

2010

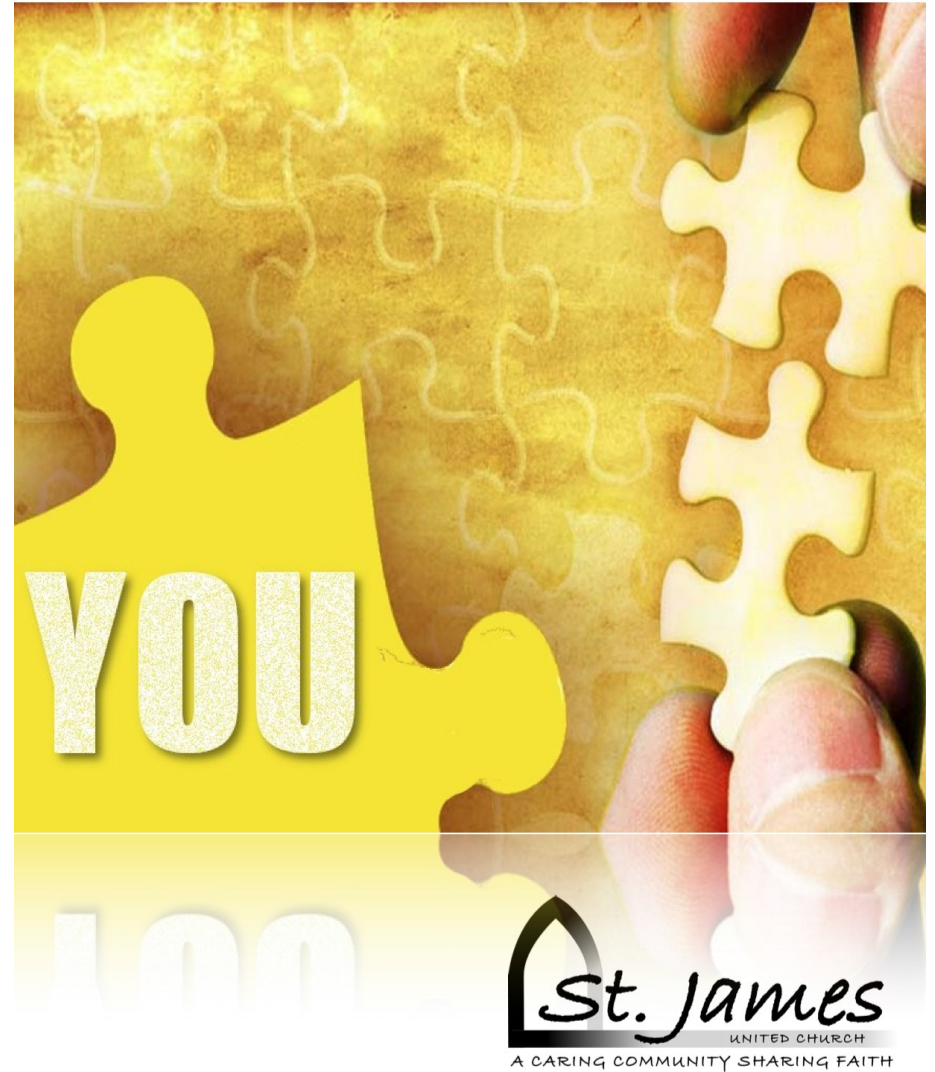
# Ministry Opportunity Guide

## **OUR MISSION**

*We faithfully respond to God's love by encouraging others to know Christ, through worship, service, education and prayer.*

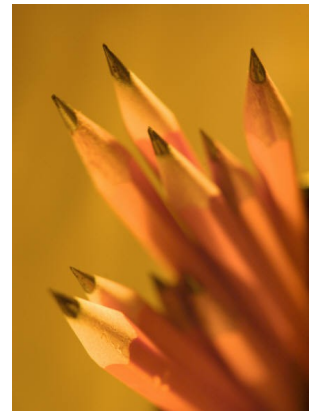
## **OUR VISION**

*We respond to God's calling to be an accepting and growing Christian Community, experiencing Jesus Christ, and reaching out in His Love; impacting Waterdown and beyond.*



