



# St. James

— **EPISCOPAL CHURCH** —

## **Annual Parish Report for 2023**

The Annual Parish Meeting  
January 28, 2024



**AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF  
ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA**

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Sunday, January 28, 2024

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## OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel at St. James for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Canon John Bedingfield at 11:30 a.m. immediately following the normal Sunday communion service. Canon Bedingfield, as chair of the meeting, appointed the Vestry Clerk to record the minutes of the meeting. The Annual Report had been distributed to those present. The minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting were presented and by motion, second and without objection, they were approved. Nominees for Vestry were submitted to the membership with a request for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations from the floor, a motion was made, seconded and the slate of nominees was elected by acclamation. It was noted that there will be a vestry meeting immediately upon the conclusion of the annual meeting. The Rector's report was submitted by Canon Bedingfield. Due to the absence of Charlotte Sterling, the Senior Warden's report was presented by Canon Bedingfield and the Junior Warden's report was submitted by Robert Ratcliff. The Treasurer's report and 2022 budget was submitted by Tom McBride. Chad Norton commented that there was 90 pledging units and 72 actual pledges. The value of pledging was reiterated by Canon Bedingfield. A question was submitted about the lack of budget for a sexton. Canon Bedingfield advised about the difficulty in finding someone to perform the duties and the necessity of hiring a janitorial service which required a one-year agreement. The floor was then opened for nominations to be delegates to Diocesan Convention. The names of Charlotte Sterling, Daniel Manuel, Susan Alexander and Roy Rosenthal were submitted, and Kathy Cox Vaughn volunteered to be an alternate. A motion was made and seconded to elect the nominees by acclamation. The motion passed without objection. Canon Bedingfield then led the congregation in prayer and recognition of those members who had passed during the past year followed by a closing prayer. Upon motion and second, and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobby Levy, Clerk of the Vestry

### Explanation of Voting Procedure

“BE IT RESOLVED that in an election where one vacancy is to be filled, the party receiving a majority of the votes shall be elected. Should a second ballot be necessary because no one receives a majority, then the two parties receiving the highest number of votes shall be on the second ballot, and the party receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in all elections where there is more than one vacancy to be filled, on the first ballot the party or parties having the highest vote, provided that vote is a majority, shall be elected to fill the office. If a second ballot is necessary, for each position to be filled, the next two parties receiving the highest number of votes shall be voted upon and the party receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to that position. Thus, if there are three positions to be elected and one party receives a majority of votes on the first ballot, then he or she shall be elected. For the remaining two positions, the next four parties receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot shall be in a run-off and on this vote, the two parties having the highest vote, whether or not it be a majority, shall be elected to the office. Thus, in each instance, there will be at the most only two ballots.”

## Qualifications

A communicant in good standing, who shall have attained the age of 16 years and who shall have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God can be considered for Vestry membership.

## Vestry Election

VESTRY:

### Convention Delegate Election

DELEGATE NOMINEES: David Curry, William Henderson, Foster Walker

ALTERNATES:

### Vestry Member Declaration

**I believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to our salvation; and I agree to conform to the doctrine, worship, and discipline of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America; and I promise that I will faithfully and prayerfully execute the office of member of the Vestry of St. James Episcopal Church, to the best of my knowledge and skill.**

## Rector's Report

On the first Sunday of Advent, I began my third year at St. James. It does not seem real when I think of it that way. In some ways it feels as though I got here yesterday. In other ways, it seems as though I have been here forever. One of the beautiful things about being the Rector of this parish is that it has felt like home – almost since day one. Thank you all for that.

2023 was perhaps the first “ordinary” year here, since the pandemic began. There were no major shake-ups on the church staff. There were no catastrophes at St. James, or in Alexandria. Thanks be to God for that. In many ways, last year felt like a time of rest and recuperation after years of turmoil. I don’t know about you, but a normal, busy year seemed to me to be just what was needed. But ... in my experience, God does not allow us to “rest on our laurels,” for long.

Last year ended with a stewardship program that reminded us that we are a greying congregation. Although we added new pledges for 2024, they did not make up for what we lost through death and relocations. That tells me that we have work to do this year. What shape that work will take will depend on what vision your Vestry and I can cast for this year. As I have said in recent sermons, God is calling us – individually and as a congregation – and we need to discern and answer those calls.

When the Bishop was here recently, we were talking in the sacristy and I told him that the St. James worship team has spoiled me. For almost all of my nineteen years in ordained ministry, I have served in places where I had to double check everything before services began, because I just did not know for sure everything would be ready when needed. At St. James though, the Vergers, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Musicians, Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, Videographers, Lectors, and Acolytes are almost always ready to go, without any input from me. That is an incredible gift to a priest. Thank you to everyone who makes my Sundays easier.

And speaking of making my Sundays easier, I want to give special thanks to my partner in ordained ministry, the Reverend Deacon Michael Parham. It does not matter what kind of week I have had, nor what kind of week is upcoming, Deacon Michael always makes me laugh on Sunday mornings. He takes his faith in God as seriously as anyone I know. And every Sunday we try our best to get everything in the service “right.” But he understands how to put everything into proper perspective. And he and I keep each other from ever taking ourselves too seriously. Thank you, my brother in Christ.

And if you have ever gone to a Wednesday evening healing service (which you ought to do, if you have not), you can thank Will Harp and Courtney Smith. Without them, that lovely mid-week respite from the world would not be what it is. Likewise with the Wednesday evening dinner and program. Kelly and Drew Texada not only coordinate everything, but they also step in every time they are needed, to make sure that everyone is fed and the program goes off without a hitch. Thank you all for wonderful Wednesdays.

I would also like to thank Lisa Harp, our Parish Administrator, Rita Klock, the Parish Secretary, and Michael Haywood, our Sexton, for keeping this place running, and for making me look like I know what I'm doing. I also thank your 2023 Vestry and Wardens for an active but smooth year.

When I was out of commission in November, following my back surgery, all of those mentioned above kept St. James operating just as if I was here. The community of St. James is a dedicated group of Christians who care about God's world and each other. And in the end, that is absolutely the best that any rector could ask for.

Thank you all for all you do. I am excited to see what blessings 2024 will bring to St. James.

God's peace be with you,  
Fr. John

### Senior Warden's Report

St. James had a stable year in 2023 after recovering from the Pandemic and leadership changes. The job of Senior Warden required much less effort than in recent years due to the work of the Rector, Deacon, Vestry, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Parish Administrator, and Administrative Assistant. Thank you, Father John, Michael, Sonny, Roy, Lisa, and Rita.

A few of the highlights for 2023 include:

- The Vestry approved Revised Articles of Incorporation that provided for a smaller Vestry (for Quorum purposes) and modern, updated meeting options.
- The lease of our Day School Building to the Children's Advocacy Network, Inc. (CAN) was completed and executed. The lease has a 25-year term with rent at \$1000 per month, the first ten (10) years paid in advance. Also, CAN has an option to extend the term for 25 additional years.
- The Centennial Stained Glass Window project and budget were approved by the Vestry. Design work has begun.
- St. James is financially sound. See Treasurer's Report.
- The St. James campus is in great shape including a new, updated security system. See Junior Warden's Report.
- The Jacob's Well Project progressed but issues with financial contributions from other non-profits and the projected cost for building renovations for our Pay Less Building have stalled the project.
- We completed a review of our property insurance coverage and will make changes as suggested by the Church Insurance Agency representatives.
- The Vestry approved COLA for the staff.

