

# THE FISHERMAN

WE ARE A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF LOVING, CARING MEMBERS, WHO REACH OUT TO WELCOME OTHERS THROUGH SOCIAL ACTION, MINISTRY, AND INSPIRATIONAL, SACRAMENTAL WORSHIP.

## To Hell and Back

Perhaps it is appropriate that the history of hell is one of quiet contention. I am unaware of any schism caused by disagreements over the nature of hell, but throughout history, there have been many different understandings of what hell is, or even whether it is. Although nothing like hell is mentioned in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament), there is in Judaism a concept of *gehinnom* that goes back at least to the third century, when it is mentioned in the *Mishnah*, the first collection of rabbinic commentary. *Gehinnom* is something like purgatory in that the souls of people are cleansed there before going on to heaven. In the New Testament, on the other hand, several words have been translated as hell over the centuries. One is *hades*, which is the abode of all the dead, whether good or bad. In addition, Peter once uses the term *tartarus* (depths), which has been translated as hell. He writes: “. . . God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into *hell* and committed them to chains of deepest darkness to be kept until the judgment” (2 Peter, 2:4). By far the most common Greek word translated as hell is *gehenna* (related to the Hebrew *gehinnom*). This word is found twelve times, eleven of them in the words of Christ. Unlike the other terms above, *gehenna* is exclusively the abode of those who die apart from God. Punishment there is said to be eternal (Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9).

Despite Christ’s affirmation of *gehenna* as a place of eternal punishment, some Christians have questioned its existence, choosing to believe instead that all go to heaven. If this is the case, the question arises, why do we need to pray, go to church, and to cultivate love? One theory is that we are preparing ourselves to be welcomed to the party earlier. In other words, by growing closer to God through these practices, we advance our admittance to heaven.

Other theologians do not doubt the existence of hell, but believe that people enter of their own volition. C. S. Lewis famously wrote in *The Problem of Pain* that he thought the gates of hell were locked from the inside. It is not that we choose hell so much as that we choose a life separate from God, whether out of intent or ignorance, or some mixture thereof. In some ways, this view accords with reports of those having near death experiences. While dead, some describe being greeted by smiling, attractive beings who initially seem to offer something positive, but who lead them deeper and deeper into a dark place where lost beings make one another miserable. Once they return to life, they realized that those beings were offering what one might call earthly pleasures. The deeper into the darkness they strayed, the greater the torture. Some relate that they were saved once they called out for God’s help and forgiveness.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

At that point, they saw a light in the darkness and were whisked away through a tunnel into a place of peace and beauty.

I have known two people who reported near death experiences. One was my college advisor, a professor of religion, who recounted going straight to a place of great nurture from which he did not wish to return. Another was a young man, frequently in trouble, who died twice as a result of a single drug overdose, but eventually survived. When I responded to his mother's call and arrived at the hospital, the young man's body was an empty shell on full life support. His mother and I prayed, which the doctor affirmed was his only hope. At a certain point, his body suddenly jolted as if he had arrived back in it. He opened his eyes and stared wildly first at his mother, then at me before closing them again. Roughly ten minutes later, he opened them again, this time with a more stable though pained look. Gradually, he regained cognizance. After he recovered, he reported having gone to a place that was divided into seven regions. He did not know anything about the other six regions, but the place where he found himself was dark and gray. There, some people were praying, but God was not listening. He neither experienced nor witnessed any torture other than the painful absence of God. This was his first experience of God's utter absence, a feeling he had not imagined prior. He recalled no scene of judgment, but felt that he deserved to be where he was. It was not clear whether he was sent there or he wandered there because he was too lost to seek anything else.

Given these stories and what Christ said, it is possible that people become stuck eternally in the absence of God because of their own lack of prior connection, somewhat as Lewis envisioned. They live without God while alive, in other words, thus are tempted in the afterlife by the promise of meaningless earthly pleasures into a place where God is absent. There, they get stuck because there is nothing to remind them of the God of love on whom they turned their back. This answers the question above: if hell is a place where we go because we live and die apart from God, then the purpose for church and prayer and, in fact, our earthly existence, is to open our hearts to the love of God.

Farrell+

## Christian Consciousness Channel

Fr. Farrell would like to invite you to visit his YouTube channel, "*Christian Consciousness*." If you ever miss a sermon, please go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and check for weekly updates!



