



St. James Episcopal Church

Messenger

[Visit our website](#)

*Our mission is to preach the Gospel, worship God,
renew our hearts and minds, and serve others.*



LENTEN PROGRAMS:

- Saturday, March 23rd 11am-1pm in the Parish Hall Soup and Bread
"Everything You Wanted to Know About Baptism but Did Not Know to Ask"

SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICES:

- March 24th—*Palm Sunday* 8am & 10:30am
- March 28th—*Maundy Thursday* 5:30pm
- March 29th—*Good Friday* 12pm
- March 31st—*Easter Sunday* 8am & 10:30am

Morning Prayer



Join Father Jim for
Morning Prayer

Each week during Lent

Monday - Friday
7:30am-8am

ZOOM ONLY

[ACCESS HERE](#)

A Note from Father Jim



We are entering into the liturgical time of holy of holies, which is holy week. We began with Jesus' procession into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, and we will gather outside the sanctuary to begin the service.

On Maundy Thursday, we will commemorate the last supper and the anticipation of Good Friday. That service will be at 5:30 Thursday night.

We will have a Good Friday service at noon on Friday.

We will then celebrate Easter, and everybody can return to their "regular schedule" of sitting and parking where their "claimed spot" is! I do hope, though, that many of you will continue to park in the front parking lot every Sunday to communicate to the community how active we are.

I look forward to celebrating our first Easter together.

"Everything You Wanted to Know About Baptism but Did Not Know to Ask"

Our final Lenten soup and bread program is this Saturday, March 23.

Many of you know, I've written a book, entitled, "Preaching Baptism, a Practical Guide." The essence of the book is understanding baptism as a journey our whole lives, and understanding that by lifting up the values of baptism, most Sundays, people will be able to absorb more of the values expressed in the baptismal covenant.

You will notice, for example, that the baptismal font will be placed right inside the entrance of the church, so everybody walks by it as they enter into church beginning with Easter Sunday. Feel free to dip your hands in the waters of baptism and make the sign of the cross. We will renew our baptismal covenant on Easter Sunday and many times throughout the year. You will be splashed with the waters of baptism on Easter Sunday as well.

I invite you to come to our Lenten program this Saturday, where we will explore the many different ways that we can lift up baptismal values in the Sunday liturgy.

"Becoming Fishers of

People"

News from the Vestry

This was the theme of the vestry retreat. The Vestry has taken this as our guiding direction this year.

Chris Adams was elected Junior Warden and he will be forming a Building and Grounds Committee.

The Vestry wants to focus on how we invite people to church, how we welcome them once they enter the doors or the parking lot and how we help them connect to the life of the Parish.

One of the first action items was to approve funds to improve our signage and install the new monitor screen located above the name badge bulletin board in the Narthex.

This monitor screen will be updated every week so the bulletin board will never be dated. Some of you may think these monitor screens are tacky, but there's nothing more tacky than a messy out-of-date bulletin board as was the case in a previous church. We had a beautiful bulletin board with a border around it in red paper and nothing on it but thumb tacks. I think that defines tacky. Lol.

The monitor screen is to let both members and visitors see all that is happening here at St. James and it is a lot! We are quite the vibrant congregation. We are also putting the same happenings on the monitor in the parish hall, which also helps nonchurch groups meeting there to better see the life and activity of Saint James.

Members of the vestry are looking at outdoor signage and considering how we can make ourselves better known in the community. You'll be hearing more about this.

We also authorized an inspector to inspect our parish house to see what kind of shape it's in because we've noticed it is in need of repairs. We have brainstormed some ideas of how that building can best be used.

If you have ideas or questions about any of these items, please contact a member of the Vestry.

Fr Jim



Thoughts from a Deacon

Thoughts From a Deacon 03.18.2024

Father Jim asked, "Are you afraid of God?"

