

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
WEEK OF APRIL 11, 2021

THE REV. CHRIS HAMBY



THE GOLDEN HALO

Cue one shining moment as the madness is over! The Golden Halo has been awarded to 2021 Lent Madness winner Absalom Jones! If you participated in Lent Madness or used the material included in the St. James Lent-in-a-Box you would see the amazing journey Absalom Jones took to the Golden Halo. Jones was the lowest seed in his region and through a series of major upsets won the entire tournament.

Some of you might be asking, who is Absalom Jones? Jones was the first African-American Episcopal Priest. He was born in 1746 in Delaware. He attended a Quaker school in Philadelphia. He purchased his wife's freedom from slavery and his own in 1784. Jones served as lay reader at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church and helped increase the membership until the leadership wanted African-Americans to be restricted to the gallery. They all walked out of the church.

Absalom Jones helped organize the Free African Society which began building their own church, free of seating restrictions in 1792. The church then applied to become members of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Jones and the church leadership asked that they be received as an organized body, have control over

their own church affairs, and finally that Absalom Jones be licensed as a lay-reader and if qualified to be ordained. The Diocese of Pennsylvania agreed and in 1794 St. Thomas African Episcopal Church became official.

Bishop William White, the second bishop in the Episcopal Church and the first Presiding Bishop, ordained Absalom Jones a deacon in 1795 and a priest in 1802. Absalom Jones was anti-slavery and advocated for the abolishment of slavery and against fugitive slave bills. The church grew rapidly under his leadership and is still a large active church in Philadelphia today.

Absalom Jones deserved to win the Golden Halo. Miriam McKenny wrote about Jones in the Faithful Four, "Absalom Jones shows us what it looks like to be a Christian, a community organizer, a faith leader, and a friend. That's what Absalom Jones has to do with you: he shows you how to follow Jesus, no matter what." Absalom Jones faced a myriad of obstacles in his life but he still welcomed all into the church after he had been turned away. He was a forerunner and his impact has lasted over 200 years after his death in 1818. His preaching was powerful and prophetic. May we all remember him, honor him, and celebrate his ministry.

"Let the first of January, the day of the abolition of the slave trade in our country, be set apart in every year, as a day of public thanksgiving for that mercy. Let the history of the sufferings of our brethren, and of their deliverance, descend by this means to our children, to the remotest generations; and when they shall ask, in time to come, saying, What mean the lessons, the psalms, the prayers and the praises in the worship of this day? Let us answer them, by saying, the Lord, on the day of which this is the anniversary, abolished the trade which dragged your fathers from their native country, and sold them as bondmen in the United States of America."

ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

To welcome all to grow in love of God and neighbor.

ST. JAMES UPDATES

ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:

www.stjamesp.org/

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Bob Godley, Jocelyn Lynch, Margaret Palmer, Missy Wright

CONDOLENCES TO:

The Rev. Tim Dols on the death of his brother, The Rev. William (Bill) Dols, Jr.
Rev. Dols was the rector at St. James from 1964-1972.

PLEDGING & GIVING ONLINE

To donate and support St. James Parish, visit: <https://onrealm.org/StJamesParish/give/pledge>. You can visit stjamesp.org/stewardship for a video with step-by-step instructions for pledging online.

SERVICE TIMES- SUNDAYS IN SPRING

Join us for worship! We have a variety of services to choose from. Please know that if you plan to attend indoors we do ask that you RSVP for your preferred service. We are hosting our services at the following times:

Online Worship

9:30 AM- Livestream from Mt. Lebanon Chapel

Mt. Lebanon Chapel- Outdoors Only

9:30 AM- Holy Eucharist - Rite II

5:00 PM- Faith at 5

Downtown Campus

8:00 AM- Indoors- Holy Eucharist - Rite I

9:00 AM- Indoors- Holy Eucharist - Rite II

10:30 AM- Indoors- Holy Eucharist - Rite II

THANK YOU

We want to take a moment to share a big thank you to everyone who assisted in making our Holy Week and Easter celebrations so meaningful. We especially thank the Altar Guild, ushers, acolytes, lectors, vestry, those who adorned the church to make it look so beautiful, vocalists, instrumentalists, clergy and staff.

QUIET REFLECTION

Saturday, May 1, 2021 | 7:30 a.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

We hope you will join us on the first Saturday of each month, for an hour of quiet reflection at Lebanon Chapel from 7:30-8:30 AM. All are welcome! This time of Quiet Reflection will be offered on the first Saturday of each month until the end of the year. Questions contact Lindamurchison65@gmail.com.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE- STRATEGY #4

Strategy #4 – Challenge all members to increase financial support for St. James Parish.

The Strategic Plan for St. James Parish begins with a strength – fulfillment of our historic mission and of our true potential – and ends with a problem – St. James is underfunded. To address both, this strategy begins and ends in “generosity.”

