

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

**ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1803 HIGHLAND HOLLOW DRIVE
CONROE, TEXAS 77304**

www.stjames-conroe.org

**To grow in faith, serve others through God's love, while celebrating our traditions
and embracing the future.**

Ministry

Created in God's image, we are called upon by our very nature and being to give as the great Giver provides abundantly for us. Our service and a financial commitment are both essential to our spiritual growth and our common life. By the one, we discern our gifts and pledge our time to their use in a ministry of service to others. By the other, we support the continuation of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Ministry deepens our faith, moving us from only proclaiming our faith to also living our faith as we bring substance and commitment to what we profess. In turn, the church is enabled to offer excellence in worship, a full complement of activities to nurture the spiritual life and growth of God's children of all ages, outreach to others, and operation and maintenance of our beautiful wooded campus.

We invite and request your participation in all areas of ministry as these come to light throughout the year.

Worship Ministries

Contact: Mary Fitzgerald at mary@stjames-conroe.org

Acolytes

Acolytes are youth, grades five through twelve, who are trained to assist at the altar for Sunday and special services. Those electing to serve make a commitment to serve when scheduled and to attend periodic meetings and rehearsals.

Altar Guild

Altar Guild members work quietly behind the scenes under the direction of the clergy. They set up and care for the furnishings in the nave and sanctuary. There are five rotating teams of dedicated women and men. The group works closely with the clergy to make the worship life of St. James run smoothly. New members, with an eye for detail and a commitment to quiet service, are welcome to join the Altar Guild, which strives to make each service as perfect as possible.

Eucharistic Ministers (Chalice Bearers)

The Eucharistic Minister is a licensed minister authorized by the Church for those congregations where there are not enough ordained persons to allow for the timely and orderly administration of the Sacrament. Clergy and Vestry approval is required for those wishing to be licensed by the Bishop.

Greeters

Give your smile and welcome to visitors on Sunday mornings! Join our merry team of Greeters to welcome newcomers, show them around our campus, invite them to breakfast. Greeters are also responsible for setting up for the fellowship hour after the late service.

Lectors

A Lector is a person trained to read the lessons, both the Old Testament and the New Testament, during services of public worship. Lectors will also lead the Psalm if it is not being sung.

Oblationers

Oblations are gifts presented by the people at the Eucharist. Oblationers (men, women, children, families) bring the Bread and Wine to the Altar during the Offertory.

Ushers

Ushers are needed for each of the Sunday services and for special services, i.e. funeral, wedding, and evening services. Ushers help with seating people, hand out service leaflets, assist with collection of the offering, and direct parishioners to the altar rail for communion. At the close of the service, ushers return hymnals and prayer books to the pews, gather service leaflets, and prepare the nave for the next service. Serving as an usher is a rewarding ministry, requires little training, and helps to represent St. James as a warm, welcoming parish. Ushers serve on a rotating basis.

Music Ministries

Contact: Joseph Painter at joseph@stjames-conroe.org

Junior Choir

An affiliate of the Royal School of Church Music, the Junior Choir is open to young singers in second through eighth grade. The choir stresses service, churchmanship, Christian living, and musicianship. Choristers receive special recognition for their achievements, and provide music for the 10:30 a.m. worship service twice a month. Rehearsals are every Wednesday from 5:15 – 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

Parish Choir

The Parish Choir provides musical leadership for the Sunday worship service and other special occasions. This choir is for adults and high school students in grades nine through twelve. All choir members need to be able to match pitch and music-reading skills are helpful. Prior experience in a choir is also helpful but not mandatory for membership – just a willingness and commitment to enjoy music and help lead worship. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the choir room.

Handbell Choir

The handbell choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. in the church. This choir is for both adults and students in grades seven through twelve. The handbells ring for worship services about once a month.

Christian Education

Children's Christian Education

Contact: Jamie Murphy at jamie@stjames-conroe.org

The Diocese of Texas requires all who are employed by the congregation, all who work for the Diocese and its institutions, and all who work or volunteer with children and youth to take **Safeguarding God's Children** from a diocesan-certified trainer. Diocesan certificates will be issued upon completion of the course.

Nursery

The St. James Nursery is a happy place filled with warmth and love. Staffed each Sunday by two professional preschool caregivers, the nursery is open from 8:30 a.m. until the end of the last service. Each week we offer examples of God's love for us and an introduction to His son, our Savior Jesus Christ through an age-appropriate Bible story and activities.

Children's Sunday School and Chapel

We welcome all children to our Sunday School and Chapel! Please join us every Sunday for fun, learning, and fellowship. We have a bible based curriculum that will coordinate with the liturgy throughout the year, with seasonal learning as well. Advent and Lent are special times in our calendar and we will have special events during those times.

Junior & Senior High Youth

Contact: Ronald Liston at ronald@stjames-conroe.org

Sunday School Senior High, grades 9-12, meet in the Parlor to talk and explore your world as well as God's world. We talk about current issues as well as Biblical issues and principles that are central to who we are as Christians. An adult team of facilitators for Sunday mornings rotate each Sunday. Senior High meets in the Parlor.