In summary, St. James is in good shape thanks to the extraordinary efforts of many.

Tom McBride, Senior Warden

## Junior Warden Report

The year 2023 was another busy one for building and grounds maintenance at St James. Taking care of this beautiful, old, historic, and sacred place has been a joyful learning experience for me.

Primary projects completed include:

- Mold remediation and restoration of the Walker Building
- Vinyl plank floor replacement in the office building
- Recarpeting nursery room floor in office building
- New entry gate installation in walkway between Parish Hall and Church
- Routine maintenance includes:
  - Repair of brick work and rod iron fence Parish Hall Courtyard
  - Power washing brick column capstones, concrete rails at entry of chapel, and other exterior areas
  - Repair of broken interior glass window Youth Building
  - Sidewalk repair next to Day School (Performed by City Public Works)
  - Removal of Day School signage around church

Various painting projects

- Repair and routine maintenance of church furnace
- Replacement of lowest concrete step at front entry of church
- Repair of doors Parish Hall, Murray St church entrance, and narthex of church
- Replacement of prayer books
- Replacement of spotlight bulbs over chancel
- Buff, wax, polish floors in Youth Building and Parish Hall kitchen
- Preparation work for new Stain Glass Window to be placed over baptismal font

I wish to express my gratitude to Father John, Roy Rosenthal, Rita Klock, Lisa Harp, and Robert Ratcliff for their wise counsel and assistance in the performance of my responsibilities. I would also like to recognize Michael Haywood for his reliable and enthusiastic service as our sexton. On a personal note, serving on the vestry in the position of Jr Warden has been spiritually rewarding and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve St James in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted,  
S Willis Trammell, Junior Warden

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
As of December 31, 2023

	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
Petty Cash	123.50
Checking-Church	219,113.47
Checking-Ministry Fund	837.94
Checking-Rector Discretionary	1,792.09
Checking-Deacon Discretionary	1,699.87
Central LA Community Foundation	95,995.91
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>319,562.78</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
<b>Prepaid Expenses</b>	
Prepaid Postage	96.09
Prepaid Automobile Insurance	2,199.25
<b>Total Prepaid Expenses</b>	<b>2,295.34</b>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>2,295.34</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>321,858.12</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
<b>Land &amp; Buildings</b>	
<b>Parish Hall &amp; Office Buildings</b>	
Office Building and Parish Hall	1,005,588.89
Parish Buildings Improvements	1,174,120.00
<b>Total Parish Hall &amp; Office Buildings</b>	<b>2,179,708.89</b>
<b>Day School Building</b>	
Day School Building	653,278.00
School Roof	68,925.61
Gym Air Conditioners	23,085.00
Major Improvements	2,311.52
<b>Total Day School Building</b>	<b>747,600.13</b>
<b>Other Real Estate</b>	
Other Real Estate	175,000.00
Albert Street Building	140,000.00
Murray Street Property	60,000.00
Singer Street Property	31,000.00
<b>Total Other Real Estate</b>	<b>406,000.00</b>
<b>Church &amp; Chapel</b>	
Church and Chapel	3,147,691.57
Church Major Improvements	345,362.81
<b>Total Church &amp; Chapel</b>	<b>3,493,054.38</b>



**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As of December 31, 2023**

	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Total Land &amp; Buildings</b>	<b>6,826,363.40</b>
<b>Office Furniture and Equipment</b>	<b>75,573.32</b>
<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>20,378.50</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>6,922,315.22</b>
<b>Fixed Assets-School</b>	
<b>Office Equipment</b>	<b>3,378.17</b>
<b>Classroom Equipment</b>	<b>19,274.65</b>
<b>Playground Equipment</b>	<b>24,564.59</b>
<b>School Improvements</b>	<b>44,892.35</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets-School</b>	<b>92,109.76</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>7,014,424.98</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>	
<b>Investments</b>	
<b>Investments-Merrill Lynch</b>	
<b>Merrill-Lynch Endowment</b>	<b>1,175,215.33</b>
<b>Merrill-Lynch Restricted</b>	<b>228,822.93</b>
<b>Merrill-Lynch Bequest Transfer</b>	<b>1,356,843.13</b>
<b>Merrill-Lynch Checking Transfer</b>	<b>192,315.20</b>
<b>Total Investments-Merrill Lynch</b>	<b>2,953,196.59</b>
<b>Investment-Red River Bank</b>	<b>561,179.25</b>
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>3,514,375.84</b>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>3,514,375.84</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>10,850,658.94</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	<b>6,405.03</b>
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>6,405.03</b>
<b>Credit Cards Payable</b>	
<b>RRB Credit Cards</b>	
<b>Credit Card Payable-Klock</b>	<b>683.20</b>
<b>Credit Card Payable-Bedingfield</b>	<b>21.98</b>
<b>Total RRB Credit Cards</b>	<b>705.18</b>
<b>Sam's Club</b>	<b>302.47</b>
<b>Total Credit Cards Payable</b>	<b>1,007.65</b>
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>1,007.65</b>

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
As of December 31, 2023

	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Payroll Liabilities</b>	
State Payroll Taxes	1,542.11
AFLAC Payable	14.46
Federal Payroll Taxes	5,296.71
<b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>6,853.28</b>
Prepaid Pledges	60,500.00
<b>Permanent/Restricted Funds-Cash</b>	
<b>Restricted Funds Cash Activity</b>	
Memorial-Cash	600.00
Mission and Outreach-Cash	(9.28)
McCormick Smith Fund-Cash	(714.63)
Ministry Fund-Cash	(320.46)
Flower Fund-Cash	(366.79)
<b>Restricted Funds Cash Activity</b>	<b>(811.16)</b>
<b>Total Permanent/Restricted Funds-Cash</b>	<b>(811.16)</b>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>66,542.12</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>73,954.80</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>73,954.80</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
<b>Permanent Fund Balance</b>	
<b>Mt. Olivet Cemetery</b>	
Mt. Olivet Endowment Fund	474,394.64
Gamburg Endowment Fund	34,301.25
Mausoleum & Columbarium Fund	37,577.33
<b>Total Mt. Olivet Cemetery</b>	<b>546,273.22</b>
Merrill Lynch Church Endowment	387,505.67
Merrill Lynch Bequest (Johnson)	1,356,843.13
Merrill Lynch Checking Transfer	192,315.20
Grounds and Maintenance	161,812.69
Pipe Organ	79,623.75
<b>Total Permanent Fund Balance</b>	<b>2,724,373.66</b>
<b>Restricted Fund Balance</b>	
<b>Earnings and Contingencies</b>	
Earnings & Contingencies	13,603.24
Earnings&Contingencies-Johnson	352,784.39
Earnings & Contingencies-Grant	38,026.57
<b>Total Earnings and Contingencies</b>	<b>404,414.20</b>

