

The Informer

January 2025



MANIFEST
2025

Saint James Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

A "Matthew 25" Congregation

820 Ross Avenue • Greensboro, NC 27406 • 336-273-6658 • www.stjamespresby.org

"Touching Lives Through Jesus Christ!"

Reverend Dr. Phanta I. Lansden, Senior Pastor

Welcome to the PASTOR's Desk

Greetings Beloved!

I am immensely grateful for how God has moved among us during this beautiful Advent season and New Year. The Music and Liturgical Arts Department



blessed us with an extraordinary Christmas Program that truly captured the spirit of the season. Their hard work and dedication brought the message of hope, peace, joy, and love to life in a way that touched our hearts and glorified God. Thank you to every



singer, musician, and organizer who made this event such a meaningful part of our December worship.

I also want to thank the Presbyterian Men for their



steadfast service and fellowship during the Congregational



Breakfast. This gathering nourished us physically and spiritually, as we reflected together on God's goodness and the importance of community. Thank you for being a shining example of love in action.

December was a busy and fruitful month for Saint James. As we journeyed through Advent, we extended the right hand of fellowship to 3 new members, approved and voted on our 2025 budget, welcomed new officers to serve among us, and allowed the spirit of Advent to guide our worship and daily lives. We concluded our Bible Study and Wellness Wednesday programs for the year, which have been such enriching times of learning and

growth. ***These sessions will resume the first week of February***, and I look forward to diving back into God's Word and focusing on our well-being together.

Looking ahead to 2025, I am thrilled to announce our new theme: **Manifest**. This theme calls us to focus on achieving personal and congregational goals through prayer, action, and faith. It is an invitation to step boldly into God's plans for us, as individuals and as a church family, trusting that God will bring forth fruit in our lives and ministry.

Join me as we embark on this journey, beginning with the 7- Days of Spiritual Awakening, on Jan. 12-19th. Through this devotional time, we will draw closer to God and become more aware of God's voice and direction in our lives.

Let us expect marvelous things to happen in 2025. Together, we will ***manifest*** God's vision for our lives and church, knowing that all things are possible with God.

In Christ Love,

Pastor Lansden

Pastor's Contact Information:

Contact Information

Email: stjpastor820@gmail.com | Cell: 336-365-2805 | Church: 336-273-6658

Scheduling appointments

To schedule an appointment with Pastor Lansden please use the calendar link below.

www.calendly.com/plansden

Simply click on the link and choose the day and time that works best for you. You can also reach Pastor Lansden via cell phone, email, or call the front office to schedule an appointment.

Our Purpose Statement:

Saint James Presbyterian Church is a Christ-centered, missional church called to be relevant, spiritually healthy, inclusive, and dedicated to serving God & one another through vibrant worship and intergenerational ministry that glorifies God and transforms all things and all people.

Connect With Us!

Office Phone Number: 336-273-6658

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjamespresby

Follow us on Instagram: [@saintjamespresbync](https://www.instagram.com/saintjamespresbync)

Visit our website: www.stjamespresby.org

Join us for in-person worship!

Virtual service options are also available!

You can also join us live on our YouTube Channel:

[Saint James Presbyterian Church YouTube Page](#)

Facebook

www.facebook.com/stjamespresby

To visit our Facebook page:

or visit www.facebook.com

Go to the search bar and type in "St. James Presbyterian Church"

Click on the picture of our logo!

Visit our website to sign up for email updates.

www.stjamespresby.org

Meet the St. James Presbyterian Church Office Staff



Portia Griffin,
Office Manager/Pastoral Assistant



Aubrey Scruggs, Media Specialist



Elder Andrea Russell, Business Manager



Elder Karen Watts-Yehudah, Treasurer

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WORSHIP

Saint James worship services & shared community worship opportunities.

Order of Worship:

Countdown

Announcements

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

Prayer Response

Welcome/Greetings

Passing of Peace

Call to Offering

Offertory Prayer

Doxology

Sermonic Selection

Scripture Reading

Sermon

Holy Communion on First Sundays

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Benediction & Closing Song

January Participants:

Worship Leader:

Rev. Dr. Phanta I. Lansden

Worship Elders:

Elder Cynthia Latham

Karen Watts-Yehudah



Musicians

Mr. Shawn Gunthrop, Minister for Music

Dr. Ronald Campbell, Keyboardist

Mr. Nick Hayes, Percussionist

January Lectionary

Let's continue reading together! As we journey into the month of January, let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by reading the scheduled lectionary texts each week. The texts are listed below. Before you read each text, practice a few minutes of centering prayer to clear your mind. Pray for clarity and focus. While reading, physically or mentally take notes so that you can summarize what the scripture is saying. Finally, go back and pick out any themes or recurring ideas that may be relevant to your personal life, Saint James or the church at large. Close your reading time with a Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's word and revelation.