**St James United Church**  
306 Parkside Dr, Waterdown, Ontario L0R 2H0  
905-689-6223  
stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca  
www.stjameswaterdown.ca

# NOTES



## REFLECT & RESPOND

Volunteering can be rewarding if you are careful to commit to something that fits well with who you are – your abilities, experiences, gifts, and passions. To help you process what you have just read, we invite you to sit down with a cup of coffee and reflect on some of the following questions:

- What types of things are you good at?
- What causes are you passionate about?
- What skills do you bring from your job?
- What training or education might you have to contribute?
- What experiences have you had?
- What do you think your spiritual gifts might be?  
See the lists in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12 for ideas.
- What time availability do you have?
- What would you most like to explore?  
What options from this book most resonate with your heart?

*When considering an opportunity, the most important thing you can do is to pray about it! Then, if you decide to try something out, contact the person listed for the ministry you are interested in.*

If you are unsure about committing, remember, it never hurts to try something once! Even short-term commitments can give us a glimpse into who we are and what God might be calling us to do.

We trust that your experience will be fulfilling and rewarding. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

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Welcome to ministry at St. James!

St. James has a vision: *We respond to God's calling to be an accepting and growing Christian community, experiencing Jesus Christ and reaching out in His Love, impacting Waterdown and beyond.* It takes many different people and many different ideas to help that vision to become a reality. The apostle Paul says, "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ" (1 Cor 12:12). Each person is unique, and each is necessary to the functioning of the entire body.

Whether you're new to the church or a long-time member, there are plenty of ways in which you can be involved. Each person brings different skills, talents, gifts, experiences, and passions to the table. Perhaps you are still exploring what some of those are. We invite you to explore with us! This guide is your map to help you navigate your way around the opportunities regularly available at St. James. We hope that it will be a valuable resource for you as you seek to discover your gifts and join us in ministry.

This guide is structured around key aspects of early church life (see Acts 2:42-47): worshipping, growing, connecting & reaching, caring, and serving. And we've added some others: communicating, leading and supporting. Sometimes, some of the opportunities fit under more than one category. And that's okay! It shows how all of the parts interconnect and depend on one another.

The opportunities in this guide generally progress from items requiring minimal time commitment to those involving greater commitment and responsibility. Feel free to have a look at those opportunities that fit best with your availability and life stage. At the end of the guide (p. 23), we invite you to reflect on and respond to what you have read. You might also find that you have a passion or an interest that is not listed. Please come and share your ideas or passion for new ministry with us!

## LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Our ministries could not function without strong leaders who are committed to encouraging, supporting, and enabling others to use their gifts for ministry.

### **Team Leaders**

Our Ministry Teams and Support Teams need people who will dream visions, seek God's mission, and empower others. Team leaders are primarily responsible for recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers, facilitating meetings, and being the liaison between the team, the congregation, and the Executive.

### **Board and Executive Chair**

Our Board/Executive Chair is responsible for calling and presiding over meetings of the Official Board and Executive Team and is the liaison between the congregation and the church governing bodies.

### **Vice-Chair**

Leaders should not lead alone! The Vice-Chair is someone who partners with and assists the chair, filling in as needed. The Vice-Chair is also training to be the next Chair.

### **Secretary to the Executive and Official Board**

The secretary of the Executive Team and/or the Official Board is responsible for taking minutes and distributing them to Executive/Board members.

### **Representatives to Presbytery**

Two members of the congregation act as the liaison between Halton Presbytery, our local area church governing body, and the Board/Executive Team of St James.

### **Stewardship Team**

Our Stewardship Team encourages us to give generously of our time, talents, and treasures to further God's work at home and in the global community. They also educate the congregation about the financial needs of the church.

