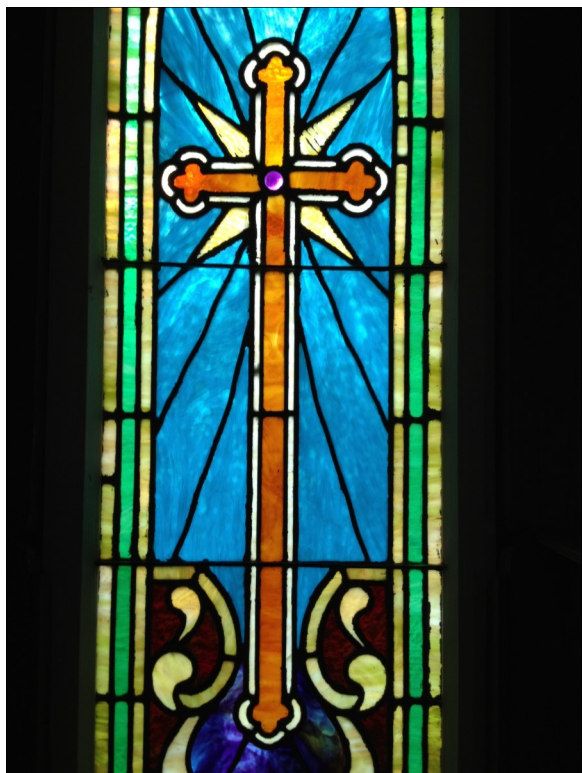


# Offerings & Ministries at



*...doing many things with great love.*

10560 Fort George Road  
Fort George Island, Florida 32226  
Church Phone: 904-251-9272  
Email: [info.stgeorgechurch@gmail.com](mailto:info.stgeorgechurch@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.saintgeorgejax.org](http://www.saintgeorgejax.org)  
Facebook: Saint George Episcopal Church  
YouTube Channel: StGeorgeChurch1

We seek to be a caring, Christian community  
enjoying the peace of this island sanctuary  
and sharing God's love through faith, healing and service.

Come and See!

2014-2015



### St. George Church Ministers

The People of St. George Church, The Body of Christ  
The Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury  
The Most Reverend Katherine Jefferts-Schori, Presiding Bishop  
The Right Reverend Samuel Johnson (John) Howard, Bishop  
The Right Reverend Charles Keyser, Assisting Bishop  
The Reverend Ray Henderson, Rector  
The Rev. Deacon E. Irene Crocker

### St. George Church Vestry

Jim Zaenglein - Sr. Warden (904-710-3505)  
Susan Boone - Jr. Warden (904-200-0470)  
Pat Andrews (904-885-2019)  
Billy Blair (904-859-2361)  
Rita Cannon (904-716-8836)  
Peggy Crawford (904-491-5798)  
Jeff Peterson (904-491-1905)

### St. George Church Staff

Kathy Hay-Parish Keeper  
Kate Matthews-Communications Coordinator  
Wanda Kitchens, Office Assistant  
Debra Register-Nursery Associate & Administrative/Financial Assistant  
Kamila Shahtakhtinski-Musician/Music Director  
Angel Dean-Director of Children & Youth Ministries  
Elizabeth Diamond-Parish Administrator



## OFFERINGS OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION, EDUCATION, & RENEWAL

*There are a wide variety of ways we come together to be shaped in Christ's will and ways. Some are more education, others social, and many a mixture of the two. Minds, souls, and bodies are fed to be formed and reformed in Christ and strengthened for his service here at St. George.*

*If you would like to participate  
in any of the ministries  
described in this booklet,  
or if you would like to learn more,  
please call the Rector  
or Church office.*

### **Book Club**

Books are chosen that challenge and enrich our lives and ministries. We gather in members' homes (or sometimes the parish hall) and after a shared meal, discuss the book and our insights, wonderings, and questions.

### **Cursillo**

Cursillo is a three day renewal retreat weekend, and includes talks by laity and clergy on Christian faith and living, along with a variety of prayer activities and celebrations. Cursillo happens two or three times a year at Camp Weed. Many Episcopalians have experienced a renewal of active faith on these weekends.

