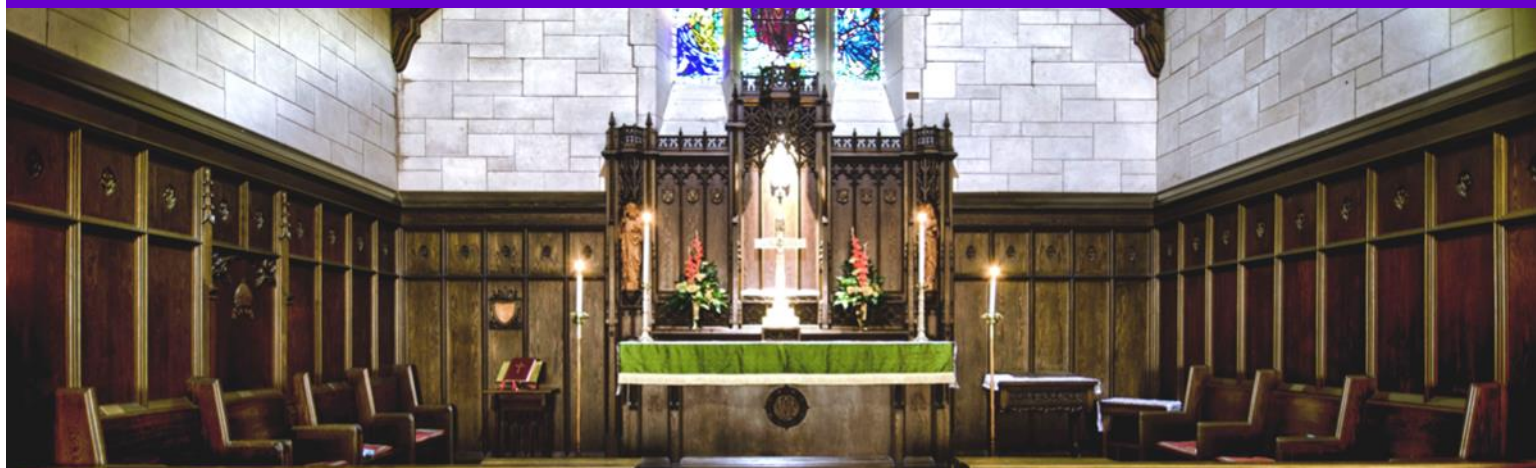


# The Seasons

## of St. James Episcopal Church

Winter 2024-2025:  
Advent, Christmas,  
and Epiphany



## Belonging to St. James Church

The Rev. Dawn Frankfurt, Rector

First, and quickly, some important information to note:

- **Christmas Eve services** will be different this year. We will not have an 11:00 pm service. The 4:00 and 7:00 services remain. Nursery will be available at the 4:00 pm service. A very light use of incense will be included at the 7:00 pm.
- The Vestry met Thurs., Nov. 21, and discussed our **Sunday worship service times**, and decided that we will return to having two Sunday worship services at the first of February 2025. We will need new volunteers serving in every capacity at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. This includes: ushers, altar guild members, altar servers and lectors.
- **Walk in Love – Stewardship Campaign.** You are asked to make a pledge of financial giving to St. James in 2025. We need, rely on, appreciate, and carefully use your offerings of support to keep our loving parish community vital and to do the work God has given us to do for those around us. Thank you if you have pledged or given for 2025. Please carefully consider your ability to give and make a pledge if you have not already.
- **Invite+Welcome+Connect** is off to a good start and you continue to be encouraged to find the way you want to take part in our ministry. There is more about **I+W+C** in this article.

*Message from the Rector continued on Page 2...*

# The Seasons of St. James Church

## ●●● Message from the Rector continued...

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As Christians, as people who are part of a Christian community, and as people who believe in the importance of having and honoring principles, whether or not we are aware of it, we think theologically. This means that we are individuals who take our relationship with God and the Bible seriously. Since we are aware that in God there is something beyond ourselves which has

meaning, it is natural for us to ask ourselves how and if the things we do line up with our values. Our ministry of **I+W+C** gives us the opportunity to integrate what we believe with the way we live and make decisions.