*For more information about Stewardship at St. James, please contact Diane & Tom Ferns 905-690-1294 [dferns@cogeco.ca](mailto:dferns@cogeco.ca) [tferns@cogeco.ca](mailto:tferns@cogeco.ca)*

### **Finance Team**

The Finance Team manages the financial affairs of the Church and coordinates the preparation of the annual budget.

*For more information about the Finance Team, please contact Wayne Couch 905-689-8906 [wpcouch@sympatico.ca](mailto:wpcouch@sympatico.ca)*

### **Ministry and Personnel Team**

This team supports, consults, and assesses the work and interrelationships of all employees. It is the liaison between the staff, the board, and the presbytery.

*For more information about the Ministry and Personnel Team, please contact Ken & Caroll Collins 905-659-6036 [collins@ispnet.ca](mailto:collins@ispnet.ca)*

### **Executive Team and the Official Board**

The Executive Team is the managing body of the church. It meets monthly and is comprised of leaders from the ministry and support teams, a chair person, and a secretary. The executive reports to the Official Board. The Official Board meets quarterly and is responsible for visioning and setting church policies and procedures.

*For more information, please contact Ruth Nicholson 905-689-7554 [ruth.nicholson@sympatico.ca](mailto:ruth.nicholson@sympatico.ca)*

If you are unsure who to contact, or have any other questions about ministry at St. James, please feel free to contact me at 905-746-8051; [josephine@stjameswaterdown.ca](mailto:josephine@stjameswaterdown.ca) or Wendy in the church office at 905-689-6223; [stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca](mailto:stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca).

We look forward to journeying in ministry with you, as together we seek to live out God's vision for St. James!

Josephine,  
Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries



## **WORSHIPPING: SUNDAY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Worship is an important part of our life together and Sunday mornings offer excellent opportunities to be involved in a variety of ways with minimal time commitment. Whether you attend the contemporary service or the traditional service, each offers similar opportunities. Please consider one of the following in the service you attend.

### **Nursery**

In order to make sure that we encourage everyone to attend and participate fully in our services, we staff a nursery for infants and toddlers. Often at special events a nursery is necessary as well. Anyone who enjoys working with young children is encouraged to help our nursery attendant, Frieda Hone.

### **Greeters**

Greeters are important because they are the first to meet newcomers and help them to integrate into our community. Whether you are new to St. James or have been here for a while, you can become part of this ministry. Someone coming in discouraged would welcome your warm smile.

*If you would like to be a greeter, please contact Grace Boogers (traditional service) 905-335-8308 [gboogers@cogeco.ca](mailto:gboogers@cogeco.ca) or Connie Moore (contemporary service) 905-690-3708 [haniconn@hotmail.com](mailto:haniconn@hotmail.com)*

### **Scripture Readers**

In the Traditional service, scripture readers are needed every Sunday. If this is your first time volunteering for this service, there is coaching available to try the microphone beforehand. Readers are also used in special services throughout the year, in the summer, and sometimes, in creative ways, in the Contemporary service.

*If you would like to read the scripture in the traditional service, please contact Anne Thomson 905-689-8279 [thomsona@cogeco.ca](mailto:thomsona@cogeco.ca)*

### **Work Groups**

A 'Fix-it' group meets weekly to work on various repair and maintenance projects around the church. Although responsible to the Property & Grounds Committee, this group functions more like a fellowship group. Other groups are created as the need arises for small projects around the church, for example painting, leveling the parking lot, and shoveling.

*For more information about Work Groups at St. James, please contact Dave Sindrey 905-689-7081 [davesindrey@yahoo.ca](mailto:davesindrey@yahoo.ca)*

### **Communications Team**

Communication is a vital and necessary aspect of congregational life. If you have ideas to improve the ways in which we communicate to each other and to the community, the Communications Team welcomes you!

