
ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

Vol. 1 — No. 1

● July 2025 ●

Springfield, MO

St. James' Journal is a new way to stay up to date and involved in the life of our parish. Expected to run quarterly/seasonally, it will have important updates, meaningful stories, and varying opportunities to journey together with your St. James Family!

A Vision For Ministry!

Shining the Light of Christ's Love for All People

After many months of faithful prayer and consideration, your Vestry has discerned a this vision statement to guide our ministry for many years to come...

Continue reading on page 2



A Bishop's Encouragement

Bishop Amy's visit with Parish Leadership

On a trip to Springfield on July 10, Bishop Amy Dafler Meaux made an informal visit to St. James. Over an afternoon cup of coffee, she met with clergy, staff, and wardens for a short meeting to learn about our parish, build relationships, and foster dialogue between parishes and the Bishop.

While Bishop Amy was excited to hear the amazing things happening at St. James, her first question was actually asking what can she could do to support us in our areas of struggle. We talked about finances, building issues, and growing pains – especially when looking at growing youth and children's ministries.

She took time to hear us and make sure we did not feel isolated in any of our struggles. She was thrilled with the number of students we sent to camp, and we discussed her plans for children and youth ministry in the diocese. We explored how the diocesan work would tie into our work,



and how our work would contribute to the mission of the diocese...

Continue reading on page 2

Cover Story: Vision for Ministry

Shining the Light of Christ's Love for All People

We believe God is calling us to be a parish that is:

- spiritually grounded
- radically welcoming
- lovingly supporting one another
- offering meaningful service and witness for all who are in need

Arriving at this point was no small task. In October 2024, we invited the entire parish to share their dreams and prayers for our parish in our 2025 Pledge & Planning Forms. We hosted forums in October and November to discuss our visions and values for ministry as a parish. Vestry members and other parish leaders responded to in-depth questionnaires and sifted through data collected about our congregation. Through it all, we sensed the moving of God's Spirit, affirming our ministries of love and faithfulness already abundant in our parish, and guiding us into these areas of focus for the future.

Now comes the fun part: aligning our structures and plans for ministry to fully live into this vision that calls us to further radiate Christ's love into our community and beyond. The first step is being spiritually grounded – rooting ourselves in love of God and the wisdom of the Church – as the primary source of all that we do. As we do so, we will continue to welcome more friends and neighbors into our midst, which is something we already do well and are feeling called to embrace even more deeply. In all we do, we commit to continue lovingly supporting one another as the body of Christ, a family of believers who build each other up in love through seasons of joy, grief, and everything in between. And, as Christ has called us to share his love with all in need, we will offer meaningful service – assistance that is relational and transformational – while sharing our hope in Jesus with those among whom we minister.

We will continue to update and involve the parish as we draft a strategic plan and allocate our resources toward this vision for our common ministry. The ministry of our parish includes all of us, which is why this discernment process began with input from the whole congregation and will continue engaging all of us as we shine the light of Christ's love brightly.

– The St. James Vestry



A Bishop's Encouragement (cont.)

Much of our conversation focused on the importance of maintaining a balance in the ministries at St. James. She has lots of ideas and resources for how to achieve an intergenerational balance rather than putting too much focus on youth for the health and vitality of the whole parish. Bishop Amy has had extensive experience studying intergenerational issues in ministries, and was able to offer a variety of valuable insights.

When the Bishop departed to head over to Christ Church for a visit with their leadership, we were left with a sense of comfort from a bishop who took the time to be with us, to hear us, and to commit to continue finding ways to share in ministry alongside us. We gained renewed hope and assurance that the future is bright for St. James and The Diocese of West Missouri.



Anne Breid
Senior Warden



Stewardship Spotlight

August is National
Make-a-Will Month

If you've not written your will, now is a great time to begin. If you've already written your will, take time to review its details.

Preparing your will is a loving and responsible act for your family, and it ensures your legacy in death reflects your values in life. As a document read upon your death, your will gives you a chance to remind your loved ones of your faith in Jesus Christ, who has overcome death with resurrection life. And, while you live, it is a reminder that all of your life is a gift for you to steward faithfully.

Consider including a Christian preamble to your will. Thank God for the gift of new life in baptism, the hope of resurrection, and all the blessings God has given you. Share your faith with those who come after you through your final testimony, both by sharing your story and by leaving legacy gifts to the church in addition to gifts for family or friends.

See the brochures on legacy planning in the narthex to learn more about writing your will. Additionally, the Episcopal Church Foundation is providing free estate planning tools, like writing wills, healthcare directives, powers of attorney, and more. Click "PLAN My Episcopal Legacy" at www.ecf.org.