In our study, the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) found our operating budget to be surprisingly small, chiefly because only a quarter of our 1200 members (800 “giving units”) pledge annually to support it. A church of our size, history, and importance cannot fulfill its mission without proper funding. And so the SPG has urged – and the Vestry has already adopted – that by 2023 we support an annual budget of \$2.2M (almost twice its current size); raise \$7M in capital gifts; increase annually the number of pledges, \$5000 gifts, and planned gifts; and personalize our stewardship efforts.

The Strategic Plan calls for ambitious enhancements of:

- Salaries
- Outreach (to both our members and the Wilmington community)
- Music
- Evangelism (in welcome to others)
- Christian Formation (for example, an expanded Speakers’ Series)
- Proper maintenance of the SJP facility

To explain the church’s needs and to solicit generous support for meeting them, the SPG has recommended to the Vestry:

- Decentralization and personalization of the solicitation process
- A well-organized Stewardship Committee
- A well-trained Canvassing Committee
- Effective use of technology

As with all aspects of the Strategic Plan our goal is excellence: “Anything worth doing is worth doing well.” And excellence has its costs.

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

Annual Silent Auction Coming May 2021

This year we will be offering a four day Online “Silent Auction” beginning on Sunday, May 2 at 6:00 am and ending on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 8:00 pm. We are asking you to help us by giving a donation to this Auction. Have Questions? Reach out to: Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT: A SEASON OF REPENTANCE

by Hunter Gray

This season of Lent has been different for me—and for others—for many reasons. It initially came in a box! Thankfully for improving metrics some traditional, albeit socially distanced, services were able to be incorporated. As Lent began I read that one shouldn't view it as finding something to give up, but gaining through this period of inward reflection and repentance.

I came to realize that to receive the transformative benefits of this period I would need to more fully understand and engage in the process of repentance. I say process because the common misconception of the word holds that one might feel guilty about an act or omission, say sorry, and then believe that grace has restored us without any further action. Part of this stems from our weekly recitation of the Confession of Sin. We confess, we are sorry, we humbly repent, we then go forth to walk in His ways. While this is a quick and spiritually refreshing process at church, the lengthier process of repentance (which leads to walking in His ways) involves work, sometimes hard work. As coincidences go I was participating in the most recent session of Sacred Ground (well worth your time!) and read an excerpt from Jim Wallis' book America's Original Sin. In it he speaks of repentance as meaning "literally to stop, make a radical turnaround, and take an entirely new path. It means a change of mind and heart and is demonstrated by nothing less than transformed behavior."

As coincidences go—again—my wife Michelle and I had chosen to give up something together for Lent. We had never done this before, but for the sake of our relationship we were ready to put in the work to make a radical turnaround. Having declared my repentance, it is now incumbent on me to continually demonstrate my repentance by nothing less than transformed behavior.

ST. JAMES' NEW ROOF

Work Begins April 12, 2021

St. James' Church building, a Gothic Revival structure designed by Thomas U. Walter, was built in 1839. You may be surprised to learn that the current roof is original to the building. After almost 200 years of storms, wear, and general aging, it is clear that a new roof is needed.

A project of this scope takes a team. With the help of Highland Roofing and Architect Ian Johnston, AIA, St. James will soon have a brand new roof that maintains the historical appeal. Construction will begin on April 12, 2021. Our community can expect to see scaffolding along the perimeter of the Church building, including those areas in the St. Francis Memorial Garden along the Church walls.

The project will last well into the summer and occupy the central lawn between the church and Bacon House. Everyone involved with the project is committed to a safe environment that will allow church services to continue inside St. James throughout the construction period. Questions regarding this project should be directed to St. James Parish Facilities Administrator, Bill McKenzie. Bill may be reached at bill@stjamesp.org.

ST. JAMES STORY TIME CONTINUES

Each Sunday | St. James YouTube

Good news! We'll be continuing to share Story Time on our St. James YouTube and Social Media pages through Pentecost. You can find our new videos each Sunday on these pages and on the St. James website, stjamesp.org/blog/bible-time/

ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2021 Summer Camps are OPEN!

June 7-11: Planes, Trains, and Automobiles

June 21-25: Let's Go on a Safari!

July 19-23: OLYMPICS

Questions? Please contact Amy Taylor at director. dayschool@stjamesp.org.

ST. JAMES LECTURE SERIES: DR. WINSTON B. CHARLES

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 | 7:00 p.m. | St. James Parish

You're invited to join us in-person or online for Dr. Winston B. Charles' presentation, Finding Deeper Ground: Living from the Spiritual Heart. These past months have been extraordinary times of stress: the pandemic, the painful exposing of systemic racism revealing the need to grow in oneness, the severe weather events evidencing shifting climate, as well as the regular challenges of life. We have experienced much loss and will likely face more. Still, God is with us, within us, among us: holding, comforting, healing, empowering us toward life in its fullness. These are clear invitations to find deeper ground on which to stand. Dr. Charles will speak on leaning ever more deeply into the Spiritual Heart by reclaiming the ancient Christian tradition of contemplative prayer and spirituality. Learn more about how to RSVP or stream by visiting stjamesp.org/lecture.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: THE PATH

Resumes April 14, 2021 | 11:00 a.m. | Zoom

Join us as we read through The Path. We'll walk in the footsteps of faithful men and women who have done their best to follow God's call. The Path is the story of the Bible, excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version so that it is clear and easy to read. Follow the path of God's love all the way from the beginning to the end, from Adam's creation to John's revelation. Have questions? Please reach out to Rev. Cheryl at Cheryl@stjamesp.org.