1st Sunday

2nd Sunday

3rd Sunday

4th Sunday

Ephesians 1:3-14

Acts 8:14-17

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a



WORSHIP *Saint James worship services & shared community worship opportunities.*

Serve Around the Church



Ushers

Would you like to serve on a phenomenal team? We are looking for volunteers to serve as Ushers for our Sunday morning services. Please reach out to any usher on Sunday or contact the church office for more details!



Choir

Can you sing? Join the choir! We are looking for people to share their musical talents with us. Choir rehearsals are held every Tuesday from 6-7 pm. See any choir or praise team member for more information on joining.

An interest meeting will be held on Feb. 2nd after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Come and learn more about the choir and the vision for 2025.

COMMUNITY *Saint James community happenings and highlights of the month*

WELCOME TO MANIFEST

Our new theme for 2025 is Manifest. This theme calls us to focus on achieving personal and congregational goals through prayer, action, and faith. It is an invitation to step boldly into God’s plans for us, as individuals and as a church family, trusting that God will bring forth fruit in our lives and ministry.

As we enter 2025, we will focus on ***manifesting*** the goals we established as a congregation in 2024. We will continue to grow together in faith, discipleship, and connection. We look forward to discovering what God will ***manifest*** through us in 2025.



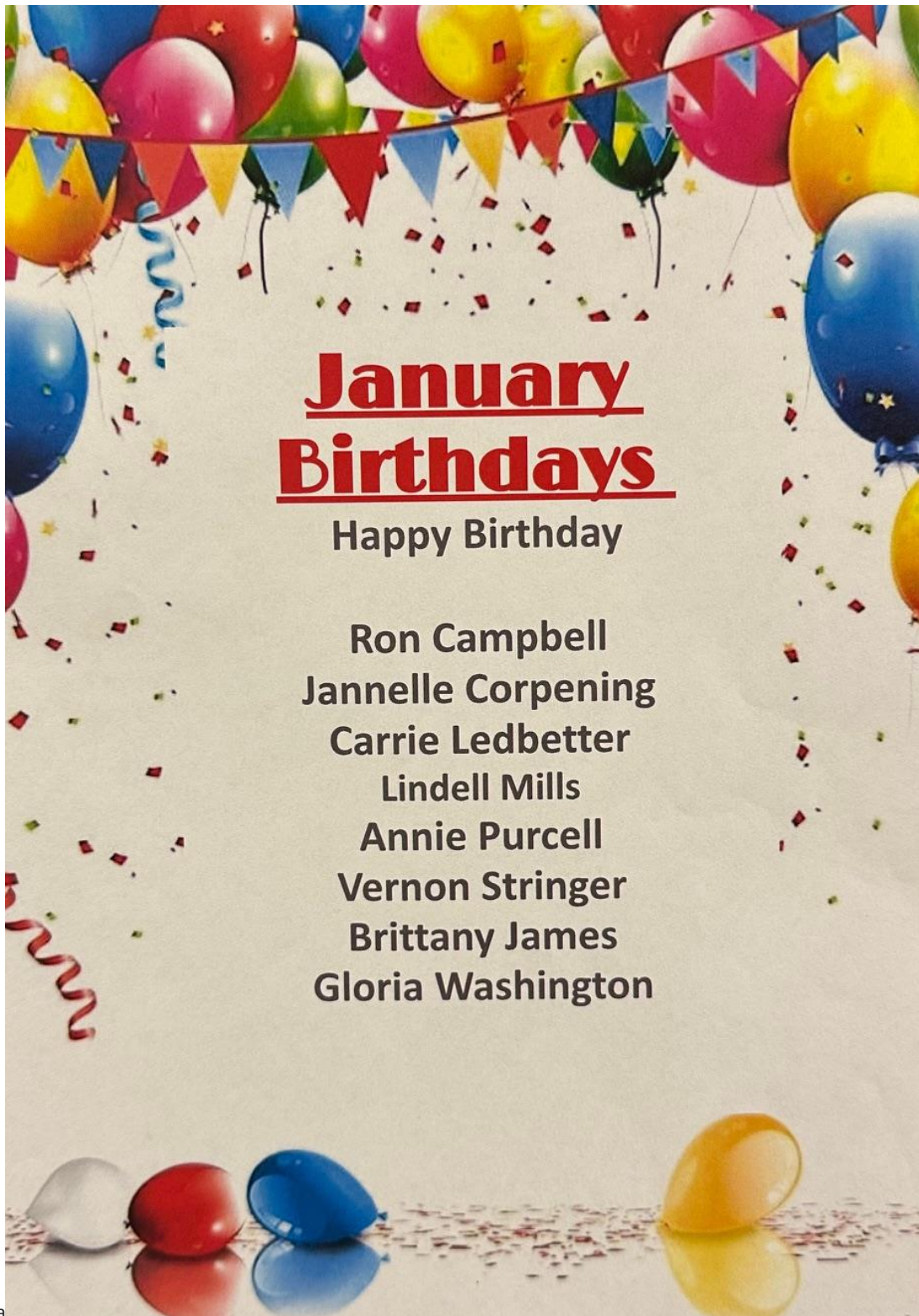
COMMUNITY *Saint James community happenings and highlights of the month cont*