Invite, welcome, and connect are easy concepts. They stand in for words which we may think of as having more overtly religious – or theological – connotations. Our ministry of **I+W+C** leads us to intentionally cultivate practices of evangelism, hospitality, and relationship building. In so doing, we teach ourselves the value of truly coming to know other individuals. When we connect with another person, we are likely to meet the face of Christ in them. This opens up our chances of experiencing God’s love for us and our love for each other. Our act of loving and accepting others without judgment, gives others a place to call home. We give them a place to belong, which is so important in a faith community, and which helps learn to embrace the fundamental way we belong to God – in love. This learning is transformative for us, our ministry, and hopefully for our community, too. In this ministry we truly act on what we value: we love our neighbors as God loves us. That is everything. Amen.

## Introductions to a soon-to-be familiar face at St. James

### The Rev. Deborah Hill



Deborah has been ordained for fifteen years this month, and has served all around the U.S., both in larger and smaller parishes. She and her family have spent the last two years living in Austria for her husband’s work. In the absence of an Episcopal or Church of England parish in their Austrian village, Deborah had the wonderful opportunity to begin a PhD in New Testament at the University of Vienna. For her project she is writing an “epigraphical” commentary on the letter to Philemon, where she examines the meaning of each major Greek vocabulary word in light of its use in inscriptions from the ancient world

## **Music at St. James**

### **Dakota Bennett, Director of Music**

As Christmas approaches, there are many things on our minds. One of which is probably gifts. Despite what we were told as kids, Santa does not provide presents which leaves us with the job. Back in college as a music major, this sometimes proved to be a bit of a financial burden. But for what fine arts folks may lack in money, we more than make up for in creativity! From receiving custom-recorded happy birthday songs to paintings and pottery for Christmas, the evidenced love and care from one to another far outweighs any monetary value. These days, the community of musicians here at St. James is such a gift to me and to the entire parish. Their continual giving of time and talents is the highlight of my job. In addition to the regular Sunday schedule, the choirs will be sharing their gifts through Lessons and Carols on Sunday, 8 December at 5:30pm as well

as at both Christmas Eve Masses! The easiest and most meaningful gift you can give the choirs is by attending church. I know that sounds cliché, but your presence and participation is very encouraging to us. It's nice to know all our efforts are appreciated by many. Additionally, invite someone to church with you to give them the gift of music! Even if they are only here for the music; all are welcome here. And finally, don't forget that Christmas is really about one gift given to each and every person you will ever possibly encounter. That gift, of course, being Jesus Christ; who's light shines perpetually bright into a dark world. So as you give and receive gifts this season, be a vessel to receive and give the light of Christ whenever, wherever, and however it may be encountered.

## **Annual Greening of the Church**

### **Tim Newlin**

The annual Greening of the Church for Christmas will take place Sunday, December 22, at 10:45am (immediately following the service).

Stay after the service and join in fun, fellowship, food, music, youth activities, and of course greens, poinsettias, and bows, as we support the Altar Guild's preparations for Christmas!

The sign up to contribute a gift to the greens fund with a dedication to your loved ones will be in the bulletin on the First Weekend of Advent, November 30/December 1. Additional copies will be available at the volunteer desk.

## **Maddy Bishop's Ordination**

### **Diocesan Ordination Service, January 11, 2025**

Maddy Bishop's ordination to the priesthood will be on January 11, 2025. The service will be at 10:30 am at Grace Cathedral in Topeka, Kansas. Everyone is invited to attend this meaningful service.

We will be receiving contributions to a purse to be presented to her by St. James in the coming weeks.

We are hoping that Maddy will be able to preside at the Eucharist one Saturday evening in January and we could have a reception afterward. Watch for updates as we try to coordinate a date.

## Youth Group

Anne Clark, Youth mentor

The youth group continues to meet on Sunday from 6:30-7:30pm on 1-3 and 5th Sundays and after the 9:30am service on the on 4th Sundays. This year has started off well. Deacon Jeff helped us review different parts of our church history and what we believe based on confirmation literature. We enjoyed making another Halloween maze for the kids at our Halloween party. We are excited to help with the Christmas baskets and will also be participating in the Christmas Pageant. We are planning on going to Illuminations on December 1st and look forward to that. Please note we will be on break from December 22th and will return on January 19th.

