

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
WEEK OF APRIL 25, 2021

THE REV. C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR.



HELLO ST. JAMES PARISH!

In just a few short weeks my family and I will be joining your community, and we could not be more humbled by God's grace in our lives. Your patience and persistence in seeking the next Rector for St. James is my opportunity to love and serve you all in the years to come. We are so grateful. God is good!

As you may have heard, Jennifer and I started our married life together twenty-seven years ago in Wilmington, where I first served as Assistant Rector of St. John's. There she and I grew to love each other, youth work, parish ministry, and the people of Wilmington. I'm going to tell a truth here -- we were perplexed then by our fascination with, and longing for St. James Parish! We were drawn by God to many wonderful years of service and ministry at Episcopal High School to the North (Alexandria, Virginia), and Oregon Episcopal School and Ascension Episcopal Parish to the Northwest (Portland), but we never forgot St. James. Our love was rekindled in the spring of 2019, when we brought our three children for a vacation to Wrightsville Beach, to show them where we 'began' our life together.

All of our feelings were solidified a hundredfold when I had the opportunity to meet and build relationships with

the people of the St. James Rector Search Committee. Their integrity to the process, devotion to the work, and heart for God's will was fully apparent throughout the months we had together. And now, the ever-widening circle of people I meet affirms a parish family that is vibrant and thriving and faithful to God, each other, and the community at large.

Jennifer and I are looking forward to being "in town" for a long week in mid-May. We'll be bringing our 13-year daughter, LucyWest, with us. Our older children are in college. Sam (21) is a junior at the University of Oregon, and EllaKathryn (19) is a freshman at the University of New Mexico. Our time in May will give us the chance to explore schools for LucyWest and our housing possibilities. I'll also have the opportunity to spend some time with the clergy, staff and Vestry of St. James. Importantly, I'll be preaching my first sermon at St. James on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, and hope to meet many of you at that time. My thanks to the clergy for accommodating this opportunity.

It certainly doesn't need to be said -but still bears acknowledging -- this has been a very tough 18 months for our world. No place has gone untouched by the pandemic. That said, we are going to continue to stand firm in the knowledge that God is sovereign and in control. We remember His words in Jeremiah: "for I know that plans I have for you. Plans to give you hope and a future." Our season together starts now, St. James, and it will bring a mighty love -- a great work - -and a future of hope.

Blessings and love to all of you, and we'll see you in May.

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:

Jane Carey, Bob Godley, Paula Haller, Jocelyn Lynch,
Missy Wright

CONDOLENCES TO:

Allene Keith Wright on the passing of her sister,
Mary Ann Massey

Wes Clewis on the passing of his aunt,
Bonnie Lapsansky

Ruth and Alex Efird on the passing of their daughter,
Carol Efird Smith

Brenda Towles on the passing of her husband,
Billy Towles

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 are no longer requiring RSVPs. 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

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

WE WILL, WITH GOD'S HELP

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

Join us for a discussion of what our community can do in our diocese to help grow our mission as Christians and Episcopalians. The Executive Council of the Diocese of East Carolina is looking for feedback from our parish. We invite you to participate in a time of conversation centered around "mission" and what that means for not just St. James but Eastern North Carolina. Have questions? Please reach out to the Rev. Michael Singer at Michael@stjamesp.org.

SAVE THE DATE: BISHOP'S VISIT MAY 2

Sunday, May 2, 2021 | St. James Parish

The Rt. Rev'd Robert S. Skirving, Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina will be at St. James Church on Sunday, May 2, to celebrate, preach, confirm and receive those who have been prepared for confirmation. With COVID restrictions there will not be a reception to follow the 10:30 am service this year.

An offering will be taken for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund to be used for needs of the church not covered by diocesan budget. Checks should be made to St. James Parish and in the memo portion of the check write "BDF."

JOANNE CHENG COMPLETES 4 YEARS OF EDUCATION for MINISTRY

The Wednesday Evening Education for Ministry group at St. James Parish is pleased to announce that one of our members, Joanne Cheng, has completed four years of the Education for Ministry (EfM) Program offered at St. James. On May 19, the final meeting of our 2020 - 2021 EfM program year, Joanne will receive a Certificate of Completion from the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, in recognition of her fine accomplishment. Joanne and her husband, Larry, have been members of St. James Parish since 2017.

EfM is a four-year program which includes in-depth study of the Old Testament (Year 1), the New Testament (Year 2), Christian history (Year 3), and Christian ethics and theology (Year 4). EfM provides opportunities for prayer, worship, study, and spiritual reflection in a comfortable and supportive group setting which fosters spiritual growth and helps participants to connect their faith with their daily lives.

