

# ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3750 E. Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67208

## 106<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

### 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Opening Prayer & Necrology
- II. Acknowledgements & Thanks
- III. Elections
- IV. Leadership Reports
- V. Financial Reports
- VI. Ministry Reports
  - A. Christian Formation Ministries
  - B. Parish Life Ministries
  - C. Worship Ministries
- VII. Affiliated Program Reports
- VIII. Contact Information

#### MEETING AGENDA

- Call to Order & Welcome
- Parish Prayer
- Necrology
- Special Recognition
- Elections
- Senior Warden's Report
- Junior Warden's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Endowment Funds' Report
- Deacon's Report
- Announcements
- Election Results
- Adjournment

#### I. OPENING PRAYER & NECROLOGY

Gracious God, we lift our praise to you for the gift of St. James Church. Our parish, dedicated to your Word, is given by a century of saints now remembered in love on this holy ground. This life-giving communion, through which we know you, comes from the history you established for all time. We give you grateful thanks for this, and for the hope we have, through Christ, of the eternal communion. Lord, make us loving, generous, and imaginative as we strive to secure our second century. May we be found faithful to the traditions of St. James Church and eager servants of the future saints who will find the knowledge and love of you in this place for years to come. **Amen.**

Deborah (Debbie) West  
02/08/2025

Steven (Scott) Johnson  
07/11/2025

Shermie Robinson  
12/01/2025

William (Bill) Rutherford  
03/17/2025

Beverly Calvert  
07/22/2025

Mary Ellen Joyner  
12/04/2025

Larry Evers  
03/29/2025

Ann Mitchell  
10/16/2025

Wesley (Wes) Rine  
12/08/2025

Martha Lewis  
04/07/2025

N.J. Abraham  
11/22/2025

Oscar (Gus) Gossard  
01/03/2026

Jim Petty  
04/15/2025

The Reverend Dawn Frankfurt  
11/25/2025

## II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS

### 2025 VESTRY

The Rev. Dawn Frankfurt, Rector  
Dana Stelter, Senior Warden  
Danny Blair, Jr. Warden  
Clay Bastian, Treasurer  
Deb Bagby, Clerk  
Dave McDonald (2026)  
Judy Weatherall (2026)  
Korbin Painter (2027)  
Ian McMains (2027)  
Joan Moore (2027)  
George Bousfield (2028)  
Karla Fazio (2028)  
Tim Newlin (2028)

### 2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Andy Aitken (2026)  
Cheryl Schmeidler (2026)  
Vicki Evans (2026)  
Peggy Zerger (2026)  
Deb Hagar (2026)

### 2025 ENDOWMENT FUNDS BOARD

Deb Bagby (2026)  
Scott Orr (2026)  
Bert Clark (2027)  
Luree Lusk (2027)  
Woody Swain (2028)  
Thomas Snyder (2028)

### Also serving on the EFB:

Clay Bastian, Treasurer  
The Rev. Dawn Frankfurt, Rector

### 2025 CONVENTION DELEGATES

Paul Leeker (2026)  
Joan Moore (2026)  
Brandon Whipple (2027)  
Rick Milhon (2025) *Alternate*  
Randy Harrison (2026) *Alternate*  
Mary Sloan (2026) *Alternate*  
Adrienne Edwards (2027) *Alternate*

\*An annual award for distinguished service to the parish to be announced.

## III. ELECTION INFORMATION AND NOMINEES

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Everyone elected to a position at the Annual Meeting takes office immediately upon adjournment of the meeting. We vote by written ballot, except when there is only one nominee for an office. In that case, we may take a vote by show of hands.

### VESTRY ELECTIONS

#### INFORMATION FOR AND EXPECTATIONS OF WARDENS AND VESTRY MEMBERS

Vestry members are well-prepared attendees of all vestry meetings. Regular attendance at worship services and parish events is expected. Vestry members lead the congregation in many ways, including through their participation and financial giving to the parish. All vestry members make an annual pledge and strive to tithe. They openly and transparently serve as official communicators between the Vestry and the congregation. They are a council of advice for the Rector. The vestry meetings are scheduled each month, except July. Its meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM in the lounge. There may be one vestry retreat each year. The February vestry meeting includes an orientation for new members. It is very important for all Vestry members to attend. It will be held on Thursday, February 19 at 6:00 PM.

**Election of Members of the Vestry** for a three (3) year term shall be by one ballot. Each elector may vote for as many nominees as there are positions to be filled. The appropriate number of nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. (Article V. Section 2 . E.)

## WARDENS OF THE VESTRY ELECTIONS

**SENIOR WARDEN** (*Elect one for a one-year term; maximum is 3 consecutive years.*)

### Dana Stelter

I was baptized at the age of 2 and have been an Episcopalian since, I have always felt very at home with the Episcopal church. I lived in Oklahoma City until I moved to Wichita in 2017. I struggled initially to find a church home when I moved here and tried many different Episcopal churches, but on my first visit to St. James I felt like I found a home again. I am a Licensed Psychologist, I retired from the VA after 33 years of service. During my employment I was initially a treatment provider, then became Chief of Psychology and then moved from the mental health specialty to work in hospital administration. I was the Associate Director of the Robert J. Dole VA in Wichita for the last 5 years of my career and served as Interim Medical Center Director at the onset of the pandemic for 5 months. I continue to work part-time providing disability examinations for Veterans as a contractor.



Since retirement I have found more time to devote to the church, I coordinate the Eucharistic Lay Visitor program, serve regularly at the Saturday 5:30 service, work with the Altar Guild to prepare for the communion services as well as assisting in setting up for the holidays. I was the co-chair for the Connect Committee until recent events when Tim Newlin graciously covered my position. I served on the Vestry in 2024 and then served as Senior Warden in 2025. During the last 6 months I have happily dedicated more time to assist in leading the church and arranging coverage. I love the people here and this church and look forward to helping the church to continue to grow and prosper in spreading the love of Christ. I am married and have 3 grown children.

**JUNIOR WARDEN** (*Elect one for a one-year term; maximum was set aside by Vestry.*)

### Danny Blair

I brought my parents to Wichita in 1957 and started attending St. James Episcopal Church. This was a return to Wichita and St. James for my mother Betty. Her father and Otis Grey served together in WWI and became lifelong friends, so it was only natural that our family settled at St. James. As a youth here, I was in the Men and Boys Choir ( I remember Bobbie Bastian so well) and served as an Acolyte. I spent time in EYC and was in the Scout Troop 524 where I attained the Eagle rank. I went on to be the Scoutmaster of Troop 524. Those were great times.



Adulthood took me all over the country as a construction superintendent and then to Pratt, Kansas, with the engineering department of Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife. Then to Sedan to be the Ranger at Quivira Scout Camp. Back to Wichita and St. James, which I feel is my home. We added Levi to the family mix, and he was baptized here as soon as we were able to formally adopt him. I love this church family and hope to remain here now for some time to come.

*The Vestry's first meeting of 2026 is on Thursday, February 19th.*

## NOMINEES FOR VESTRY

*Cast your vote for three individuals for full terms, and one individual to fulfill 2 years of a vacant seat.*

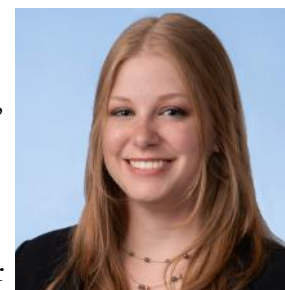
### Ian McMains

I am a lifelong Episcopalian baptized at St. Francis on the Hill Episcopal Church in El Paso, TX in 1995. My family moved to Arkansas City, KS in 1998 where we attended Trinity Episcopal Church and where I was confirmed. In 2016 I moved to Wichita while attending Wichita State University. I chose St. James originally because it is architecturally similar to my home church of Trinity. I immediately felt at home and have attended St. James ever since. My wife and I were married at St. James in Oct. of 2024. I have been filling a vacancy on vestry since August 2025 and help with the live stream of the 10:45 service. Professionally I am an engineer at General Electric since graduating as a mechanical engineer in 2019.



### Jennifer Kroeker

Born and raised just blocks from the church, I have been a lifelong parishioner of St. James, where I have found family, community, and spiritual nourishment for nearly three decades. After several years away for education and work, I recently returned to my hometown to work for Textron Aviation, where I am a Continuous Improvement Leader, focusing on improving the jet aircraft manufacturing lines at Wichita facilities. A passionate advocate for community care, social justice, and advocacy, I have had the privilege to see the positive change the Church can affect in many areas of the country, and look forward to helping St. James become a leading figure in the Wichita movement for public good.