Just a reminder that the youth group now meets on Sundays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm (on 4th Sundays, from 12:30-1:30pm)! If you are interested in volunteering, please feel free to contact Chelsea Whipple or Mother Dawn. This year's youth group leaders are Anne Clark, Dakota Bennett, Racine Zackula and Deacon Jeff Roper.

## Christmas Pageant

Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

The children and youth will perform the annual Christmas pageant during the sermon portion of the service on Sunday, December 15th. Please plan on attending!

All kids are welcome to be part of the pageant! We have speaking parts for youth and non-speaking roles for the younger children. If you have a child wanting to participate, join us on Saturday, Dec 14th at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary to rehearse. If you have questions, please contact Chelsea Whipple, at [formation@stjameswichita.org](mailto:formation@stjameswichita.org)



## ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



## Upcoming Youth Group Dates:

December 1: Illuminations at Botanica

December 8: Christmas Baskets

December 15: Christmas Pageant at 9:30 service,  
Youth group at 6:30 pm

December 22: Greening of the Church (after the 9:30 service)

December 29 - January 12: No Youth Group

\*Please note: December 22 is not a youth specific event.

The youth are invited to help decorate the church for Christmas and stay to enjoy the potluck.

## **Nominations to Serve in 2025**

### **2025 Election at Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025**

**Vestry:** Korbin Painter (to fulfill 2 years of a vacant seat), George Bousfield, Karla Fazio, Tim Newlin

**Youth Vestry Appointee:** Aiden Petty

**Convention Delegates:** Adrienne Edwards and Brandon Whipple

**Endowment Funds Board:** Scott Orr and Clay Bastian

**Nominating Committee:** Andy Aitken, Vicki Evans, Deb Hager, Cheryl Schmeidler, Peggy Zerger

## **Invite Committee**

### **Woody Swain, Chair**

Currently, there are 16 of us on the INVITE Committee and room for more! For now, we are meeting once per month in the Lounge at 6:30pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month. We met in September and October, and will be meeting again on November 26th. Of course, not everyone can attend, but we've had 6 to 7 attend each meeting, which allows for some lively discussion and productive exchange of ideas. Some accomplishments so far include:

- We held a "Blessing of the Animals" booth at October's Woofstock with other parishes in our Minster.
- Developed a one-page "INVITE flyer" that was used at Woofstock and the Creation Care movie. We encourage other St. James events that are open to the public to make these documents available. A supply of them is available in the INVITE inbox by the copier, and Krystal can print more.
- Richard Bowman had attractive business cards printed with St. James service information on them that were used at Woofstock and can be used during other INVITE opportunities.
- Troy Wells created an attractive INVITE poster that was used at Woofstock and can be used at other future events. You may have seen in our lobby.
- We are using the Thanksgiving Dinner event as an opportunity for our members to promote it more widely to the community through our Facebook page. This will include some simple "training" of the parish on how they can help with this social media promotion through their personal "likes" and "shares". Our next step with increasing our social media presence may include Instagram and TikTok, in order to reach a younger demographic.

As you are involved with various activities at St. James, whether they are special or routine, please forward photos from them to Krystal so that she can consider posting them on our social media pages. This helps a wider audience to know and get excited about what's going on at St. James.

If you have INVITE ideas or feedback, please share them with Woody Swain, Mother Dawn, Joan Moore or anyone else on this committee.



# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26, 2025  
after 9:30 am worship

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND →**

St. James Episcopal Church  
3750 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67208

## Woof Woof Woof: 2024 Woofstock

**Richard Bowman, Invite member**

On Saturday, Oct 5th, 2024, the Episcopal Churches of Wichita hosted a Blessing of the Animals at Woofstock, a fundraiser for the Humane Society of Wichita. Approximately 11,000 people attended the event.