Sunday School Junior High, grades 7-8 meet in the Youth Building. We explore important issues to youth of this age as well as those of the church. Why do we do the things we do in the Episcopal Church? And of course, we play a little pool.

Confirmation Instruction

"In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop." (BCP p. 412)

Junior and Senior High EYC

Meets most Sundays at 11:15 a.m. in the youth building for lunch, a program, and some social time. This group serves the needs of young people between 7th and 12th grades. EYC members may participate in regional, diocesan and national gatherings. This group meets socially and participates in spiritual, educational and social service activities. Parents are asked to sign up to sponsor lunch for individual meetings. On that day parents will serve as hosts for the meeting by providing lunch.

Adult Christian Education

Contact: Susan Bacon at sbacon576@aol.com

Sunday Morning Offerings:

Café at St. James

This is a discussion class that uses a study guide to focus reflection on scripture readings. On occasion this class examines other relevant topics. This fall the discussion will be on the life of St. Luke and how we can relate him to our daily lives.

Coffee Connection

This class takes on "chat around the table" format. We focus our discussions on our daily lives and our Episcopal faith. This fall we will begin studying the ancient practice of Lection Divina.

The Discovery Series

A video-based discussion series produced by the Episcopal Church, this class focuses on Episcopal worship and traditions. Led by parishioners and clergy sharing their own stories, it is an opportunity to explore your own spiritual journey in the Christian community.

Weekly Offerings:

Disciple Class

This is an excellent class that focuses on the participant as learner, believer, follower, proclaimer, and servant, all within a framework of fellowship and deep community. It is a four-phase Bible study, wherein the participants study the entire Bible. Initially, study is in a survey fashion; this is followed by in-depth study of the Bible according to groupings of literature.

Education for Ministry

St. James offers one of the best Christian adult education programs available. It is called Education for Ministry (EFM). It meets once a week for three hours from September to May. EFM was developed by the Episcopal School of Theology at Sewanee, Tennessee. Although it was originally designed as a course for Sewanee seminarians, it appeals to lay Christians who want to know more about the Bible, the Christian tradition, and the life experiences and insights of Christians in today's world.

Parish Life

Breakfast Teams

Contact: Ron Liston at rwliston@suddenlink.net

There are breakfast teams who cook and serve breakfast every Sunday. Teams share cooking, serving and clean up. We welcome and do need new members

Facility Maintenance Team

Contact: Ron Dube at pepere@consolidated.net

The facility maintenance team is a group, which consists of two person teams, that are scheduled for one week at a time, to handle work orders forwarded to us by the congregation, staff and teachers of St. James. We meet about once per quarter, as needed, on a Saturday morning, to accomplish large projects, and lunch will be provided at those times. The Junior Warden is responsible for scheduling the teams. **NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY!**

Garden Club

Contact: Cindi Harper at cindik@consolidated.net

Not a gardener? Love to dig in the dirt? Would rather look? Regardless, come for the fellowship, to learn a bit about gardening, and to take some excursions to unusual gardens and nurseries. The St. James Garden Club meets in the Parish Hall on the second Friday of each month, September-May.

Pittscopalians

Contact: Raymond Parker at amaziah5@aol.com

Join St. James' very own barbeque team. Enjoy fun and fellowship while smoking briskets and chickens for the masses.

Top of the Hill

Join our St. James members who are a "little grayer, but a lot livelier" for occasional events about the county. These events may include a meal and attending a play or concert at our local theater.

Men's Lunch Bunch

Join our men for lunch at 11:30 on the first Wednesday of the month at Vernon's Kuntry Katfish. This is a good time for fellowship and comradery.

Pastoral Care

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The St. James chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is an active chapter working with other chapters within the Diocese of Texas to bring men and boys to Jesus Christ in accord with its stated purpose. Independent of the Church budget, the Brotherhood is self supporting and finances its good work from projects conducted by the members.

Members commit to the discipline of the Brotherhood, which is to pray for the spread of Christ's Kingdom daily, to study the scriptures and the teachings of the Church regularly and to make continuous efforts to bring others nearer to Christ through his Church.

Membership of any and all men is welcomed.

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King is an international religious Order for women in the Episcopal Church with Chapters in the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America. Members undertaking a lifetime vow of a Rule of Life, incorporating The Rule of Prayer and Rule of Service:

To be Christ's faithful servant in the extension of His Kingdom

+To regularly take part in the worship, study and work of the Church

+To render at all times aid to the clergy as deemed necessary for the spiritual up-building of the parish.

St. James the Apostle Chapter serves at the Intercessory Prayer Fellowship for our church family and prays daily for the individuals in need of healing and guidance. Members of the Order are dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and strengthening of the spiritual life of the parish.

Eucharistic Visitors

Contact: Mary Fitzgerald at mary@stjames-conroe.org

The Lay Eucharistic Visitors minister to the ill and infirmed to ensure that no person confined to home or a hospital is deprived of the Sacrament. Persons wishing to become Eucharistic Visitors must be trained in both liturgical use and in pastoral care and responsibility before being presented to the Vestry, by the Rector, for approval.