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As of December 31, 2023**

	<b>TOTAL</b>
Memorials Fund	118,064.72
Memorials-Walker Building	18,826.37
Mission and Outreach Funds	
Diocesan Breakfast Grant	9,347.00
Outreach	23,962.67
<b>Total Mission and Outreach Funds</b>	<b>33,309.67</b>
McCormick Smith Concert Fund	27,998.10
Music Program Fund	2,997.49
Klock Music Fund	12,896.42
Youth Activities	
Episcopal Youth Community	9,161.99
Children Christian Formation	2,255.86
<b>Total Youth Activities</b>	<b>11,417.85</b>
Episcopal Church Women Fund	5,435.75
Altar Guild Fund	
Altar Guild-Courtesy Fund	970.62
Altar Guild-Memorials	25,612.81
<b>Total Altar Guild Fund</b>	<b>26,583.43</b>
Altar Guild-Flower Fund	4,385.66
Tutoring Fund	880.46
Prepaid Rent	120,000.00
Endowments Annual Distribution	
Endowments Income	2,258.19
<b>Total Endowments Annual Distribution</b>	<b>2,258.19</b>
Parish Life	533.87
<b>Total Restricted Fund Balance</b>	<b>790,002.18</b>
Rector Discretionary Funds	1,792.09
Deacon Discretionary Funds	1,699.87
Net Assets-School	
CLCF Endowment	95,995.91
Net Assets	(244,813.27)
<b>Total Net Assets-School</b>	<b>(148,817.36)</b>
Net Assets	7,413,120.71
Net Income	(5,467.01)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>10,776,704.14</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>10,850,658.94</b>

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Statement of Financial Activity**  
**January - December 2023**

	Actual	Total Budget	over Budget
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Revenues-Church</b>			
Plate Offerings	58,839.27	123,000.00	(64,160.73)
Pledge Offerings	555,840.80	539,577.00	16,263.80
Rental Income-Church Facilities	4,875.83	6,600.00	(1,724.17)
<b>Faith and Fellowship</b>			
Faith and Fellowship Income	2,879.11	0.00	2,879.11
Faith and Fellowship Food Cost	(6,278.74)	0.00	(6,278.74)
<b>Total Faith and Fellowship</b>	<b>(3,399.63)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(3,399.63)</b>
<b>Endowments Income</b>			
Church Endowment	12,500.00	12,500.00	0.00
Grounds Endowment	12,500.00	12,500.00	0.00
Mount Olivet Endowment	12,500.00	12,500.00	0.00
Organ Endowment Income	12,500.00	12,500.00	0.00
<b>Total Endowments Income</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Non-Pledged Income	40,468.27	10,000.00	30,468.27
<b>Total Revenues-Church</b>	<b>706,624.54</b>	<b>729,177.00</b>	<b>(22,552.46)</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>706,624.54</b>	<b>729,177.00</b>	<b>(22,552.46)</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>706,624.54</b>	<b>729,177.00</b>	<b>(22,552.46)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Mission and Outreach</b>			
Mission	4,134.45	4,000.00	134.45
Rector Discretionary Fund	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
Deacon Discretionary Fund	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
<b>Total Mission and Outreach</b>	<b>6,534.45</b>	<b>6,400.00</b>	<b>134.45</b>
<b>Annual Assessments</b>			
Diocesan Assessment	40,482.73	72,257.70	(31,774.97)
<b>Total Annual Assessments</b>	<b>40,482.73</b>	<b>72,257.70</b>	<b>(31,774.97)</b>
Mount Olivet Expenses	33,491.45	26,000.00	7,491.45
<b>Program Expenses</b>			
Altar Supplies	2,046.43	1,700.00	346.43
Vestry and Special Events	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,046.43</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>(653.57)</b>
<b>Christian Formation</b>			
Christian Formation-Adult	526.57	1,000.00	(473.43)
Christian Formation-Adult	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
<b>Subtotal Christian Formation</b>	<b>526.57</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>(1,473.43)</b>
Stewardship	449.63	100.00	349.63
Parish Life	291.46	500.00	(208.54)

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Statement of Financial Activity**  
January - December 2023

	Actual	Total Budget	over Budget
Worship	5,652.22	3,000.00	2,652.22
Music Department	1,702.17	1,500.00	202.17
Evangelism	512.00	500.00	12.00
Nursery Supplies	36.21	100.00	(63.79)
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>11,216.69</b>	<b>5,700.00</b>	<b>5,516.69</b>
<b>Church Property Expenses</b>			
<b>Church Insurance</b>			
Property Insurance	73,587.02	80,000.00	(6,412.98)
Automobile Insurance	2,563.34	2,607.00	(43.66)
Workers Compensation Insurance	3,339.79	2,965.00	374.79
<b>Total Church Insurance</b>	<b>79,490.15</b>	<b>85,572.00</b>	<b>(6,081.85)</b>
<b>Church Property Maintenance</b>			
Day School	0.00	10,000.00	(10,000.00)
Grounds Maintenance	13,347.96	15,000.00	(1,652.04)
Church Property	20,395.46	25,000.00	(4,604.54)
Pipe Organ and Piano	3,252.01	6,000.00	(2,747.99)
Major Repairs	20,843.52	7,500.00	13,343.52
<b>Total Church Property Maintenance</b>	<b>57,838.95</b>	<b>63,500.00</b>	<b>(5,661.05)</b>
<b>Total Church Property Expenses</b>	<b>137,329.10</b>	<b>149,072.00</b>	<b>(11,742.90)</b>
<b>General Operating Expenses</b>			
Advertising	0.00	200.00	(200.00)
Bank and Credit Card Charges	4,738.56	4,000.00	738.56
Office Supplies	8,161.15	6,000.00	2,161.15
Office Equipment Maintenance	9,549.26	9,200.00	349.26
Postage	1,089.36	1,700.00	(610.64)
Professional Services	294.97	1,750.00	(1,455.03)
Van Expenses	2,902.28	500.00	2,402.28
Telephone and Internet	12,645.41	12,000.00	645.41
Pest Control	1,566.00	1,650.00	(84.00)
Utilities-Church	32,574.79	31,000.00	1,574.79
Utilities-School	3,744.81	6,500.00	(2,755.19)
Security	15,041.75	11,680.00	3,361.75
Janitorial and Kitchen	11,324.43	6,000.00	5,324.43
<b>Total General Operating Expenses</b>	<b>103,632.77</b>	<b>92,180.00</b>	<b>11,452.77</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>332,687.19</b>	<b>356,309.70</b>	<b>(23,622.51)</b>
<b>Salary and Wages-Staff</b>			
Salary - Organist	20,815.27	17,819.78	2,995.49
Salary - Instrumentalist	2,062.30	6,575.79	(4,513.49)
Salary - Music Director	24,956.02	24,931.00	25.02
Salary - Parish Administrator	35,498.38	35,127.03	371.35
Christmas Cheer	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Statement of Financial Activity**  
**January - December 2023**