Richard Bowman of St. James organized the event and Deacon Jeff Roper of St. James, Mother Laurie Lewis of St. Stephen and Mother Christine Gilson of St. John blessed approximately 200 dogs. Also helping was Danny Blair and Johnson Olanya of St. James and Dawn and Ray Doneski of St. Stephen who helped pass out information cards, brochures and pens.



Richard Bowman said “We learned a lot for our first time hosting the event. When we went Friday to setup, we found out furnishing the tent was our responsibility. Luckily our Junior Warren Danny Blair knew where our St. James tent was and how to set it up. We also learned that many people didn’t know what a blessing was and were hesitant. However, when we asked if we could offer a prayer for their dog, we got 100% acceptance.” This was a fun way to “Invite, Welcome, and Connect.

## **Connect Committee**

### **Dana Stelter, Co-Chair**

The St. James Connect Committee initiated in October. The Connect Committee's ministry of belonging strives to connect members and newcomers to the community of faith and to the ministries of our church, and to connect the ministries to the mission of St. James church.

We are energized by the success of our first effort – we held a trivia contest about Halloween and Christianity with prizes at the Annual Chili Cook-off. Two teams tied and the tie breaker questions did not deter their scores, so we had dual winners! The parishioners had great energy and it was fun for all.

The annual Greening of the Church for Christmas will take place Sunday, December 22, at 10:45am (immediately following the service). Stay after the service and join in fun, fellowship, food, music, youth activities, and of course greens, poinsettias, and bows, as we support the Altar Guild's preparations for Christmas! This event is for EVERYONE and not just those able to get on ladders, we have many tasks available and really just want all to join in to have fun and provide service to prepare for the birth of our Savior. Please come CONNECT!

If you would like to be a part of our group, or have any suggestions feel free to contact any member of our group. We meet on the first Sunday at 8:30am in the library, join us!

Group members: Dana Stelter (co-chair), Phil Speary (co-Chair), Celia Blair, Danny Blair, George Bousfield, Pat Butin, Hew & Judy Goodpasture, Paul Leeker, Ethan Lindsay, Dave McDonald, Tim Newlin, Korbin Painter, Susie Stallings, Marilyn Taylor

## **The Guild Hall Players**

### **Upcoming performances in 2025**

- **February 13-16: The Shadow Box by Michael Cristofer**  
Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this insightful drama shows three different families dealing the challenges of having one of their loved ones in hospice. “entertaining and powerful... moving”
- **May 22-25: The Cover of Life by R T Robison**  
A regional hit comedy drama, this engaging play presents the struggles of a family of women in a rural community when all of the men in their lives are away in WWII. “filled with charm and fun... deeply affecting”
- **July 24-27: You Can't Take It With You by Kaufman & Hart**  
A classic 1930s Pulitzer winner, this heart warming farce tells the hilarious misadventures of the Vanderhof-Sycamore clan as they show a young business man and his stuffy parents the real measure of happiness. “delirious...exhilarating... endearing”

### Creation Care

#### Joan Bledsoe, Creation Care Committee

Creation Care has been busy these past few months and has some exciting possibilities for the future. Some of our projects have included the butterfly garden, the showing of a climate change film made here in Kansas with a panel discussion, continued work in our garden and our weekly updates regarding pertinent information for both our church community and our world.

The Butterfly Garden is growing well, looks beautiful and is truly a Monarch Way station. We have received our sign designating it as an official way station and our certification which can be viewed in the hallway going to guild hall.

The biggest project was the showing of the film” Hot Times In the Heartland” and the panel discussion to follow. We offered a tour of our nave and chancel before the event. The event was well attended and our panel was excellent. Our panel members included Brandon Whipple, Felix Ravela, and Zack Pistora. A big thank you to them for their time and knowledge of legislation and current trends and practices. A big thank you also to Anne Clark for making signs for the tour and the tour guides Marilyn Milhon and Vicki Evans. Thank you to Jose for set up, Danny Blair and Randy Harrison for Audio and Video assistance,

the scouts for helping with refreshments and Watermark Books for selling books about the environment. The hardest workers making this project happen and a big thank you goes to Mary Sloan, Claudette Johns, Joan Bledsoe and Krystal Poindexter for her many abilities. We also thank Mother Dawn who is so supportive to our efforts.