### **Food & Faith Wednesdays**

On Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, many gather for a fellowship potluck meal followed by one of two activities—choir practice or Holy Eucharist in Terry Hall. The later also includes Bible study of the upcoming gospel lesson. Though described as a potluck, folks are invited to come even if they don't bring any food. There is plenty—leftovers abound! During Lent, a special program is offered.

### **Happening**

Happenings is a renewal weekend for youth in high school and is designed to help them deepen their relationship with Christ. Features of the weekend include teen leadership with support from talks, songs, worship, and small group activities.

### **New Beginnings**

New Beginnings is designed especially to respond to the unique challenges and concerns of youth in grades 6-8. It was created by adults and young people to help participants grow in their love of themselves, others and our Lord Jesus Christ. During the weekend, participants meet peers from across the diocese, enjoy skits, listen to talks, and participate in small group activities and discussions. These activities focus on self, friends, parents, siblings, school & God's love.

### **Parish Library**

Many do not realize what a fine parish library we have. From time to time our Wednesday night Bible study uses it as well as others stopping by to browse the shelves. We welcome donations of religious books and willing hands to help catalogue, shelve, and organize our library.

### **Summer Camp**

In the summer, youth in grades 3-12 are invited to experience wholesome, Christian fun in the great outdoors at our diocesan camp and conference center: Camp Weed (near Live Oak). It is a special time for bonding with one another.

other and other Christian children. As such, we encourage all of our children to go to church camp at least once, and we offer scholarships to those in need.

#### **Sunday School (Primary K-2; Intermediate 3-5)/Summer Kidz Club**

Sunday School is a time for learning lessons from God's word, sharing the love of Jesus Christ through prayer and fun, and fulfilling the work of the Holy Spirit. We explore our unique gifts while taking time to help others through small service projects. Every Sunday, our children join with the entire congregation in saying the Lord's Prayer and observing Holy Eucharist. A more formalized Christian formation program occurs each Sunday from September through May with a more informal summer program June through August fondly named Summer Kidz Club.

#### **VOCARE**

The VOCARE weekend is a renewal weekend for young adults, ages 19-30, held at Camp Weed. It is designed to help young adults discover more fully how God is calling them in life and is held at Camp Weed.

#### **Youth Group (5th—12th grades)**

We have fantastic young people in our church. They meet in the parish hall for activities and lessons most every Sunday from 5-7:00 p.m. September-May.

### **OFFERINGS OF WELCOME, CARE & FELLOWSHIP**

*St. George is an open and welcoming place of Christian fellowship. St. George is a happy, healthy, healing, and holy place and there are many ways this grace comes through:*

#### **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) Twelve Step Meeting**

Recognizing the value and healing ways of the 12-step recovery program, we share our space with a local AA Twelve Step group that meets every Friday at 7:30 p.m. This is an open group and all are welcome.

#### **Business Boards**

Many parishioners share their talents by posting their business cards or flyers on our business boards. These items are seen by many people, as the boards are located in each restroom.

#### **Children & Youth Appreciation Dinner**

Each year the children and youth prepare a dinner for their parents and those who have volunteered during the year. They then put on a talent show filled with excitement and surprise.

#### **Cuban Fiesta**

Sponsored by our Cuban Ministry, in particular those who will be traveling to Cuba, this is a highlight of the St. George Community. A fundraiser not only to partially support our St. George companion missionaries, monies are given to our sister parish, San Lucas in Sibanicu, with 10% going to the Episcopal Diocese of Cuba. It is typically a fabulous evening with authentic Cuban

#### **Clean Up Days**

Clean-up days to spruce up the Church typically occur prior to Easter, Fall Kick-Off, and Christmas.

#### **Miscellaneous Repairs**

How grateful we are for the many ways our members take care of our building and grounds, such as air conditioning expertise, electrical assistance, hurricane preparedness, irrigation repairs, painting, plumbing fixes, small repair and maintenance work, creating bookshelves in the rector's office and following in Jesus' footsteps and doing woodworking!

Thanks to the digital revolution, the EDT has greatly enhanced both the timeliness and frequency of communications and announcements among parishioners and friends of St. George.

#### **Office Volunteers (Holy Folders)**

Our parish administrator says, 'This crew of church ladies and gents is the greatest!' Things to do include folding Sunday's bulletin, making phone calls, mailing bulletins to shut-ins, restocking the sanctuary, etc.