	Actual	Total Budget	over Budget
Salary-Sexton	32,296.46	32,100.00	196.46
Salary - Nursery	5,850.25	6,798.78	(948.53)
Salary - Administrative Assist	37,663.82	37,393.29	270.53
Lay Pension Contribution	5,913.05	5,231.02	682.03
Medical Insurance	30,378.00	28,872.00	1,506.00
Payroll Tax Expense	12,643.98	12,794.29	(150.31)
<b>Total Salary and Wages-Staff</b>	<b>214,577.53</b>	<b>214,142.98</b>	<b>434.55</b>
<b>Clergy Compensation - Rector</b>			
Rector-Housing	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00
Rector-Stipend	77,000.04	77,000.00	0.04
<b>Total Clergy Compensation - Rector</b>	<b>107,000.04</b>	<b>107,000.00</b>	<b>0.04</b>
<b>Clergy Expense - Rector</b>			
Medical	29,628.00	33,840.00	(4,212.00)
Pension Plan	19,260.00	19,260.00	0.00
Reimbursable Expenses	1,381.74	1,000.00	381.74
Continuing Education	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
<b>Total Clergy Expense - Rector</b>	<b>50,269.74</b>	<b>55,100.00</b>	<b>(4,830.26)</b>
<b>Clergy Expense - Deacon</b>			
Deacon-Continuing Education	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
Deacon-Reimbursable Expenses	1,664.34	1,440.00	224.34
<b>Total Clergy Expense - Deacon</b>	<b>1,664.34</b>	<b>2,440.00</b>	<b>(775.66)</b>
<b>Supply Clergy Compensation</b>	<b>885.58</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>(614.42)</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>707,084.42</b>	<b>736,492.68</b>	<b>(29,408.26)</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(459.88)</b>	<b>(7,315.68)</b>	<b>6,855.80</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
<b>Ministry Fund</b>			
Contributions from Parishioners	36,925.44	0.00	36,925.44
Other Contributions	2,346.02	0.00	2,346.02
Utilities	(31,174.50)	0.00	(31,174.50)
Rent	(8,956.34)	0.00	(8,956.34)
Bus Tickets	(973.64)	0.00	(973.64)
Gasoline	(80.00)	0.00	(80.00)
Other	(3,094.11)	0.00	(3,094.11)
<b>Total Ministry Fund</b>	<b>(5,007.13)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(5,007.13)</b>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>(5,007.13)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(5,007.13)</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>(5,007.13)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(5,007.13)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(5,467.01)</b>	<b>(7,315.68)</b>	<b>1,848.67</b>

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
RESTRICTED AND PERMANENT FUNDS  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING 12/31/2023**

Account #	12/1/2023 Beginning Market Value	Income	Deposits	Withdrawal	Taxes Withheld	Mgmt Fees	Market Value Change	12/31/2023 Ending Market Value
<b>Red River Bank-Money Max</b>	<b>428,618.56</b>	<b>715.69</b>	<b>131,845.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>561,179.25</b>
<b>Merrill Lynch-Bequest Transfer</b>	45.13% <b>1,300,552.94</b>	<b>3,385.89</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-3.21</b>	<b>-14.29</b>	<b>52,921.80</b>	<b>1,356,843.13</b>
Merrill Lynch-Church Endowment	40.87% <b>1,177,879.37</b>	<b>3,066.52</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>-53,944.71</b>	<b>-2.91</b>	<b>-12.94</b>	<b>47,930.00</b>	<b>1,175,215.33</b>
Merrill Lynch-Checking Transfer	6.39% <b>184,198.06</b>	<b>479.55</b>	<b>144.71</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-0.45</b>	<b>-2.02</b>	<b>7,495.35</b>	<b>192,315.20</b>
<b>Merrill Lynch-Restricted from RRB</b>	7.61% <b>219,329.95</b>	<b>571.01</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-0.54</b>	<b>-2.41</b>	<b>8,924.92</b>	<b>228,822.93</b>
<b>Merrill Lynch Endow/Rest Subtotal</b>	100.00% <b>2,881,960.32</b>	<b>7,502.97</b>	<b>444.71</b>	<b>-53,944.71</b>	<b>-7.11</b>	<b>-31.66</b>	<b>117,272.07</b>	<b>2,953,196.59</b>
<b>TOTAL REST &amp; PERM</b>	<b>3,310,578.88</b>	<b>8,218.66</b>	<b>132,289.71</b>	<b>-53,944.71</b>	<b>-7.11</b>	<b>-31.66</b>	<b>117,272.07</b>	<b>3,514,375.84</b>

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
RESTRICTED AND PERMANENT FUNDS ACCOUNTS**

	% of Total	12/1/2023		Income RRB	Income M-L	Deposits	Withdrawal	Taxes Withheld	Mgmt Fees	Market Value Change	12/31/2023 Ending Market Value
		Beginning Market Value	Value								
<b>Red River Restricted Funds</b>											
Memorials	17.86%	115,741.18	127.84	102.00	500.00	0.00	-0.10	-0.43	1,594.23	118,064.72	
Memorial-Walker Building	1.34%	8,689.46	9.60	7.66	10,000.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.03	119.69	18,826.37	
Mission and Outreach	3.63%	23,522.75	25.98	20.73	69.31	0.00	-0.02	-0.09	324.01	23,962.67	
Prepaid Pledges	0.01%	68.23	0.08	0.06	0.00	-69.31	0.00	0.00	0.94	0.00	
Prepaid Rent	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00	
Diocesan Ministry Grant	1.42%	9,202.02	10.16	8.11	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.03	126.75	9,347.00	
McCormick-Smith Fund	4.25%	27,563.81	30.45	24.29	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-0.10	379.67	27,998.10	
Earnings & Contingencies	2.07%	13,392.24	14.79	11.80	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.05	184.47	13,603.24	
Earnings & Contingencies-Maintenance	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Campus Maintenance (Walton)	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Owen Johnson Estate Bequest	53.60%	347,312.36	383.62	306.07	0.00	0.00	-0.29	-1.29	4,783.92	352,784.39	
Foundation Contribution (Grant)	5.78%	37,436.74	41.35	32.99	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-0.14	515.66	38,026.57	
Altar Guild	4.04%	26,171.10	28.91	23.06	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-0.10	360.48	26,583.43	
Flower Fund	0.46%	2,993.49	3.31	2.64	1,345.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	41.23	4,385.66	
ECW	0.83%	5,351.43	5.91	4.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.02	73.71	5,435.75	
Children Christian Formation	0.34%	2,220.87	2.45	1.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	30.59	2,255.86	
Tutoring Program	0.13%	866.80	0.96	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.94	880.46	
Ministry Fund	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Klock Music	1.96%	12,696.39	14.02	11.19	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.05	174.88	12,896.42	
Music Department	0.46%	2,950.99	3.26	2.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	40.65	2,997.49	
Parish Life	0.08%	525.59	0.58	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.24	533.87	
Endowments Annual Distribution	0.34%	2,223.16	2.46	1.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	30.62	2,258.19	
EYC	1.39%	9,019.90	9.96	7.95	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-0.04	124.24	9,161.99	
<b>RESTRICTED</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>647,948.51</b>	<b>715.69</b>	<b>571.01</b>	<b>131,845.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-0.54</b>	<b>-2.41</b>	<b>8,924.92</b>	<b>790,002.18</b>	
		<b>647,948.51</b>	<b>715.69</b>	<b>571.01</b>	<b>131,914.31</b>	<b>-69.31</b>	<b>-0.54</b>	<b>-2.41</b>	<b>8,924.92</b>	<b>790,002.18</b>	