Maybe you've held God away, at arm's length because of something bad you did. Maybe you were taught about a vengeful God. Maybe your understanding of God's goodness is not clear. Maybe you want Him in and out of your life.



Maybe you feel you are not worthy of His forgiveness. Maybe you just don't know where to begin to accept God's mercy.

Scripture tells us to fear the Lord, but it's not the fear we think. This fear is awe, obedience, and adoration; not shame, defeat, or terror. God does not keep us at arm's length.

God seeks us out, drawing us closer to Him. God speaks with us. God heals us. God saves us.

Take one step closer to God today and feel His mercy, His joy, His saving grace. Don't be afraid, never, ever. From Jeremiah 31:33 "... I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." And from

Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me."

Lent is all about this. The power of the promises of God is filled with grace.

Mountain Ivy Prelude to Spring



Prelude to Spring A Garden Symposium

An Event Celebrating MIGC's 30th Anniversary

March 19, 2024 • 8 a.m. till 4 p.m.

St. James Episcopal Church • 260 Warwoman Rd., Clayton, Georgia
All Tickets Sold in Advance \$50 • Price Includes Lunch

Speakers

**Firmly Rooted
Flower Farm's
Victoria Carver**
*How To Plant
a Cutting Garden*

**Native Appalachian
Plant Expert
Adam Bigelow**
*A Discussion on
Native Plants*

**UGA Extension Agent
Dr. Laura Nye**
*Importance of
Pollinators and How
to Plant for Them*

**Floral and
Landscape Designer
Gail Bell**
*How To Create a
Container Like a Pro*



FOR TICKETS
CONTACT BESS
AT 706-491-5577
OR VISIT US ON FACEBOOK
MOUNTAIN IVY GARDEN CLUB

Event dedicated to the
memory of Mrs. Carol Reeves



The Mountain Ivy Garden Club celebrated its 30th anniversary here at St. James on 3.19.2024.

It was a beautiful turn-out!
Great speakers, plants galore,
raffle items and lunch catered by
The Clayton Cafe!

About the event

Prelude to Spring A Garden Seminar

A day-long garden seminar featuring expert speakers, demonstrations and garden related vendors and activities. Tickets sold in advance \$50. Lunch included. Ticket info contact Bess 706-491-5577.





Lunch and Learn 3.14.2024
"How's Your Heart Health?"



The Parish Hall had a fabulous turn out of 50+ in attendance for our spring Lunch and Learn hosted by the Pastoral Care Committee on 3.14.2024.

Siva Chiranjeevi MD, Cardiologist and his associates of the Georgia Institute, NEGMC led in conversation about Heart Health and answered the group's questions.







Work Day in the Gardens 03.22.2024



Do you know –

- The first day of Spring was Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Let's celebrate these wonderful occasions with a workday in the St. James Gardens. Time to check out which plants slept through the cold winter and who is waking up to greet the new season.

Mark your calendar:

Friday, March 22, 9am - 12 noon

We hope you will join us in dressing our gardens for Easter and spring!

Contact Kathy Booker [HERE](#)

Palm Crosses *CANCELLED*

*****CANCELLED*****

Join the Altar Guild on Saturday, March 23rd, to make crosses for Palm Sunday. We have a great time working

together to provide the crosses for our parish. We will meet in the Parish Hall at 10:00am. All are encouraged to attend.



EASTER FLOWERS



If you would like to donate toward the St. James Easter flowers, your gifts can be designated as shown in the form below:

Forms received by Monday, March 25th will have names listed in the Easter bulletin.

[EASTER FLOWERS FORM](#)

Prayer Vigil

The Vigil will begin at 7:00pm Maundy Thursday, March 28th and end at 9:00 am Good Friday, March 29th.



Please sign up for the vigil and leave your email address if you don't regularly get emails from the church.

Maundy Thursday extends into an all-night prayer vigil, commemorating Jesus' request that his disciples stay up praying with him in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Please select a time to pray in your home, covering 12 hours. More than one person is invited to sign up at the same time.