## A Voice from the Deacon's Bench



Dear Friends in Christ,

I have picked up Father Richard Rohr's newest book, *The Universal Christ*. On the back is a comment by Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael Curry. I hadn't noticed it before, because I had immediately paged through the contents of the book, and then sat down with my yellow marker and started to read and underline many of the paragraphs. I keep rereading several of the chapters so that I can study and digest and absorb them.

Father Rohr is a Franciscan priest, and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation ([www.cac.org](http://www.cac.org)). His teaching is grounded in the Franciscan alternative orthodoxy – practices of contemplation and self-emptying. Bishop's Curry comment is quoted here: *"Here Fr. Richard helps us to see and hear Jesus of Nazareth in what he taught, what he did and who he is: the loving, liberating and life giving expression and presence of God. In so doing, he is helping Christianity to reclaim its soul anew."*

Just to entice and give you an idea of Father Rohr's teachings, I have typed a few of his thoughts below.

*"You and I can reopen that ancient door of faith with a key, and that key is the proper understanding of a word that many of us use often but often too glibly. That word is CHRIST."*

*"What if Christ is a name for the transcendent within of every 'thing' in the universe?"*

*"What if Christ is a name for immense spaciousness of all true Love?" refers to an infinite horizon that "pulls us from within and pulls us forward too?"*

*"What if Christ is another name for everything – in its fullness?"*

Next time you are browsing the internet or stopping into your favorite bookstore, look for this book and take a few minutes to page through it. You might be intrigued!

*Blessings,  
Deacon Jean*

### **Editor's Note:**

*I am delighted to be able to resume the editorship of The Fisherman. Since Microsoft Word has decided, in its wisdom, to discontinue the Publishing Layout View for the Mac platform, I will be rebuilding the newsletter in QuarkXpress, so watch for an updated and improved layout in the near future. I look forward to serving you as we continue our journey of action, ministry, and worship.*

*Sincerely,  
Lisa Jennings*

## News From The Outreach Committee



Over the last couple of months, your Outreach Committee has been busy vetting eligible groups in need of funds for outreach assistance and hurricane relief. Those receiving monies have included:

- **Street Reach** (for help to those affected by Hurricane Florence),
- **SBIC Food Pantry** (for food purchase for those affected by the hurricane),
- **Brunswick Baptist Association** (for food and supplies for those volunteering to restore homes in Brunswick County affected by the hurricane),
- **Communities in Schools** (for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center, which provides after school science programs for Supply Elementary School students in Grades 3-5, and transportation, and for the Parenting Education Program that provides peer support for parents of 5-12 year olds, and grandparents raising grandchildren),
- **Samara's Village** in Southport (a program to assist pregnant and parenting teens living in Brunswick County), and
- **Angel Tree Camps** (which supports children in Grades 3-6 who have parents in prison to attend a week-long Christian retreat in the summer).

Our thanks to all who have donated funds so that we can help meet the needs of our communities!

*Gary Freeman, Deacon Jean Miller, and Anne Neely*



SUPPORT THE GIRLS

Through your generosity, St. James was able to donate 135 bras, 21 pair of underwear, 775 feminine hygiene products, and some miscellaneous toiletries to help homeless and financially challenged women and girls in Brunswick and New Hanover counties through a program called "Support the Girls." Thank you so much.

*Ruth Ann Campbell-Grothe, Coordinator*



Holy Stitches have started up again on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 pm, in the library. All are welcome to come!!

*Dawn Kellerman and Luvette Hickey*

## We Are Excited to Announce the Creation of a “Newcomer Ministry!”

People from all three services who might feel called to this ministry, please join us on June 6 at noon for a catered lunch and introductory video presentation of *Invite-Welcome-Connect*, a program of the Beecken Center of the School of Theology at the University of the South. Those who feel moved to continue will then meet for three subsequent Thursdays (June 13, 20, 27) at noon for more information, discussion, and planning. Please send an email or call Amanda to sign up.

—Fr. Farrell



Invite • Welcome • Connect



## Parish Summer Festivities!

### *Come to Dinner – Friday, June 21st*

It's time to celebrate summer! Be prepared to enjoy an evening of friendship, food, and music! The sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin table, and attendance is limited to 60 people. Dinner tickets will be placed in your mail slot.

