



FOREVER FAMILY

The Episcopal Church of St. James the Less



A Word from the Rector: Harmony

Music has a way of bringing people together, offering consolation and inspiration, and reaching through even the hardest places to let in light. It can steady us or stir us, soothe or awaken. It draws our attention—gently and insistently—toward God, toward beauty, toward what matters most. And it gives voice to what we sometimes cannot say ourselves—feelings still waiting for words. A good song at the right moment can make us think, “Yes—that’s it. I’m not alone.”

Music reminds us that we are never alone. Like incense, it surrounds us—an unseen presence that lingers and holds us. Those who sing in the choir know this deeply: the quiet companionship that forms when voices blend. A choir becomes its own kind of family—an offering of support, and a place where each person’s gifts can be shared.

Not a Sunday goes by without a moment when I look up at the choir and feel grateful—for God, for beauty, for the gift of being gathered. I am especially grateful to our choir members, musicians, and their faithful leader, Josh Langhoff, who lead us into moments that lift us beyond ourselves.

Music does this—it draws us into communion with one another and with the One who created us. And it continues to draw people into this community—not only on major holidays, but through offerings like Beatles Mass and Soul Mass, where people find connection, meaning, and joy.

It is a generous gift, offered week after week, to all who hear it—whether in the pews or from afar.

*“It is the swell of music
that fills the rafters
and our chests—
notes rising like prayer,
like gratitude,
like joy too full to keep quiet.
We sing, and somehow
our separate lives
find harmony.”*

— from a poem by Brian Donnelly

Giving Update

The **2026 Montross Match**—honoring Phil and Meredith by doubling new or increased gifts up to \$25,000—sparked a generous response. About half of our households increased their giving, with nearly 70 pledges totaling over \$300,000.

Even so, nearly 70% of households rely on shared support to meet the full cost of ministry. In 2025, the average cost per household was \$4,300.

Phil’s life reflects what this support makes possible—community, faith, and belonging. Your gift helps ensure St. James remains a place of welcome, care, and connection for all who seek it.

Scan the QR code
to give now.



Forever Family is a publication for anyone touched by St. James the Less and forever changed by it. We hope you will enjoy this way of staying connected to the Body of Christ that is our church. **Please send updates on your whereabouts, a book you enjoyed, or a recipe you love to our editor-in-chief Nancy Whiteman at ngw545@me.com.**



ST. JAMES THE LESS: OUR MUSICAL HOME

by Josh Langhoff, Director of Music

“Singing is not only a transcendent form of worship— it embeds God’s truth deep within us, body and soul.”

One of my seasonal jobs is playing piano for student soloists at contests. During several weekends this past February, I hosted a parade of middle- and high-school musicians through our living room for 15-minute practice sessions. When these visitors, usually the parents of the middle-schoolers, surveyed the room — with my grandpa’s dulcimer hanging on the wall, Lea’s cello resting on the floor, Lyra’s trumpet sitting wherever she last played it — they’d sometimes say things like, “Wow, you have a musical home.”

Comments like that make me feel happy, because I love our musical home, and lucky, because Lea and I don’t think we’ve gone out of our way to make our home musical. Our kids might say otherwise, but we’ve been pretty low-pressure about getting them to play music. It’s come down to a two-step process. Step 1: We enjoy music around our children, both listening and playing, in a wide variety of styles. Step 2: When they’ve shown interest, we’ve encouraged them by paying for instruments and lessons, and by spotting music-making opportunities for them.



I feel just as happy and lucky to have found a rich musical home at St. James the Less. Our parish is full of people who love to sing, play, and listen to music, in a wide variety of styles. Our most recent Favorite Hymn survey included the super-Anglican “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God,” the none-more-Lutheran “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” the spiritual “There Is a Balm in Gilead,” the modern Catholic “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace,” and the evangelical praise song “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord, O My Soul).”

“I get chills when we sing ‘Covenant Hymn’ and I get great memories of my Southern roots when we sing ‘Lead Me, Guide Me.’”

– Kathy Roane, choir member



“I always feel inspired singing ‘I Am the Light of the World’ for the Gospel acclamation — a hopeful reminder that we are not walking in the dark!”