This month, as you are grocery shopping, consider picking up a few extra items for our blessing box. The box provides essential items like food, toiletries, and other necessities for those in need. Donating Non-Perishable Foods like Canned goods, pasta, rice, and snacks is always appreciated. Contributing Toiletries such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products can make a big difference.

Every small contribution helps make a big impact. Let's come together to support our neighbors and show that we care! Drop off your donations at the front of the church or in the boxes in the Narthex and Simkins room. Thank you for your generosity!

COMMUNITY *Saint James community happenings and highlights of the month cont*



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Mission of the Month

Pathways Center

The Pathways Center, a program of Greensboro Urban Ministry, began operation in 1981. Pathways provides temporary housing for 16 families experiencing homelessness. Each family has a private living space, which includes beds, a kitchenette, and a bathroom. Families share a lounge, TV room, computer lab, laundry room, meditation room, and outdoor playground. Pathways' primary purpose is to provide families a safe environment while searching for other housing options. Families are not charged any fee to move in. This allows residents the opportunity to pay back bills and to save money for deposits. Families come to Pathways due to a variety of reasons, such as eviction from housing they could not afford, living in overcrowded or substandard housing, and domestic problems. During their stay, each family must participate in case management and establish a plan for housing stability.



DISCIPLESHIP *Sunday School, Bible Studies & Leadership Trainings*

The Sara Barber Circle are invited to study God's Word with the women and supporters of the Sara Barber Circle, Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 2:00 pm at the home of Dr. Adnee Bradford, 5202 Bayberry Lane in Greensboro with hostess, Dr. Althea Bradford. Lesson four entitled, Water Justice, is from the Horizon study guide, Let Justice Roll Down. All members will take a part in leadership of the lesson. Scripture readings are as follows: Genesis 1:2,6—9; 2:10; 3:17-19; 4:12; 5-6; 6-9; 7:17-24; 9:18-17; 12:10; 26:1; 42:5; 46. Looking forward to this time of study, fellowship and fun.

Linda Adams, Co-Moderator

The Essie B. Meares Circle will meet in the Conference Room, Saturday January 18th at 12 noon. Lindell Mills will be the leader for lesson 5 (Air Quality) and lesson 6 (Climate Change). We extend a warm welcome to visitors. Please contact the office for additional information. ***Thank you.***

Demetra Barnwell, Co-Moderator

Grace Brown Circle will meet on January 15th, 2025 at 12:45 pm in the Conference Room.

Katherine Moore and Marcia Bellamy, Co-Moderators

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation (PWC) and the Sara Barber Circle, remind members and friends of the annual MEMORIAL SERVICE to be held Sunday, January 12, 2025, during our 10:00 a.m. worship service in honor of the 5 members of our congregation who died in 2024.

DISCIPLESHIP *Sunday School, Bible Studies & Leadership Trainings cont*

The John Erwin Sunday School Class continues to use the Present World Adult Bible Lessons. The 2024 Summer Series speaks of ideas and situations that are in the news today. In the current study the authors use scripture to show how the thread of hope works in transforming the lives of the early Christian church. If you would like to join us, call the church office for a book 336-273-6658.