*For more information about the Communications Team, please contact Shelley Armstrong 905-690-7482 [shelleya@execulink.ca](mailto:shelleya@execulink.ca) or Wendy Thomson in the church office 905-689-6223 [stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca](mailto:stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca)*

### **Volunteer Enablement Team**

The Volunteer Team encourages people to find the place where their passions and gifts are utilized. Their current focus is to evaluate how we as a church are functioning, and how we might best equip and support our volunteers in all levels of ministry.

*For more information about the Volunteer Enablement Team, please contact Josephine Braun 905-746-8051 [josephine@stjameswaterdown.ca](mailto:josephine@stjameswaterdown.ca)*

### **Nominating Team**

The Nominating Team helps to fill leadership vacancies by carefully considering the needs of the congregation and the gifts, skills, and time commitment of volunteers.

*For more information about the Nominating Team, please contact Craig Boogers 905-335-8308 [cboogers@cogeco.ca](mailto:cboogers@cogeco.ca)*

## SUPPORTING

St. James depends on a variety of ‘behind-the-scenes’ teams to support its ministries. These teams are the structural pillars of ministry at St. James.

### Archives

The Archives Team is responsible for the storage and maintenance of all materials pertaining to the history of St. James United Church.

*We are currently looking for an Archivist! Please contact the church office.*

### Property and Grounds Team

The Property and Grounds Team is responsible for the care, maintenance, and condition of all buildings and grounds belonging to St. James.



*For more information about the Property and Grounds Team, please contact Dave Sindrey 905-689-7081 [davesindrey@yahoo.ca](mailto:davesindrey@yahoo.ca) or David Rice [drice1@cogeco.ca](mailto:drice1@cogeco.ca)*

### Building Enhancement (Memorials and Décor)

This team is responsible for creating a welcoming environment through managing the interior décor of the Sanctuary.

*For more information about the Building Enhancement Team, please contact David Sindrey, 905-689-7081 [davesindrey@yahoo.ca](mailto:davesindrey@yahoo.ca)*

### Ushers

Helping people to feel welcome, to find a seat and directing those with children to child care or to the BLAST program are all very necessary and important parts of both services. Ushers also take up the offering. They are alert to any needs in the Sanctuary or Hall and in the rest of the building. This is another good starting place for service.

*If you are interested in ushering, please contact Bryan Krueger, 905-304-1430, [bkrueger@lara.on.ca](mailto:bkrueger@lara.on.ca)*

### Drama Opportunities

We have people who love to worship and express their feelings in drama. This interest may be acted out in dramatic readings, playlets and planned dramas. This ministry is rather new and would welcome interested people. Recent focus has been around Christmas and Easter, and a few times in between.

### Projection Operator

The Contemporary Service is very dependent on projection presentations. Projection is sometimes necessary in the Traditional Service as well. We use a program called Opensong; we also use Keynote, Microsoft PowerPoint, Quick Time, Gimp, or Photoshop. Alertness, flexibility and a basic knowledge of the computer are the tools that are needed here.

*For more information about projection, please contact Harold Macdougall [himac@rogers.com](mailto:himac@rogers.com)*

### Communion Servers and Preparation

A service of Holy Communion takes place several times throughout the year. People are needed to prepare the bread and juice before each morning service and to clean up. The requirements for each service are usually not exactly the same. Communion is usually served by members of the Official Board.

*For more information about preparing and serving Holy Communion, please contact Bryan & Lee Krueger 905-304-1430, [bkrueger@lara.on.ca](mailto:bkrueger@lara.on.ca)*

### **Coffee and Refreshments**

At the Contemporary Service, coffee, tea and a snack are available as people arrive and throughout the service. Coffee teams, usually two people, volunteer to do this.

After the conclusion of the Traditional Service there is a coffee time, usually in the Fellowship Hall upstairs. Teams take on the responsibility to brew tea and coffee, as well as clean up, for this social time.