As one of several family members who are deeply involved in parish ministry and attendance, I feel a sense of personal commitment and love for the Parish family that cannot be overstated. In the past, I have served as an acolyte, chorister, service and event musician, youth delegate to convention, Diocesan Youth Commission member, and Junior Daughter of the King member. St. James has been a constant which I have found joy and fulfillment at during many points in my life. I hope for the opportunity to give back to the church Vestry, where I can help guide us during this time of transition and growth.

### Shirley Orr

Shirley Orr and her husband Scott have been members of St. James for approximately three years. They are grateful for the many relationships they have established with fellow members of St. James, and love being part of the St. James community. Prior to joining St. James, they were 15-year members of St. John's, where Shirley served as a member of the vestry and senior warden.

At St. James, Shirley has been an active member of the outreach committee. Shirley and Scott serve as coordinators for the St. James Giving Tree Christmas Project, and represent St. James as board members for Justice Together.

Professionally, Shirley is a public health nurse practitioner. She currently serves as executive director for the national Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN) and as a member of the executive board and treasurer for the American Public Health Association (APHA).



## **VESTRY** *(continued)*

**Judy Goodpasture** Judy Goodpasture was baptized and married at St. James. In recent years Judy has taught Sunday School, been a member of the Daughters of the King, helped with the Olde English Tea, and chaired the Outreach Committee. On Outreach, she invites speakers, plans volunteer projects and community tours, and leads the Blanket Drive. Judy and her husband Hew appreciate all that St. James offers.



## **YOUTH VESTRY APPOINTMENT**

This is no candidate for this year.

## **PARISH DELEGATES & ALTERNATES ELECTIONS**

### **INFORMATION FOR AND EXPECTATIONS OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

Delegates are members of the Southwest Convocation Board and the Diocesan Convention, and act as representatives of this parish, speaking for this parish and bringing information back to this parish. They shall attend all Southwest Convocation Board meetings and Diocesan Convention and report back to the Vestry within thirty days following adjournment of each. One responsibility of delegates and alternates is to review the apportionment schedule, to understand the annual diocesan mission plan, and to vote whether to approve the diocesan budget at the annual convention of the diocese. Therefore, Delegates and Alternates (along with parish clergy) attend all meetings of the Southwest Convocation. There will be three Saturday meetings in 2026.

Delegates attend Diocesan Convention which is held annually in October. St. James Church pays for the convention registration fee, convention meals and hotel accommodations for Delegates. If a Delegate is unable to attend, then an Alternate attends in his/her place and receives reimbursement in that circumstance. New since 2020 will be the expectation that Delegates and Alternates participate in meetings, conversations, and exchanges of information with the vestry for the purpose of being informed about parish circumstance and to diocesan news to the vestry.

### **NOMINEES FOR PARISH DELEGATES**

*Cast your vote for two individuals to serve as delegates for 2 year terms.*

#### **Randy Harrison**

I currently serve as President of the Southwest Convocation Board and have truly enjoyed being a delegate and/or alternate over the years. It would be an honor to continue to serve St. James at this level. I've spent years working at the Diocesan level through Camp, Happening and other youth events and look forward to many more years of service once I retire from my 26-year career in Information Technology with the City of Wichita in March of this year.





## PARISH DELEGATES & ALTERNATES ELECTIONS *Continued*

### Joan Moore

I have been a member of St. James since 2003, having joined the Episcopal church in 1997 after being raised and baptized a Southern Baptist and marrying a Roman Catholic. I love the Episcopal Church. I was born and raised in Wichita, graduated from Baylor University with a BA in English/Pre-Law in 1988, then graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law with a JD in 1991. I practiced law for six years in Houston and Washington, D.C., then thrived as a community volunteer for 14 years while raising my young children in Wichita with my ex-husband. I returned to the workforce when my children were in middle school as a fundraiser, and have been in that field for the past 14 years. I worked as the Director of Advancement at Wichita Collegiate School, the Major Gifts Officer at Hunter Health, and now the Director of Advancement at Mark Arts. At St. James,



I am serving on the Vestry in my 10th non-consecutive year, having served for 5 years as Senior Warden. I am a proud member of the Daughters of the King, the Choir, and the Stewardship Committee, and I am co-chair of the Invite Committee. I have served as a Delegate from St. James for the past 4 years, and I now feel comfortable with how the delegate process works. I would love to continue serving as a delegate from St. James now that I understand how I can best represent our parish within the Southwest Convocation and the Diocese. I am divorced and have 3 grown children - Gracie (a lawyer in New Jersey), Eve (a WSU college graduate living in Wichita and applying to graduate programs), and Noelle (a Wash U college graduate living and working in Chicago). I am blessed to call St. James my second family.

### Malachi Biffle

Malachi is a new member of the Episcopal Church and St James, having just been confirmed a year ago. He moved to Kansas in 2022, and started attending services at St John's at the end of that year, but St James' community and active music ministry called to him in spring of 2024.



Halfway through his second year as cantor and bass section leader in the choir, Malachi is diving into EfM, as well as reading and chalice-bearing at services. Outside the walls of the church, Malachi participates in Justice Together activities with members of other Wichita-area parishes, as well as a number of other community activities through his work as a member of the Community Committee at Legacy Bank, where he works.

### Fiona Halley

Fiona Halley has been a member of St. James since 2001. She was born and raised in here, so you may have seen her singing in the choristers, serving as an acolyte, helping her mom do Altar Guild, or in the youth group during her middle school and high school time. She left the state for college, but moved back and has been singing with the choir for the last two years. Professionally, Fiona is an interior designer for Hanney and Associates Architects. If you don't see Fiona in the choir loft or doing Altar Guild, you'll likely find her out thrifting, walking at the Great Plains Nature Center, or spending time with her cat and her fiancé while working on her next embroidery project.



## PARISH DELEGATES & ALTERNATES ELECTIONS *Continued*

### Paul Leeker

I've been a member of St. James since late 2015. My wife and I were married at St. James in 2017. I'm currently in my second of year of seminary. I have served as a lay worship leader and in that capacity I've had the joy of serving at the altar and of preaching.



## ENDOWMENT FUNDS BOARD ELECTIONS

### INFORMATION FOR AND EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE ENDOWMENT FUNDS BOARD

Members of the St. James Endowment Funds Board (EFB) are expected to receive and be familiar with the financial statements and legal documents of the Perpetual Memorial and Endowment Fund (PMEF). This responsibility assumes a basic understanding of financial investment. Members meet monthly at a mutually agreed date and time. Members discuss and propose long-term investment objectives and manage one of the parish's most important assets, the funds in the PMEF. The EFB makes quarterly reports to the vestry, recommends action, and manages transactions. The EFB will develop and implement programs (legacy society, planned giving, memorial giving) designed to grow the good which can be done for St. James Church through the PMEF.

### NOMINEES FOR THE PERPETUAL MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS BOARD

*Cast your vote for two individuals for full 3 year terms, and one individual to fulfill 2 years of a vacant seat.*

### Tom Zerger

My name is Tom Zerger. I am married to Peggy. We have two married sons, Sam and John. I was a region manager for IBT Industrial Solutions and worked there 45 years (retired).

We have been members at St. James since 2002 (23 yrs). We regularly attend the 8:30 service, but attend the Saturday 5:30 and Sunday 10:45 service as well. I served on the endowment committee from 2014-2021 (7 yrs). I help with the Oyster Dinner, Breakfast Sunday and the Olde English Tea. During the summer, I am a lawn team member.



### Mary B. Halley

My husband and I are originally from southern California. We've been a part of St James since 1998. Our daughters were born and raised in this church and our oldest daughter, Fiona will be married here November 7, 2026. I was an active member of the Daughters of the King for about 10 years. I've also served as a lector, a chalice bearer and a Verger at St. James. This place has always felt like another home to me and I look forward to welcoming many new families in the years to come. I'm willing to help rebuild this church in any way that God calls for.



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

### INFORMATION FOR AND EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Five members are elected annually to use their knowledge of the parish and familiarity with its members to create a 'slate' of nominees for elections to be held at our next Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee is given an important responsibility by the parish. This is a serious task which has great influence on the ministry of the parish. The work must be prayerfully and confidentially undertaken. The committee begins work in August or September gathering suggested names for the positions to be filled. They secure candidates willingness to stand for election. Once candidates are confirmed for all open positions, the committee submits this list (known as the 'slate') to the Vestry for the November meeting.

### NOMINEES FOR THE 2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*Cast your vote for five individuals for a 1 year term.*

#### Denise Gourney

My family moved to Wichita in 1965 which is when we joined St. James and made it our home. I was 8 years old. St. James is where I went to Sunday School, sang in the Girl Choir, enjoyed Youth Group and was Confirmed. In 1982 my husband, Chuck, and I were married here at St. James. Our 3 children were baptized and raised at St James. Through the years I have helped with various committees at the church and have been on the Vestry and a Search Committee.