Elders Adnee Bradford, Marie Martin and Linda Randall, Co-Moderators



The Older Adult Ministry

We encourage you to update your contact information. If you need help getting to Sunday Worship, please call the church office by Tuesday of the week (336) 273-6658. COVID-19 is still with us; check your shot record.

Elders Marie Martin & Pauline McNair, Co-Moderators

For Older Adults who need assistance in the home

PACE of the Triad is still enrolling new participants. PACE provides medical care and support services to older adults. Services may include, but are not limited to, a health aide for those who qualify, medical transportation, medicines, supplies, therapy, respite, and an optional day program. If you or a loved one can benefit from PACE services, contact PACE at 336-550-4046 for a free assessment or more information. A doctor's referral is not needed. PACE of the Triad is located at 1471 E. Cone Blvd. Greensboro in the Roses Shopping Center. Schedule a tour or free consultation today. Call 336-550-4046 or visit the website www.pacetriad.org/help.

DISCIPLESHIP *Sunday School, Bible Studies & Leadership Trainings cont*

Presbyterian Men

The Presbyterian Men's Council will meet on the third Saturday of the month at 8am in the Fellowship Hall. ~Saint James Presbyterian Men~

Bob Powell, Moderator

SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MEN

OUR MISSION

The mission of Saint James Presbyterian Men's Ministry is to lead men into a vital relationship with Jesus Christ and to help them grow in their spiritual and personal lives.

WHO WE ARE

For over 150 years Saint James Presbyterian Men have been responding to the call of Jesus Christ, taking the gospel into the community and the world, bearing witness to Christ's saving love. Today the Holy Spirit is still present, calling us to share in what God is doing in our lives to make the world a better place for all people.

WHAT WE DO

- We involve Presbyterian Men in worship and service to God.
- We invite all men of the congregation and men from the community to worship.
- We fellowship, worship and support church activities.
- We support the ministries of Saint James and the greater church community.
- We train and develop Presbyterian Men to be leaders.
- We are active participants in numerous communities such as Nomination, Pastor Nomination, Social Justice, Bible Studies, Fund Raisers ...

Saint James Presbyterian Men are working to make better communities by strengthening the faith of our brother and sisters in Christ and to make new disciples in Christ.

Several Presbyterian Men have become ministers, including Rev. Dr. Carl Manuel, Rev. Jimmy Hawkins, Rev. Juan Guthrie and Rev. Rodney Collins.

CURRENT OFFICERS

Elder Robert (Bob) Powell	Moderator
Elder Charles Burns	Secretary
Deacon Gary Williams	Treasurer
Trustee Tommy Gillespie	Chaplin

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Former Moderators)

- Elder Charles Knox
- Elder James Neal
- Elder Jerry Young
- Elder Oscar Reid
- Deacon Freddie Click

ADMINISTRATION *Church Business & Officer Information*

Office Hours

The church office is open from 10:00am-5:00pm Monday - Thursday. Phone: 336-273-6658.

Monthly Informer Article Deadline

Please feel free to mail or e-mail: stjpresby@gmail.com. Articles can be sent prior to the deadline with the subject: **“February Informer.”** **The Final Deadline for articles is Monday, January 20, 2025, by 12:00 noon.**

Update on Printing through the Office

Implementation of copy codes and limits has been updated. There will be a cost for printing in the church office. Every ministry will receive a printing allotment for the year. Prints over the allotted amount will be billed to each ministry. Contact the office with any questions or concerns.

Due to the cost of printing, only **STJPC ministry-related photocopies** will be printed by the main office. Please adhere to the yearly allotment for each ministry listed below:

Yearly Allotment per Ministry: Black & White Copies: **100**, Color Copies: **100**

Printing Charges: Black & White: \$0.012 per letter-sized impression

Color: \$0.06 per letter-sized impression

Tabloid: Each 11x17 impression counts as two letter-size impressions.

Contact Information Updating

Have you moved? Changed your phone number? Did you know that you can send update your contact information anytime? Our contact information form is always available online. To fill out the form online, please click:

<https://forms.gle/ie6YDkwR4yqffr9c9>. Your information will remain confidential.