*For more information about helping with coffee and refreshments, please contact Wendy Thomson (Contemporary service) 905-689-6223 [stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca](mailto:stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca) or Lee Clarkson (Traditional service) 905-637-9320.*

### **Service Set-Up**

For the Contemporary service, the Fellowship Hall needs a team each Sunday to set out tables, chairs and whatever is needed that day. The teams are organized and a schedule is put together so that each Sunday is covered.

For the Traditional service, there is usually little furniture to be arranged but sometimes the Baptismal Font, the Rail, pulpit hangings, candles, and water for the speakers, need to be placed.

*For more information about setting up for the services, please contact Connie Moore (Contemporary) 905-690-3708 [haniconn@hotmail.com](mailto:haniconn@hotmail.com) or the Worship Team chair (Traditional).*

### **Creating a Worship Environment**

Flowers and décor help to make worship more meaningful. We have a small team of very exceptional persons who will design arrangements for special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. A list of willing volunteers who will lend an hour or two when needed is being compiled.

*For more information about flowers and décor, please contact Diane Woods (Traditional Service) 905-689-6188 [woodsdr@mcmaster.ca](mailto:woodsdr@mcmaster.ca)  
Christine Henson (Contemporary Service) 905-690-9047 [christinefletcher@hotmail.com](mailto:christinefletcher@hotmail.com)*

### **Outreach Team**

This team works in support of local needs such as Wesley Urban Ministries and the Flamborough Food Bank, as well as international needs such as the United Church Mission and Service Fund. This is a chance to follow Jesus by giving to the least of us.

*For more information about the Outreach Team, please contact Linda Baksh 905-689-1098 [lbaksh@hotmail.com](mailto:lbaksh@hotmail.com) or Joyce Mullen 289-337-2961 [joycemullen@hotmail.com](mailto:joycemullen@hotmail.com)*

### **Pastoral Care Team**

Members of the pastoral care team reach out to those in our church who are ill or have difficulty attending services. The Pastoral Care Team coordinates many activities and holds up the importance of caring for one another.

*For more information about the Pastoral Care Team, please contact Rosemary Mills 905-689-6214 or Lee Clarkson 905-637-9320*

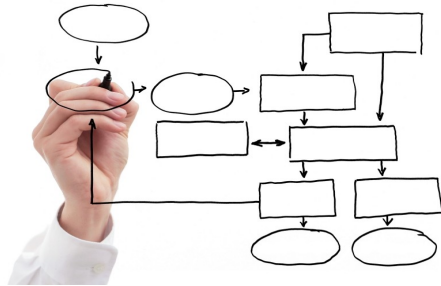
### **Hospitality Team**

The Hospitality Team is our newest team at St. James! They meet regularly to brainstorm and explore ways that St. James might become more hospitable.

*For more information about the Hospitality Team, please contact David Stevenson 905-690-6159 [david@braeheid.com](mailto:david@braeheid.com)*

## LEADING

*As in any organization, St James depends both on the ability of individuals to envision the future, as well as the support structures which keep it functioning, to lead us to where we feel God has called us to be.*



Our ministry teams have the responsibility to envision ministry and empower others to live into that vision. Team members usually take on a particular responsibility and assist in the overall envisioning of their particular area. The team leader(s) functions as the liaison between the team and the executive/board.

### **Worship Teams**

Two cross-sectional teams of individuals meet monthly to help plan for upcoming Contemporary & Traditional Worship services. The Worship Teams are also responsible for finding coordinators for ushers, scripture readers (Traditional Service), and service set-up (Contemporary & Traditional Services).

*The Worship Teams are currently rotating leadership.  
For more information, please contact the church office.*

### **Christian Development Team (CD)**

CD seeks to facilitate opportunities for spiritual growth for all ages and stages. This team recruits, supports, and empowers front-line ministry workers in our children's programs, youth programs, and small groups. Please prayerfully consider this important ministry in faith education leadership.