We continue to water our gardens weekly and thank Lisa VanArsdale, Marilyn Milhon, Claudette Johns, and Joan Bledsoe. Many people continue to trim and weed. We thank Pat Butin, Anne Clark, Deb Bagby and Claudette Johns for their hard work.

Creation Care places weekly information or links in the eTower, Mary Sloan does a wonderful job keeping us all informed. . The information ranges from birds, bees and plants to projects concerning Wichita and Kansas regarding our environment and best conservation practices.

Stay tuned as the creation care group is currently assessing information for upcoming events. “ For God’s sake, we will grow our love for the Earth and all of life through preaching, teaching, storytelling, and prayer. “ - Episcopal Church Creation Care Web site.



## Winter 2024-2025: Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany

### ●●● Parish Life



The December Daughters of the King meeting will be a Christmas Party, 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 7 at St. Stephen's Church. Last year's Christmas party for St. James' and St. Stephen's DOK chapters was so much fun, we are doing it again. Featured events will include a Sing-along with Santa, Janet Newlin's traditional Christmas children's story -- adapted for adults; games, snacks, packing up cookies for the Lincoln Nursing Home-- where operating funds are very limited and cookies will likely be a treat—followed by a cookie swap, so *everyone* goes home with a box of treats!



***Everyone attending is invited to bring two or three dozen cookies***

The DOK chapters at both St. James and St. Stephen's have elected to delve into the "Sacred Ground" series. "This is an eleven-part, film-based dialogue on race and faith which asks you to confront things you've never heard before. It is spiritually enriching, but some of it may be hard to take: history that will be illuminating, but which may challenge some of our cherished beliefs."

"The 'Sacred Ground' series is part of former Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's efforts to help the Episcopal Church work for racial reconciliation, healing and justice. It focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino and Asian American histories as they intersect with European American histories."

"Designed for these times, it is an attempt to be responsive to the profound challenges that currently exist in our society. It invites participants to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to today, and to do so in a personal way, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story."

*-- Quotes are from the Invitation and Introduction to "Sacred Ground"*

**This series is open to everyone at St. James. Please join us in the library on Sunday, January 19, 2025, after the service**

The Daughters of the King at St. James are part of an international religious order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church and churches in communion with it. Women interested in DOK membership are invited to attend a meeting (third Sunday of the month, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service). Kelly Harper will be starting a new training session soon; for more information, please contact Kelly or President Mary Sloan for information.

KELLY: [kelly-harper@cox.net](mailto:kelly-harper@cox.net) or (316) 634-2290 MARY SLOAN: [msloan04@yahoo.com](mailto:msloan04@yahoo.com)

### Fiftieth Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood

In 2024 the Episcopal Church marked the 50th anniversary of the ordination of the first women priests in our denomination. It is inspiring to see a screening of the documentary about the Philadelphia Eleven if you can. It is a moving story from the Episcopal Church's recent history.

The first ordinations service took place on July 29, 1974 at Philadelphia's Church of the Advocate. These eleven women became known as the Philadelphia Eleven. Four more women ordained in 1975 became known as the Washington Four. Then, during and after a season of rancor and disagreement over this issue was resolved at General Convention on September 15, 1976. Women were allowed to become priests and bishops. Episcopal Church Canons, as of January 1, 1977, called for equal access to the ordination process for both men and women.

Fifty years later, there are 7,166 women clergy in The Episcopal Church, either active or retired. That includes 2,075 deacons, 5,039 priests, and 52 bishops. This is an important milestone to mark on the church's journey toward expansion and inclusion of all people in the Body of Christ, living out our baptismal promise to respect the dignity of every human being.

### Pocket Change Ministry

Vicki Evans, Chair

St James' Outreach Committee is extremely grateful for the wonderful support of the parish's Pocket Change Ministry.

October's income was a little sparse until a donor turned in a huge jar full of coins the last day of the month on All Hallows' Eve! It was an unexpected TREAT, enabling the grant for October to go to Passageways, in the amount of \$500. Passageways operates a program that enables veterans, "our heroes," to receive care, and find housing. Some veterans are single moms with children. The program works out of the space at 1202 W. Douglas. They accept donations of household items to assist with getting vets settled on their own. They also have thrift store items for sale, with proceeds going to their program.