Monthly Parish Forums

During Coffee Hour on the last Sunday of each month, we hold a Parish Forum to discuss a variety of topics of interest to the parish. This quarter's forum topics:

- August 31: Proportional Giving: Tithing as a Spiritual Practice
- September 28: Meaningful Service to Those in Need
- October 26: Living Faithfully by Preparing for Death



Outreach

Discretionary Sunday: On the first Sunday of each month, any loose or undesignated donations in the collection are placed in the Rector's Discretionary Account, a fund solely used for benevolent/charitable causes like helping neighbors in need, assisting parishioners experiencing hardship, and aiding local families in crisis situations through our partnership with One Door.


Outreach Sunday: On the second Sunday of each month, any loose or undesignated donations in the collection are placed in the Outreach Fund, with the Outreach Planning Committee designating a different beneficiary each month.

- August: School Supplies
- September: Shoes for Students
- October: Crosslines Community Outreach
 - Thursday, October 30, is our next day to staff the pantry at Crosslines. Mark your calendars and plan to join us in serving our neighbors.


Finances

In the first half of 2025, our operating income was below budget by over \$30k, while our operating expenses were just below budget. Beyond our operations, we've raised \$25k for outreach to aid those in need in our community and around the world. Our endowment, which is young and only beginning to return interest to add a little support for our ministries, fared much better than the stock market average during the first quarter of this year.

With our operational budget currently strained as we look into the second half of the year, your parish leadership is asking you to consider increasing your financial giving to the church. Together, by sharing our time, prayers, skills, funds, and love, we will continue shining Christ's light through this and every season, trusting God's provision for the work God has called us to do.



Mark your Calendar



8/6
10am

Feast of the Transfiguration

8/8-10

VBS (with Backpack Blessing 8/10)

8/15
6:30pm

Feast of St Mary the Virgin

10/4
10am

St. Francis Pet Blessings

10/30

Crosslines

10/31
4:30pm

Trunk-or-Treat

10/31
6:30pm

All Hallows' Eve

11/1
12n

All Saints' Day

11/2
10:30am

All Saints' Sunday

11/5
6:30pm

All Souls' Requiem

11/7-8

Diocesan Convention w/Youth Lock-in

11/15
10am

Parish Fall Cleanup Day

Looking Ahead

Halfway to the Annual Meeting

With our Midyear Meeting on July 27, we are roughly halfway between Annual Meetings, the official business meeting of the parish. At our Annual Meeting in early 2026, we will elect three new members to the Vestry, replacing three whose terms are expiring. Prayerfully consider now if you may be interested in standing for election to the Vestry. If you have questions or would like more information, see Fr. Isaac or Anne Breid.

Trunk-or-Treat

Decorate your trunk and come out to greet many of our neighbors from 4:30-6:30pm on Halloween. We've had over 200 kids come to our Trunk-or-Treat each of the last two years! This year, we've got prizes for the most creative trunk decorations.

All are invited to donate candy throughout the month of October to be passed out at Trunk-or-Treat!



Resuming Wednesday Evenings

During the Program Year (Labor Day to Memorial Day), we will gather on Wednesday evenings to share a meal, pray together, and participate in age-level formation programming.

Sacred Mysteries: Why Do They Do That? On Wednesday evenings this fall, we'll be exploring all of the seemingly unspoken facets of our worship. What are all the vestments the priests wear? Why do some people cross themselves? Is the bread required to be stale? All these and all the questions you can muster will be addressed as we dig into the various practices and piety found in our church.

- 6pm Community Meal - 6:30pm Evening Prayer - 6:45pm Formation Programming
- We need volunteers to share in providing meals on Wednesday evenings. Watch for opportunities to sign up!

Adult Formation

Join us at 9:30 on Sunday mornings for our lively discussions

- **August:** It's not too late to join our Summer of Saints series! In the final weeks of summer, we'll be learning about saints from our Anglican tradition and more recent American saints.
- **September & October:** A study of *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People* (2019) by Dorothy C. Bass. Print and digital editions can be purchased online, and some copies are available in the church book store. Don't let book cost be a deterrent! Complimentary copies are available at the bookstore, too.



Youth Ministry

Students in grades 5 to 12 meet in the youth room downstairs at 9:30am on Sunday mornings for youth group before the Sunday service, and help the children with their activities on Wednesday evenings.