*For more information about the CD Team, please contact, Sonya Stevenson 905-690-6159 [Sonya.Stevenson@ontario.ca](mailto:Sonya.Stevenson@ontario.ca) or Judy Tyrell 905-689-2093 [judy\\_anne\\_2004@yahoo.ca](mailto:judy_anne_2004@yahoo.ca)*

## WORSHIPPING: MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

### **Chancel Choir and Praise Band**

Having both a Chancel Choir and a Praise Band gives great depth and feeling to our services. Whether your preference is traditional or contemporary music, or a mixture of both, there is a place for you to use your talent in praise. As an added bonus, the groups are very social and good fun!

### **Special Music**

#### Musicians

Please offer your musical skills. Musical selections are often enjoyed in the Traditional Service, and the Praise Band in the Contemporary Service always welcomes all instrumentalists. When the minister goes to a nursing home to conduct a service, a keyboard player is required. A list of those interested in playing the keyboard would be most welcome.

#### Vocalists

The music director encourages all singers to offer their talents through special music. A solo or group song contributes to an exciting worship atmosphere. Special services at Christmas and Easter are great celebrations when this kind of special music is particularly enjoyed.

### **Sound Operator**

We are being more intentional with our sound system. Training will be offered to a team of individuals who would ensure that the sound levels in both services are the best that they can be. This will require the use of a sound control board throughout each service.

*For more information about music and sound, please contact Tania Vroenhoven 289-260-6787 [tania@stjameswaterdown.ca](mailto:tania@stjameswaterdown.ca)*

## GROWING IN FAITH

Discipleship is a key component of the Christian life. Engaging with others over matters of faith helps us to grow and become more faithful witnesses to Christ's presence in our lives.

*St. James offers many opportunities for individuals of all ages and stages to grow in their faith. We also welcome volunteers with a vision and passion for discipleship to lead in any one of these areas. Besides group-specific responsibilities, leaders are encouraged to pray and care for members of their group.*

### **BLAST**

Children aged 3-9 can hear the word of God at an age-appropriate level and take part in fun activities while their parents are in the service of their choice. You might help lead in any area such as activities, crafts, Bible lesson, music, and drama. Everyone is invited to fun, family events held monthly.



### **Breakfast Club**

Children aged 7-9 meet Sunday mornings to make and share breakfast together. They will participate in faith based stories, skits, discussions and games. You might volunteer by helping with breakfast or facilitating the activities.

*For more information about our children's ministries, please contact Vanessa Findlay at [stjamesblast@hotmail.com](mailto:stjamesblast@hotmail.com).*

### **Sunday Morning Youth Group**

Our junior and senior youth meet together weekly during the time of the Contemporary Service. After participating in the opening songs, they proceed to the youth room where they discuss their faith in a way that is meaningful to them. Volunteers are needed to help on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month.

### **CONTACT Newsletter**

The *CONTACT* is our quarterly e- and paper Newsletter that informs us about past and upcoming church events, and includes articles, interviews, and pictures. We are always looking for occasional article writers and people gifted at editing and proofing.

*For more information about opportunities to volunteer in the area of communications, please contact Shelley Armstrong 905-690-7482 [shelleya@execulink.com](mailto:shelleya@execulink.com) or Wendy Thomson in the church office 905-689-6223 [stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca](mailto:stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca)*

## COMMUNICATING

### Office Help

An extra smile in the office during the week makes for a pleasant greeting! Wendy, our office administrator, appreciates an extra hand to keep things running smoothly and efficiently.

To find out how you can be of help, please contact Wendy in the church office 905-689-6223 [stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca](mailto:stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca)

### Advertising

Promoting ourselves to the community via newspaper ads or flyers is an important part of creating a presence in our community.

### Website Design and Maintenance

Are you creative, technical, or maybe both? We are always looking for people to update and animate our website with fresh ideas.

### Bulletin Boards

Colour, design, images and the right words communicate with everyone. If you have ideas and a passion for creative communication, our bulletin boards would welcome a fresh look!