ADMINISTRATION *Church Business & Officer Information (continued)*

Congregational Care Ministry! This is an integral part of Saint James Presbyterian Church. The purpose of the Congregational Care ministry is to care for our congregation by providing presence, prayers, calls and cards during times of illness, medical procedures, health crisis, and transitions. Our Pastor is the primary provider for end-of-life care, bereavement, and funerals. Our Congregational Care team provides presence for ongoing care concerns. The foundation for this ministry is in scripture. Just as Moses was admonished to appoint elders to assist with the care of God’s flock (Exodus 18); and just as the early church provided people to care for widows as the apostles gave themselves to prayer and the teaching of the word (Acts 2), our church stands in a biblical tradition to commission people of faith to provide for the care of God’s people.

How does Congregational Care Work?

To help ensure that everyone has an Elder, including those on the Forget Me Not List, our congregation is divided into groups based on the first letter of your last name. Each member of the congregation has been assigned a Congregational Care team member as seen below. Some examples of when to contact the church include but is not limited to prayer, notice of a medical procedure or surgery, notice of a current or past hardship. Please call the church office at 336-273-6658 or email stjoffice820@gmail.com. The office will notify the Pastor and your Congregational Care Provider immediately. If there is an end-of-life situation, the Pastor is the primary provider. All information is private unless permission is given to share with the entire church during prayer and/or through the Forget Me Not list. The Congregational Care Team is eager to serve, so do not hesitate to share your need.

Congregational Care List 2024 (subject to change)

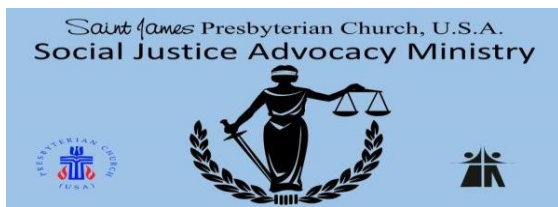
<u>Elders</u>	<u>Members of the Congregation</u>
Tyrone Collins	A, B
Cynthia Latham	C, D, E
Gloria Washington	F, G, H, I
Marcia Bellamy	J, K, L
Mildred Powell	M, N, O
Cynthia Latham	P, Q, R
Chuck Wallington	S, T
Marcia Bellamy	U, V, W, X, Y, Z

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY MINISTRY

Chairs, Lolita Watkins, Christina Yongue

Our Social Justice
the umbrella of the

Women’s Voting
since February of this



Advocacy Ministry under
Black & Brown

Initiative has been active
year. Our church

hosted the kickoff event of our voter engagement outreach and we have been meeting every month since that meeting. Our partners in in our voter campaign to educate, encourage, register, and provide assistance in getting our neighbors to the polls during early voting or on Election Day are our founding co-partner, Beloved

Community Center, Tau Omega Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Micah



Connections of Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Market Street United

Church, Bethel AME Church, Warnersville Neighborhood Community



Association, Advance Carolina, and the Greensboro Chapter of the Links,

Incorporated. Last month, we held a mini veggie mart. We were supplied with fresh produce by farmer and veteran Charles Lucas of Lucas Farm Fresh LLC. Extra produce was distributed to community friends and the Greensboro Urban Ministry.

FAITH POINT FELLOWSHIP *Young Adult and College Ministry*

Faith Point Fellowship (Young Adult Ministry)

Text FPF to 844-233-6202 and receive words of inspiration on Motivational Monday. If you are on FB, please join our chat group. Look for us on Facebook and Instagram social @FaithPointFellowship.

Internship Opportunities - Faith Point Fellowship will hire college students for the 2024-25 academic school year to serve as Evangelism Interns. Interns must be at least a sophomore in a local college with a B average and active in campus activities. Interns are expected to invite students to ministry events, assist in leading ministry activities, and identify community service projects for the ministry. For more information, contact Dr. Ina Siler at 551-655-4612 or email us at faithpointfellowship@gmail.com.