The November grant of \$500 is going to Urban League of Kansas. Some of the committee members were able to visit their operations, and were overwhelmed by all of the many programs they offer for all people of all ages. Classes for Budgeting Basics, First Time Home Buyers, Storytime and Mobile Book Bus, just to name a very few.

The month of December's Pocket Change will be saved up for one of our long-standing recipients, Breakthrough Episcopal Social Services (ESS), and one of the particular areas where they have the greatest need.

## **Outreach Committee**

### **Judy Goodpasture, Chair**

Our **Outreach Ministry Committee** meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the church lounge. At least five times a year, we have speakers from social service agencies, and occasionally we tour social service agencies. You are invited to join us for any meeting.

### **Winter Projects**

- **Christmas Gifts for Families in Need.** Large food baskets and individual gifts are collected for needy families served by **Breakthrough ESS** and **KCSL**. Parishioners deliver the gifts before Christmas. **Chair: Mary Druding** and the **Youth Group**
- **The St. James Refugee Family Project.** We fulfilled the obligations for our project, as outlined by the International Refugee Committee. Then we extended and completed another six months of support to our refugee family. We continue supportive contact with the family. **Co-chairs: Suzanne Laycock** and **Jessica Moore**
- **Pocket Change Ministry** continues to provide funds for children and families served by the **Wichita Children's Home, Breakthrough ESS, Kansas Children's Service League, and The Pando initiative.** We are grateful to our very generous congregation. Since 2015, this project has given \$27,300 to agencies serving children and families. **Chair: Vicki Evans**
- **Blanket Drive for Humankind Winter Shelters.** This fall we collected and delivered more than 75 blankets for the shelters. **Chair: Judy Goodpasture**
- To offer **Red Cross** blood drives in 2024-2025, we are seeking partnering with area churches.
- St. James has joined the **Wichita Minster's** effort to provide **Saturday Sack Lunches** for the homeless at St. John's Episcopal Church. To help, please contact **Chair: Joan Bledsoe**
- **Justice Together.** An ecumenical effort involving more than 50 churches in Wichita is working toward the development of projects for the homeless and mentally ill. Currently, the leaders are checking on the commitments made in May 2024 by the City and County governing bodies. **Chairs: Shirley and Scott Orr, Vicki Evans.**
- **Prayer Cards.** We continue to send **Prayer Cards** to ill and bereaved parishioners. Birthday cards are also sent to parishioners. **Co-chairs: Mary Druding, Joan Bledsoe, and Judy Goodpasture**
- **Greeting Card Ministry** for inmates at the **Winfield Correction Facility.** This Christmas cards for relatives and friends were provided for all inmates. After Christmas, birthday and other cards are provided. **Chair: Deacon Jeff Roper**
- This winter we encourage **volunteer opportunities** through **United Way's Read-to-Succeed** program and the **Pando Initiative's Reality U**, a finance workshop for high school and middle school students.
- **Ronald McDonald House:** We are collecting pop can pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House. **Chair: Vicki Evans**

**Thank you, St. James parishioners, for caring about outreach to our community!**

## **Justice Together**

**Scott Orr, St. James Co-Chair**

As you may remember, Justice Together is a multi-denominational organization of faith communities united by a goal of organizing to hold political and other leaders accountable to make policy changes to benefit the people of our city. It is an affiliate of Direct Action through Research and Training (DART), a faith-based advocacy organization that has been in existence for over 40 years with chapters across the country. Justice Together began its work in Wichita last year and St James was one of the founding congregations.

On November 7th the kickoff meeting for Justice Together's second year of doing justice was held. The meeting, framed as the Community Problems Assembly, attracted over 350 individuals. Prior to the meeting, 70 listening sessions were held to determine what issues are foremost on the minds of members of participating congregations. At those meetings over 570 people committed to being justice ministry network members. The concerns raised at the listening sessions were synthesized across approximately 40 congregations in the Wichita area and discussed and voted on at the Community Problems Assembly.