Flower Delivery Ministry

Contact: Mary Fitzgerald at mary@stjames-conroe.org

The Flower Delivery Ministry exists to allow those who cannot worship with us to enjoy the altar flowers and to remind them of God's love in the beauty of our world. Deliveries are made any time after the latest Sunday service.

Stephen Ministry

Contact: Eleanor Vallahonrat at Eleanor@stjames-conroe.org

"The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing, and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is the friend who cares." Henri Nouwen

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing crises or dislocating events in their lives. A Stephen Minister is ready to be that person who might be of help as a confidential active listener and compassionate care giver. The initial training involves 50 hours of course work prior to commissioning, supplemented by monthly continuing education and supervision during the two-year commitment of a Stephen Minister.

St. Theresa's Guild

Contact: Parish Office at info@stjames-conroe.org

St. Theresa's Guild supplies meals to families in time of bereavement, illness, or other major crisis or change in their lives. Individuals prepare and deliver meals as needed.

Outreach

Soup Kitchen and Montgomery County Food Bank

St. James members have assisted for many years with providing food for members of our community who are in need. The Soup Kitchen teams work out of the Salvation Army Center on Avenue E, downtown Conroe, serving lunch to hundreds of persons twice a month. Several members deliver Soup Kitchen to seniors and shut-ins through the Friendship Center. We do occasional food drives to assist the Montgomery County Food Bank, whenever they are in need of our help.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Center

Our partnership with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, located in the Dugan section of Conroe, continues to grow, thanks to the assistance of annual grants from the Diocese, and the help of your contributions of time, money, food and clothing. A group of children are invited each year to participate in our Science Camp. We are looking for new ways to assist this center in their endeavors.

Christmas Gifts...in His Name

At Christmas, we increase our assistance to our community through two programs. Christmas Gifts...in His Name, allows you to honor friends or relatives by donating in their names to a worthy cause or charity sponsored by the church. This produces a three-fold blessing; one for the giver, one for the honoree, and for the cause or charity that is the recipient of the gift. We also erect our Giving Tree, decorated with tags containing the names of clients of the Friendship Center and the Montgomery County Women's Center.

Workcamp

Our Workcamp group annually take busloads of eager teenagers to various worksites in the US to repair homes and churches. This past year, our teens and adult sponsors traveled to West Virginia in order to assist in the repair of homes for needy people. The congregation helps by generously participating in the many activities sponsored by the EYC to raise money for tools, materials, and transportation.

Montgomery County Emergency Assistance

MCEA is a non-profit agency which provides assistance to residents of Montgomery county who are experiencing unexpected financial need or crisis. They have many volunteer opportunities to suit your talents and schedule.

Montgomery County Interfaith Hospitality Network

Locally, we are partners in the Montgomery County Interfaith Hospitality Network. This ecumenical program provides shelter, food, counseling, and resources for homeless families to help them find permanent housing and jobs. The guest families use our facilities four times a year, and 30 – 60 volunteers team up to provide food, companionship during the evening and overnight, and transportation to school, jobs, and the Day Center. We are proud to be part of this outstanding community effort.

Kids Hope

KIDS HOPE is a program that provides one-to-one mentoring and affirmation for one child from Grades K-5 at a CISD school. The mentor will often use materials provided by the teacher to help the child achieve a specific objective. After each mentoring session, the mentor is required to complete a Daily Progress Report summarizing the mentoring session. You may volunteer for one hour a week as a mentor or you may choose to be a pray partner for both the mentor and the child.

St. James School

St. James Episcopal School provides academic excellence within a loving and caring Christian environment. We serve students two years through sixth grade. The curriculum is designed to create a foundation of academic skills, spiritual awareness and self-esteem. Our students are motivated to think, explore, examine and create.

The benefits of our school include:

- Secure and safe environment
- Experienced, certified teachers
- Exciting and challenging curriculum
- Developmentally appropriate programs for all ages
- Small classes, resulting in more individual attention
- Low student/teacher ratio
- High scores on achievement tests
- Accelerated Reading/Math programs
- Comprehensive computer, Spanish, physical education, art and music programs
- Chapel services and religious education

- Field trips and class excursions
- All day kindergarten
- “Explorations” program
- High level of parental involvement
- Many ‘extra’ events sponsored by the Parent Association

The faculty, Parent Association, and School Board work together to ensure that high standards are maintained, and that we continue to be a wonderful place for our children to learn and grow.

St. James Staff

Interim Rector

The Reverend Robin Reeve

robin@stjames-conroe.org

Deacon

The Reverend Phyllis Hartman

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Associated Clergy

The Reverend John. D. Worrell

Director of Music Ministries-Organist

Joseph Painter

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Director of Family Ministry

Jamie Murphy

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Director of Youth Ministry

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Office Admin. & Assistant to the Clergy

Kay Stevens

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