Through the EfM program, we begin to understand more clearly that as Christians, we are called to be active participants in the church's ministry. EfM helps us to identify this call in our own lives, and to discern how we may carry out our ministries within the parish and beyond. If you would like to know more about EfM, please contact Bill Bivins at wpbivins@gmail.com, or Karen Clark at clarklc11@gmail.com.

We have appreciated Joanne's enthusiastic participation in EfM over these past four years, and we wish her the very best as she continues in her Christian ministry.

ST. JAMES STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP UPDATE

Strategy #5 – Invite new members intentionally and creatively to St. James Parish.

If the SPG's first four strategic proposals make St. James a better place – energized worship, enhanced ministries, fully utilized campus, and increased financial support – than the last one calls on our best self; living and preaching the Gospel, welcoming others to join us.

This is easy to say, hard to do. It requires not just openness to others, but also sincere introspection; a willingness not only to promote ourselves in the community, but also to eliminate barriers to membership; not only traditional initiations such as baptism and confirmation, but also welcoming, intermediate “pathways” to participation, like a heart-felt welcome to St. James.

A venerable church like ours can be intimidating to a newcomer, who might be encouraged by:

- genuine hospitality
- the introductory Alpha Course
- public lectures, concerts, Bible study
- a variety of services, times, and dress
- opportunities for ministry
- childcare & pre-school
- posting of the Order of Worship on a projector screen
- tasteful “recruitment”

Fortunately, this approach does not require our parish to change, but instead to show our true selves to others, to identify what St. James and its members are doing in the community, even to “advertise.”

The result could be a larger, more diverse parish, one still rich in its 300-year-old history but fully invested in the future. It would also be vibrant parish, fully capable of achieving both the goals of our Strategic Plan and the call of a Twenty-First Century Episcopal church.

THANK YOU TO OUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

We want to take a moment to share a big thank you to our **St. James Rector Search Committee:**

Claude Bridger: Co-Chair	Betsy McDonald
Reid Murchison: Co-Chair	Sonja McFarland
Frank Gwathmey	Alex Murchison
Elizabeth Hinshaw	Sheila Osann
Susan Ingle	Ann Parker
John Jordan	Ginny Woodruff
Connor Keller	

Through the pandemic, these dedicated members of our parish family put in over 2000 hours of work to help us find the Rector whom God called to St. James. Their prayerful consideration and thorough research has brought us to the joyful calling of the Rev. Phillip Craig. We encourage each of you to take the time to thank these amazing individuals for their hard work and steadfast love for our community.

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.

ST. JAMES STORY TIME CONTINUES

Each Sunday | St. James YouTube

Enjoy Story Time on our St. James Website, YouTube and Social Media pages through Pentecost. You can find our new videos each Sunday at: stjamesp.org/blog/bible-time/.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: THE PATH

April 28, 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

April 29, 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.

SILENT AUCTION JUST AROUND CORNER

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, 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.

QUIET REFLECTION

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

Join us on the first Saturday of each month, for an hour of quiet reflection at Mt. 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 fall. Have questions? Contact Lindamurchison65@gmail.com.

MEN'S DAY OUT AT ORTON CAMP

Saturday, May 15, 2021 | 4:00 -7:00 p.m | Orton Camp

The men of St. James Parish are invited to Orton Camp Located at 5366 River Rd (Highway 133) in Winnabow, for a day of fellowship, fun, and dinner. Drop in as you're able! We're excited to see you. Everyone is invited to bring one guest to join! There will be games, grilling, ribs, bonfire, fellowship, and worship. This is an opportunity for all adult men (21 years and above) of St. James Parish to come together in a safe way outdoors at Orton Camp. You can register online (link coming soon). Have questions please reach out to David Sprunt at david.sprunt@ec.rr.com.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: WOMEN'S GROUP

Next Meeting May 5, 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! 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 26

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

MONDAY, APRIL 26

FINANCE MEETING
5:00 - 6:00 PM | Great Hall

FELLOWSHIP AA
7:00 PM | Lippitt Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

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
MINISTRY
6:00-8:30 PM | Zoom

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

WALK IN LOVE
7:00 PM | Zoom

SATURDAY, MAY 1

QUIET REFLECTION
7:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon

SUNDAY, MAY 2

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

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

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

YOUTH GROUP
6:00 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 May 4th e-blast is Friday, April 30th.