The first order of business at the Assembly was to celebrate the successes from the 2024 process. In the mental health focus area, Wichita now has 24/7/365 mobile mental health crisis response teams and more than 300 people with mental health and substance abuse disorders have access to transportation and peer support. In the homelessness focus area, we have a commitment from city and county leaders for a low barrier, I-9

eligible photo ID program by April 1, 2025. Progress on the fully funded Multi Agency Center (MAC) has been slower but the group is maintaining pressure on city and county leaders to follow through on their commitments made at the Nehemiah Assembly last May.

In addition to a review of progress to date, new Justice Together Executive Officers were elected. Those elected include Father Andy Houlberg from ESS/Breakthrough and Father Andrew O'Connor from St. Francis Ministries, formerly the rector of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church.

Lastly, the priorities for Justice Together for the coming year were voted on. The decision was to focus on affordable housing while keeping our focus on homelessness with an extension and expansion of our work in that area that was accomplished last year.

The next step is for a group of volunteers to research best practices about what can be done and propose solutions to address the affordable housing crisis. A kickoff meeting for this research and action phase will be held Tuesday, December 10th at 6:00PM at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church. The proposed solutions will then be presented to all Justice Network Members at the Solutions Rally on April 10th at 6:00PM at First United Methodist Church. The proposed solutions will then be presented to elected officials and leaders of social service agencies at the Nehemiah Assembly held at the WSU Hughes Metroplex on May 8th at 6:00PM.

*Continued on next page...*

**Justice Together continued from previous page**

Please put those dates on your calendar. To find out how you can be part of the solution to these community issues by contacting Scott Orr at

scottrorr@gmail.com or 214-912-8410 and watch the newsletters for more information about upcoming Justice Together events.

**Sandwich Saturday Update**

**Joan Bledsoe, Chair**

As we come to a close of another year participating in Sandwich Saturday at St. Johns Episcopal Church in downtown Wichita I would like to thank so many people who have helped through these past four to five years. I initially got involved because I noticed in the eTower that help with lunches was needed and called the number provided. Shirley Orr answered the phone and my journey began with that conversation. Shirley and Scott Orr's dedication and organization of Sandwich Saturday was great but what really impressed me was how they also helped to collaborate and connect with other groups in the area such as Shower Up and medical services.

When I first started the only episcopal churches participating were St. Johns and St. James, now we are joined by Good Shepherd and St. Stephens. We are a united group working together to help with a common cause. The problem of homelessness and food insecurity will be a continuing issue, but hopefully we can address this small piece of the problem and give hope and help to the people in our area. As the Daughters of the King say, "I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something."

This past September I missed one of the only Sandwich Saturdays that we had on our schedule due to Gene's accident but luckily, he has had an

incredibly good outcome. Our church family helped make sure that this ministry continued. Thanks to Judy and Hew Goodpasture, Peg Bowman, Deb and Darwin Pfungsten and Susan Graybill. Others who are frequently helping are Luree Lusk and Terry, Claudette Johns, Linda Guyot and Mary Druding.

If you are interested in making 10-20 sack lunches for December 14, 2024. Please let me know. Joan Bledsoe 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 2-4 weeks ahead of time and then 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 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 and cheese), chips, cookie or power bar, and fruit (banana, orange, applesauce with spoon) Apples are too hard for many people to eat due to dental issues. We also provide waters and I provide that each time. **Our dates for 2025 are: March 8, June 14, September 13 and December 13.** We meet at St. Johns around 10:45, serve lunch at 11:00 and are usually done by 11:45.

## **THE GIVING TREE**

THE 26<sup>TH</sup> annual St. James GIVING TREE will make Christmas special for 18 families this year!

**Phase 1:** Canned food, pasta, paper goods, dish washing liquid and a few special treats will fill each of the 18 laundry baskets. The generosity of the people of St. James is apparent as the food miraculously appears -- despite significantly higher prices for groceries, every year.

**Phase 2:** The Giving Tree and the gifts. Since this is actually an Advent tree, Judy and Hew Goodpasture bring in and decorate the tree with liturgically correct BLUE decorations!