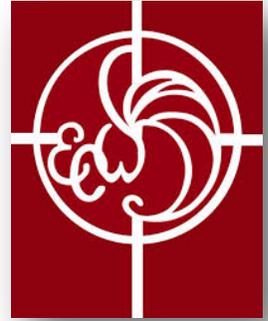
### *St. James Day Party Planning*

If you would like to help plan the gathering in celebration of St. James Day after the 10:00 am service, please contact Amanda in the church office.

## Opportunity Available

Amanda Leavitt, our temporary Administrative Assistant, has accepted an appointment as a Legal Adviser for a law firm in Myrtle Beach. We congratulate her and wish her well in her new assignment, and thank her sincerely for acting as temporary Admin until the church can find permanent personnel. If you know of anyone who could fill the position, please call Amanda at the church office, or send their resume to [stjames@stjamesthefisherman.net](mailto:stjames@stjamesthefisherman.net) Amanda will be in the office until a replacement is fully and properly trained for the job.

## ECW



Our Retreat to Trinity Center was held April 10-11. Twelve of us carpooled to Trinity Center and had a wonderful time. We stopped in Swansboro for lunch, and walked the streets on a gorgeous Wednesday before continuing on our way. We could see remains of damage from Florence in the village with tarps on roofs and closed shops still in need of repair. Once at Trinity Center, we walked the beaches and trails, again enjoying the sunshine. Some found the beaches, others the Stations of the Cross and others the new benches at Sanders Point. At mealtime, we could see for ourselves the repair work that had been done to the dining hall and other buildings. After our meeting we enjoyed a craft in the evening, making small crosses from plastic needlepoint frames and very narrow ribbon, along with all the goodies each of us brought to share. On Thursday we were able to have our service at Sanders Point, which had just finished being rehabbed after Florence's putting the point under 6 FEET of water last fall. Father Farrell joined us, conducting the service and enjoying lunch. We returned to church that afternoon. We signed paperwork and left our deposit for next year's retreat to be on April 1-2, again for 14 ladies. This fall we will be collecting a non-refundable deposit of \$30 of the \$85 reservation cost. By doing this, we hope to have some money to pay for not having enough registrants as we did this year - but we're REALLY hoping to have more than enough participants.

We ended our ECW year with our annual Spring Luncheon, held at the home of Toni DeLuca on May 8<sup>th</sup> with just under 20 in attendance. A fun time was had by all. We discussed the potential programs for the 2019-2020 program year, with all meeting dates set and planned out. Plans are in the works for a St. James Day celebration at the end of July. Look for more info at the date draws nearer.

We look forward to having everyone join us at meetings starting in September. Once they are finalized, our little program booklets will be available in the gathering area. Also look for sign-up sheets for meetings starting in August for September's meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> with representatives from Pawsability conducting the program.

See you in the Fall.

*Barb Freeman,  
2018-2019 ECW President*

## Celebrating Newcomers To the Parish Family

Over the past few months, we have continued to witness new people in our midst. So on **June 22 and 23**, we will once again conduct our Service of Welcome. It is always a joy to take this purposeful time to welcome new people who have made a decision to make St. James the Fisherman their community of faith and parish family. We invite those new in our midst to please fill out the form in the bulletin; noting your desire to be part of the Welcome service.



# The Sevenfold Gifts of the Holy Spirit



## Mary and Martha Chapter

In Chapter Three of our group study, *Continuing the Journey: The Spiritual Formation Guide*, we were reminded that the Holy Spirit endows all believers with gifts to be used for the common good. We learned that although we cannot choose which gift or gifts we would like, we can choose whether or not to use these gifts.