- Youth gathering with Bishop Meaux – Sept. 7 (Clinton)
- Youth Lock-In at Diocesan Convention – Nov. 7-8 (Kansas City)

Children's Ministry

During Sunday morning worship, following the Gospel, students from pre-k to fourth grade process to the Children's Chapel for a lesson, crafts, and prayer before returning at the peace. Then, on Wednesday evenings, we gather for formation activities after Evening Prayer.

With our children and youth ministries growing and blossoming, we need more hands on deck! Beginning in September, we will need a weekly ministry assistant to be available downstairs to float between the nursery, the youth Sunday School, and the children's chapel, from 9:30am to the end of children's chapel. If you are willing to help, please let the church office know so we can get you scheduled!





St. James Co-ops

What we do together as a parish (worship, pray, learn, serve, etc.) is built on who we are. We are an eclectic community of people following Jesus. As a Christian community, we are called to share our everyday lives together, lovingly supporting one another, and gathering on Sundays as friends rather than just acquaintances. This cooperative effort of following Jesus together requires us to foster connections with one another. You're invited to join one or more of the St. James Co-ops to further build our community together.



Family Fellowship

Gathering of families with kids for playdates and snacks, special events like parents' nights out, and more. It takes a village to raise children, and the family fellowship provides camaraderie and cooperation by connecting parents, fostering friendships between kids, and providing nurturing space for faith development.

Young Adults

New in 2025 A group for those in the first decade or so of adulting, and those who resonate with being young adults. Wading through life and following Jesus together with peers, this group meets for social events and mutual support throughout the year.



Connection Circles

New in 2025 Groups of six or eight members who commit to gather at least once per month to get to know each other. These gatherings can be dinner in someone's home, an outing for ice cream, an afternoon in a park, or whatever the group decides. Each quarter, we'll rotate members between circles to build connections across the breadth of our parish. Watch for sign-up information in August.

To get connected with the St. James Co-ops, contact the parish office for more information.



ReNew: The Green VBS



AUGUST 8-10

FRI:5-7 SAT:10-4 SUN: 9-12

**Enjoy food and fellowship
while exploring God's
creation, growing your faith,
and changing the world!**

***Register to attend
or volunteer with
the link or qr code:***



<https://vbsmate.com/events/sjchurch/31153>

Camino

Walk with us on the Way of Saint James, el Camino de Santiago!

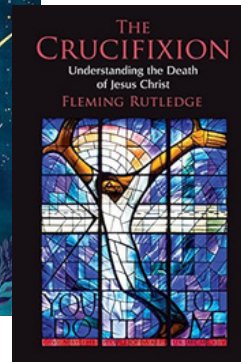
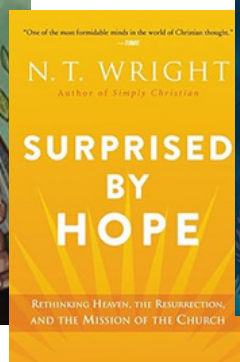
Dates: September 27 - October 7, 2026

Our parish pilgrimage to journey on the Camino is sure to be a time of spiritual renewal for us all. Find our more details and register at www.sj.church/camino.



Book Store

Check out our rotating selection of books, prayer aids, and Christian art! New St. James Mugs are \$10.



ST. JAMES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, Bishop
The Rev. Isaac Petty Pierjok, Rector
The Rev. Si Engstrom, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Suzy Lynch, Deacon
The Rev. Ross Stuckey, Rector Emeritus

STAFF

Dr. Jeremy Chesman, Organist & Choir Director
Vickie Hamilton, Sexton
Angela Johnson, Nursery Attendant
Andrew Kraft, Parish Administrator
Tatum Trader, Children & Youth Minister

VESTRY MEMBERS

Elaine Atkinson, Junior Warden
Eric Atkinson, Treasurer
Anne Breid, Senior Warden
Timothy Donelow
Sara Goebig, Assistant Treasurer
Jan Hutcherson
Elizabeth James, Assistant Secretary
Bob Lanning
Scott Pope, Secretary
Emily Tappana

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays: 9:30am Adult Formation & Youth Sunday School
 10:30am The Holy Eucharist & Children's Chapel
Monday – Saturday: 9:00pm Compline (online only)
Wednesday: 10:00am Healing Prayer
 6:00pm Community Meal*
 6:30pm Evening Prayer & Programming*
 **between Labor Day and Memorial Day*

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday, 9am – 3pm

Note: Parish clergy respond to pastoral emergencies 24/7.

Except for emergencies, Mondays are the priests' dedicated day of rest.



CONTACT INFO

Phone: 417-881-3073
Email: office@sj.church
2645 E. Southern Hills Blvd,
Springfield, MO 65804
www.sj.church