FORGET ME NOT LIST *Remember to pray for those who cannot attend worship*

Shaquille & Sheryl Davis	3938 Eastland Ave., 27401
Clarence Durham	3313 Janet Ln., 27405
Emily Goodman	Guilford Health Care Center, 2041 Willow Road, Greensboro, NC 27406
Shirley Barnes	2219 Lakeland Road, Greensboro, NC 27405
Willie “Peggy” Meachem	Call the church office
Oscar Reid	3834 Riceland Pl. Charlotte, NC 28216
Fannie Scales	Guilford House 5918 Netfield Rd. Greensboro, NC 27455
Amryl Ward	8100 Grahamson Ln. Charlotte, NC 28269
Katherine Maynard	412 Stewart St Greensboro, NC 27401
Mrs. Thelma Williams	1907 Belcrest Drive, Greensboro, NC 27406
Frank Woods	Moses Cone Health Rehabilitation Center 1121 North Church St. 4 West Rm. 16
Mrs. Margaret Spinks	4512 Lawndale Drive Apt. 244, Greensboro, NC 27455
Ms. Lynette Hawkins	C/O Fredericka Charity, 1212 Swan Creek Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

OUTREACH MINISTRY *We are busy serving the community- Join Us!*

Stephen Ministry

There are trained congregation members who can provide one-to-one care to those experiencing difficulties on life's journey.

Do you need someone to listen, to care, to encourage and to provide emotional and spiritual support? If so, please call a Stephen Leader: Adnee Bradford (336)202-6989, Yvonne Patterson (336) 375-0122, Cynthia Latham (336) 324-7252.

For at home care assistance, please see ***The Older Adult Ministry***

SJPC Housing Resource Directory

Housing Resource Directory

The committee created an online Housing Resource Directory that contains some community information to assist those in need of housing; home repairs; rental assistance; utility assistance; eviction assistance; and more. Click here [HousingDirect \(1\).xlsx](#)

Pathways Partnership

SJPC is now in partnership with Pathways to assist families moving from their transitional housing program to permanent affordable housing. Our church will assist families who need household supplies and move-in financial support as they transition to affordable housing.

Guilford County Schools Homeless Services & Community Support

As a member of the Interfaith Affordable Housing Initiative (IAHI) our SJPC Affordable Housing Committee collected Food Lion gift cards for children in Guilford County Schools experiencing homelessness. Special thanks to PWC, Presbyterian Men and others for making this a very successful project.

STEWARDSHIP *Monthly collection and stewardship opportunities.*

“... “Why is the house of God neglected?” Then I called them together and stationed them at their posts. All Judah brought the tithes of grain, new wine and olive oil into the storerooms.” Nehemiah 13:11b-12.

Your financial commitment to St. James Presbyterian Church in 2024 supported church leadership, staff, building maintenance as well as many ministries that work tirelessly to address the growing needs of our community. None of this could happen without the love you express through your giving.

We must work diligently at getting ourselves into “good trouble.”

For those of you who ***give online***, please indicate the nature of your ***Special Giving***.

Initial Offering is \$4.00

Per Capita is \$25.00

Offering Envelopes will be available on Sunday, January 19, 2025 in the George Simpkins Room.

Current SJPC Officers

Elders

Lucia Ward-Alexander – Discipleship

Marcia Bellamy – Fellowship and Congregational Care

Freddie Click- Trustee Liaison

Gary Halley – Assistant Clerk of Session

Dr. Vanessa Haygood – Outreach, Social Justice Advocacy and Emergency Assistance

Marsha Knox – Clerk of Session and Discipleship

Cynthia Latham – Worship and Evangelism

Mildred Powell – Outreach, Social Justice Advocacy, Emergency Assistance and Deacon Liaison

Chuck Wallington – Stewardship

Gloria Washington – Children, Youth, Young Adults and Deacon Liaison

Karen Yeduhah – Worship, Evangelism and Human Resources

Zaiah Wadelington- Youth Elder

Deacons

Melvin Alexander

Regina Artis, Co-Moderator

Charlene Bowden

Lula Burns

Russell Burris

Otelia Spinks-Finch

Cedric Jarman

Tracey Jarman, Co-Moderator

Ava Neal

Sonia Boakyewaa Osei-Okyere

Dr. Kim Pemberton

Dr. Ina Siler

Daydra Wilkes

Trustees

Demetra Barnwell
Terry Bellamy, Moderator
Brandon Herring
Stephanine Horton
Charles Knox
Carrie Ledbetter
Donald Lindsay
Marie Martin
Donald Miller
Saundra Peterson
Bob Powell
Annie Purcell
Eugenia Turner
Victoria Hardy - Youth Trustee



Matthew 25 in the PC(USA):

A bold vision and invitation

We are a Matthew 25 church!

Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31–46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus:

- Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed
- Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color
- Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor

To learn more and for ideas on how to get involved and do your vital part as a member of a Matthew 25 church, please visit pcusa.org/matthew25.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission