgical vestments, hangings, and linens, and care for the silver and brass vessels. Each team serves just one week per month with a fifth team serving on fifth Sundays. Previous experience is not required. Come and learn what a fair linen is and why it has 5 crosses embroidered on it and many other fascinating things. Men, women, young, or mature, all you need is a servant's heart and a joyful spirit.

Eucharistic Minister

Eucharistic Ministers are trained by the Rector and are licensed by the Bishop to assist the clergy in the administration of the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Flower Guild

The talented and creative members of the St. James Flower Guild bring the beauty of God's world to our worship space. The guild members purchase **(these purchases are reimbursed by the church)** and arrange Altar flowers for Sunday mornings as well as Easter and Christmas. They are also called upon for special services or events. The current members are happy to mentor interested persons who may not have experience with flower arranging. New members may work in pairs if they would like.

Lay Eucharistic Visitor (Home Communion)

Lay Eucharistic Visitors are trained by the clergy to go from a Sunday eucharist or other principal celebrations of the eucharist to share the sacrament with members of the congregation who are unable to be present at the celebration because of illness or infirmity.

Lectors (Readers)

A lector is a lay person trained in reading scripture who is appointed by the clergy to read lessons or lead the Prayers of the People. The term is from the Latin, "to read." There is no license required for this lay ministry. A lector may also be known as a reader. Readers may choose to serve at their preferred Sunday service, and may be asked to serve at special services during the year such as Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve, or funerals.

Music Ministry

The St. James Music Ministry is led by Director of Music/Organist, Mary Katherine Kilgore. If you have questions or are interested in participating in the Music Ministry, please contact Mary Katherine via choirdirector@stjamesfairhope.org

The **Adult Choir** leads music in worship for both Sunday services with the full choir at 10:30am throughout the year. Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm – 8:30pm (mid-August – May).

The **Children's Choir** is open to all children grades 2 – 6. This group sings in worship 6-8 times a year and for the 3pm Christmas Eve service. Rehearsals are held on Monday afternoons 4:00pm – 5:00pm (mid-August – May).

The **Handbell Choir** rings periodically throughout the year. This will be a 4-6-week commitment 2-3 times a year. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings 6:00pm – 6:45pm. This group is open to anyone high school age and up who can read music.

St. James Men's Ensemble will be a new ensemble this year. This will be open to all men high school age and up. We will rehearse on Wednesday evenings 6:00pm – 6:45pm on specific Wednesdays throughout the year. This will be a 4-5-week commitment 2-3 times a year. The ability to read music is helpful but not required. You do not have to be currently singing in the Adult Choir to participate.

Taizé Ensemble. If you are interested in helping to lead singing for Taizé services, please let Mary Katherine know. I am looking for a few voices to help with leading singing in Taizé services which hopefully will be held once a month beginning in January. You do not have to currently be singing in the Adult Choir to participate.

Ushers

The mission of this ministry is to extend God's love and to welcome those who enter our doors each Sunday. This important lay ministry is composed of men and women from a variety of age groups who volunteer their time on Sunday mornings and at special services when needed.

Wedding Team

The members of the Wedding Ministry Team assist the clergy with weddings at St. James. They are present for wedding rehearsals and wedding ceremonies. A member of the team makes every effort to meet with the bride prior to the wedding to go over what to expect and gather more information. They also coordinate with the altar guild and flower guild regarding flowers and altar setup. The wedding team members act as liaison between the bride and groom and the church staff to ensure that the service runs smoothly.

Welcome Ministry

"Good morning and welcome to St. James"—simple and welcoming. Greeters make the first impression of St. James, so put on your happy face and join the group. If you are too shy to greet people, we have a need for someone to write a note to recent visitors. If you want to do something else, our name tag board is always in need of proper sorting. Do as much or little as you choose, but be a part of our very important group.

Outreach Ministries

Outreach at St. James is evangelism that allows us to be the hands and feet of Christ. We, as servants, take His love and mercy out into the world, meeting the needs of our community and beyond. If you would like to get involved, email the committee at outreach@stjamesfairhope.org

Alabama Free Clinic

The Alabama Free Clinic (AFC), the first free clinic in the State of Alabama, was formed in Bay Minette on August 28, 1998. The clinic's mission is to improve the overall health of the adult citizens of Baldwin County who are without health insurance. Volunteers are the heart and soul of the clinic and are always welcome to join the effort. Volunteers needed include doctors, nurses, and those with clerical experience as well. Since its inception, St. James has been a sustaining supporter of the AFC along with parishioners Dr. Bill and Bebe Goetter.