### Photography/Videography

Capture the life of the church on camera! If you are a social butterfly and love being behind a camera lens at every opportunity, then this is for you.



### Wednesday Night Youth Groups

Our junior youth group (gr 6-8) meets Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30pm. Our senior youth group (gr 9+) meets Wednesdays from 7-9pm. Both groups are together from 7-7:30pm for a shared time of mentoring. The groups participate in fun activities and discussion and are also actively involved in community and outreach events. This year's theme is "The world is bigger than my backyard."

For more information on volunteer opportunities with Youth, please contact Andre Boersma 289-887-0186  
[drandreboersma@hotmail.com](mailto:drandreboersma@hotmail.com)

### Alpha

Alpha is an introduction to the Christian faith. A small group enjoys a meal together and learns about their Christian faith in a warm relaxing atmosphere over approximately 9 weeks.

For more information on Alpha, contact Rev. Bob Johnson 905-575-9301 [robert.johnson@sympatico.ca](mailto:robert.johnson@sympatico.ca)

### Study Groups

Various small groups are available to both men and women during the day or evening throughout the week to share, and grow in faith. We have groups that meet regularly as well as short-term special-focus groups such as a Lenten Study.

### Stitching and Fellowship Group

A women's stitching and fellowship group meets regularly on Tuesday mornings. Bring a craft that you enjoy, enhance your skills through learning from others, or simply join for fellowship!

### United Church Women (UCW)

All women are welcome to come and take part in this group to share their faith and use it in support of their church community where needed. The focus is Christian study, fellowship, and service.

For information on the UCW, please contact Jean Wilson 905-689-6061.

## Library

We have a library full of books, DVDs, and videos on a wide variety of topics for you to borrow. The library, with couches and chairs, also provides a nice cozy space for a quiet conversation.



*To donate books or for more information, contact Hannah and Joan Zimmerman 905-690-7249 [darcy.zimmerman@sympatico.ca](mailto:darcy.zimmerman@sympatico.ca)*

*For general information on or comments about any of the above volunteer and discipleship opportunities, please contact Sonya Stevenson 905-690-6159 [Sonya.Stevenson@ontario.ca](mailto:Sonya.Stevenson@ontario.ca) or Judy Tyrrell 905-689-2093 [judy\\_anne\\_2004@yahoo.ca](mailto:judy_anne_2004@yahoo.ca)*

## Fundraising

Garage sales and congregational dinners are just some of the ways that St. James helps to support the needs and mission of the church. Helping out with these one-time events is a great way to get to know people and participate in activities that make the church bustle with excitement.



## SERVING

Serving facilitates opportunities for connecting with others and is an important part of ministry at St. James. There are many ways and reasons to serve. Below are just a few of them.

### **Dinners and Special Events**

Occasionally one of our teams will decide to host a dinner or other special event such as a Ministry Fair or a weekend BLAST event. These events can be opportunities to fundraise, to inform, or to connect with others. Help is always appreciated in a variety of ways.

### **Catering**

A committed group of volunteers caters for various functions such as weddings and funerals. Looking after the food and offering a kind gesture is a concrete way of demonstrating our love and care for others.

*To become involved in catering, please contact Gail Sindrey 905-689-7081 [gailsindrey@yahoo.com](mailto:gailsindrey@yahoo.com) or Jean Wilson 905-689-6061.*

### **Kitchen Help**

Serving good food and drinks always requires good preparation! If you like to cook or bake, there is always an occasion for you to help out, whether through Sunday morning coffee, fundraising dinners, or our monthly seniors' lunch. You can help out as little or as much as you like.

### **Kitchen Coordination**

A few dedicated people are always needed to look after the kitchen and ensure that the equipment is working, towels are clean, and that supplies are stocked and accessible for people to use. Training is provided.

