

SUNDAY SERVICES ONLINE ONLY DUE TO COVID-19

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2020

STATE OF ST. JAMES PARISH FINANCES IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

As I sat down to write this update on church finances, I could not help but think back upon the history of St. James Parish; a history which notably includes a few pandemics, a spattering of wars, several economic collapses, and a whole host of concerning natural disasters and world events. Through it all, St. James has persevered and when the challenge at hand has come to pass, parishioners have once again gathered to worship at the corner of Third & Market. Covid-19 will be no different and, like MacArthur, "We Shall Return"! In the interim, we can all consider ourselves fortunate to have such wonderful staff and clergy at St. James. They have adapted quickly and without interruption; feeding our collective spiritual needs via modern technology, streaming church services, and Sunday school gatherings hosted via Zoom. I can't help but to think how far we have come since Yellow Fever in 1862 or Spanish Flu in 1918 and what it must have been like for St. James parishioners during those pandemics, completely cut off from one another, the church, and the outside world, in the midst of widespread disease and mortality. Given this context, we are blessed indeed and have much to be thankful for!

In furtherance of that perspective, I am pleased to report that St. James remains on sound financial footing, which has allowed us to retain our staff and keep St. James operating and offering its ministries during this period. Year to date, we have received pledge income of \$471,634 coupled with other revenue sources totaling \$74,583, while our expenses continue to track slightly under budget. Overall, we are tracking ahead on revenues and below budget on expenses YTD. However, we have another eight months left to go in 2020 and need your continued support. We are still approximately \$50,000 short of our 2020 pledge goal. If you have not made a pledge, please do so as you are able. Additionally, despite wonderful technology, we have not yet figured out how to physically pass the offering plate online, and thus have only collected \$4,217 of our \$30,000 annual budget for Plate Offering. If you support the church via the offering plate, please consider sending an offering to Saint James via online or mail. Information to give online is on the next page of the Grapevine. If you made a 2020 pledge, please continue to fulfill it by making regular payments as you are able. We are appreciative of your continued stewardship and support.

Lastly, St. James is here for you. If Covid-19 has left you out of work or otherwise interrupted your finances and you are in need of assistance, financial or otherwise, please consider reaching out to a member of clergy and letting them know. These conversations will be guarded in the strictest of confidence and clergy are more than happy to offer support or otherwise assist you through these challenging times. You can count on St. James and your church family.

God Bless!

Mike Brown

Treasurer



ST. JAMES UPDATES

SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:

www.stjamesp.org/covid19

GIVING ONLINE

To help make it easier to donate and support St. James Parish, we'd like to include this QR code that will take you directly to our general donation page or if you prefer, you can visit: <https://onrealm.org/StJamesParish/give/pledge>
Thank you for your support!



CONDOLENCES TO

Bob Workmon on the death of his father, Bob Franklin Workmon

NEW TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

You're invited to join us on Zoom for a Bible Study! The Episcopal Church is putting together the Good Book Club. As a denomination, we'll be reading through the book of Matthew. You can find a full schedule for the daily readings and the login information for the Zoom sessions on our website: <https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/tuesday-night-bible-study/>. Whether you're up to date on the readings or not, please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays for Bible Study, lead by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham on Zoom!

PEOPLE COMPUTERS JESUS BIBLE STUDY

Good News! We're now People Computers Jesus Bible Study (PCJBS). We are "meeting" Wednesday Mornings online. If you're interested in participating, reach out to Cookie at Cookie@stjamesp.org to learn how! This Bible Study is led by our St. James Youth Group! We are sharing our "highs," our "lows," where we see God at work in our lives, thanksgivings, and our prayer requests. It is a joy to share with one another and to encourage each other with God's love during this time of physical distance and uncertainty.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS ACCESS

The statewide shelter-in-place order is in effect. We are updating some of the practices for St. James Parish at this time. While our staff continues to work diligently, we are limiting the number of team members onsite. As such, we humbly request that any non-staff members regardless of key-holder status, please make an appointment to be granted access to the Sanctuary or any of the church's facilities. This will make it easier for Wes Clewis and his team of sextons to help us maintain a safe environment for all.

ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

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

SHARE YOUR JOYS WITH US

We want to remind everyone to find joy in the midst of anxiety. If you have a praise or a happy picture to share, please send it to Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org! With your permission, we'd like to share your joyful moments with the community!

MASK MINISTRY

One of our parishioners is building a mask-making ministry. She is using her sewing skills to make masks as fast as she can! These masks will be donated to the church and others in need. To help grow this ministry, we're inviting others who sew to join in! If you would like to donate to the hospital, please use the requested pattern on the St. James website.