When the names have arrived from **Kansas Children's Service League** and **Breakthrough/ESS** (Episcopal Social Services), a colorful name tag, with gift request or suggestion for each person in those 18 households will appear on the Giving Tree.

Parishioners and friends then select one or two names, purchase suggested gifts (especially for children) or gift cards (for teenagers and adults). Signing a list with the donor's and recipient's names is essential.

The wrapped gifts or envelopes with gift cards **MUST** have the person's name tag attached. If there is more than one package for a recipient, it's very important for the name to be attached to **EACH** gift.

Organizing the assembly line basket-filling is a project manager's dream job. St. James' youth have handled this job since 1999, and they sometimes find that it's a bit complicated. There are usually a few very large families -- or sometimes only one or two people in a home. Therefore, a few of the baskets may have to be individualized.

For many people, the most significant part of the Giving Tree project is delivering the baskets. (It can also be challenging, if the recipient is in a third floor apartment). The reactions we see may vary, but the realization that you have provided a family, which may currently be struggling to survive, with a basket filled with basic, useful, easy to prepare food plus essential household items is very special.

Donations from people who are unable to shop or who will be out of town are very gratefully received. They enable us to provide gift cards for people whose names weren't selected from the tree, or to buy "extras" for the baskets.

**Observation:** It seems that every year, the Outreach Committee comes to the same conclusion: the people of St. James are incredibly caring, generous --and truly amazing.

**THANK YOU!**



## Treasurer's Report

### Wood Swain, Treasurer

As 2024 draws to a close, I am thankful for the follow-through by so many of our members on the financial pledges that they made for this year.

Our 2024 budget, presented at last January's Annual Meeting, forecast a shortfall of \$15,982. Again this year, we have closely managed our expenses, and I estimate they will be about \$13,000 less than we budgeted for the year. However, it appears that our pledged income this year may fall short by roughly \$20,000. If this proves true, I estimate that our actual deficit for 2024 will be about \$19,600.

Susie Stallings, our bookkeeper, mailed the individual giving statements for the first nine months of 2024 a few weeks ago. I hope everyone was able to review their statement to see how current they were with their pledge. If you ever have questions or concerns about your giving statements or your pledge, please don't hesitate to contact Susie, Mother Dawn, or me.

To ensure that we can pay our December bills without dipping into our endowment or other savings, we are asking our members to consider making an extra financial gift before the end of the year. The good news is that this extra giving does not need to be large if most everyone participates. For 2024, there were 117 pledges, and \$20,000 spread over that number of donors is an average of just \$170 per pledging unit. Please join me in making an extra gift to St. James as we enter the Advent season and approach Christmas.

Looking ahead to 2025, our Stewardship Campaign is making good progress. Our membership has responded well to the need to increase pledges modestly in order to fully fund our current level of activities and ministries. The Vestry will review our 2025 financial plan at its December meeting, and I will present it to our congregation at our Annual Meeting in late January, so please help us by responding promptly to this annual request for pledges.

## Stewardship 2025: Walk in Love



If you haven't turned in your 2025 pledge, it's not too late! You can mail in your pledge form, drop it by the church, or fill out the form online. If you need a new paper form, there are stewardship packets on the welcome table in the front lobby and on the bulletin board in the hallway that leads to the Guild Hall (the stewardship section is close to the women's restroom)

If you prefer to submit your pledge online: Scan the QR code to enter your 2025 Pledge in Realm, or go to: [www.onrealm.org/StJamesWichita/AddPledge/2025](http://www.onrealm.org/StJamesWichita/AddPledge/2025)



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# The Seasons of St. James Church

Loving, Liberating,  
Life-Giving

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## Advent & Christmas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1:  
ADVENT BEGINS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8:  
ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS AT 5:30 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15:  
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DURING 9:30 AM SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22:  
GREENING OF THE CHURCH AT 10:45 AM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24:  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT 4:00 PM AND 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25:  
CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 AM

On Christmas Eve, the nursery will be available at the 4:00 pm service.

A very light use of incense will be included at the 7:00 pm.