	12/1/2023				12/31/2023				
	% of	Beginning							
	Total	Market	Income	Deposits	Withdrawal	Taxes	Mgmt	Market	Ending
		Value				Withheld	Fees	Value	Market
								Change	Value
PERMANENT-MERRILL LYNCH									
<b>M-L BEQUEST (JOHNSON ESTATE)</b>	<b>45.13%</b>	<b>1,300,552.94</b>	<b>3,385.89</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-3.21</b>	<b>-14.29</b>	<b>52,921.80</b>	<b>1,356,843.13</b>
M-L Church Endowment	13.30%	383,410.98	998.18	0.00	-12,500.00	-0.95	-4.21	15,601.67	387,505.67
Grounds and Maintenance	5.80%	167,081.13	434.98	0.00	-12,500.00	-0.41	-1.84	6,798.83	161,812.69
Organ	3.06%	88,301.89	229.89	0.00	-12,500.00	-0.22	-0.97	3,593.16	79,623.75
Mt. Olivet Endowment	15.77%	454,426.27	1,183.07	300.00	0.00	-1.12	-4.99	18,491.41	474,394.64
Mt. Olivet-Gamburg	1.14%	32,878.22	85.60	0.00	0.00	-0.08	-0.36	1,337.87	34,301.25
Prepaid Pledges	0.13%	3,781.06	9.84	0.00	-3,944.71	-0.01	-0.04	153.86	0.00
Cemetery and Mausoleum	1.67%	47,999.82	124.96	0.00	-12,500.00	-0.12	-0.53	1,953.20	37,577.33
M-L Church Transfer	6.39%	184,198.06	479.55	144.71	0.00	-0.45	-2.02	7,495.35	192,315.20
M-L CHURCH ENDOWMENT		1,362,077.43	3,546.07	444.71	-53,944.71	-3.36	-14.96	55,425.35	1,367,530.53
<b>M-L RESTRICTED FROM RED RIVER BK</b>	<b>7.61%</b>	<b>219,329.95</b>	<b>571.01</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-0.54</b>	<b>-2.41</b>	<b>8,924.92</b>	<b>228,822.93</b>
PERMANENT-MERRILL LYNCH	100.00%	2,881,960.32	7,502.97	444.71	-53,944.71	-7.11	-31.66	117,272.07	2,953,196.59
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED &amp; PERMANENT</b>		<b>3,310,578.88</b>	<b>8,218.66</b>	<b>132,289.71</b>	<b>-53,944.71</b>	<b>-7.11</b>	<b>-31.66</b>	<b>117,272.07</b>	<b>3,514,375.84</b>

Primary Account: 583-02866

ST JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH,  
ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA  
1620 MURRAY ST  
ALEXANDRIA LA 71301-6882

## WEALTH MANAGEMENT REPORT

December 01, 2023 - December 29, 2023

### PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

	December 29	November 30	Month Change
<b>Net Portfolio Value</b>	<b>\$2,953,196.59</b>	<b>\$2,881,960.32</b>	<b>\$71,236.27 ▲</b>
Your assets	\$2,953,196.59	\$2,881,960.32	\$71,236.27 ▲
Your liabilities			
Your Net Cash Flow (Inflows/Outflows) Securities You Transferred In/Out	(\$53,538.77)	\$50.00	
<b>Subtotal Net Contributions</b>	<b>(\$53,538.77)</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	
Your Dividends/Interest Income	\$7,502.97	\$3,377.30	
Your Market Gains/(Losses)	\$117,272.07	\$166,233.49	
<b>Subtotal Investment Earnings</b>	<b>\$124,775.04</b>	<b>\$169,610.79</b>	

If you have questions on your statement,  
call 24-Hour Assistance:  
**(800) MERRILL**  
**(800) 637-7455**

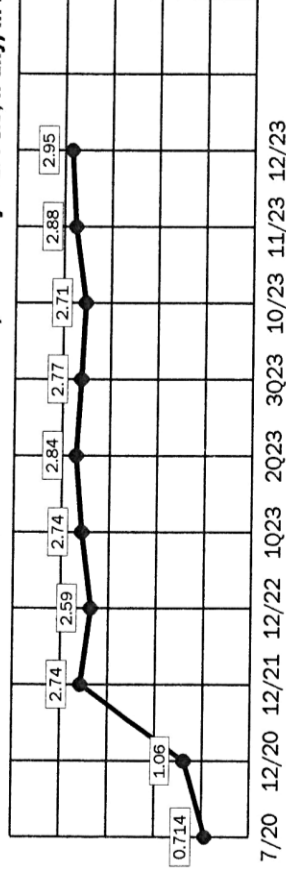
Investment Advice and Guidance:  
Call Your Financial Advisor

Your Financial Advisor:  
SMITHWICK, BICKHAM, PRATT & POU  
401 EDWARDS STREET SUITE 600  
SHREVEPORT LA. 71101  
1-800-999-6107

Up-to-date account information can be viewed  
at: [www.mymerrill.com](http://www.mymerrill.com), where your statements  
are archived for three or more years.

Questions about MyMerrill? Click the "help" tab  
at the top of the screen once you log in.

Total Value (Net Portfolio Value plus Assets Not Held/Valued By MLPF&S, if any) in millions, 2020-2023



### LOOKING FOR YOUR TAX DOCUMENTS? WE WILL BEGIN MAILING THE

1099 tax reporting statement to eligible clients before the end of January. Most statements will be mailed or posted online before February 28. Sign up for online delivery to receive an email as soon as your tax documents become available for online viewing.

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**ST JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
2024 BUDGET**

	2024	2023
<b>INCOME</b>		
Plate Offering	60,000.00	123,000.00
Pledge Offering	585,234.00	539,577.00
SJEC Endowment	119,875.00	50,000.00
Rental Income Church Facilities	12,000.00	6,600.00
Non-Pledged Income	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>787,109.00</b>	<b>729,177.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Mission and Outreach		
Mission and Outreach	4,700.00	4,000.00
Rector Discretionary Fund	500.00	1,200.00
Deacon Discretionary Fund	1,200.00	1,200.00
Subtotal Mission and Outreach	6,400.00	6,400.00
Diocesan Asking		
Diocesan Asking	77,511.00	72,257.70
Subtotal Diocesan Asking	77,511.00	72,257.70
Mount Olivet Cemetery	35,000.00	26,000.00
Program Expenses		
Altar Supplies	2,000.00	1,700.00
Vestry and Special Events	1,000.00	1,000.00
Subtotal	3,000.00	2,700.00
Christian Formation		
Adult	1,000.00	1,000.00
EYC and Children	1,000.00	1,000.00
Subtotal Christian Formation	2,000.00	2,000.00
Stewardship	1,000.00	100.00
Parish Life	500.00	500.00
Faith and Fellowship	3,500.00	0.00
Worship	3,000.00	3,000.00
Worship-Music	1,500.00	1,500.00
Evangelism and Welcoming	500.00	500.00
Nursery Supplies	100.00	100.00
Subtotal	15,100.00	10,400.00
Church Insurance		
Property Insurance	90,164.00	80,000.00
Auto Insurance	2,607.00	2,607.00
Workers Comp Insurance	2,777.00	2,965.00
Subtotal Church Insurance	95,548.00	85,572.00
Maintenance		
Day School	0.00	10,000.00
Grounds and Maintenance	15,000.00	15,000.00
Church Property	25,000.00	25,000.00
Organ and Piano Maintenance	4,000.00	6,000.00
Major Repairs	10,000.00	7,500.00
Subtotal Maintenance	54,000.00	63,500.00
Church Property Expenses	149,548.00	149,072.00