As Daughters, we are charged to discern what our individual gifts are, and how they can be used to participate in God’s plan for us and for His church. We learned that as we exercise these “Gifts of the Spirit,” we are blessed by the “Fruits of the Spirit” – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control – as evidenced in this poem by Helen Steiner Rice:

### Flowers Leave Their Fragrance on the Hand That Bestows Them

*There’s an old Chinese proverb that, if practiced each day,  
Would change the whole world in a wonderful way.  
Its truth is so simple; it’s so easy to do,  
And it works every time and successfully, too.  
For you can’t do a kindness without a reward,  
Not in silver nor gold but in joy from the Lord.  
You can’t light a candle to show others the way  
Without feeling the warmth of that bright little ray.  
And you can’t pluck a rose, all fragrant with dew,  
Without part of its fragrance remaining with you.*

– Helen Steiner Rice

*For His Sake,  
Annette Parsch*





The Mary and Martha Chapter  
of the Order of  
The Daughters of the King  
is pleased to announce  
the installation of  
The Rev. Farrell Graves, PhD  
as Chaplain  
at our March Chapter meeting.

*Magnanimiter Crucem Sustine*

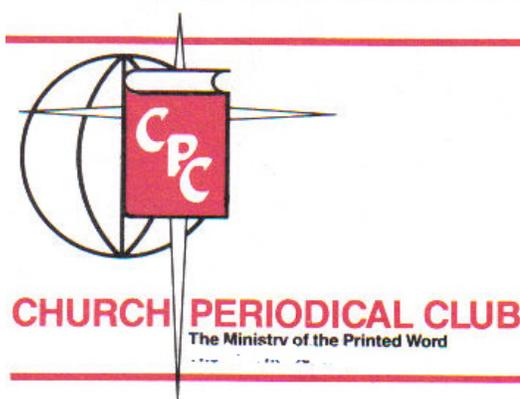


## Episcopal Farmworkers' Ministry

The ECW's Episcopal Farmworkers' Ministry support drive starts June 16th. We provide support to this Ministry by collecting clothing, bedding, toiletries, and canned and dried food. There is a list of items on the Farmworkers' table in the gathering area at church. They use single

size sheets, pillowcases, gently-used towels, blankets, and pillows. Some food items needed are canned fruit, canned tuna, canned vegetables, dried or canned beans, and rice. Paper products (plates, cups, napkins, etc.), baseball hats, garden gloves, and bug spray are also appreciated.

If you have any questions please call Barbara Bartell, 910-842-1865.



The Church Periodical Club's (CPC) Spring Ingathering was held the weekend of May 11 and 12, 2019. On behalf of the ECW, I would like to thank you for your participation in the CPC Spring Ingathering. We were able to send a total of \$272 (\$72 from Ingathering Weekend and \$200 from the ECW) to the Church Periodical Club to help them provide educational, spiritual, and liturgical resources to many communities in our nation and around the world. Part of the money collected locally will also be used for textbook grants to our diocesan seminarians. Thank you again for your support of this outreach ministry.

*Ruth Ann Grothe, Parish Representative*

## Altar Flowers

Each week the flowers on the altar add a beautiful touch to our Worship Services. Those dedicating them in honor, memory or thanksgiving of someone provide these flowers solely through donations to our Flower Fund. **Unfortunately we have a large number of weekends where either one or both of the altar vases have not been donated, which is depleting our backup Flower funds.** The cost is \$35 per vase and the sign up chart is located in Bliss Hall.



## From the Senior Warden

Believe it or not, we are getting closer to recovering from the hurricane. Bliss Hall is finally complete, just in time for the Daughters of the King's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Martha and Mary chapter. The inside of the church still has a few small areas that need attention, and our renovation company is aware of them. The new entry doors have been installed, and need to be painted. Father Farrell has picked out a blue shade to coordinate with our new roof. And our Treasurer, Jack McElroy, assures me that a check is on its way from FEMA and the State of North Carolina. But...just when things were looking up... an old water heater burst, and brought down part of the ceiling in the nursery. As we sought bids to replace it, we found that the wiring is old and out of code, and will need to be updated. Also, the main water supply from Main Street ruptured right after the plumber left. A big "Thank You" to our plumber, Tim, who quickly returned, shut off the water, and fixed the leak. Now that the front of the church can dry out the tree stumps that have been there since the hurricane can finally be removed. Junior Warden Tom Fernandez is on the job and we expect repairs of all the damage to be done by the end of May. Please don't shoot me, I'm only the messenger.