Baldwin Family Village

Baldwin Family Village is a transitional housing facility for women and children in Baldwin County experiencing homelessness, and engages its residents with a holistic plan for restored hope and personal transformation. The 13-unit facility operates as a program of the Dumas Wesley Community Center. <https://www.baldwinfamilyvillage.org/> There are monthly volunteer opportunities. Please contact the church office for information.

Blessing Box

Our on-site blessing box is a vital community ministry. Drop by anytime with non-perishable food and hygiene items and place them directly into the box. If the box is full, items may be brought to the church office.

Christmas Gifts for Veterans

Many veterans in the William F. Green State Home in Bay Minette do not have families or loved ones. This outreach ministry helps make their Christmas special and is a wonderful way to show our appreciation to those who have served our country. Volunteers organize donations and deliver packages to the Veterans' Home.

Christmas Giving

Each Christmas season St. James parishioners have the opportunity to help local agencies provide Christmas gifts to those that they support. The agencies provide a list of gifts for families, children, and elderly in our community who are in need of extra resources to support their holiday celebrations. Christmas giving begins in November.

Concert Series

The St. James Concert Series hosts 3-4 concerts per season. Volunteers are needed to usher for these events. Please contact Mary Katherine Kilgore at choirdirector@stjamesfairhope.org for more information.

Domestic Youth Mission Trips

Each summer, the St. James youth in grades 6-12 travel to various destinations in the US. They learn about homelessness, hunger and other social concerns, and have an opportunity to experience firsthand the very real needs of humanity in our own country. Past trips have been to such locations as Atlanta, Nashville, Memphis, and Houston.

Ecumenical Ministries

Ecumenical Ministries, Inc. is a non-denominational, comprehensive social service agency providing aid to low-income families and individuals in Baldwin County. By addressing the urgent financial and material needs of clients, EMI provides a hopeful path to self-sufficiency and long-term economic stability. EMI is currently in need of intake counselors; training and acclimation is provided. Other opportunities include delivery of Meals on Wheels; stocking and/or sorting food in the pantry; working on Repair Baldwin projects, such as building a handicapped ramp at a home; or even working in retail at Emmy's Thrift Shop.

Family Promise

The mission of Family Promise of Baldwin County is to provide temporary shelter, related services, and nurturing support to homeless families with children and to assist them with obtaining suitable and permanent housing. Family Promise utilizes area church facilities and their members to serve families with children in crisis. 90.2% of those enrolled in Family Promise leave the ranks of homelessness. St. James parishioners serve this program by housing Family Promise participants at the church for a week every quarter. When St. James hosts, you can provide or serve meals, read, play games with the children, join others in staying overnight, or clean up after the week.

Kairos Outside

Kairos Outside is a 2 and a half-day Christian weekend designed to demonstrate God's grace and love through Christian support for women who have been impacted by incarceration. Kairos Outside offers a comfortable, non-judgmental retreat for women to support each other as they journey through the incarceration of a friend or relative. Kairos Outside is a Christian program, although no religious affiliation is necessary to attend.

Kairos Prison Ministry

Kairos Prison Ministry is an international prison ministry that provides two yearly events with monthly follow-up, inside area prisons. Kairos Inside is present in each of the correctional facilities in Alabama. The program has been successful and continues to minister to inmates. Visit with those who are incarcerated, pray for them, and assist with inmate letter writing. Bake cookies for the event weekends or help with other food. For more information, please contact John Olson at johnolsonw@aol.com

Neighborhood Bridges

Neighborhood Bridges Baldwin County is a 501(c)(3) non-profit now serving all 42 Baldwin County Public Schools as well as several outside organizations such as CARE House, Rotary Boys & Girls Club, Ruff Wilson Youth Organization, and Baldwin County Boys Ranch. *Neighborhood Bridges Baldwin County* facilitates direct local giving to disadvantaged students and families by inviting school professionals (like school counselors and social workers) to advocate for them. Recipients remain completely anonymous. Those needs are shared via email (never more than 1/day) and social media posts, engaging community members to fulfill them. Please sign up on our website to be notified when new needs are posted: www.neighborhoodbridges.org/community/BaldwinCounty-al

Prodissee Pantry

Prodissee Pantry is a non-profit community ministry providing emergency food and disaster relief for families who are having trouble making ends meet. The Pantry provides food to single parents, homeless persons, retirees, families in transition, under-employed and unemployed households, grandparents raising grandchildren, and others in need. The Prodissee Pantry cannot assist the community without the help of

individuals, youth groups, civic organizations, school clubs, church groups, and local businesses. Here's what you can do: sort produce and groceries, distribute groceries, make food boxes, unload trucks, and help in the warehouse.