After graduation from Wichita State University, I went to work as an Insurance Adjuster. When our first child was born I became a stay at home mom. That was my job until all three children were in high school or college. As I launched a new career path and for the next many years I enjoyed various creative areas of work including Retail and Furniture Merchandising, Spatial Design and Planning, Color Design and Consulting, and I also opened a home decor consignment store. Currently, I am enjoying retirement and our six grandchildren.....

#### Dakota Bennett

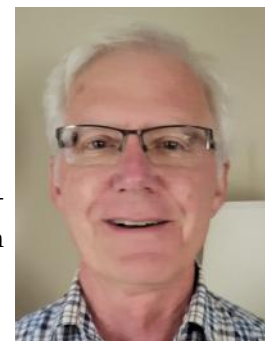
*No biography provided.*

#### Paula Skinner

*No biography provided.*

#### Kurt Harper

Kurt Harper has attended St. James since he was in elementary school in the 1960s. As an adult, he has served on the Vestry multiple times, including serving as Senior Warden. Other roles related to the church have included serving on the board of Episcopal Social Services (now Breakthrough ESS), as vice chancellor for our convocation, and he currently serves on the Bishop Search Committee the Diocese. He and his wife, Kelly, were married at St James in 1981. They have 2 adult children (and 2 adult in-laws) and a granddaughter and grandson.





## NOMINEES FOR THE 2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE *(continued)*

### Mary Druding

Mary has lived in Ironwood, MI; Colorado Springs and Denver, CO; Arlington, VA; Newark and Chatham, NJ; Waterville, ME; Painted Post (Corning), NY; Wichita, KS. Episcopal churches all along the way. Her education has included Iowa State University, B.S. Journalism and Home Economics. Rutgers University (NJ), one class (student teaching) short of an M.S. in Education –interrupted by a year in Taiwan. Ten years later: County College of Morris (NJ), A.S. Nursing. Miscellaneous classes along the way at Univ. of Maine, SUNY Corning Community College and WSU. Employment: First job: U.S. Forest Service (Smokey Bear Headquarters). Most interesting: Evaluator for a corporate business writing course. Most necessary: 26 years as a hospital RN. She has three incredible children: Michael, Peter and Jeanne (Kroeker). Six grandchildren –suddenly grown up, educated and employed; seven great grandchildren –all amazing, of course.



Volunteering: An integral part of her life. Previously at St. James: OPUS (Older People Up to Something) – 10 years of get-togethers for everyone over 50. Christmas Giving Tree –a miracle of generosity every year. Water bottle drive –when ESS provided lunches every day for people in very real need, St. James provided thousands(!) of water bottles during the hot summer days. Currently at St. James: Daughters of the King, lector, front desk, etc. Favorite church activities: Serving as a lector, hand bell choir and operating the dishwasher. Currently in the community: Breakthrough/ESS Representative Payee, Winfield Correctional Facility Spiritual Life Center board, Read to Succeed tutor, Wichita Symphony Ambassadors, DAR Newsletter and the Nurses' Honor Guard (provides tributes at nurses' funerals).

Goal for this job: providing opportunities for growth, service and fun for everyone who would like to serve St. James and its members.

## IV. LEADERSHIP REPORTS

### INTERIM RECTOR

*From The Rev. Audrey Miskelley*

Usually the annual meeting is both a review of what has been and a look forward to what is to come. Obviously, I am ill-equipped to say much about the year 2025, however, I can speak briefly on what 2026 will bring. Well, in limited, here is what I plan on doing-types-of-ways.

As an Interim Minister I am typically engaging with a community of the faithful who have gone through the loss of a Rector. That loss can be everything from: fired to death. In some ways the type of loss takes a lesser role, it's the simple loss that most folks feel keenly. Something is missing.

My ministry averages "on the ground" from 6 - 12 months, depending on the complications of the parish organization. The time frame that I am serving unfolds in generally the same way but is obviously different since each church family is different. The first phase of my time is spent getting to know you. Please make the time to come and see me! I plan on holding regular office hours.

I ask lots of questions. I am pretty straightforward and the process of asking questions helps us all to hear the answers and then sometimes to reevaluate those. We explore where you find yourself right now. We will look at where you have been. These will help us to lay out a plan for moving forward. I caution, it's not always a linear process.

## **RECTOR'S REPORT** *(continued)*

I ask you each to think about this question, it's got a few parts: When did you come to St. James? Why have you stayed? What do you love about calling St. James, your church?

I will ask you many more questions as we move forward I promise!

Once we find ourselves in the midst of the "who are we" phase we will begin a process of "search".

Phase one - select and train the search team.

Phase two - search team, along with the Interim and the Diocese, conduct the necessary meetings, research the necessary information, write parish profile, read and understand how to read and understand the peculiar Episcopal documents required, stay in constant contact and communication with the parish.

\*Phase three - search team begins the actual review of possible candidates - this also happens in a couple phases.

\*Phase four - finalist candidates are sent to the vestry.

\*Phase five - candidates are interviewed by the vestry.

Phase six - selection!

Phases three - five are considered the most private and sensitive time. This is the timeframe that the search committee will not and should not be sharing any information about the candidates. Remember that most will be employed somewhere and it's not nice to break this confidence! However, the search team will be making monthly reports to the vestry and regular updates, as able, to the community.

This is obviously a broad overview.

I stress a few major realities for every church community:

1. Be honest.
2. Focus on who you are, not who you think you want to hire.
3. What's important?
4. Trust the process and don't rush!

I invite you each to begin thinking about serving on the search committee. The vestry and I, along with the Diocese, will put together a timeline that makes sense for walking (sometimes running) through the process of search. Search committee members will need to be able to commit to the time and the workload. Must be active members of St. James, attending regularly, involved in ministry in some way and must be pledging members of St. James. Pledging comes in many forms and this is not about how much is being given. Like any good representative, which search team members are, they should be engaged and invested in the community that they represent.

My job is to help guide you through this process, help keep us on track if needed, discuss any and all concerns you may have, in many ways I am your consultant to this process of search. I also, of course, do all the ministry expected of a full-time rector: pastoral, education, worship, leadership. Granted, it's a lot. This is where it truly takes us all working in collaboration.

The time of transition is an exciting time.

I invite us all to enjoy this time with open hearts and minds and energies!

Audrey+

## **ARCHDEACON**

*From The Ven. Jeff Roper*

I served as deacon at St. James Church regularly. I preside at Morning Prayer Rite II services at the chapel at the Winfield Correctional Facility on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every other month. I served and worshipped in churches throughout the SE and SW Convocations with Bishop Cathleen Bascom.

The greeting card drives for the Winfield Correctional Facility have been highly successful. Thank you to all of the parishioners who have donated new or unused greeting cards for the residents. They are truly thankful.

I preach and do Morning Prayer Services every other month at the Winfield CF chapel on the second Sunday of the month.

I participated as one of the Youth Group Leaders for Middle and High School students in the spring. I was one of the youth group sponsors for the mission trip to Washington, DC and our trip to the Washington National Cathedral.

Thank you to all at St. James who support our Outreach efforts to the community.

## **SENIOR WARDEN**

*From Dana Stelter*

The hand of God has never been more visible to me than this past year. I have been honored to serve as your Senior Warden and look forward to another year. It has been a very difficult year for our parish, and I have been moved by the grace of God that has kept us together and the support of everyone through these times. We have had the full support of the Minster Clergy and staff as well as the Diocese. I want to particularly mention Rev. Andrew O'Connor who served as our "constant presence" during the difficult times as he has done an exceptional job caring for our parish. The Vestry and the Executive Committee have worked very hard to keep the business of the church proceeding forward without a rector. The parishioners have continually been supportive and asked, "how can I help." We have so many ministries that have remained very active this year as you will see from their reports. This community is alive with the love of Christ.

I look forward to the leadership of our Interim Rector, Rev. Audrey Miskelley, and have faith that her background and experience is exactly what we need to continue moving forward with healing as well as finding our next permanent Rector. I know we all have some growth and healing ahead of us, and I will stand steadfastly with the Vestry and the parishioners as we move forward in our mission sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your love and support this year and know that we will continue to rely on each other and God to guide us to our future as a thriving messenger of Christ.