– Betsy Kivetz, choir member

I try to program at least one survey song every Sunday. Fortunately, SJtL has great hymn-finding resources. Besides our trusty pew hymnals, we subscribe to three different databases that let us print hymns in our worship bulletins. Last Sunday we used all three! The gospel hymn “Lead Me Guide Me” is in the RiteSong database, which contains the contents of the other six(!) Episcopal hymnals. The call-and-response “Return to the Lord” is in OneLicense, which covers Catholic and mainline Protestant publishers. And the catchy setting of Psalm 23 came from SongSelect, used by churches that favor contemporary praise and worship music.



“Gabriel Fauré’s ‘Cantique de Jean Racine’ got me on a journey to recall and improve my rusty French.”

- Kathleen Clevon, choir member

“I’ve always loved singing ‘Silent Night’ on Christmas Eve. Singing it now at SJTL, and seeing kids take part in the same tradition, makes it especially meaningful.”

- Milena Cruz-Garbo, Choral Scholar



“My favorite song that we’ve sung in church this past year was ‘Come, Jesus, Come.’ It is a gospel song that spoke to my heart. In a time of such conflict in our world, I am hoping and praying for God to come into our hearts and heal us.”

- Colleen Schipfer, choir member



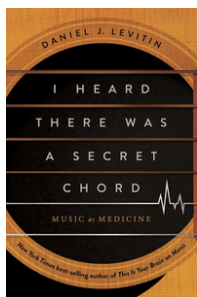
GROWING FAITH THROUGH MUSIC

Last September we started a Thursday morning music class, the St. James Jamboree, for preschoolers and toddlers. It’s a hoot! If you’ve ever tried to engage a room of little kids, you know it’s like herding butterflies. But they remember the songs we sing! I’ve gotten reports of kids singing our Jamboree theme song during the week, and of their grown-ups being blindsided by “Arky Arky.” These songs include the lines “God loves you and me” and “Rise and shine and give God the glory glory!” – two messages well worth carrying through life.

Our Jamboreers have already helped lead a song, “This Little Light of Mine,” in worship, and I hope they’ll grow up knowing SJTL as a place that cares about them and has a place for them. Many of you know I grew up in a Lutheran church – my dad was the pastor – and from an early age I’d memorized all sorts of worship music. Sunday school and church camp songs, yes, but also parts of the liturgy like the Gloria and the Sanctus. Our worship songs carry us through our week, and when we return to church on Sundays, they make our parish feel like home.

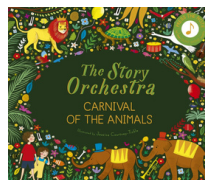
THE READING CORNER

Please let us know if you have an inspiring book to recommend for us to share in the next issue!



I Heard There Was a Secret Chord By Daniel Levitin

Feeling blue? Feeling dreamy? Feeling full of love or broken-hearted? There's a piece of music for every mood. Wondering how something as deeply emotional and intimate as music connects head and heart to heal what ails us? This elegant study from an acclaimed neurosurgeon is the place to start.



The Story Orchestra Carnival of the Animals By Katy Flint

Discover the magical world of Carnival of the Animals in this musical reimagining of this celebrated suite for children – push the button in each breathtaking scene to hear the vivid sound of an orchestra playing from Camille Saint-Saëns' score.

GRASSHOPPER PIE



Cookie Crust

18-20 chocolate wafers*
1/8-1/4 lb. butter

Filling:

½ cup of milk
20 marshmallows (big not jumbo size)
½ pint heavy cream
3 tablespoons Crème de menthe
and crème do cocoa
Chocolate shavings or shots

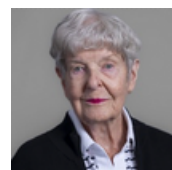
For the Cookie Crust:

Melt the butter, crumble the cookies as fine as you want. Mix together and press into a greased 9" pie plate. Chill.

For the Filling:

In a double boiler (heat do not boil) 1/2 cup of milk, add 20 marshmallows and stir until melted. Cool slowly and thoroughly.

Whip a 1/2 pint heavy cream until stiff. Add 3 generous Tablespoons each of green Crème de menthe and white creme de cocoa. Fold into cooled marshmallow mixture thoroughly and pour into pie crust.



Recipe by
Marcia Patterson

Finishing Touches:

Decorate with chocolate shavings or shots. Chill at least several hours but I prefer to make the day before.

A family favorite!!

**Since they no longer make the wonderful Nabisco chocolate wafers, Jewel sells a smaller chocolate cookie made by Dewey. If you increase the number of cookies you use, it'll be fine.*

I'm not sure they make double boilers anymore, so I put the marshmallows and milk in a pot and then put that in another pot of water to slowly heat.

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