If you are less crafty but would like to support this ministry, we are accepting donations of raw materials. Mask crafters will need quality quilting 100% cottons, elastic (1/4 or 3/8 inch), vacuum cleaner bags, etc (for layering). To coordinate a donation, please reach out to

BREAD BREAKERS IS GOING DIGITAL

Sunday, April 26 | 8:00 p.m. | Zoom

You're invited to join us on Zoom! Mebane Boyd will be with the Bread Breakers for the second Sunday evening of our discussion on caring for self, family, and children during these hard isolated times. Request the login info by RSVP-ing on MEET UP: <https://www.meetup.com/stjames/events/269962728/>

MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES

Monday-Friday During Quarantine | 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. | Zoom

Our Weekday Morning Prayer continues through quarantine! We'd love to have you join us on weekday mornings at 8:00 am for Morning Prayer on our Zoom! Zoom is a video conferencing tool that allows us to hear and see one another. You can now find copies of the readings and the link to the Zoom Meeting on our website.

ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

ST. JAMES RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE CALLED

We are very pleased to announce that the following members of our Parish were duly nominated, considered, and were prayed over. Further, they have each accepted their call to serve on the Rector Search Committee and have begun the work of locating and calling the next Rector of St. James Parish.

Here is our search Committee in Alphabetical order:

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

The Lord was hard at work with both the Vestry and the overall body of the Church in assembling this group of outstanding individuals and I hope you will join us in praying for them and their work as long as they are joined together in their work:

St. James Transition Prayer

Almighty God, you know the needs of your church in every place: look graciously upon the people of St James Parish, and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we move through this time of transition. Thank you for the faithful stewards you have provided, and will provide, for our leadership. Give us discernment, wisdom, patience and confidence in your timing. Help us to care for each other with mutual trust, respect, kindness and clarity of purpose. You are the Good Shepherd, and we ask you to shepherd us throughout this journey. In the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen

PARISH STAFF CONTINUE TO WORK

At this time, our parish office remains open to a limited staff. Our staff is continuing to work to make sure our church family is supported during this time. The majority of our team will be working from home. We ask that no non-staff personnel visit the office at this time and if you have a need, please call instead. Our number is: 910-763-1628 or email us at communications@stjamesp.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Families should be receiving Christian Formation emails on Sunday mornings that include talking points, activities, or a mixture depending on the age of your child. We are continuing to pray for your children and your families. Not being able to meet in person makes all of us sad, but hope that you and your children know that we all miss them and can not wait to see them again soon. If you are not receiving communications and would like to receive them, please let Shannon know at christianformation@stjamesp.org and we will get you added to the list.

ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for school year 2020-2021 is OPEN. Anyone interested in visiting and touring the Day School should contact Amy Taylor at director.dayschool@stjamesp.org. All registration is done through the St. James website, www.stjamesp.org/registration.

COMFORTING CALLS

Our Clergy and Community of Hope Members aren't able to visit hospitals or many of the local assisted living facilities in person. They are making it a mission to call members of our church family to make sure they don't feel so alone. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please reach out to Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org. In our effort to touch base with members of our church family, we've noticed that some of our information is out of date. Please take a moment to log into your REALM account and make sure your information is accurate. Also, if you would like other members of our community to be able to see your contact information, please make sure to set your privacy to "Public." REALM's "public" refers to just our community at St. James and does not share your information with the internet as a whole. If you do not have a REALM account and would like one, please email Maria at finance@stjamesp.org.

SUMMER CAMPS 2020

Here are this year's summer camps:

- Camp week 1: June 1-5: Transportation: Planes, Trains and Automobiles!
- Camp week 2: June 22-26: Let's go on a Safari!
- Camp week 3: July 20-24: Olympics
- Camp week 4: August 10-14: Knights and Princesses

Online registration are OPEN at www.stjamesp.org/

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT

by Reid Murchison

“Let go and let God.” That was a phrase I heard a lot as a younger Christian. To me, it always seemed a bit trite. It seemed like questionable advice that didn’t take into account my ability to handle things. It certainly seemed like an impossible thing to do.

So, it is ironic that this simple admonition reflects what has probably been the primary arena of my spiritual growth over the past couple of years.

I have been learning to let go of control. I have been learning to let go of wanting to be in control. I have been learning that I am not, and never will be, ultimately in control. I have been learning in ever deeper ways that God is indeed in control – and that God truly can be trusted.

I have found that God’s timing is better than my timing. I am seeing that God’s plan is better than my plan, although that has not kept me from formulating all sorts of plans for God – this learning is all still very much a work in process.

And yet, it has all been quite real. There have been specific occasions in my family life, my professional life, and in my life at St. James when I have sensed God opening doors, pointing to a path, putting just the right person in my path, and inviting me into the flow of his Spirit.