## **JUNIOR WARDEN**

*From Danny Blair*

Despite being a tumultuous year in many respects, in terms of the building and maintenance the year was smooth. Repairs were made to the HVAC cold supply lines, a valve assembly and a sensor but aside from that our mechanical systems operated without a hitch. We removed some dangerous trees and trimmed several others. The exterior wood doors received a fresh coat of stain/seal. Bigger news is the LED upgrade to the parking lot lights and as of this week the Guild Hall lights have been upgraded to LED as well. The goal here was to find more areas where energy savings could be found. The biggest news is that after what seemed like insurmountable obstacles the First Elevator is going in and the second will follow right away. Also the upstairs youth area restroom project has been designed, the contractor selection process completed and will begin soon.

## **TREASURER**

*From Clay Bastian*

At the beginning of 2025, we approved a budget that planned for a \$27,690 loss for the year. Instead, we ended 2025 with a \$14,833 surplus, which was a \$42,523 improvement. One of the best actions were the community of St. James who pledged to support the church. We budgeted \$452,643 from 114 pledgers, and we met that goal. The biggest increase in Revenue was Miscellaneous Income ending 2025 with \$44,456. Some of the unexpected income came from former parishioners that gave St. James estate gifts. Also, we received a gift from a St. James family that funded the project of converting the parking lights to a more efficient technology.

The expense side was reduced \$29,224 more than what was budgeted for 2025. Clearly with the loss of Mother Dawn Frankfurt, there was less clergy stipend and benefits. Administrative salaries were \$9,241 less because of the relocation of our Parish Communicator. Maintenance was \$11,282 higher than budget because of the parking light conversion, and substantial repairs to the fire alarm controller, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

The annual Oyster & Ale event sold \$19,390 in tickets and after expenses contributions were made to: Episcopal Social Services for \$3,603, Wichita Children's Home for \$3,602, and to St. James for \$1,500. The annual Old English Tea had a successful year with a gain of \$9,371. They contributed \$5,000 to the Spiritual Life Center at the Winfield Correction Facility. The Guild Hall Players performed a number of events on our stage and contributed \$2,000 to St. James.

Our Stewardship Campaign for 2026 has received 85 pledges totaling \$416,334. We are hoping to hear from 26 members that gave \$78,359 in 2025. Clearly if the church wants to maintain and grow with our programs, it will need additional families and pledgers. During the COVID-19 pandemic the US Treasury offered payroll tax rebates for the Employee Retention Credit for 2021. This program was a refundable payroll tax credit under the CARES Act to encourage businesses to keep employees on payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2025 former St. James Treasurer Woody Swain researched the availability of the rebates and applied to the government. In January 2026 St. James received \$35,010.40 and final payment is expected for \$23,250.03. While these greatly help our finances, they are a one-time event and without these payments our 2026 budget would have a net loss of \$21,192.

## V. FINANCIAL REPORTS

	2024 Actuals	2025 Actuals	2026 Budget	
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Pledged Giving	\$489,653	\$458,680	\$419,310	77% of regular pledgers have signed in for 2026
Other Contributions	\$83,501	\$48,063	\$48,150	
Endowment Fund	\$30,410	\$29,219	\$34,636	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$12,431</u>	<u>\$51,419</u>	<u>\$78,340</u>	includes one-time \$58,260 payroll tax rebate
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$615,995	\$587,381	\$580,436	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Diocese Apportionment	\$111,408	\$102,168	\$106,379	
Clergy	\$155,871	\$140,795	\$110,371	assumes Interim Rector for 2026
Administration	\$123,736	\$106,002	\$105,748	
Building & Grounds	\$148,487	\$158,091	\$146,378	
Christian Education	\$25,657	\$22,513	\$22,485	
Music	\$29,629	\$28,721	\$38,813	assumes more choir section leaders
Other Ministries	<u>\$14,055</u>	<u>\$15,258</u>	<u>\$13,194</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$608,843	\$573,548	\$543,368	
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<u>\$7,152</u>	<u>\$13,833</u>	<u>\$37,068</u>	

## ENDOWMENT FUNDS BOARD REPORT

*From Endowment Funds Board of St. James*

**St. James Church Legacy Society.** The purpose of the **St. James Church Legacy Society** is to appropriately acknowledge those who have made a commitment to include St. James Church, the “Perpetual Memorial and Endowment Fund of St. James Church, Wichita, KS,” our other Episcopal entity, as a beneficiary in the disposition of their estate. Individuals may elect to be listed as “Anonymous.” **We give thanks for the 45 current enrollees (representing 65 individuals) for letting their light so shine that others may see their good works and do likewise!**

We published the annual report of the “St. James Perpetual Memorial and Endowment Fund (PMEF) & St. James Legacy Society.” The report, published annually, identifies all memorial and thanksgiving gifts given through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior calendar year. During 2025 we realized **\$8,226** in new Bequests, Tributes & Memorials. We continue to encourage St. James members and friends to participate in this program by inviting gifts of all sizes (initial minimum \$100) to perpetually recognize and honor the memory of loved ones as well as to celebrate and offer thanksgiving for significant life events.

We continued to provide regular reporting of events in the *E-TOWER*. We met regularly to monitor the Endowment Funds investment accounts and after examination of the September 30<sup>th</sup> accounting we recommended to the Vestry the 2026 Endowment Fund Distribution based on 5% of the average of the prior 12 calendar quarter balances of the invested funds. The Vestry approved a distribution **\$55,825** to be allocated: (1) **\$5,583** for outreach; (2) **\$1,000** retained by the EFB for general expenses incidental to the management and administration of the endowment and legacy society programs; (3) **\$20,190** to be retained in the endowment for future capital needs; and,



## ENDOWMENT FUNDS BOARD REPORT *(Continued)*

the balance of **\$29,052** to be as used by the Vestry to help cover 2026 capital needs.

We celebrate the success of the Endowment Fund in 2025! It has demonstrated remarkable resilience and growth, increasing by **\$205,414**, or an impressive **16.08%**, through December 2025. This achievement is a testament to the diligent management by State Street and the generous contributions from our community—even after accounting for the planned annual distribution and State Street management fees. We continue to encourage, invite, and nurture the active participation of members and friends of St. James Church to support the Endowment Fund and the St. James Church Legacy Society. **We'd greatly value your response when contacted.** Please join us in celebrating this accomplishment by giving to the Endowment through tributes and memorials or by considering membership in our Legacy Society. Your donations not only honor loved ones but also play a crucial role in ensuring the continued success of the Endowment Fund. **Additionally, remember to participate in the Dillon's Community Rewards program, which benefits the Endowment Fund!**

Summary of 2025 Endowment Fund Finances		
Market Value	At 12-31-24	At 12-31-25
State Street Global Advisors (SSgA) Total	\$ 1,305,904	\$ 1,485,179
Unrestricted fund balance	\$ 988,154	\$ 1,099,599
Restricted fund balance	\$ 229,361	\$ 259,823
Retained Capital Expense Fund Balance	\$ 88,388	\$ 125,757
Fidelity Checking Account	\$ 11,643	\$ 9,739
<b>TOTAL FUNDS ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,317,547</b>	<b>\$ 1,494,918</b>
<b>Balance Reconciliation</b>		
Beginning Balance		\$ 1,289,505
Donations Received		\$ 8,226
Other Income		\$ 37,412
Interest Income (Fidelity Account)		\$ 78
SSgA Management Fees		(\$ 6,268)
Investment Income (SSgA Account)		\$ 11,036
SSgA Appreciation (Depreciation)		\$ 225,547
Expenses & Funds Disbursed		(\$ 70,618)
<b>TOTAL FUND ASSETS at 12-31-25</b>		<b>\$ 1,494,918</b>

How Endowment Has Enriched the Ministry of St. James	
1992 thru 2025 a Brief History	
Initial Bequest	\$ 1,042,966
Additional Bequests, Tributes, Memorials, and gifts, income from coupon sales, sponsored trips, etc.	\$ 1,009,108
<b>TOTAL BEQUESTS, GIFTS, ETC.</b>	<b>\$ 2,052,074</b>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS THRU 12-31-25</b>	<b>\$ 2,272,098</b>

***Have you remembered St. James Church in your Estate Plan?***

To discuss how you can participate as a member of the Legacy Society, contact a member of the Endowment Funds Board

Perpetual Memorial, Endowment Fund, and Legacy Society resources: <https://stjameswichita.org/give-to-st-james/endowment/>

### 2025 Endowment Funds Board (expiration of term at Annual Meeting of year indicated)

Deb Bagby, Chair (2026)

Tom Snyder (2028)

Dana Williams (2027)

Woody Swain (2028)

Scott Orr (2026), Secretary

Clay Bastian, Parish Treasurer\*

Bert Clark, Treasurer (2027)

St James Rector

\*Serves with voice, but no vote

## VI. MINISTRY REPORTS

### A. CHRISTIAN FORMATION MINISTRIES

#### ADULT FORUM

*From Phil Speary*

The Adult Forum continues to meet in the Guild Hall at 9:45 on Sundays, other than Breakfast Sundays and special occasions. The usual agenda is discussion of the weekend's lectionary readings. The engaging and thought-provoking conversations are led by clergy and lay leaders. Sometimes there are guest speakers presenting about topics of interest. Currently, Phil Speary coordinates the schedule of presenters and discussion leaders. All adults are welcome and anyone can drop in and participate anytime you choose. Adult Forum is a good opportunity for fellowship and corporate reflection. Hope to see you there.

#### EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

*From Deb Bagby and LoWaine Robison*

In June 2025, Education for Ministry launched new curriculum as a part of their 50th year anniversary celebration. Last fall, St. James, began with five participants after a year's hiatus. We have a very dynamic group, with four people in first year and one taking the new wide-angle course. This means that four of us are studying the Old Testament, which involves reading the bible and an accompanying study text, and one of us is reading a variety of articles and books which offer biblical and theological insights. There is a good energy with the group and a desire to explore our biblical heritage. The distance-learning course is offered by the University of the South, Seawancee, Tennessee. Two of our seminarians have participated in the EfM course of study.

#### YOUTH GROUP

*From Anne Clark, Former Youth Mentor*

For the spring of 2025, youth group continued to be a small band of 6th through 12th graders with the leadership of Anne Clark, Dakota Bennett, Racine Zackula and Archdeacon Jeff Roper. We discussed different topics including who Martin Luther King Jr. was and the Dockum sit-in here in Wichita. We also did a Valentine's day cookie bouquet fundraiser, a pancake/waffle fundraiser, and provided the meal for the American Guild of Organists chapter Bach-a-thon event here at St. James. We made a king's cake and discussed its significance as well. During the summer, the senior high were able to travel to Washington DC with Jeff Roper, Dakota Bennett and Anne Clark as leaders. We stayed in an airbnb and took the metro train into the city where we were able to see lots of museums, monuments and even the spy museum.

I decided to step down as leader of the youth group effective fall 2025. With this transition, we are now connected with the Wichita Minster youth group. They currently meet every other Sunday from noon to 2:00 pm at St. Stephen's. Youth from St. James are encouraged to attend as they are able with rides available when needed. We still get together as youth of St. James on occasion, however, such as helping put together the Christmas baskets this year.

## **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CHAPEL**

*From Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs*

In 2025 we used the curriculum Godly Play with the whole group of children. We have deep discussions about what they hear in their readings and the Bible and how God's love reaches them daily. The program year began in October and kids moved up into classrooms. We graduated 2 students into our youth group, Eoin Blair and Adrian Whipple. We meet the first Sunday of every month for Sunday school and Children's Chapel starting at 9:30 a.m. We currently have 6 students enrolled for this program year and usually have 1-3 visitors. We are ALWAYS accepting new students. Thank you to Amber Newlin and Kate Miller for your endless amounts of patience and flexibility in teaching our kids. If you are interested, we are looking for 3 teachers to help in the classrooms. We are not able to have Sunday school without volunteer teachers, please consider this life-giving ministry!

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

*From Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs*

Because of scheduling conflicts we were not able to participate in the Ecumenical VBS last year so instead we decided to have our own. It was a blast! From August 1-3 we gathered in the Guild Hall for a Taste and See VBS! **Taste and See!** was all about food and dives into Scripture passages that feature food. As sous chefs for the week we cooked and baked, engaged in activities, games, crafts, and play to know the God who nourishes and feeds us! We used STREAM (science, technology, writing, engineering, art, and math), mission projects, and movement to explore further. We had 10 kids join us for the weekend and everyone left happy and full! Thank you to our dedicated volunteers and those who donated materials.

## **NURSERY & CHILDCARE**

*From Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs*

We typically serve children birth through age 5 during in-person services and other church-related events. We are always looking for energetic and interested volunteers to help cover these services and events so we can have two trained adults in the nursery at all times. Thank you to Betsy Hallstrom for sharing your love with the kids. We are always looking for more volunteers to help Betsy.

## **BOOK CLUB**

*From Mary Sloan*

The St. Stephen's-St. James Book Club is a group of enthusiastic readers. About half are members at St. Stephens and half are members of St. James.

We meet at St. Stephen's Fireside Room at noon each Thursday. We also have a once-a-month luncheon meeting at a local restaurant. We use a group consensus method to line up our reading list. We are currently reading *The First Lady of World War II*. Our book choices include fiction and non-fiction. Members have described our meeting as stimulating, thought-provoking, and something that gives members both a sense of purpose and a sense of community. Please join us. If you need more information, you can contact Mary Sloan at [msloan1023@gmail.com](mailto:msloan1023@gmail.com)

## VI. MINISTRY REPORTS

### B. PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

#### **INVITE / WELCOME / CONNECT!**

*From Woody Swain, Deb Bagby, Phil Speary*

In September 2024, St. James kicked-off a parish-wide effort to boost attendance, involvement and connectedness within our church, following the proven framework of “INVITE WELCOME CONNECT”. Groups were formed around each of the three IWC components, and, in 2025, specific new initiatives were accomplished to advance this important effort.

The INVITE group tried to be more proactive about creating and seizing opportunities to invite others to worship and engage with us at St. James. We prepared a one page invitation flyer and a PowerPoint that were available for use at events inside and outside of St. James, such as Woofstock, Guild Hall Players productions, the Olde English Tea, the Oyster Dinner, and a large bridge tournament. Postings that promoted St. James events on Facebook were beefed-up, and parishioners were encourage to “like” and “share” these posts in order to create more awareness of them. We advertised the Ice Cream Social with yard signs around College Hill, started a standing “invitation ad” in the GHP programs, and staffed a table at last fall’s Friends University Church Fair. And, to advertise our recent Christmas services, we mailed over 1,800 postcards to neighboring residences, inviting them to attend.

“Welcome to St. James!” You will hear this as you pass through the red doors upon entering our church. The WELCOME component of Invite/Welcome/Connect is comprised of shiny, happy parishioners who act as greeters before the worship services. “Lise and Company” open the doors at the Saturday service, and the Sunday greeters include Sarah, Deb, Kate, Vicki, Todd, John, and Suzanne. Peggy and Tom were our Christmas Eve angels. We also engage with the “new in the pew” attendees. Moving forward this year, we hope to appoint a replacement chairperson and will continue to formalize our Welcome efforts.

The CONNECT Committee continued to work this year to further the interaction and engagement of members of the parish. The committee was led by co-chairs Dana Stetler and Phil Speary until, in the fall, Tim Newlin replaced Dana as she took on more duties as Senior Warden in Mother Dawn’s absence.

The team conducted a parish survey in the middle of the year to get feedback from parishioners about what kind of activities and events would appeal to their interests. In response to the published survey results, the committee planned two church movie nights – WILD ROBOT in the summer and CONCLAVE in the fall. Both events were very well attended. The team helped Randy Harrison in the reestablishment of monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday parish breakfasts, and it created a “Connect with St. James” brochure which listed the many opportunities to get involved with church activities. And, headed up by Tim Newlin, the annual Greening of the Church was led and supported by members of CONNECT.

The CONNECT team meets once a month on the first Sunday after the 10:45am service. Current members include Tim Newlin, Phil Speary, Danny Blair, George Bousfield, Pat Butin, Hew & Judy Goodpasture, Claudette Johns, Paul Leeker, Dave McDonald, Korbin Painter, Susie Stallings, and Marilyn Taylor. The committee is planning additional movie nights and other social gatherings in 2026 and will work with the INVITE and WELCOME committees in support of the corporate life at St. James. We would like to be more engaged in efforts to get new St. James attendees more connected with the activities and resources of our parish. Anyone interested in joining the Connect committee should contact Tim or Phil or the church office.

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

*From Adrienne Edwards*

Our worship volunteers perform vital tasks that help make our church services successful and meaningful. Those individuals give a commitment of their time, sometimes as little as 15 minutes a month or as much as two hours a week. They are too many to list but they are reliable, flexible with their time and passionate about their ministry, those they serve and God.

We faced many changes and challenges in 2025. Shannon Johnston and Chase Moore left the Lay Worship Leader program for personal reasons. Elisabeth Wenger entered seminary at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN and Paul Leeker remains in the program while attending seminary at the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry. We had several turnovers in people responsible for scheduling our ushers, acolytes, lectors and chalice ministers. Our REALM software also provided some unique challenges. Our former Parish Communicator Krystal briefly returned to help. During the summer all parishioners were asked to complete a survey that identified their interest in volunteering to serve in one of the worship positions. A total of 45 completed surveys were turned in to the office. Current worship volunteers were asked to update their preferences; e.g. acolyte, chalice, lector, or usher and the service time preference. The survey results identified several individuals who wanted to become part of this ministry, training began in the fall and is continuing. It is not too late to sign up, volunteers are needed at all services and if working behind the scenes is a better fit for your skills and abilities the Altar Guild is also in need of additional members. Please contact our Parish Communicator LoWaine if you are interested in filling one of these functions.