South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program

The South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program (SAVLP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works with more than 700 local volunteer attorneys to provide free legal assistance in certain civil legal matters to low-income residents of Baldwin, Clarke, Mobile, and Washington Counties. SAVLP often collaborates with Prodissee Pantry, Housing First (Project Homeless Connect), the United Way of Baldwin County, and other nonprofits to identify and serve those in need. The organization manages the "Wills for Heroes" program, which provides estate planning services to first responders and also assists people who are at risk of losing their homes, who want to adopt children, and who need legal guidance that they could not otherwise afford or obtain.

Wilmer Hall

Wilmer Hall Children's Home is a non-profit faith-based organization that has been serving young people in need in Mobile, Alabama since 1864. Wilmer Hall serves children and young adults through several programs that provide tutoring, on-campus living, and other tools needed to succeed. Wilmer Hall currently has five programs: The Residential Program, the Transitional Living Program, the Transitional Family Program, the on-campus after-school education program (called Education4Life), and the Community-Based Education Program. The Community-Based Education program consists of the Philipa Stirling Hamilton Education Center and the Max Miller Education Program. Learn more at www.wilmerhall.org

Pastoral Care Ministries

Calls and Cards

This ministry is great for parishioners who want to care for others right from their own home. If you are interested, you can make telephone calls or send cards to parishioners who are going through an illness or surgery or many other pastoral needs.

Community of Hope

Community of Hope International is a Christian community united in prayer, shaped by Benedictine Spirituality and equipped for service in pastoral care ministries. As Lay Chaplains, this group assists the clergy in the pastoral care of the parish and are available for a one time check in (hospital stay or followup) or a long term commitment (homebound or resident at a nursing home) depending on the situation. These Lay Chaplains are members of St. James that provide a listening presence and come alongside anyone who may be feeling lonely, distressed, or facing the many challenges of life.

Flower Delivery

Flowers from our Sunday altar are arranged by volunteers for home or hospital delivery. Arrangements are made following the final service on Sunday; deliveries may be made that afternoon or on Monday. Volunteers may arrange, deliver, or both based on their preference.

Funeral Receptions

The Reception Ministry's mission is to offer our St. James family in their time of bereavement an opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of the deceased. Food and drink is provided during the reception.

Meal Ministry

The Meal Ministry is organized into 12 teams with each team serving one month of the year. Our mission is to provide meals to members of our parish as they recover from birth, illness, injury, or hospitalization. The only thing necessary to be part of this ministry is a desire to feed someone in need whether from your own kitchen or purchased. Everyone is welcome in this group!

Memorial Garden

The St. James Memorial Garden, located behind the sacristy, is a sanctified location to be used by the communicants of St. James and their immediate families for interment of their ashes (cremains) either in the ground or in a niche in the columbarium wall. The members of the Memorial Garden Board handle all facets of the Memorial Garden including meeting with families, transporting cremains, preparing plots and opening niches, assisting with Memorial Services, and conducting the financial business of the Board.

Prayers and Squares

Prayers & Squares is a ministry that combines the heartfelt gift of prayer with a hand-tied quilt for someone in need. The quilts serve as a symbol of our faith, a testament to our strong belief in God, and the ultimate power of prayer. You need not be experienced in quilting or sewing to join this ministry; there are many ways to contribute. Our members have stated they are ministered to by the opportunity to participate in a loving community with wonderful fellowship and camaraderie, and in the hope that Prayers and Squares will bless many and share God's love.

Parish Life Ministries

Breakfast Volunteers

Breakfast is served for the parish in Green Hall on the third Sunday of the month (unless otherwise noted) between the services. Parishioners are needed to prepare food, serve and/or clean-up. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners better.

Care for the Church Altar Kneelers

The needlepoint kneelers, chair cushions, and prie-dieus in the church and chapel add beauty to our worship spaces. Care for these items is simple—they need to be vacuumed once a month. It takes approximately 20 minutes and can be done at your convenience.

Chess Club

Chess enthusiasts meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM to play chess. All parishioners and friends of St. James are welcome.

Coffee Hour

The St. James coffee hour, following the Sunday morning services, is our weekly chance to demonstrate the love of God to one another—especially newcomers. Volunteers serve on a rotational basis to assist with making coffee, putting out snacks, and cleaning up.

Dining and Fellowship Groups

Whether you're interested in "Chill & Grill", Small Plates, "Coffee and Conversation", or something in between, St. James has a group for you! These groups meet once each month from September - May.

Rose Garden

We need a group of dedicated parishioners who would like to keep the rose garden healthy, growing and blooming for the pleasure of our Lord and community congregation. Volunteers are asked to help with pruning, deadheading, weeding, fertilizing, along with a couple yearly events for maintenance.

Yoga Classes - Jane Tucker

Parishioner and yoga instructor, Jane Tucker, offers Gentle Yoga classes on Monday mornings from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM in the gym at St. James Commons, and Chair Yoga from 1:30 - 2:30 PM in Green Hall. Contact Jane for information about the time and location for the Friday class.

Yoga Classes - Stacy Reckeweg

On Thursday evenings, a yoga class taught by Stacy Reckeweg (RYT500) is available for all levels of participants - beginners welcome! This Thursday evening one-hour class begins at 5:45 PM in Green Hall. Yoga classes are free of charge and open to all St. James parishioners and friends.

Spiritual Formation & Education Ministries

For Adults

Confirmation - Youth (9th grade and up) and Adults

Confirmation is one of the sacramental rites of the Episcopal Church in which candidates "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (BCP, p. 860). Confirmation classes offer candidates an opportunity to "discover the meaning of Christian commitment in their lives, and explore ways that their Christian commitment can be lived. This preparation draws upon the baptismal covenant (BCP, pp. 416-417) and An Outline of the Faith (BCP, pp. 845-862)." Adult and youth classes are normally offered on Sunday mornings for six weeks.

Cursillo

Cursillo ("Cur-see-yo") is a three-day, life-changing weekend that introduces people to simple methods for nurturing and growing their relationship with Christ. It provides an experience of living in a Christian community centered in worship, prayer, study of scripture, and interaction with other Christians. Its mission is to build up our parish churches by encouraging and empowering its members to prepare for doing the work of the church: the spreading of the Gospel.

Family Forum

Need something to do on Sunday morning while your children are in Sunday school? Join us for the Family Forum, a new Sunday Formation class designed for young(ish) adults and families. Gather with other parents

to talk about issues in parenting, marriage, and personal spiritual growth. Topics will rotate throughout the year. Meets in the Vestry Room from 9:30-10:20 on Sunday mornings.

Men's Tuesday Morning Prayer Breakfast

Tuesdays at 7:00 AM in Green Hall. Start your day off with a hot breakfast, coffee and short devotion before beginning the day.

Sharing the Journey - A Grief Support Group

A new group for those who have suffered a significant family loss in the last few years. This 10-week study will meet in the Vestry Room on Thursdays from 2:30-3:30 PM. Grounded in prayer, our time together will include different topics with brief videos presented by leading grief therapists offering helpful insights and reassurance that whatever we're experiencing, we're *normal*. Discussion will follow in which you may participate or just listen, as you feel led. Contact Mother Amanda (amanda@stjamesfairhope.org) to reserve your spot.

Small Groups Study & Fellowship

Small Groups meet at parishioners' homes for fellowship and study, and are grouped by age. Each group meets once a month, and members take turns hosting. Childcare is provided for participants.

St. James Library

The St. James Library is open to parishioners of all ages, and is dedicated to bringing spiritual nourishment, enlightenment, insight, and a deeper understanding of God's precepts and Christ's teachings through our collection of a wide variety of books. We also have a large collection of DVDs that are used for Bible Study classes and personal interest. We have a self-checkout honor system that is easy to use. The library is always open to meet the needs of our diverse congregation. We need volunteers who want to help with processing new items that come to our collection, check in books, and keep the library materials in good order.

The Lectionary Class

This class meets on Sunday mornings to further discuss the readings appointed for the day from the Revised Common Lectionary. The focus of the weekly study is to learn how scripture applies to your daily faith life. The study will meet in the library during Sunday formation time.

