

# Other Ministry Opportunities



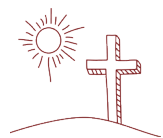
## Milestones

In addition to youth groups, Sunday school, and special ministry events, our children and youth ministries are intentional about supporting children and youth (and their parents) at key moments in their lives. These milestones, religious and developmental, are wonderful opportunities for our church community to shape and encourage the spiritual formation of our young people. We look forward to celebrating these milestones with you and your family as you grow up as a member of St. James's: new baby, baptism, Eucharist education, 5th grade bridge, confirmation, blessing of the keys, and senior blessing.



## Adult Volunteers are Always Welcome!

The children and youth ministries depend on the generosity of adult volunteers who give their time and talents to serve as role models for our children and youth. Volunteers help make these many programs a reality. If you feel called to work with children or youth or support these ministries from behind-the-scenes, we would LOVE to treat you to a cup of coffee and help find the right fit for you. You can also complete a Children & Youth Ministry Volunteer form.



## Pastoral Care

The clergy and church staff are here to support you and your entire family. Please let us know how we can be praying for you and supporting the needs of your family. We're never too busy for a pastoral call.



## Worship

One of the best things parents can do to encourage the spiritual formation of their children is to worship as a family. We often say that faith is caught, not taught. Worship is offered at St. James's at 7:45 am, 9:00 am, and 11:15 am.



## Boy Scout Troop 400

Boy Scout Troop 400 has been in existence for over 100 years and meets at St. James's. The Troop combines outdoor camping experiences with leadership roles and community service to develop and nurture responsible young adults - and have fun! For more information, contact Billy Parrish, Scoutmaster, at [bparrish400@gmail.com](mailto:bparrish400@gmail.com) or Tom Innes, Committee Chair, at [tom@tominnes.com](mailto:tom@tominnes.com).



## Young Family Socials

This year we will continue hosting monthly social for families to come together in a casual, supportive and fun environment. 'Young Family' means any family with children still living at home. These socials will be held in parishioner's homes on the second Saturday of each month. St. James's will provide lemonade, water, and some snacks, but feel free to bring a favorite beverage! If you are interested in hosting, please let us know and we can provide more information.



St. James's  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH + RICHMOND VA

2023-2024

# Children & Youth Ministry

September 2023

Dear St. James's Families,

As summer has come to an end and children have gone back to school, we have eagerly been preparing for the start of our program year. We are so excited to offer many ways for you and your child(ren) to get involved in St. James's, whether it is through children or youth ministry, intergenerational formation activities, service opportunities or having fun with each other at fellowship events. We hope you share in our excitement about our Children & Youth Ministry plans for the 2023-2024 program year.

We hope you will reach out to us if there is any way we can assist - whether it's scheduling a baptism, registering for one of our programs, helping with a pastoral matter or prayer request, or finding a volunteer role you can plug into. We're eager to get to know you better and would love to visit with you, whether in-person or over the phone.

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## It All Starts With Registration

Registering your child online achieves two things: It helps you learn about our programs in a timely way and it helps us support you in the most complete way possible. Our Children's Ministry is for children birth to 5th grade and our Youth Ministry is for 6th-12th grade teens. To register, go to: [bit.ly/sjecchildrenyouth](https://bit.ly/sjecchildrenyouth).

# Children's Ministry (birth to 5th grade)

## Sunday School Open House - Sunday, September 17

On Sunday, September 17, from 10:15 am to 11:00 am, children and parents are invited to meet their Sunday school teachers and learn about the year to come.

### Godly Play

This is a Sunday morning curriculum (from 10:15 am to 11:00 am) for young children (age 3–1st grade) that engages them in Bible stories and liturgical actions. Volunteer Godly Play storytellers present stories and parables and encourage children to wonder and respond to their stories.

### Growing in Faith

A Sunday morning program (from 10:15 am to 11:00 am) for children in 2nd–5th grades that uses a rotation model and a variety of modalities to engage children in Bible stories. Each lesson is presented for two or three weeks where the same story is looked at through the lenses of art, cooking, games, music, science and storytelling. This approach offers children multiple ways to connect to the Bible lesson.