I end my report on the Volunteer Worship ministry by sharing my favorite scripture that describes my personal thoughts on volunteering at and with St James: Philippians 2:3-4 “ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.” Servant leadership involves putting the needs of others before your own. When we embody humility and selflessness in all our interactions, we

**Christmas eve services 2025**



## **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

*From Mary Sloan, Chair*

The Saint James Chapter of the Daughters of the King engaged in many activities in 2025:

We continued prayers for parishioners and other means of outreach and support.

We had an exhibit table at the Diocesan Convention.

The Diocesan Officers co-hosted the Diocesan Fall Assembly at St. Stephens by zoom - with Mike Morrow as our guest speaker on the topic of White Christian Nationalism. Daughters from around the state attended the Assembly.

We held our Annual Cookie Swap Christmas party with the St. Stephen's chapter in the Guild Hall at St. James. There was food, fellowship, and a sing-along with our pianist, Marilyn Milhon. A Christmas Story reading provided by Janet Newlin was read by Mary Sloan. Afterward, many dozens of cookies were delivered to the Lincoln Nursing Home.

We completed our Social Justice study which included material from the Sacred Ground curriculum and an additional study about the legacy of the slave trade.

We lost our Chaplain, Mother Dawn, this year. She passed away from liver disease and was remembered and memorialized in a service in the Chapel led by Archdeacon Jeff Roper.

Meetings are after the second Sunday service on the third Sunday of the month in the Lounge. We will resume prayers in the tower this year at the 10:45 service. We will begin contemplative centering prayers at the meetings every month starting in January. Everyone is welcome to join the Daughters at any meeting as a visitor and we always welcome new members!

## **SANDWICH SATURDAYS**

*From Joan Bledsoe, Chair*

Sandwich Saturday continues to help feed the food insecure from the parking lot at St. Johns Episcopal Church. This group has helped for many years to help feed people on Saturday when other food options are not available. Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers we continue that mission. Other churches who help this outreach on Saturday are Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, St. Stephens Episcopal Church, a Mennonite Church, Pathways group, and others.

If you are interested in making 10-20 sack lunches for 2026, please let me know by email [pansy1918@icloud.com](mailto:pansy1918@icloud.com)). We generally need a total of 80-100 lunches. If you want to sign up ahead of time I will add your name to that month and send out reminders about 1-2 weeks ahead of time and then again on the week that we are delivering and serving our lunches. Not everyone needs to help distribute lunches, many people meet me at St. James around 10:25 am, and I take the lunches up to St. Johns to distribute with other volunteers. A sack lunch needs a sandwich (Pb&J, meat, cheese, meat & cheese), chips, cookie or power bar, and fruit (banana, orange, applesauce with spoon). Apples are hard for many people to eat due to dental issues. I provide the water for the lunches each time. Our dates for next year 2026 are: March 14, June 13, September 12 and December 12. We meet at St. Johns around 10:45 am, serve lunch at 11:00 am and are usually done by 11:45.

## CREATION CARE

*Claudette Johns & Joan Bledsoe*

St. James Creation Care Team follows the mission of the Episcopal Churches Creation Care Ministry. We strive to live into Jesus' mission of restoring all people to unity with God and each other, by loving God's world, stewarding the earth, reducing our footprint, and advocating for eco-justice. Some of the work this year has included an educational program, work in our church gardens, providing weekly articles in the e-Tower, creating a display for educating and celebrating Creation Care and an energy audit for our church. Starting in March we helped present a program "Eco-Friendly Fashion." Judy Goodpasture researched and presented this wonderful program to a full house. We invited surrounding churches and others that we thought might be interested. It was a huge success with help from Creation Care members, Randy Harris and Gene Bledsoe.

Claudette Johns organized an event for every fourth Saturday to care for the gardens. We raked, weeded, mulched, trimmed and had fun doing it. A special shout out to Anne Clark for her valuable information as well as Diane Gossen for her gardening knowledge. The team of Pat Butin, Joan Bledsoe, Marj Young, Lisa VanArsdale Hansen, Claudette Johns and Marilyn Milhon watered weekly keeping the gardens nourished. A big thank you, as well, to Mother Nature making our job easy this year. There are so many who show up and help us work in the gardens in spring, summer and fall, we thank each and every one of you.

Each week Mary Sloan has helped provide an article of interest regarding Creation Care for the e-Tower. Mary researches the topics in the Kansas legislature to keep us informed regarding bills that may impact our states environment. This gives everyone a chance to write their Representatives in either support of or to voice concern about important legislation.

This fall Claudette, Vicki and Joan put together a display for Creation Care to inform the congregation of what we do, information on ways to help the environment and to celebrate our work crews. Vicki Evans kindly provided reusable bags to help reduce the use of plastic bags and thereby reducing the trash that sadly happens too often with these bags, getting into our waterways and littering our streets. Pictures of the many people who help us work can be seen on our board. They are a happy group of people. Late summer and going into fall we worked with Danny Blair in deciding which trees and bushes needed to be removed or trimmed. We made a list, obtained bids for what we could not do ourselves and with the help of Gene Bledsoe we took care of most of the list by November. The gardens are looking good and we hope to continue that effort.

As for next year we have looked at a couple of ideas for a program. We are considering an effort to possibly revise how we do our weekly paper bulletin to use less paper. Of course we will continue with garden work and watering in the spring. We look forward to another year of being stewards for our planet.

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

*From Judy Goodpasture, Chairperson*

The St. James Outreach Committee organizes charitable projects in our parish to benefit the Wichita community.

Through speakers at our meetings and tours of social service agencies, we educate ourselves about community needs. Our 2025 speakers included **Ethan Henry from Justice Together**, a speaker from **United Way's Homelessness Task Force**, and **Daniel Mumford from the Pando Initiative**. Our tours included the **Kansas Children's Service League**, the **Wichita Family Crisis Center** and the **Hygiene Pantry**. Parishioners are always welcome at our meetings (held at 4 p.m. on the first or second Tuesday of each month) and on our tours. Speakers and tours are announced in advance in the eTower.

Throughout 2025, we completed these projects.

1. **Christmas Giving Tree Project:** The St. James Giving Tree Project served eight families from Breakthrough Episcopal Social Services and the Kansas Children's Service League. Each of the families received a large food basket, personal gifts for each family member, and a gift card to be used for family needs and wishes. St. James's generosity made Christmas happier for needy people this year! Special thanks to the parishioners who contributed food and gifts, to the **Youth Group** for filling baskets, and to all who delivered baskets. Special thanks to **Mary Druding** for her creation of our project and for her well-organized notebook that helped our new chairs. Thanks also to **Jose Alonso** for his help storing the donations. Co-Chairs: **Shirley and Scott Orr**

2. **Pocket Change Ministry:** Thanks to the faithful charity of this congregation and to a \$1000 donation from the estate of Pocket Change founder, **Gary Thudium**, during 2025 we gave **\$4500.** to nine agencies serving children and families. Specifically, we gave \$1000. to **Breakthrough ESS**; \$500. to the **Kansas Children's Service League**; \$500. to the **Wichita Children's Home**; \$500. to **The Pando Initiative**; \$500. to the **Urban League**; \$500. to **Justice Together**, \$500. to the **Wichita Family Crisis Center**, and \$500. to the **Winfield Crooection Center** for their **Spiritual Life Center Building Fund**. Since 2014 this project has contributed **\$32,300.** to community charities. Chair: **Vicki Evans**

3. **Sandwich Saturdays:** Our Episcopal Minster serves 80 or more healthy lunches to the Homeless at St. John's Episcopal Church each Saturday. St. James contributes sandwich lunches at least four times per year. Periodically this group also collects and distributes pet food and warm clothing. Lunch contributors include **Joan Bledsoe**, **Marlene Holstrom**, **Claudette Johns**, **Linda Guyot**, **Deb** and **Darwin Pfingster**, **Jane Spurrier**, **Judy Goodpasture**, **Marilyn Taylor**, and others. Dates for 2026 Sandwich Saturdays are March 14, June 13, Sept. 12, and Dec. 12. Chair: **Joan Bledsoe**.