**ST JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
2024 BUDGET**

	2024	2023
Operating Expenses-Other		
Advertising	200.00	200.00
Bank and Credit Card Charges	5,000.00	4,000.00
Office Supplies and Copier	8,000.00	6,000.00
Office Equipment Maintenance	9,200.00	9,200.00
Postage	1,700.00	1,700.00
Accounting Services	750.00	750.00
Professional Services	1,000.00	1,000.00
Van Expenses	1,000.00	500.00
Telephone and Internet	12,500.00	12,000.00
Pest Control	1,650.00	1,650.00
Utilities-Church	31,000.00	31,000.00
Utilities-School	1,000.00	6,500.00
Security	15,000.00	11,680.00
Janitorial Supplies	10,000.00	6,000.00
Subtotal Operating-Other	98,000.00	92,180.00
SUBTOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	381,559.00	356,309.70
Salary and Wages-Staff		
Salary-Organist 10:30	17,200.00	17,819.78
Salary-Organist 8:00	6,800.00	6,575.79
Salary-Music Director	25,928.00	24,931.00
Salary-Administrative Assistant	38,889.00	37,393.29
Salary-Parish Administrator	36,532.00	35,127.03
Wages-Sextons	33,384.00	32,100.00
Wages-Nursery	6,500.00	6,798.78
Christmas Cheer Salary	6,500.00	6,500.00
Lay Pension Contribution	5,440.25	5,231.02
Health Insurance	30,240.00	28,872.00
Payroll Taxes	13,137.57	12,794.29
Total Salary and Wages-Staff	220,550.82	214,142.98
Clergy Compensation-Rector		
Salary	66,280.00	77,000.00
Housing Allowance	45,000.00	30,000.00
Subtotal Clergy Compensation-Rector	111,280.00	107,000.00
Clergy Expense-Rector		
Medical Insurance	31,440.00	33,840.00
Pension Plan	20,030.00	19,260.00
Reimbursable Expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00
Continuing Education	1,000.00	1,000.00
Subtotal Clergy Expense-Rector	53,470.00	55,100.00
Clergy Expense-Deacon		
Continuing Education-Deacon	1,000.00	1,000.00
Reimbursable Expenses-Deacon	1,440.00	1,440.00
Subtotal Clergy Expense-Deacon	2,440.00	2,440.00
Supply Clergy Compensation	1,500.00	1,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>770,799.82</b>	<b>736,492.68</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>16,309.18</b>	<b>-7,315.68</b>

### Altar and Flower Guilds

The Altar Guild continues to provide the services required by St. James Episcopal Church. We continue to look for those who would join us, especially as there are some of us who are getting older.

We continue to provide services for the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. We also continue to provide services for funerals, weddings, and any other special services.

The Altar Guild is funded by the church for all the services we provide. This includes oil of the candles, wine, polish for the brass rail and other vessels, and other things needed to make the services smoothly. We also have a fund for giving meals or memorials to members, which is contributed to by our members.

The Altar Guild has a Memorial Fund which is used to buy new linens. This year we bought:

6 new Purificators and 6 new Lavabo Towels

Julia Welch continues to lead members of our Church and Holy Comforter in LeCompte in making Altar Bread as needed.

The Wedding Committee continues to be led by Carla Beth Carlisle. There were 3 weddings this past year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlotte Sterling, *Directress*

### Christian Formation ~ Youth Report

The 2022 to 2023 EYC year had 2 steady youth group participants. Activities centered around building community and Christian education. The 2 youth members aged out at the end of the school year. A questionnaire went out to parents of age-appropriate youth to determine if a group was viable for the 2023-2024 school year. No interest was expressed by the parents at this time. We will revisit this yearly. There may be some interest in intermittent youth activities that do not require a weekly commitment by youth and parents. When there is sufficient interest for a weekly group, St. James will start this program up again. At that time some upgrades in equipment will be warranted. The air Hockey table will need to be replaced and other equipment and furniture can be assessed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Holly Dixon, *Director, EYC/JEYC Formation*

### Christian Formation ~ Adult Report

In 2023, St. James' Adult Christian Formation offerings continued to have good participation under the leadership of Father John. We have two weekly opportunities to expand your horizons and maybe entertain you a little bit as well. On Sunday mornings, we meet in the Parlor at 9:15 until 10:15 for a Bible study. We covered Genesis and most of Exodus this past year. After we finish Exodus, there will be a special offering on prayer for Lent. After Easter, we look forward to resuming our Bible study with something from the New Testament. The study is set up so that you do not have to prepare in advance and can join in at any time.

On Wednesday nights, we also have continued our showing of The Chosen, a three season dramatization of the Gospels with an emphasis on the persons Jesus chose to be his disciples. Each class starts at 6:45 p.m. and lasts about an hour. Season Four debuts in a few weeks both in theatres and online. It is one of the most highly anticipated shows on Jesus in many years. Again, we meet in the parlor each week and if

you miss an episode, you can always catch up online. We look forward to seeing everyone at these events and welcome any suggestions about future offerings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Drew Texada

#### Episcopal Slipknots

The Slipknots are a small but devoted group who meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month year-round to enjoy fellowship and to create accessories like scarves and hats and sleeping mats for cold weather to share with those in need. This year, at the holiday season, we donated items to the Homeless Coalition, H2O, and the St. James' monthly community breakfast.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Fuhrer, *Coordinator*

#### Greeter's Ministry Report

The ministry of greeting people has been taken on by the ushers and other members of the congregation. Judy Curry and Paige Quillin continue to stock the gift bags that are given to anyone who is new to the service.

Dave Curry

#### Investment Oversight Committee Report

The Investment Oversight Committee meets periodically as needed to review the Church investment account held at Merrill Lynch and expertly managed by Blackrock Investment Company. The financial report contained in this booklet includes detail information concerning the permanent, restricted and accumulated checking account funds held both at Red River Bank and Merrill Lynch. For the period ended December 31, 2023, the investment account held at Merrill Lynch enjoyed a healthy 14% rate of return.

The Investment Oversight Committee includes the Senior Warden Tom McBride, Junior Warden Sonny Trammell, Treasurer Roy Rosenthal, Rector Father Bedingfield and parishioners Richard Crowell, Don Kramer, Robert Ratcliff, Lindsey Torbett and Foster Walker. Please speak with any of these individuals if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roy S. Rosenthal

#### Memorial and Fine Arts Report

No report submitted.

#### Ministry Funds Report

Through the extreme generosity of our church family, Emmanuel Baptist Church's Benevolence Fund, and the Rector's Discretionary Fund, St. James was able to financially assist 189 families/persons during the 2024 year through our Ministry Fund. The majority of assistance this year was with utilities (\$30,351.50), Alexandria' utilities department receiving the bulk (\$24,604.63). Rent was \$9780.12. The rest was for IDs, birth certificates, city bus fare, work clothes, bus fare home for family of 5, and an unexpected funeral. The total recorded amount dispersed was an astonishing **\$41,954.69** - \$3176.27 more than last year! All who have supported this ministry in any capacity are truly spreading God's kingdom on earth!

I continue to paraphrase 1 John 3:17: *Whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and opens his heart to him, has the love of God abiding in him.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Rita Klock, *Manager of Fund*

### Mission Ministry Report

This year has been active for the Ministry and Outreach of St. James.

We have continued the monthly community breakfast and that ministry continues to grow. We offer a hot meal cooked by volunteers without any requirement to receive. Much like the gift of God's grace, it is freely given and unearned.

Our breakfast offerings go beyond food. We offer flu and covid vaccinations, veterinary care, haircuts and beard trims, assistance with veteran's benefit applications, and individual prayer with those who desire to participate. NSU College of Nursing has joined us and these students and faculty provide health assessments, screening, education, and gain experience with members of an underserved population. The Episcopal Slip knots also provided warm hats and scarves that were blessed by Father John and then made up into gift bags that were passed out to those who visited us for breakfast.

January of 2023 saw us participate in the annual Martin Luther King parade. We loaded the church van with treats and throws and some of us rode in the van while others walked along the parade route greeting spectators and passing out candy and stadium cups with the St. James Logo.