THURSDAY NIGHT: WALK IN LOVE

Resumes April 15, 2021 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

Join a small group on Thursday evenings on Zoom as we look at take a journey through The Book of Common Prayer, the Christian life, and basic beliefs of our faith, guided by two Episcopal priests - Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. Walk through the liturgical year, the sacraments of the church, habits of daily prayer, and the teachings of Anglican Christianity. See how our prayer shapes our beliefs and our lives and how our beliefs lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Contact Rev. Cheryl at cheryl@stjamesp.org for more information.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a way to get involved! There are plenty of opportunities to support ministries at St. James and in our community. Reach out to communications@stjamesp.org to learn more.

SUNDAY SERVICE RSVP FORM

Sunday, April 18, 2021 | Multiple Times and Locations

Please use the form online (stjamesp.org/rsvp) or below to let us know which service your family plans to attend. We request that you only submit one RSVP per household/family. Similar to our outdoor worship protocol, masks will be required of all attendees and family units will be asked to sit together and stay at least 6ft from other family units. A full breakdown of our safety protocol and what to expect may be found here: stjamesp.org/indoor-safety.

*Please note we are following diocesan protocols and the Nursery will remain CLOSED at this time so families with young children should plan accordingly.

Please return completed physical form to the Parish Office at 25 S. Third Street, Wilmington, NC 28401.

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

EMAIL/PHONE _____ HOUSEHOLD SIZE _____

Please check the box by which service(s) you plan to attend:

- 8:00 AM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 9:00 AM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 9:30 AM: Outdoor Worship at Mt. Lebanon Chapel- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 9:30 AM: Online Worship- Livestream of Mt. Lebanon- Rite II
- 10:30 AM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 5:00 PM: Outdoor Worship at Mt. Lebanon Chapel- Faith at 5

MEN ON A MISSION: WORKDAY COMING

April 17-18, 2021 | Trinity Center

Interested in joining other St. James Parish Men in serving our community? Plan to arrive at Trinity Center between 9am and 10am. We plan on getting our work done by 5pm, and then eat and have drinks around a blazing campfire. We will each sleep in separate rooms (provided to us for free by Trinity Center) and then have an early Sunday service at Sanders Point, a quick breakfast, and then head home. We have 30 rooms available. If you would like to join in these good times, please contact Rev. Chris Hamby at chris@stjamesp.org.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: WOMEN'S GROUP

Starting April 7, 2021 | 8:15 p.m. | Zoom

It's been too long since we have been able to catch up over dinner, after Faith Formation class or coffee hour! Are you ready to make new friends, build community, pray and encourage? All women (Age 21 and up) are invited to join a new group meeting via zoom! Starting Wednesday, April 7th at 8:15pm, join us every other week as we walk through life together! Have questions contact Leslie Jarrett (Leslie.H.Jarrett@gmail.com) or Michelle Gray (michelle.gray@nhcs.net).

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES

Monday-Friday | 8:00 a.m. | Zoom

Looking for a great way to start your day? We've got you covered. Join us on Zoom for a time of prayer, fellowship, and a little music.

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

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MONDAY- FRIDAY, APRIL 12

MORNING PRAYER
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom | Led
by laity and clergy.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

VESTRY MEETING
5:15 - 7:00 PM | Great Hall

FELLOWSHIP AA
7:00 PM | Lippitt Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

EDUCATION FOR
MINISTRY
9:00-11:30 AM | Zoom

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

PCJ BIBLE STUDY
7:30 AM | Zoom | Led by
our Youth Group and with
Youth Advisor support

BIBLE STUDY: THE PATH
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM |
Zoom

EDUCATION FOR MINIS-
TRY
6:00-8:30 PM | Zoom

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

WALK IN LOVE
7:00 PM | Zoom

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I
8:00 AM | St. James Parish | Please RSVP

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
9:00 AM | St. James Parish | Please RSVP

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
9:30 AM | Outdoors Mt. Lebanon Chapel
BYOS*

ONLINE RITE II LIVE STREAM
9:30 AM | St. James Parish Website or
Facebook

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
10:30 AM | St. James Parish | Please
RSVP

FAITH AT 5
5:00 PM | Outdoors Mt. Lebanon Chapel
BYOS*

***BYOS:** Bring Your Own Supplies- Please bring your own masks, chairs, picnic blankets, etc.

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the April 20th e-blast is Friday, April 16th.