#### **Stewardship Committee**

This group helps us plan and enact the Annual Stewardship Drive in the fall. All parishioners are encouraged to make an annual stewardship pledge of money, time, and talent. This pledge represents our commitment to 'work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God' (BCP, page 856).

#### **Saint George Society**

A group of individuals dedicated to the perpetuity of life in Christ at St. George.

#### **Vestry**

There are seven vestry members, including two wardens--the senior warden (support person for the rector) and the junior warden (responsible for the church property and building). In addition, our treasurer and clerk of the vestry are a part of this team. The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of our congregation, support the church's mission by word and deed, ensure effective organizing and planning, and to manage resources and finances. The vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. Members of the vestry are Episcopalians who have been active in the parish at least six months, have been received or confirmed into the Episcopal Church and who make an annual financial pledge of support. Vestry members serve a three year term and are selected at the Annual Meeting.

#### **Website**

Saint George welcomes visitors and engages members online through their warm, inviting, and interactive website. The website tells the story of the Saint George church family through photographs and videos that capture the close-knit and caring island church community. Members can also keep up to date by downloading the worship ministry schedule or syncing a calendar event to their smartphone's calendar. [www.saintgeorgejax.com](http://www.saintgeorgejax.com)

#### **Facebook & Twitter**

Saint George engages its many Facebook followers ([www.Facebook.com/SaintGeorgeEpiscopalChurch](http://www.Facebook.com/SaintGeorgeEpiscopalChurch)) with current photos, daily happenings, and church family news. Also, follow us on Twitter @SaintGeorgeJax

#### **YouTube Channel**

We also have our own YouTube Channel with lively videos. (<http://www.youtube.com/user/StGeorgeChurch1>)

food, a silent auction, a Mojito bar with hand-painted glasses, and live entertainment.

#### **Earth Day Appreciation**

Each year on the Sunday on or near National Earth Day, we focus on ways to better take care of this precious earth we live on. Last year we collected hazardous recycle items and a parishioner delivered them to the Jacksonville Recycle Center.

#### **Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

This group has raised funds to support parish projects such as high school graduation recognition, Camp Weed Summer Camp scholarships and outreach assistance. A yearly retreat is held with other women in the diocese at Camp Weed.

#### **Eucharistic Visitors**

Eucharistic Visitors are trained and licensed by the Bishop to carry Sunday Eucharist to our homebound members.

#### **Gala (Advent celebration)**

Held in December at the Ribault Club in the season of Advent, this fabulous evening is a wonderful way for parishioners, their families, neighbors, and guests to gather in a most elegant and refined setting to celebrate the joys of the season. A Ft. George Island event and highlight of the year!

#### **Gardens**

Our Memorial and Prayer Gardens are peaceful spaces for prayer & meditation. Following a major upgrade of the Memorial garden near the front walkway in 2012, our garden caretakers maintain the garden and add plantings as needed, often in consultation with parishioners. The Prayer garden behind the sanctuary is a great place for quiet conversation and pictures.

#### **Healing Ministry**

Many find St. George an especially healing place along with a place where healers come and dwell. Twice a year we have healing services (our Blue Christmas Service of Lights and on Wednesday night during Holy Week). At our Sunday morning services of Holy Eucharist, we invite any who desire to come forward for special healing prayers. Many see Contemplative Prayer as a way to be in touch with our Divine Healer and our Pastoral Care Team to be a part of being Christ's hands and heart.

#### **Kitchen Hospitality**

This fun-loving crew makes sure the coffee is ready every Sunday, and that is just the beginning. These kitchen ministers help keep the celebration going. Additionally their responsibilities include setting up the food that is brought (not necessarily bringing it) as well as tidying up after our fellowship time.

#### **Newcomer's Brunch**

Twice a year, in homes of parishioners close to church, we hold Sunday brunches to welcome new members.

#### **Men's Group**

## **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

St. George has many fine and faithful men (and great cooks!) who come together to host a most delicious and fun Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. They step up to cook for various special events.

#### **Pastoral Care Team**

Our Pastoral Care Team is a group of about thirteen disciples with tender hearts and caring souls who reach out to those in our community encountering turbulence large or small. They assist our rector and deacon in being 'Christ's hands and heart' in our parish and live out the gospel in various ways such as making calls, sending cards, taking a meal to someone in need, making hospital and care facility visits. The Talent Bank is a way they invite others into serving those in need in our parish. They meet periodically as a part of their ongoing formation.