October brought Halloween and we were again on the church steps greeting children of all ages and passing out candy that was donated by parishioners. We encountered a great many children and some even asked for a look inside the nave and they were warmly welcomed in with their parents to have a look at our beautiful worship space.

These are but a few of the ways that ministry and outreach has worked to share the love of Jesus in the last year. People who attend services at our church and those who do not have found a way to reach out to others and show compassion and love through these ministry efforts.

If you would like to be involved in any of our ministry efforts or have an idea for additional ministry opportunities, please contact Josh Brown or Deacon Michael Parham.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Deacon J. Michael Parham

### Mount Olivet Property Committee Report

There were 5 burials in the Singer St. Section of Mt. Olivet Cemetery this year and 2 in the Historic Section. There were two grave space sold in the Singer St. Section. One lot was donated to a lady for her son's burial. Joy Owensby requested we do this, as she was unable to pay for his burial. This request was approved.

We received \$250 in memorials and \$2100 in donations. It is through these that we are able to increase our endowment fund which means more interest earned, which means less money we have to use from the St. James' general budget.

Making yearly donations in memory of loved ones is a thoughtful and caring way to remember them and to ensure that the care and maintenance of the cemetery will continue at the high level that we have come to expect.

Another way to ensure that the endowment fund can once again become self-sufficient is to make a bequest in your will and/or list Mt. Olivet Cemetery as a memorial request in your obituary.

There are several burial spaces still available in the Historic Section and there are plenty in the Singer St. Section. So, if you are in need or would like to make burial plans in advance, please call to make an appointment.

If you have visited Mt. Olivet recently, you will have noticed that all of the crepe myrtles down Singer Street and in the new section have been 'murdered' to the extreme. This was done by CLECO without our knowledge. After many calls to them and the City of Pineville, it was acknowledged that although it was poorly done, there was nothing we could do about it. It will take years for them to recover.

We have increased the lawn maintenance contract to include monthly weeding of the flowerbeds in the Singer St. Section.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Hicks, *Administrator*

#### Music Ministry Report

The Saint James Choir strives to maintain a high standard of excellence while performing a varied repertoire suitable to the liturgy. Along with regular anthems, we provide congregational hymn and service music support for the regular 10:30 am service as well as other services throughout the year.

We are so happy to have Melva Villard as our staff organist. She always adds such a distinctive style to each service with added harmonies and unique and interesting solo repertoire. Please be sure to thank her for all of her hard work. She spends many hours rehearsing for each service.

Lessons and Carols was a triumph this year! We had a full choir with a full sound and the performance was exceptional. It was a celebration both for the birth of Christ as well a rekindling of tradition in the choir. Thanks for all who attended.

We are looking for new choir members (all parts). If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact me through the church and we can set up a short audition. We rehearse Wednesday evenings at 5:15 in the Walker Building and Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the loft. We would love to have you! Our choir is a family of believers sharing their gifts singing praises to God. We hope that you will consider becoming part of the St. James Choir.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Sterne, *Director of Music*

#### Parish Administrators' Report

The past year has been a busy one here at St. James. Under the direction of our Junior Warden, Sonny Trammell, we have seen many improvements to the physical plant, including fresh paint on the exterior of the church, new flooring in the office and Walker Building, concrete repairs to the sidewalks and church steps, upgrades in lighting in both the office and the nave, and the removal of some old eyesores, to name a few. The church has served many people and made our beautiful facilities available for several



community organizations. We have hosted various Diocesan events, weddings and (too many) funerals. Under the leadership of Deacon Michael, we provide a community breakfast free to anyone on the last Sunday of the month and it's always a full house. We provided meeting space for AA meetings 6 days a week, Cenla Orchid Society, Cenla Rose Society, Pancake Breakfast for Perfect Fit Foundation's annual fundraiser, rehearsal space for City Park Players, and a space for both CLASS and Punto de Conexion Church to host Christmas dinners. Another popular event is the concert series, made possible by the generous support of the McCormick Smith Foundation and hard work of Roy Rosenthal.

Our daily routine here in the office involves answering many, many calls from people seeking assistance with their utilities or rent. Unfortunately, we can't help all, but through the generosity of our parishioners, we are able to help many in their struggles and they are so grateful. Rita is such a good steward of these funds and spends a great deal of time helping these folks plan a way out of their situations.

Following the interruption of Covid, we have reinstated the policy of having 2 parishioners count the offerings each week. Thank you to the teams who have been so faithful to come to the office and perform this service every week.

Lastly, I want to thank the parishioners of St. James. Everyone has been so nice and supportive. I thank the Vestry who selflessly give their time to meet monthly and direct the business of the church. I especially appreciate the check signers who are always available often on short notice, and the treasurer, Roy, for his guidance. I really enjoy working with Rita, Michael and Fr. John. It is nice to have a team who works together for a common goal of serving St. James so that St. James can serve our community. I look forward to the things God will do in and through St. James in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Harp, *Parish Administrator*

### Parish Life Report

This past year saw the renewal of efforts to reestablish a Parish Life Committee to help sponsor activities outside of regular worship for members of the congregation. A small, but dedicated group gathered several times during the year and successfully sponsored several events, including FOOD TRUCK SUNDAY and a Mothers' Day Brunch last Spring, plus sponsorship of the Fall INGATHERING during the holidays. Thanks to the members who worked to make these things happen! You are a great group!

That said, the Committee is open to participation by other members of the parish! Contact me if this appears to be an area of your gifts and ministry! For 2024, it has been requested that we have a parish picnic in the Spring. To do this we need a chairperson to coordinate the effort. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED AND WANTED! Perhaps a reader of this report would like to step up? Also, let us know if there are other FUN activities you would like for the parish to try!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dee Drell, *Coordinator*

### St. James Concert Series

The 2022-2023 Concert Series season ended with a return, after 12 years, of the world famous Grammy winning and San Francisco based choral ensemble, Chanticleer, in May, 2023. The twelve gentlemen, in their only Louisiana tour stop, delighted the audience with their Labyrinths program. The program contained a marvelous mixture of music that showcased their nickname, "orchestra of voices". They even recorded a promotional video in the St. James chancel to use in their marketing activities.

Beginning the season, 2023-2024, and the British invasion of sorts, the London based group, Siglo De Oro, sang their Louisiana debut concert in September, 2023. This concert had been in the works prior to the pandemic and had to be postponed. Artistic Director Patrick Allies and the eleven singers were delighted to sing in such a beautiful space and acoustic.

St. James was equally thrilled to host Westminster Abbey Sub-Organist, Peter Holder, in November, 2023. In his first United States tour, Mr. Holder made his Louisiana debut and showcased the entire palette of tonal colors of the St. James pipe organ. With his "day job", Peter has played for millions of people around the world in royal and state occasion services.

Do plan to attend the return of the world renowned VOCES8 on February 20, 2024. Plans are being made for the 2024-2025 Concert Series season so stay tuned for more information.

St. James is grateful to The McCormick-Smith Fund, Inc. and Larry Smith for the generous annual grant that funds the offerings and allows us to present world class performers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roy S. Rosenthal

#### Stewardship Report

The Parish Stewardship effort, which ended in December has yielded 68 pledges, with the current total pledged for 2024 at \$585,234.00. The Church budget for 1924 will be adopted in accordance with these pledged amounts and appropriate financial planning. Thanks to the Committee and also to all parishioners who loyally keep the spirit and work of St. James alive! Without you the mission and ministry of this place would be significantly diminished!