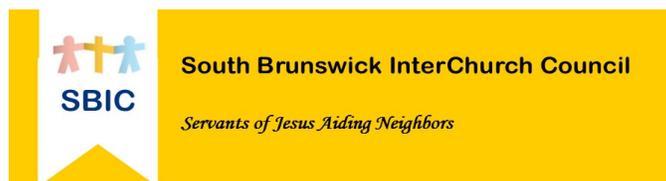


*Bob Lynott  
Senior Warden*

# Upcoming Events

## Long Range Calendar:

May 27	Memorial Day: office closed
June 9	Pentecost
June 21	Parish Summer Dinner
June 22-23	Service of Welcome
July 28	St. James Day



## SBIC CORNER

Ruth Ann Campbell-Grothe, the St. James Representative to the South Brunswick Interchurch Council (SBIC), attended the monthly meeting held on Monday, May 6, 2019, at Shallotte Presbyterian Church at 8:45 a.m.

One new member from Village Point UMC, Carol Graham, was present today.

Laura Hicks, Communities in Schools, Success Coach at Cedar Grove Middle School, was the guest speaker today. She currently works with 50 students with academic and behavioral issues. The mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Laura needs help with tutors, lunch buddies, etc. This would be a great volunteer opportunity, especially for former teachers. For more information, visit [cisbrunswick.org](http://cisbrunswick.org).

Jeanne Parietti made several announcements.

1. A letter was received from Shallotte First Baptist stating that they will no longer be a member of the SBIC. St. Brendan stopped their membership last month. We are now down to 14 churches in the SBIC.
2. Mitch Hewett has resigned as the SBIC Technology Coordinator. Ron Royster will be contacted about the position.
3. Tom Horan is recuperating from a severe fall from his bicycle. Keep Tom in your prayers for a speedy recovery.
4. The Sing Into Spring Concert scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> is cancelled due to lack of participation by the churches.
5. The quilt raffle winner was Lisa Piver of Soldier Bay Baptist Church. The raffle netted \$2,429.73. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets.
6. The SBIC received \$4,184 from the Lenten Lunches. Thanks to everyone who participated in these lunches.
7. The Shallotte Elks provided 100 Easter dinners at the SBIC Food Pantry valued at \$2,300.
8. The SBIC also received a \$1,000 grant from BEMC, and a \$7,000 grant from the Catherine Kennedy Foundation.

Mary Pritchard reported that the SBIC Food Pantry has served 717 children, 1,602 adults, and 1,077 seniors for a total of 3,396 January through April 2019.

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive by the Post Office will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to pick up the food from the Shallotte Post Office on Monday, May 13, and take it to the SBIC storage facility.

Ruth Ann, Nominating Committee Chairperson, presented a slate for vote at the June meeting. There were no nominees for Vice President, and Paul Carmen agreed to serve another term as Treasurer. Jeanne Parietti's term as Recording Secretary does not expire until 2020. The positions of President and Vice President remain vacant. Contact Ruth Ann if you might be interested.

We will discuss the future of the CROP Hunger Walk, whether we should continue with CWS or go it alone, along with other fundraisers at next month's meeting.

The next SBIC General Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2019, at Shallotte Presbyterian Church at 8:45 a.m. All are welcome.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ruth Ann or Bill Grothe, your St. James Representatives, at 910-575-1247 or at [no1nanie@atmc.net](mailto:no1nanie@atmc.net). Until next month...



## Quilt Winner Announced

The winner of the 80" x 96" queen size quilt made and donated to the SBIC by the Brunswick Quilters Guild in Shallotte was Lisa Piver (center) of Soldier Bay Baptist Church. All proceeds (\$2,429.73) go to the SBIC Food Pantry and Emergency Aid. Thank you to everyone at St. James who purchased tickets.

*Ruth Ann Campbell-Grothe,  
St. James SBIC Representative*

## Quarterly Contribution Statements

Covering the period 1/1/19-3/31/19 have been placed in your boxes or mailed. Questions: contact the Treasurer at milfordjac@aol.com. Please include check #, date & amount in your message.