#### **Red and White Advent Caroling Party**

An intergeneration gathering on a Sunday evening near Christmas, we gather to enjoy foods red and white in color. Seasonal costumes are typically a part of these visits as we sing carols to those in our community in need of holiday cheer.

#### **Shrove Pancake Supper**

Occurring the night before Ash Wednesday (the start of Lent), this fun-filled and lively evening is sponsored by our men (they make fantastic pancakes!) Hospitality is extended to the young men of Safe Harbor Boys Home each year.

#### **Special Events and Parties**

St. George tends to be a Cana-grace sort of place. There is an atmosphere of welcome, well being, and love in this place that recognizes Jesus says yes to gladness and joy (remember the story of Jesus changing water into wine at the feast in Cana of Galilee?). Assistance is always appreciated for preparation, set-up, and clean up for the many special events and parties we have at St. George.

#### **St. George Through the Ages, BBQ & Docents (*The St. George Players*)**

St. George has a rich and varied history, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. February has become history month for us and we partner with the Park Service to celebrate our history with special activities, historical vignettes and a BBQ lunch. Our history can always be found on our website.

#### **Sunday (Pot Luck) Brunch**

Fellowship in Christ flows from the church into the parish hall as we enjoy food and conversation each Sunday after each service. Parishioners bring a little something from home to share and many Sundays the "spread" is overwhelming, not to mention tasty!

#### **Teal Sundays**

The St. George Teal team is an enthusiastic group of parishioners who support our local team. On the Sundays of home games, you will find a few teal and black Jaguar decorations around the parish hall. Please feel free to wear your lucky Jaguar clothes and join in the fun. You will find the attendance at the 8:30 service a little larger than usual on these Sundays!

Christ's love into some very dark places. Kairos Outside provides a weekend of love and support for women who have a husband, boyfriend, or close family member in jail.

#### **Operation New Hope**

Operation New Hope focuses on sustaining broken urban communities – the development of affordable housing and successful workforce and family reintegration of ex-offenders.

#### **Safe Harbor Boys Home (Safe Harbor Maritime Academy)**

Safe Harbor is a ministry in our neighborhood for boys who are in need of a more structured environment. In recent years St. George parishioners have provided meals, food, monetary donations to this therapeutic boarding school environment, which uses the waterfront as an educational facility for teenage boys who are struggling. In recent years these boys and Safe Harbor staff have attended our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner.

#### **St. Mary's Episcopal Mission**

St. Mary's is a mission of our diocese in the Springfield area of Jacksonville, and in the past we have collected food, clothing and household items for them.

#### **Souper Bowl Sunday**

Responding to the needs of the less fortunate on the Sunday in which Super Bowl football game occurs, our youth lead us in remembering Jesus' passion for those who are hungry and thirsty. That morning all present are encouraged to put \$1 in the soup pot. This is a national campaign and in recent years over \$4 million dollars has been collected across the country.

#### **United Thank Offering (UTO)**

Many think of those blue boxes when UTO is mentioned. UTO helps us to nurture the habit of daily thanks to God. United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church and the monies we give help support mission and ministry in the developing world.

#### **Wounded Warriors**

Our diocese supports the Wounded Warrior Project and so do we. Twice a year retreats are held at Camp Weed to honor and empower wounded warriors. We are called upon to pray for them, write letters, and make a financial contribution.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Diocesan Convention Delegate & Other Leadership Roles**

The Episcopal Diocese of Florida gathers yearly to take counsel together, hear reports, make decisions, enjoy fellowship in Christ, and elect members of Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Disciplinary Board, and General Convention Deputy. Our clergy along with two delegates (parishioners selected at our Annual Meeting) attend.

#### **Electronic Dragon's Tale (EDT)**



tion. Named for two Bishops in the Episcopal Diocese of Florida, Edwin G. Weed and Frank S. Cerveny, this center is the "Heart of the Diocese." Summer camp is held here each year.