Respectfully submitted,  
Dee Drell  
*For the Stewardship Committee*

#### Ushers' Ministry Report

During 2023 several members of our congregation once again joined the ministry of serving as ushers. Our ushers welcome members and guests, take up the offering at appropriate time, and guide the congregation at the Eucharist. We also serve at funerals and special services throughout the year. Several spots are still available for anyone interested in serving on a rotational basis as an usher. Contact the office or Bill Henderson who has graciously taken on chairing this committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rita Klock, *Coordinator*

#### Worship Ministry Report

The Worship Committee continues its work of intersecting the various lay ministries and guilds with our clergy to organize the corporate worship that centers our faith community. Our average Sunday attendance (ASA) for 2023 was right at 100 across our three services: 8:00am Eucharist in the Chapel, 10:30am Eucharist in the Nave, and 5:00pm Evening Prayer via Zoom. We also continue to offer the Wednesday night Eucharist with Healing service in the Chapel, beginning at 5:15pm each week. In 2024, I encourage you to attend a service beyond the one(s) in your normal routine to experience the full breadth of Worship experiences offered at St. James.

The Worship Committee offers its thanks to the dedicated team of "streamers" who ensure that all the

principal services in the Church are available for broadcast online. Combined with the Evening Prayer attendees each Sunday, we are able to invite people near and far to, as Dave Curry so aptly refers to it, “our church without walls.”

The Worship Committee would also like to offer thanks to Fr. Matt Wollett for serving so ably and cheerfully on the first Sundays during the Rector’s convalescence following surgery; and especially to our Deacon, the Rev. Michael Parham, who stepped up in so many ways, leading services whenever asked, including on Wednesday nights, making pastoral visits, and serving our community by leading us out of the church building into the world “to love and serve the Lord”.

Lastly, the Worship Committee offers its thanks to our acolyte team, both young and young at heart, under the direction of our Acolyte Master Extraordinaire Holly Dixon, for their dedicated service at Sunday Eucharist, weddings, funerals, diocesan events, and all manner of other special liturgies throughout the year. Your cheerful spirits and smiling faces are a blessing to us all.

If you are interested in joining any of our ministries of service in worship, please feel free to reach out. I’m happy to answer any questions you might have. Opportunities to offer your gifts of time and talent abound and we’d love to have you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Will Harp, *Chair*

#### The Closing Prayer

**Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, even as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

<b>APPENDIX A</b>
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**Altar Guild Schedule for February 2024 through January 2025**

<b>Charlotte Sterling</b>	<b>Directress</b>		<b>487-8480</b>
<b>First Sunday Group</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Nona Yeager</b>	<b>443-6653</b>
Michelle McCall	225-776-7385	Amy Andrus	715-1024
Becky Warren	446.4462		
<b>Second Sunday Group</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Charlotte Sterling</b>	<b>487-8480</b>
Elizabeth Deshotel	793-9488	Kelly Texada	443-6304
Faye Flanagan	445-4831	Leslie Mikell	447-1486
Carla Beth Carlisle	481-5263	Margaret Deshotel	793-9488
<b>Third Sunday Group</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Tish Fresh</b>	<b>445-5250</b>
Kristina McBride	473-2697	Will Harp	709-0856
Rita Klock	613-2290	Elaine Hicks	445-7567
<b>Fourth Sunday Group</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Frances Yeager</b>	<b>640-9762</b>
Ann Hall	702-1776	Sylvia Middleton	449-3571
Angela Hayes	487-9585		
<b>Fifth Sunday Group</b>			
March 31 (Easter)	Group 4	September 29	Group 1
June 30	Group 2	December 29	Group 3
<b>Altar Flower Guild</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Nona Yeager</b>	<b>443-6653</b>
Kelly Texada	443-6304	Leslie Mikell	442-5872
Nona Yeager	443-6653	Tish Fresh	445-5250
<b>Wedding Guild</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Carla Beth Carlisle</b>	<b>481-5263</b>
Elizabeth Deshotel	793-9488	Becky Warren	449-3571
Tish Fresh	445-5250		
<b>Honored Retired Altar Guild Member</b>	Sara Marshall		

## *In Memoriam*

*Caroline "Toddy" Lyman Hartt  
Julia Ann Coleman Twilley  
Elizabeth Singleton Gaiennie  
Jerry Wayne Donahue  
Richard Norem, Sr.  
The Rev. Ella Huff Breckenridge  
Bernard Parker  
Sally Foster Barker  
Jon Charles McSween  
Kathleen Brown Hundley  
Patricia Jean Keith Carter  
Minnie Louise O'Shee Mikell*

Almighty God, with whom still lies the spirit of those who die in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity. We give you heartfelt thanks for the good examples of all your servants, who having finished their course in faith, now find rest and refreshment. May we, with all who have died in the true faith of Your Holy Name, have perfect fulfillment and bliss in Your eternal everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Rector's Statistical Report  
to the  
Annual Parish Meeting  
St. James Episcopal Church  
(Year Ending December 31, 2023)

1. Baptisms	3
2. Confirmations/Receptions/Reaffirmations	8
3. Marriages	4
4. Burials	10
5. Transfers In	
a. Communicants	0
b. Baptized Members	<u>0</u>
c. Total (a + b)	0
6. Transfers Out	
d. Active Status	1
e. Inactive Status	<u>1</u>
f. Total (c+d)	2
7. Service Record	
Sunday and Saturday Evening Eucharists	103
Week Day Eucharists	49
Special Services (Ordinations, Funerals, Vestry Retreat, Maundy Thursday)	8
Private Communion	54
Other (Stations of the Cross, Good Friday, Pet Blessing, Unction)	14
Sunday Daily Office	46
Weekday Daily Office	3
8. Active Communicants	163
9. Baptized Members (not yet confirmed)	<u>13</u>
g. Total Membership (No. 8 + No. 9)	176
10. Average Sunday Attendance (in-person: 8:00 & 10:30 am + 5:00 pm online)	100
11. Fund Balances	
St. James Ministry Fund Balance as of 12/31/23	\$ 239.94
Deacon's Discretionary Fund Balance as of 12/31/2023	\$1699.87
Rector's Discretionary Fund Balance as of 12/31/ 2023	\$1792.09

CLERGY & STAFF

The Reverend Canon John Bedingfield, Rector  
 The Reverend Deacon Michael Parham  
 Lisa Harp, Parish Administrator  
 Rita Klock, Parish Secretary  
 Michael Sterne, Music Director and Choir Master  
 Melva Villard, Organist  
 Michael Haywood, Sexton  
 Sarah Frazier, Nursery Coordinator  
 Dorethea Haywood and Kelsha Roberts, Nursery

2023 ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH VESTRY

Mr. Tom McBride	Senior Warden	2024
Mr. Sonny Trammell	Jr. Warden	2026
Mr. Roy Rosenthal	Treasurer	2025
Mrs. Holly Dixon	Vestry	2024
Mr. Josh Brown	Vestry	2024
Mr. Drew Texada	Vestry/Clerk	2025
Mr. Lindsey Torbett	Vestry	2025
Ms. Courtney Smith	Vestry	2026
Ms. Paige Quillin	Vestry	2026

Contact Information

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The Reverend Deacon Michael Parham	michael@stjamesla.org
Mrs. Lisa Harp	lisa@stjamesla.org
Mrs. Rita Klock	rita@stjamesla.org