*For more information on coordinating or helping in the kitchen, please contact Jean Wilson 905-689-6061 or Anna Thomson 905-659-3632.*

## CONNECTING & REACHING OUT

In these tough economic times there is a strong need for us to help others both locally and internationally. Here at St. James we have many avenues to contribute in any way we can to reach out our hands to others as Jesus asked us to do. Our help in food donations or actually using our physical skills are always welcome.

### **Food Bank**

At the back of both the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary, there are baskets available for you to drop off your non-perishable donations. Volunteers take your donations to the Flamborough Food Bank.

*For information on the Flamborough Food Bank, please contact Linda Baksh 905-689-1098 [lmbaksh@hotmail.com](mailto:lmbaksh@hotmail.com)*

### **Wesley Centre**

Wesley Urban Ministries in Hamilton seeks to alleviate poverty in Hamilton through emergency food and shelter programs, child and family programs, transitional housing, and case management services. We support Wesley's ministries in a variety of ways including fundraising through participation in our annual Case for Kids Run/Ride/Walk in the spring and preparing an annual Sunday dinner around Christmas time.

*For information about Wesley Centre, please contact Linda Baksh 905-689-1098 [lmbaksh@hotmail.com](mailto:lmbaksh@hotmail.com)*

### **Mission and Service Fund**

Our donations to this fund go to world development and relief overseas on development projects, emergency relief efforts, and rehabilitation. A portion of your offering can be designated to the Mission and Service Fund by just indicating your intent on your donation envelope.

### **Seniors' Luncheon**

Open to all seniors, these monthly luncheons (Sept.-May) are an opportunity for good fellowship, good food, good programs and a chance to interact with each other in a warm atmosphere.

We are often looking for extra hands to prepare food the day before the luncheon, help serve & clean up the day of the luncheon, or people to make a dessert (recipe & ingredients provided) ahead of time.

*For more information about Seniors' Luncheons, please contact Marilyn McKay 905-689-7229 [mar.mckay1@yahoo.ca](mailto:mar.mckay1@yahoo.ca)*

*Engaging people in conversation is a first point of contact for people as they walk in the door on Sunday mornings! Here are some other ways that St. James strives to promote a welcoming atmosphere:*

### **Baptismal Families**

Baptisms are a wonderful time to connect with people and to welcome them to the church family. We need people who are able to connect with the families beforehand, and to welcome the children officially into the family of God on behalf of the church during baptismal ceremonies at either service.

*If you are interested in connecting with baptismal families, please contact Addie Patriquin 905-689-4966*

### **Welcome Gatherings**

Welcome Gatherings, co-hosted by the Hospitality Team and Rev. John, are an opportunity for newcomers to learn more about and to be welcomed into the life of our church. They are held three or four times per year on Sunday mornings after the services.

*To volunteer to help with welcome gatherings, please contact David Stevenson 905-690-6159 [david@braeheid.com](mailto:david@braeheid.com)*

## **CARING FOR PEOPLE**

St. James works to promote a feeling of fellowship and compassion by reaching out to those among us who are in need. We encourage each individual to regularly look out for their 'pew neighbour', whether by paying a visit, making a phone call, or bringing a meal in a time of need. There are also other ways that individuals might help:

### **Visiting Shut-Ins**

Visiting our elderly people who are unable to attend services or other activities regularly is an important part of showing them that they continue to be a valued part of our community. Regular visitation can be once a month or once every other month, depending on the arrangement made.

### **Teleministry**

A simple telephone call can make a world of difference to someone going through a difficult time! The Pastoral Care Team organizes a list of people who appreciate regular contact from the church.

### **Hospital Visits**

When someone from St. James is suddenly hospitalized, a volunteer from our church is there to offer support and prayer or a word of encouragement.

### **Special Communion Service**

A special communion service is held twice each year for those who cannot make it to church. The service includes communion, singing of old hymns, and then a social hour afterwards with refreshments. Rides are provided to and from the church.

*For more information on any of the above volunteer opportunities, please contact Rosemary Mills 905-689-6214 or Lee Clarkson 905-637-9320*