### **Church without Walls (WOW)**

Recognizing "church" at its best cannot be contained, this "church without walls" shares the unconditional love of Christ with and through people who ordinarily would not mix. This ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of Florida calls people from all walks of life into partnership with "the least of these." It is grounded in the reality that "by opening ourselves to strangers, the despised or frightening or unintelligible other, we will see more and more of the holy (from prologue to Take this Bread)." Again and again, we will be transformed.

### **Cuba Companionship Team**

For nearly ten years we have been in partnership with San Lucas in Sibanicu, Cuba. The purpose is to continue building relationships with our sisters and brothers in our companion church. We take donations of items needed by St. Lucas parishioners and assist monetarily with needs of the church and its parishioners. Parishioners (who must be St. George members for a minimum of six months) who desire to travel to Cuba assist in fund raising efforts including the Cuban Fiesta. The people at St. Lucas are in our daily prayers.

### **Episcopal Relief & Development/Global Reconciliation—Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

The Episcopal Church supports international and domestic efforts to make the world a better place with ongoing support to people following a crisis or catastrophe. Our donations also support creative sustainable development projects that address the root causes of human suffering, such as malnutrition, poverty, disease, and illiteracy. The Global Reconciliation Commission of the Diocese of Florida helps us to remember to support the MDGs, eight goals aimed at helping those in developing countries.

### **Food for the Poor**

Food for the Poor is a ministry based in Haiti that helps feed people in other parts of the world who live in utter poverty.

### **Food Pantry**

Parishioners are encouraged to bring non-perishable foods and other needed items to church and place them in the baskets in back of the church to be brought forward during the offertory for blessing. These items are then put in the Food Pantry located in the parish hall. This food is distributed to those in need who request it in our community and neighborhood.

### **Holiday Food Baskets & Gifts**

Parishioners are invited to donate food items to create Thanksgiving baskets for local families in need. The youth group participates with a "pantry raid" in our local neighborhood in November. As Christmas approaches, donations of gifts are also collected and donated to those who would otherwise go without.

### **Kairos Prison Ministry & Kairos Outside**

Kairos is a renewal program that occurs several times a year inside a state prison. People from many different churches work together, bringing light and

### **Veteran's Sunday**

On this special day, we recognize our parishioners who serve our country and sacrifice so much for our freedoms. Parishioners are encouraged to wear their uniforms or bring pictures of loved ones serving our country.

### **Volunteer Appreciation Party**

If you have ever volunteered at St. George or are thinking about it, this lunch is for you. In an effort to thank our volunteers for all their hard work throughout the year, the staff serves some Christmas cheer, prepares lunch and cleans up. Or course, after lunch there is plenty of work to be done to prepare for Christmas Eve!

### **Yoga**

Each Sunday at 9:15 a.m., the Ribault Club generously allows us to use their facility for a yoga lesson led by talented Lisa King. This is a great way to relax, stretch your tired muscles and still make it to the 10:30 service.

## **OFFERINGS OF WORSHIP & PRAYER**

*The heart of our life in Christ as a community is worshipping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We celebrate Holy Eucharist every Sunday morning, Wednesday nights, and certain Holy Days (Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday for example). There are other times we gather in Christ's name to mark those moments in our lives where God's grace is especially at work—baptism, holy matrimony, funerals, memorial services, reconciliation of a penitent (Confession). We have confirmations and receptions into the Episcopal Church when one of our bishops is present.*

### **Acolytes**

Acolytes include torchbearers, lighters of candles, banner bearers, and crucifers. We have adult acolytes at our 8:30 Holy Eucharist and children and adults at our 10:30 Holy Eucharist. They also assist our deacon by carrying and holding the Bible for the gospel reading and at the preparation of the communion table.

### **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild might be described as a humble and behind the scenes group whose ministry is to lovingly care for the sacred articles used in Holy Communion, i.e., silver chalices, brass Gospel book, vestments, and fair linens. The members, both men and women, prepare the sanctuary for our services, take special care for and maintain these articles. Easter and Christmas are especially wonderful times of the year when decorating the church with flowers adds such beauty to the church for these occasions.

### **Altar Bread Baking**

The Bread Bakers bake loaves of bread for Sunday & Wednesday Eucharists, once a month. How blessed we are to have such a giving and talented group of holy bakers!