**CONTRIBUTION  
STATEMENTS**

### *Farewell to Connie*

Connie Esposito, Administrative Assistant at St. James, retired on May 7, 2019. On Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, the congregation held a reception after the 10:00 a.m. service to honor Connie's service to St. James. We wish her well in her retirement.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Jun 2 Tom & Marg Smicklas  
 Jun 3 Aram Noorigian  
 Jun 4 Ed Clark, Georgia Dalzell  
 Jun 5 Michael & Jo Ann Grasso  
 Jun 6 Peggy Haughey  
 Jun 7 Ed Strapp, Vicki Kay  
 Jun 8 Clint & Carolyn Felton  
 Jun 10 Susan Kubley, Janice Spessard  
 Jun 13 Thomas & Ruth Fernandez  
 Jun 14 Ginny Coltharp  
 Jun 15 John & Janice Spessard  
 Jun 17 Cai & Barbara Raber, Ruth & Thomas MacDonald  
 Jun 18 Kathleen McDonald, Ken & Georgia Dalzell, George & Audrey Werner  
 Jun 19 Rowena Sewell, Elizabeth Ledford, Janet Thompson  
 Jun 22 James & Peggy Haughey  
 Jun 23 Deacon Jean Miller, Jonathan Freeman, Matt & Kathy Sanchez  
 Jun 24 Larry & Diana Eldridge  
 Jun 25 Rick Coltharp  
 Jun 26 James Horn  
 Jun 28 John & Patricia Nunnenkamp  
 Jun 30 Jill Horn

## Directory of Ministries

### WORSHIP - Vestry Liaison - J. Winnie

Coordinators -  
 Acolytes - P. Bertelsen  
 Altar Guild - Individual Team Leaders  
 Daughters of the King - K. Roberts  
 Eucharistic Ministers - R. Fernandez  
 Eucharistic Visitors - Deacon J. Miller  
 Music - M. Smicklas  
 Newcomers/Greeters - K. Crane  
 Nursery - V. Redin  
 Ushers - B. Chase

### PROGRAMS - Vestry Liaison - B. Chase

Christian Education - Father Farrell Graves  
 ECW - B. Freeman  
 Coffee Hour - Weekly Hosts  
 Foyer Groups: R. Fernandez  
 Quarterly Parish Dinners - B. Chase  
 Special Projects - P. Bertelsen  
 Holy Stitches - D. Kellerman  
 Bridge Group - B. Bartell

### OUTREACH - Vestry Liaison - Gary Freeman

Angel Tree - Daughters of the King  
 BFA Food Pantry - Second Helpings Volunteers  
 Communities In Schools - Daughters of the King  
 ERD - *Volunteer Needed*  
 Inter-church Council - B. & R. Grothe

Lobster Sale - B. Chase, J. Washington, J. Kellerman  
 Neighbor to Neighbor - Deacon J. Miller  
 Second Helpings- S. & G. Weber  
 UTO/CPC - ECW Coordinators

### ADMINISTRATION - Vestry Liaisons

Endowment - Vestry Liaison - A. Leavitt,  
 Members B. McLennan, M. Ligon  
 Stewardship - Vestry Liaison - J. Parsch,  
 Coordinator - B. McLennan

### COMMUNICATIONS/DEANERY- Vestry Liaison - N. Dougherty

### BUILDING & GROUNDS - Tom Fernandez

Fisherman Newsletter - L. Jennings

**St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church**  
**P. O. Box 68, 4941 Main Street**  
**Shallotte, NC 28459**  
**910-754-9313**

[stjames@stjamesthefisherman.net](mailto:stjames@stjamesthefisherman.net)

The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving - Bishop  
 The Rev. Farrell Graves, Ph.D., Rector  
 The Rev. Jean Miller, Deacon  
 The Rev. Michael Ligon, Deacon  
 Rev. Dr. Richard Warner, Jr., Rector Emeritus  
 Paul Bertelsen, Verger

## Worship Services

### Sunday:

Holy Eucharist: 8:00 a.m.  
Choral Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.

### Saturday:

Holy Eucharist: 5:30 p.m.

## Vestry

Bob Lynott	Senior Warden
Tom Fernandez	Junior Warden,
	<i>Buildings and Grounds</i>
Bill McLennan	Junior Warden,
	<i>Administration</i>
Jack McElroy	Treasurer
Toni DeLuca	Clerk of the Vestry
Nancy Dougherty	Amanda Leavitt
Bill Chase	Joyce Winnie
Jim Parsch	Gary Freeman

*Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2*

ST. JAMES  
 THE FISHERMAN  
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH

P. O. Box 68  
 Shallotte, NC 28459