SIGN UP HERE

EASTER POTLUCK



Join us at our annual Easter gathering!

St. James, people, friends, family....

All are Welcome! Come as You Are!

Terra Incognita Winery

Sunday, March 31 at 2:00pm

Bring a dish to share.

CONTACT Susi or Shelley with any questions:

SUSI

SHELLEY

Intro to LINE DANCING

Everyone is invited to sign up for an Intro to Line Dancing to be held **Saturday, April 6th at 10am until 11am in the Parish Hall.**

Line Dancing can often be recognized at weddings, events, dance halls and other social gatherings. This dance form practices the fundamentals of ALL dance styles in synchronized routines with sections repeating on either 2 or 4 walls. Line Dancing is accessible to all ages or



skill levels.

When she isn't in the office, we think that it's safe to assume that our Parish Administrator, Samantha Joedicke, is probably out somewhere cutting a rug with her dance crew!

Sam has acquired 24 years of dance experience since the age of 8, with twelve of those years of experience spent growing up in a studio with disciplines in both TAP and CLOGGING, and competing on the Southern Jewels Ruby Clogging Team for two of those final years. She then went on to discover "line dancing" in winter of 2018 before becoming certified through NTADance in Dance Fundamentals Levels I & II in November of 2022 with plans to obtain her DFIII in late April.

Sam has since started her own business, Neon Embers Entertainment, and has been teaching at numerous locations within the Rabun (Clayton Health and Fitness - Tuesdays 6pm-7pm), Oconee, and Pickens Counties and surrounding areas not only for weekly classes but also for private parties and events. She is excited for the opportunity to introduce this activity to her Church Community as a fun way to get moving!

Sam's Neon Embers Dancers can also be found participating in local events, fundraisers and happenings - they just performed at the Block Party over the weekend on Saturday, March 16th in Downtown Clayton.



Pictured left to right: Debbie, Veronica, Sam and Dina.



Another fun tidbit, Sunday, March 17th, 2024 Sam and some of her Neon Embers dancers had the opportunity to attend the 34th Annual Peach State Country Dance Festival held in Atlanta, GA and participated in workshops held by some of the top names known within the Line Dance industry. Here she is pictured with her dancers and world renowned, internationally recognized award winning Dancer, Instructor and Choreographer, Mrs. Jo Thompson-Szymanski, who is currently Sam's biggest influence in the industry. Sam's goal is to compete at this event next year.

Pictured left to right: Jennifer M, Samantha J., Jo Thompson-Szymanski and Marissa D.



REGISTER FOR CLASS - \$5. per person

DOK Meeting UPDATE



The Daughters of the King will gather on the 3rd Saturday of each month and will now meet **Saturday, April 20th** in the Parish Hall at 10am.

Victory Home Greenhouse

Need to get rid of plastic flower pots? Victory Home Greenhouse will recycle pots for you. They can use any size, but especially 1, 2, and 3 gallon pots. Please leave them in a plastic bag at the picnic table area or contact Kathy Booker [HERE](#), and they will be delivered to the greenhouse.



Brown Bag Sunday



Brown Bag Sunday the 4th Sunday of each month.

Help Sharing and Caring with their most needed items:

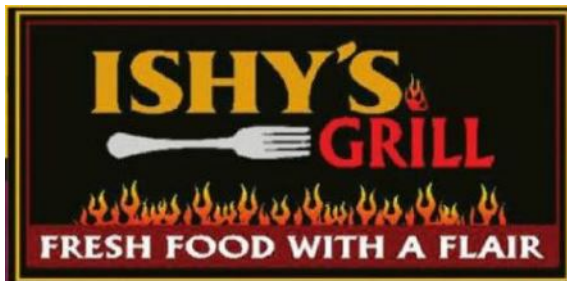
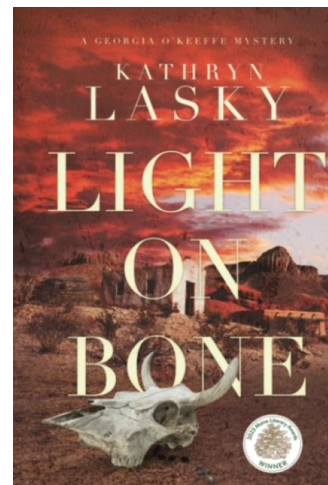
- Sugar
- Oil
- Flour
- Corn Meal
- Eggs
- Salt
- Pepper
- Margarine