### Nursery

Throughout the program year, our nursery is open on Sunday mornings from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm for infants through 4 year-olds.

### Children's Chapel on Sundays

This is offered each Sunday at the 9:00 service (during the sermon and prayers). It includes the Gospel reading, a brief children's sermon from our clergy, and favorite songs lead by Dr. Whitmire. Children's Chapel is best suited for children age 3–3rd grade.

### Baptism

Baptisms are offered as part of Sunday morning worship service most months (except during Lent or Advent). Especially appropriate dates for Baptism are the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (the first Sunday after Epiphany), Pentecost, and All Saints Day. For information about Baptisms contact Ashlee Ligon at [childrensministry@doers.org](mailto:childrensministry@doers.org).

### Choirs for Children of Every Age

There are choirs for every age, pre-K through high school. In choir, every child is able to find his or her voice so they can enjoy a lifetime of singing. Children learn how to be active participants in worship. They also learn teamwork, build lifelong friendships and become a member of a vibrant and close-knit community.

- Cherub Choir (pre-K–2nd grades): Sings at the 9:00 am service. First rehearsal: Wednesday, September 13, 4:00 pm
- Children's Choir (3rd–5th grades): Sings at the 9:00 am service. First rehearsal: Wednesday, September 13, 5:00 pm
- Youth Choir (6th–12th grades): Sings at the 11:15 am service. First rehearsal: Sunday, September 10, 12:30 pm

*To see everything we have planned, see the enclosed Children and Youth Ministry calendars.*



# Youth Ministry (6th to 12th grade)

The Youth Ministry at St. James's is so much more than just a "youth group." We nurture and engage 6th–12th graders, and their families, in all aspects of church and family life. And we offer service projects, social events, and retreats specifically for youth. We have a place for YOU, so come join the fun!

## Youth Ministry Fall Kick Off - Sunday, September 17

Youth and their parents are encouraged to gather together in-person for our Kick Off on Sunday, September 17, at 10:15 am, in Room 302 of Michaux House to meet the youth leaders and learn about all the youth ministry offerings this year. We hope to see you there!

### Sunday Youth Groups

We have two youth groups that meet most Sundays. Depending on the week, we may meet in the morning or at night, spend time inside or outside, discuss our faith or just socialize together. Come out and try the many different ways you can participate in youth group! Time spent together in youth groups is all about relationships – with each other and with God. We'll play games, build friendships, and grow in our faith together through stories and discussions, and put our faith into action through service projects.

- Junior Youth Fellowship, JYF, for middle schoolers in grades 6–8
- Senior Youth Fellowship, SYF, for high schoolers in grades 9–12

### Overnight Retreats and Lock-Ins

Retreats and lock-ins are a wonderful way to spend time together, do something new, and reflect on your journey with God. Our MLK Service Lock-in for grades 9-12 and Snowfest for grades 6-12 are two ways you can disconnect and spend time with your St. James's community.

### Summer Youth Missions

Mission experiences are a great way for youth and their adult leaders to be "doers of the word." Missions allow youth to grow in relationship with God, others, and themselves. And, they are a ton of fun! In 2024, St. James's will offer a Middle School Mission with Harvest of Hope and the High School Appalachia Mission.

### Confirmation

At St. James's we like to think of this religious milestone as "base camp" on your spiritual journey. It's neither your point of origin, nor your destination, but a place to rest, grow, and be equipped for your spiritual journey. Students, beginning in 9th grade, are eligible to participate. If 9th grade doesn't feel like a good fit, you're welcome to come back any time later in high school. Registration and detailed information for our youth confirmation process is now open and available on the church website for the for the 2023-2024 program year. Registration is open until September 18, 2023, and is available at [doers.org](https://doers.org).

### Join a Worship Ministry Team

Becoming an acolyte, lector, or usher is a great way to serve others, grow in your faith, and learn leadership skills within The Episcopal Church. We are so grateful to all our youth for serving in this important ministry. Any 5th–12th graders who are interested in training to become an acolyte, lector, or usher are welcome! Find details at [doers.org](https://doers.org).