4. **Undies Sundays:** Our spring project provided a large load of underwear and diapers for the **Wichita Children's Home**. **Kim Pennington** from the **Children's Home** expressed sincere gratitude. Chair: **Louise Brinegar**

5. **Hygiene Pantry Drive:** We collected hundreds of hygiene items for the Hygiene Pantry, and we volunteered there sorting items. Chair: **Deb Brinegar**

**Back-to-School Supply Drive:** Our drive for school supplies to assist **The Pando Initiative**, which serves needy children in USD 259, was very successful. A heaping carload of supplies was delivered to the **Pando Initiative**, Chair: **Mary Klocke**.

## **JUSTICE TOGETHER**

*From John Robison*

Justice Together is a justice ministry under the DART (Direct Action Response Training) umbrella. DART is a national organization facilitating justice ministries all over the country. The efforts in each community culminate each year with a Nehemiah Assembly (from Nehemiah chapter 5) at which time community leaders (mayor, city council, county commissioners) meet with the leadership of faith based organizations to confront urgent community needs.

Through these efforts over just the past two years Wichita now has 24/7 mental health support operation in lieu of automatic police/hospitalization response to individual or family crises. This saves the city over \$200,000 per year. A winter warming shelter, soon to be year round, has been established in a defunct school, a Multi-Agency center to centralize coordination efforts is at the same site.

The target for 2025 was affordable housing. The city of Wichita needs over 30,000 more affordable housing units to meet current needs, both of the totally homeless and those who must spend over 50% of their total income just on rent and living expenses. For 2026 Gun Violence was added as an approachable target. Justice Together congregational teams and leadership are working with recognized experts in the fields most directly confronting gun violence to come up with pragmatic solutions for the city as a whole.

Scott and Shirley Orr represent St. James as board members for Justice Together.. In St. James justice Together is under the auspices of the Outreach Committee and consists of 19 committed team members working with 3 team leaders: Deb Bagby, Vicki Evans, and John Robison. There are Team Meetings happening on a consistent basis, leading to the major emphases of the Solutions Rally (which reports on progress towards the goals) on 3/26/26 and the major emphasis of the Nehemiah Assembly on 4/30/26 where faith leaders and community leaders come together to work on actual solutions to the issues facing our city.

## **VI. MINISTRY REPORTS**

### **C. WORSHIP MINISTRIES**

#### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

*From Dakota Bennett, Director of Music*

The music ministry started 2025 rather quietly; enjoying the fairly lengthy time between Christmas and Ash Wednesday. Lent saw the bishop's visitation (her last before retirement) and was followed by another wonderful Easter with brass from East High. We finished the choir year with the return of Choral Evensong (18 May) and a late Pentecost Sunday (8 June).

This summer, for my continuing education I was able to attend the Association of Anglican Musician's annual conference which was an incredible experience! Five days spent in Cincinnati, Ohio with hundreds of Episcopal musicians from across the country; we gained much from workshops, presentations, recitals, and sharing each other's learned experiences. In August, I took this experience and renewed energy to plan out the entire music year at once! This has been particularly helpful this year through the uncertainty and transitions of leadership as Mtr. Dawn's illness progressed.

## MUSIC MINISTRY *Continued*

This fall in vocal choir, Malachi Biffle (bass) has been joined by a second choir section leader, an alto named Grace Ryan. The goal is to have four section leaders (one for each section). Having section leaders is important for a number of reasons. First, it's easier to plan music and know our capabilities with the consistency and professionalism a paid section leader provides that is not fair to expect of volunteers. Second, as we face the collective reality of an aging choir (and congregation), section leaders empower aging voices to remain active in choir (and congregational singing) for longer than they would without support. Third, we as Christians bear a responsibility to support sacred beauty. As Episcopalians, we particularly have a legacy of supporting the fine arts; especially music. Having section leaders connects us to these individuals and communities of musicians as well as them to us; fostering a relationship that is beneficial to all in many ways.

Also this fall, the handbell choir rehearsals moved to Wednesdays at 5:30pm and gained several new members. The vocal choir continued rehearsing at 7pm Wednesdays. In October we had the first of two Choral Evensongs planned for this choir year. December was an emotional time as we grappled with the death of Mtr. Dawn all while trying to make our way through the holiday season. Going from Advent lessons and carols to Mtr. Dawn's memorial service to Christmas Eve in an 18 day time span was challenging. We all owe tremendous gratitude to the choirs for stepping up to the many tasks at hand and exceeding expectations. I am incredibly blessed to get to work with these folks and I look forward to continuing to do so in the new year.

If you would like to join in the making of music in our parish, please email me at [music@stjameswichita.org](mailto:music@stjameswichita.org). Whatever your musical talent, there are a variety of opportunities and ways for you to make a joyful sound to the Lord! May God bless you and all of St. James this year and for many years to come.

### 2025 music participants:

**Adult Vocal Choir:** Andrew Aitken, Malachi Biffle, Richard Bowman, Angee Carroll, Simon Clark, Stevie Cooke, Adrienne Edwards, Fiona Halley, Mary Halley, Kurt Harper, Randy Harrison, Rick Milhon, Joan Moore, Korbin Painter, Grace Ryan, Cheryl Schmeidler, Tom and Teresa Snyder.

**Bell Choir:** Anne and Bert Clark, Mary Druding, Adrienne Edwards, Kurt Harper, Dayana McMains, Marilyn and Rick Milhon, Susie Stallings, and Connie Timmons.

**Other musicians:** Iain Aitken, Alex Chairez, Adrien Obregon, Grant Parcell, and Isabella Powellpandiri (Easter brass), Stevie Cooke (substitute organist), Jeanne Kroeker (oboe), Rick Milhon (saxophone), Faith O'Neal (harp), and Dean Roush (substitute organist).

## LIVESTREAM VOLUNTEERS

*From Bert Clark*

The Livestream ministry at St. James has completed its first full year as 100% volunteer run. Our team includes Dayana Viveros, Deb Bagby, Ian McMains, John Robison, Woody Swain, and Bert Clark. Its easy to learn! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Bert Clark or Woody Swain.



## ALTAR GUILD

*From Adrienne Edwards*

Thank you to all the members of the Altar Guild for your patient, loving and enthusiastic support of our valuable ministry during the past year. Instead of writing about what we accomplished this past year or our goals for next year, I'm going to share with everyone who we are and what we do.

The Altar Guild is not a social group. We don't meet for luncheons or participate in social outings. We seldom have meetings, although sometimes short one-hour meetings are necessary. We aren't engaged in the business of the church. We don't take votes or make momentous decisions. Most of what we do is not visible to the congregation and that is intentional on our part. Although there are exceptions, such as Greening of the Church, decorating the church for Easter or other special services. The work we do facilitates and enhances our worship and especially the Eucharist.

Joining the Altar Guild means learning aspects of Church tradition, including names of all the vessels and fabric material, e.g. ciborium, flagon, purificator, and corporal to name a few. Most importantly, serving on the Altar Guild is a spiritual ministry. Caring for the altar is a way to act out our relationship with God. It is often quiet, prayerful and joyous work.

Altar Guilds trace their roots to the women who cared for Jesus. At various times in the history of the Anglican Church, Altar Guilds have been composed exclusively of men, then responsibilities of serving in the Altar Guild transitioned to being comprised solely of women. Today, anyone of any age over 13 can serve on the Altar Guild. You don't have to have any special qualifications, knowledge, skill or ability to join. Training consists of hands-on instruction, written instructions, checklists and photographs for quick easy reference. We use a buddy system and will be partnered with an experienced member. New members are always welcome.

## SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

*From Randy Harrison*

People seem to be very happy with our 'Revamped' breakfast, and we have a number of people who have jumped in to make casseroles. Danny Blair has told me that the Scouts want to do February and March, 2026, breakfasts.



## VII. AFFILIATED PROGRAM REPORTS

### GUILD HALL PLAYERS

*From Phil Speary, GHP Program Director*

Guild Hall Players celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> year as an outreach ministry to the Wichita fine arts community for St. James. In the winter, we presented the Pulitzer Prizewinning family hospice drama THE SHADOW BOX. Our spring production THE COVER OF LIFE was a true story dramedy of a family of women in the South during WWII dealing with their men overseas. For the summer, GHP presented a sold-out run of the beloved American comedy YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU. In October, WITNESSES was a presentation of the Gospel story performed in the Nave. This year's productions have received 25 nominations from the BroadwayWorld awards for Wichita theatres.

During the year, more than 60 persons from the parish and the community worked on putting together the four productions. Nearly 1,000 people from the Wichita area came as audience members – many of them having their first exposure to our church. For WITNESSES, we sent invitations to 50 local priests and pastors to encourage their congregations to attend the sacred drama.

The GHP worked with the INVITE committee to invite audience members from the shows to come to our worship services and consider becoming part of our parish. Members of the WELCOME committee greeted audience members at our performances and provided rehearsal receptions to welcome the cast/crew participating in the shows. As in past years, the Guild Hall Players contributed a large portion from our audience donations to the St. James general operating budget. All those involved with GHP are grateful to the parish for the moral support and opportunity to continue in this valuable, edifying ministry.

Anyone interested in helping in any capacity with the Guild Hall Players should contact Phil Speary, Louise Brinegar, or Randy Harrison.



## **WICHITA MINSTER - ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISHES JANUARY 13,2026**

*From Tim Flynn, Wichita Minster Shepherd*

The Wichita Minster is comprised of the following parishes: Good Shepherd Wichita, St. Andrew's Derby, St. James Wichita, St. John's Wichita, and St. Stephen's Wichita. Additionally, it includes Breakthrough Episcopal Social Services and Saint Francis Ministries.

The minster team holds monthly meetings at different member facilities, where laity often outnumber clergy and sometimes are the sole representatives from their parish. The Wichita Minster focuses on supporting Breakthrough ESS and Saint Francis Ministries with time and talent. One of our goals is to hold quarterly minster-wide gatherings so that all the individuals throughout the minster can come together in fellowship and worship.

Ongoing accomplishments are as follows:

- Major progress was made in establishing a Circle of Care through Community of Hope International (COHI). The Wichita Minster will come together to form a community in Benedictine tradition to provide Lay Pastoral Care where needed within the Minster. We have paid annual dues and have received training materials. Three individuals received training to become COHI facilitators. We will start recruiting parishioners who want to become Lay Pastoral Caregivers early in 2026.
- The parishes of the Wichita Minster continue to support for the Sandwich Saturday ministry sponsored by St. John's. The program has been in existence for over 40 years and provides a sack lunch to all that need a lunch every Saturday of the year sun, rain, heat, or snow.
- The Breakthrough pantry, which was running low on supplies, received substantial donations of shelf-stable food from the Wichita Minster. A call for assistance went out by Deacon Peg and the minster responded by filling the pantry to the brim.
- St. Stephen's hosted a Wichita Minster event. The Ice Cream Social and BBQ brought together the minster as a community. Many Breakthrough Clubhouse members and staff were in attendance. We enjoyed food, ice cream and fellowship and raising funds for Breakthrough ESS. with auctions, donations, and voting for the best ice cream.
- The Wichita Minster assisted in the hosting Bishop Mambo's visit to Wichita. Breakthrough Clubhouse gave a tour and provided information on how the Clubhouse model works followed by lunch. St. John's gave Bishop Mambo and his wife a tour of the facilities and an overview of the programs of the Church. St. Stephen's held an evening gathering serving a meal of traditional Kenyan food.
- St. John's held a Wichita Minster event – The Longest Night Memorial Service. A memorial took place on December 21st, the longest night of the year, to honor seventy-three unhoused children of God who lost their lives on Wichita's streets. Each name was read at the close of the service, and a candle was lit to honor them. Parishioners, city government officials, family members, and community members attended.
- St. Andrew's Derby joined the Wichita Minster late in the year. They are already thinking about ways to assist the Wichita Minster and hope to host a Minster wide event in the coming year.



## VIII. PARISH MINISTRIES & CONTACTS

### **ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE – Sr. Warden**

Library – *Korbin Painter*

Delegates, Diocesan Convention & Convocation – *Sr. Warden*

Nominating Ministry – *Sr. Warden*

Office Volunteers – *Parish Communicator*

Parish Staff – *Rector*

Policies and Personnel – *Parish Office*

Recordkeeping – *Parish Office, Sr. Warden, & Clerk of the Vestry*

Vestry – *Executive Committee, Parish Office*

Guild Hall Players – *Phil Speary*

### **BUILDING & GROUNDS – Jr. Warden**

Building Use and Management – *Jr Warden, Parish Office*

Facilities & Grounds – *Jr. Warden*

- Maintenance, repair and improvement
- Budgeting, planning, prioritizing
- Landscaping, mowing, & irrigation

Creation Care - *Claudette Johns (& Pat Butin*

Columbarium and Memorial Garden – *Parish Office*

Furnishings and Memorials Ministry – *Jr. Warden*

Safety and Security – *Jr. Warden, Parish Office*

### **CHRISTIAN FORMATION – Director of Programs**

Adult Christian Education – *Phil Speary & Mtr Dann*

Adult Forum – *Director of Programs*

Basic A / Confirmation – *Rector, Paul Leeker*

Children's Sunday School – *Director of Programs*

Education for Ministry – *Deb Bagby & LoWaine Robison*

Graduate EfM – *Jeff Roper & Richard Bowman*

Nursery – *Director of Programs*

Vacation Bible School – *Director of Programs*

Youth Group – *Anne Clarke*

### **CLERGY – Rector**

Priests, deacons, employed and associated – *Rector*

Deacons – *Archdeacon Jeff Roper*

Clericus and Diocesan responsibilities – *Rector*

Pastoral counseling and care ministries – *Rector*

Prison ministry – *Archdeacon Jeff Roper*

### **COMMUNICATIONS – Parish Communicator**

Internal & external – *Rector, Sr. Warden, Parish Office*

Website, social media, e-mail – *Parish Communicator*

eTower, direct mail – *Parish Communicator*

Service bulletin, Annual report, Banners – *Parish Communicator*

### **FINANCE MINISTRY – Treasurer**

Bookkeeper – *Parish Bookkeeper*

Endowment Funds Board – *Deb Bagby*

Financial Reports – *Treasurer*

Annual Budget – *Treasurer*

Stewardship Ministries -

### **MEMBERSHIP & PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES**

All Souls Guild – *Deb Hager*

Book Club - *Mary Sloan*

Breakfast Sunday – *Randy Harrison, Connect Committee*

Daughters of the King - *Mary Sloan*

Invite Committee - *Woody Swain*

Welcome Committee - *June Hubert*

Connect Committee - *Phil Speary*

Olde English Tea – *Dakota Bennett & Louise Brenegar*

Oyster Dinner – *Matt Carroll*

Scouts - *Danny Blair*

### **WICHITA MINSTER – Jeff Roper, John Robison**

### **OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

Outreach Ministry – *Judy Goodpasture*

Back-to-School Drive - *Mary Klocke*

Blanket Drive - *Hew & Judy Goodpasture*

Christmas Giving Trees – *Scott & Shirley Orr*

Justice Together - *Shirley & Scott Orr, John Robison*

Pocket Change Ministry – *Vicky Evans*

Sandwich Sundays - *Joan Bledsoe*

Breakthrough/ESS – 316-269-4160

St. Francis Ministries – 316-831-0330

### **WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRIES**

Altar Guild – *Adrienne Edwards*

Choristers (Youth Choir) – *Music Director*

Funeral Coordinator - *Adrienne Edwards*

Handbell Choir – *Music Director*

Instrumentalists/Musicians – *Music Director*

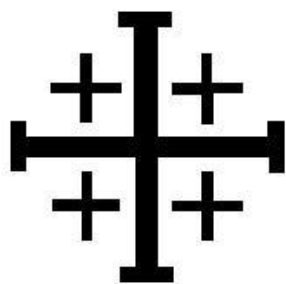
Liturgy - *Rector*

Music Ministry, Hymn picking - *Rector*

St. James Choir (Adult Choir) – *Music Director*

Service Volunteers – *Parish Office*

Worship Committee - *Rector*



## **ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

3750 E. Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67208

### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

### **LOVING ~ LIBERATING ~ LIFE-GIVING**

The Rev. Audrey Miskelley, Interim Rector

The Ven. Jeff Roper, Archdeacon

Dakota Bennett, Director of Music

Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

Susan Stallings, Parish Bookkeeper

Jose Alonso, Sexton

**office@stjameswichita.org ~ (316)683-5686**

**www.stjameswichita.org**

**www.youtube.com/c/stjameswichita**

**www.facebook.com/stjameswichita**

**@stjameswichita (instagram)**

**WHOEVER YOU ARE AND WHEREVER YOU FIND YOURSELF ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH,  
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.**

We invite you to join us for the Word and Sacraments that are God's gifts to all. It does not matter who you are, what you look like, what you have done in the past, or who you love. God's grace is not petty; it is not earned. It is radical and universal. We at St. James seek to mirror God's healing love by making this community a safe place for skeptics, doubters, seekers, those who have been wounded by the church, those who have never darkened its doors, those who have wandered, as well as new believers and those who have never left. As a diverse community we have discovered in God a oneness greater than our differences. We have come to know that our variety reflects the divine comprehensiveness of God. Engaging God is a lifelong process. Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, we believe God invites you to keep traveling. In some subtle or profound way, the Spirit of God drew you here. Our hearts are open to God and to you.