Fellowship

St. James Book Club

This month we are reading "Light on Bone" by Kathryn Lasky. Everyone is invited to join us on Thursday, March 28th, 11:00am in the Parish Hall.

Contact Becky Callahan [HERE](#)



Join us for lunch?

The Retirees will begin meeting at noon **EVERY 3RD TUESDAY** of each month in 2024 and will meet at Ishy's Restaurant in Clayton March 19th, 2024. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Questions? Contact Roland Clemmons [here](#).

March Celebrations

Birthdays:

- 1- Sharon Denman
- 3- Brian Phillips
- 4- Harper Phillips
- 5- Kay Neilson
- 6- Terry Wright
- 15- Ken Klimasewski
- 17- Susan Staiger
- 20- Lola Shahan
- 21- Paulette Williams
- 27- Jennifer Moore

28- Dustin Emhart
30- Betty Cobb

Anniversaries:

30- Sharyn and Tim McCabe



Have you seen "The Chosen"?

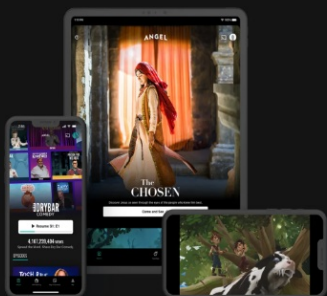


"A charismatic fisherman drowning in debt, a troubled woman wrestling with real demons. A gifted publican ostracized by his family and his people. A religious leader struggling with his beliefs. See Jesus through the eyes of those that met him."

This series is made available via the **FREE** Angel Studios app [**HERE**](#).


Season 4 will release in theaters on 02.01.2024


From Sam in the office: *"AMAZING. I LOVED this series and will definitely be viewing the new season in theaters!"*



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The Angel app is the home of record-shattering stories that amplify light. In the Angel app users can watch full episodes, cast to their television, pay-it-forward to fund future seasons of shows they love and buy official merchandise. Download the app below for free.

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Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram

The St. James social media team is keeping our Facebook and Instagram channels updated with current information about St. James events, fun features about our parishioners and their good works, and inspirational thoughts and themes.

Shelley Urban and Nanette O'Hara are sharing social media duties, with an able assist from Ginny Heckel. Dustin Emhart also will be pitching in.

Find us on Facebook at [St. James Episcopal, Clayton, GA](#)

Follow us on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/saintjamesclayton/>

Content suggestions are welcome. We also need photos from any St. James activities current or past, or just photos of our beautiful church and gardens that you're willing to share. You can reach us by phone, text or email as follows:

Sam:

Office Phone: (706) 782-6179

Email - [HERE](#)

Shelley:

Cell Phone (727)515-3501

Email - [HERE](#)

Nanette:

Cell Phone (813) 428-3182

Email- [HERE](#)

Ginny:

Cell Phone (706) 490-2867

Email- [HERE](#)

[Give Now](#)



Click the icon to **like us** on Facebook or **follow us** on Instagram.



Timeline for the Weekly Messenger:

Articles or other content received by NOON on Wednesdays will be in the next Messenger. Please contact the **church office** if you have any questions.

St. James Episcopal Church | 706-782-6179 | 260 Warwoman Rd. Clayton, GA 30525 | www.stjamesclayton.org | email: [click here](#)