### **Band/Musicians for special services**

We make an appeal for musicians and vocalists to help with certain services

such as Beach Mass, Cuban Fiesta, Blue Christmas as well as Memorial Services and Family Sundays. Instrumentalists and soloists are encouraged to volunteer.

#### **Beach Mass**

In the spring of each year, we celebrate Holy Eucharist at Little Talbot Island State Park on a Sunday morning at 10:30. It is typical for us to have ocean baptisms, our beach band, and a covered dish luncheon to continue in the fellowship. Many parishioners stay after to enjoy the beach with family. Often, this is a special event for our youth group as well.

#### **Blessing of the Animals/St. Francis Sunday**

The first Sunday in October is a special day unlike any other at St. George. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their pets to church to be blessed. We ask that all animals be on a leash or in a carrier to minimize disruption in the sanctuary and trauma to the animals...and people.

#### **Blue Christmas Mass**

Recognizing the holidays can be difficult for some because of 'blue' feelings due to loss and transition, this gathering is aimed at creating a safe place where the pain, loneliness, and sadness felt in this special season are acknowledged and offered to the Christ child. It is a time of scripture reading, reflection, music by our Blue Christmas Band, and candle lighting of remembrance.

#### **Choir**

Our devoted body of singers provides musical leadership for congregational singing in worship at the 10:30 service under the able leadership of our talented choir director, Kamila Shahtakhtinski. They help us make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Practice is on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:00 in the Sanctuary; some from the choir come at 6:30 pm for a meal with others in Terry Hall. Another practice is held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Ours is a non-audition choir and presents some beautiful, rousing, and some times toe-tapping offertory pieces.

#### **Contemplative (or Centering) Prayer Group**

Every Wednesday afternoon from 4 - 4:30, we gather in the Sanctuary to pray together using a Christian form of prayer called Contemplative or Centering Prayer. It is a form of mental prayer in which meditation and petition give way to quiet adoration and holy resting of the mysteries of God. Novices as well as regular contemplative practitioners of this form of prayer are welcome.

#### **Eucharistic Ministry**

Eucharistic Ministers are licensed by the Bishop and trained by parishioners to assist the priest in serving communion during our Sunday worship. Training sessions occur periodically.

#### **Eucharistic Visitor**

Eucharistic Visitors are trained and licensed by the Bishop, and take communion to those who are sick or shut inside and unable to come to church. Many find this a most sacred ministry of sharing Christ's body and blood with someone unable to attend church.

#### **Family Sunday**

Occurring the first Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at our Holy Eucharist from September-May, we are intentional about making families welcome. There is a children's sermon, and children and youth serve as our readers and greeters. A family friendly liturgy is used and our Sunday School children & youth compose and deliver our prayers and make musical offerings.

#### **Lector**

A lector is a person trained in reading Sunday's Bible lessons and the prayers of the people. The term is from Latin "to read." Training sessions occur periodically.

#### **Prayer Warriors/Intercessory Prayer Team**

This Prayer Team is a group of individuals with an active prayer life who commit to praying one day a week for the people and needs on our prayer list (listed in our weekly bulletin and included in our weekly Electronic Dragon's Tale.) The Intercessory Prayer Group gathers periodically to nurture our community.

#### **Usher/Greeter**

Our friendly and helpful crew of ushers and greeters have many responsibilities including greeting and assisting people as they enter the church, distributing service bulletins, answering questions of visitors and newcomers, collecting and presenting the offerings of money and other gifts at the offertory, assisting parishioners during the administration of communion, counting attendance, clearing the pews church building after the service, and locking the doors.

#### **Youth Sunday**

The first Sunday in June is Youth Sunday where we celebrate our youth and honor the graduates. This service is led by the youth including personal reflections and special music.

### **OFFERINGS OF SERVICE FOR OTHERS**

*Serving Others includes reaching out to others in the local, national, and international community. Some of the opportunities to serve the world around us together include the following.*

#### **Backpack Drive**

Begun several years ago by parishioner Bill Folsom, we ask parishioners to donate school supplies and money to fill a multitude of back packs we give to local children who otherwise would start school without necessary school supplies.

#### **Camp Weed**

Camp Weed and Cerveney Conference Center is a rare jewel set in the center of North Florida. Owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Florida, Camp Weed is a wonderful place for recreation, renewal and reflection.