The Order of the Daughters of the King®

After a period of study and discernment, DOK® members take lifetime vows of daily prayer, service and evangelism. The Mary and Martha of Bethany Chapter at St. James is a community that meets monthly for prayer and study, and members take an active role in service to the parish and community. New chapter presidents are elected in April.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Weekly rotational study at 6:30 PM for an hour to discuss various Christian topics. Prep time for class is about one hour per week. The group usually meets in the Vestry room. For more information, contact John Olson.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Offered at 9:30 AM in the Vestry Room, this Bible study chooses a variety of spiritual growth topics. Come early at 9 am for coffee and fellowship. The group study begins promptly at 9:30 AM in the Vestry Room and lasts until 11:00. All adults are welcome.

Women's Monday Night Bible Study

The Monday Night Women's Bible Study meets every week in the Vestry Room. This group discusses books of the Bible and a variety of Christian topics. All women are welcome. The study begins at 6:30 PM and ends no later than 8:15 PM with prayer. Class preparation/homework time varies based on the study.

For Children & Youth

Nursery: Infants to 4 years old

Childcare is provided during the 8:30 and 10:30 services. We have a fully staffed nursery with snacks provided each week.

Children's Chapel: Age 5 through 4th grade

On Sunday mornings during the 10:30 church service, children will gather in the narthex and process into the church behind the Clergy Cross to the chapel. In the chapel, they have a structured time of worship and prayer. The children return to the main service during the Peace before Communion.

Communion Instruction: Kindergarten - 3rd grade

Classes will be held once a year for 3 weeks. Upon completion of these classes, children will celebrate their First Communion during Sunday morning worship. During these classes, children will learn about the sacrament of Eucharist with hands-on activities. It is our hope that in completing the Communion instruction classes, children will have a deeper understanding of Communion.

Sunday School: Ages 5 through 12th grade

Children and youth will gather at approximately 9:30 in their respective age groups to learn from leaders within the church. These classes will follow different curriculums based on each age group.

St. James Episcopal School

Mission: We are an Episcopal School anchored in Christ, educating the whole child, mind, body and spirit, in a nurturing environment. St. James Episcopal School is a parish school providing early childhood and educational programs for students 30 months through second grade with school day and full day options. St. James Episcopal School stands as a vibrant expression of the Episcopal Church's historic commitment to quality education. Our goal at St. James is to provide an enjoyable learning experience and ensure that our students become lifelong learners.

Seasoned Saints - Members of this ministry of St. James Episcopal School assist with special events such as Grandparents Day, Mother's Day Tea, Father's Day Lunch, Mardi Gras Parade, etc., and can also volunteer as readers for the children. Members can sign up for events that fit into their schedule.

YouGroup: 5th and 6th grade

This program is specifically designed for St. James 5th and 6th graders and their parents. The program, which started in 2009, meets once a month in Green Hall for fellowship, outreach, and service. Parent participation is required.

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community)

The EYC program provides a variety of fellowship opportunities for students. These opportunities involve service, worship, learning, and fun! EYC is split into two groups: Jr. High (6th-8th graders), and Sr. High (9th-12th graders).

OUR CLERGY



The Reverend De Freeman
Rector



The Reverend Amanda Doshier
Associate Rector



**The Reverend Deacon
Ellen Huckabay**
Deacon

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Services

7:30 AM - Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

8:30 AM - Holy Eucharist in the Church

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist in the Church

Nursery is provided during 8:30 and 10:30 services.

Children's Chapel is at 10:30 AM.

Wednesday Mornings

7:30 AM - Holy Eucharist, in the Chapel

Thursday Afternoons

**12:00 PM - Healing Service with Holy Eucharist,
in the Chapel**

OUR VESTRY

Margaret Cadden, *Senior Warden*

Bruce Stone, *Junior Warden*

Mary Mullins Redditt, *Clerk*

Amanda Montz, *Treasurer*

Class of 2026

Dan Campbell

Bill Dowdle

Jennifer Lambert

Misty Whitehead

Class of 2027

Bettie Norton

Bruce Stone

Cappi Sully

Ken Talbert

Class of 2028

Lisa Hansen

Austin Young

Gary Garner

Rhett O'Keefe

Sign up for any of the ministries listed in this booklet
at www.stjamesfairhope.org, email info@stjamesfairhope.org,
or call 251-928-2912.