When the wardens first asked to know if any of us would like to serve on the Search Committee for our next rector, I felt like saying, Yes. Then I looked at my carefully crafted calendar. My travel schedule clearly precluded serving. Then the pandemic shutdown began. All of Linda’s and my travel through mid-July, some of which had been planned for well over a year, was soon cancelled. As I let go of all those plans, God opened up the possibility of joining the search process, in which I am delighted to take part.

That’s just one small example of how God has been showing me that I can let go of control because he’s in control.

I can’t tell you why or how any of this has happened. I can only say that it has all been a function of pure grace – and a true gift.

SILENT AUCTION 2020 UPDATE

It is with great sadness that I share with you that our 2020 Spaghetti Supper and Silent Auction will be “postponed/cancelled” for May 3 to help arrest the transmission of Covid-19. This Youth Ministries Fundraiser has allowed our young people to help the people of Madison County by providing the money that we use for the building supplies (lumber, roofing, plumbing, etc) and for other outreach and mission opportunities. It is my hope that our Glory Ridge Mission Experience, June 14 - 20, 2020, will happen. We might have to work differently yet sharing time and worship “at The Ridge” changes lives and helps our world. If you would like to be one of our “Glory Ridge Stockholders” (the people who financially support our Glory Ridge Mission Experience) please know that this money will be used to help people who need us! Please make your check out to “St. James” and put “Glory Ridge” on the memo line and send the check to St. James: Attn Cookie 25 South Third Street Wilmington, NC 28401. Thank you for your support both financially and spiritually!

NHDC: ACCEPTING DONATIONS

Drop off Unopened, Unexpired donations to 3151 S 17th Street, Wilmington. St. James is proud to be a member of the New Hanover Disaster Coalition. Through the NHDC we work with other partners in the Wilmington Community to provide for others. Our collective efforts make big impacts for many people. Through this partnership we have a system to distribute much needed items to those in the most need. Please consider making a donation of items listed below. If you have any questions please contact The Rev. Chris at chris@stjamesp.org

HELP HUB FUNDRAISER

With COVID-19, Help Hub is seeing a drastic increase in need. We’re hosting the first-ever Great St. James Parking “Lot-ery” to raise funds for the Hub. All funds would be designated for the Help Hub. The prize is a reserved parking spot at the church for the fall. Find out more on our website.

GLORY RIDGE

June 14-20 | Glory Ridge Mission Trip

Taking each day as it comes and understanding that we don’t know what the future holds, St. James Youth Ministries is stepping gently into the future and is encouraging people to register for our Glory Ridge 2020 Mission Experience. We hope to send our 6th-12th graders and interested adults to Glory Ridge again this summer. If you are interested in learning more, please visit our website or reach out to Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org.

SHEPHERDING YOUR FLOCK

by *Cookie Cantwell*

"Shepherding Your Flock"

For many years, parents have asked how to talk with their kids about difficult and challenging situations. Now, the question has been modified to how do I help my kids during this time of uncertainty and disappointment. Whether your children are 2 or 22, the rhythm and patterns of their lives have been altered by Coronavirus. Life as they knew it has changed. None of us has the knowledge of what the future holds yet we do know that God holds the future.

Every Saturday, while I was growing up, I asked my parents the same question. "Do we have to go to Church tomorrow?" The response was always "Tomorrow is Sunday, isn't it?" I knew that no rebuttal was going to change our family's destination the next morning. I wish that I could tell you that I was the "model child" sitting in that pew each Sunday or that I was the "perfect child" in my Sunday School Class. I was the kid that was made to go to Church and Sunday School. It was during these times that I was taught "The Lord is my Shepherd....."

Our Shepherd is with us now. A shepherd never leaves his flock and each sheep knows their shepherd's voice. A shepherd leads and also searches for lost sheep. A shepherd tends his flock and cares for their needs. As parents and as the Body of Christ known as "The Church" we must take time during our "social distancing" to listen to one another and to recognize the Presence of Jesus, our Shepherd, among us. So, here are a few suggestions:

- Gather as a family each day and light a candle to signify that this time is "different."
- Have each person share their "Low" of the day: the time that they wondered if God was truly there or when they felt sad, afraid or troubled by what was happening in the world or in their life.
- Share the "High" of their day: something that happened during the day that made them "happy" or filled them with "joy."
- Share where they experienced God's Presence. It might have been the beauty of a sunset, a conversation with a friend, someone recovering from Covid-19, a peaceful walk outside, singing a song, etc.
- Prayer Requests and Thanksgivings - share concerns, situations, people who are in need, Medical Personal, thankful for the sun or a long walk, etc.

As I look back on my childhood, I am thankful for the seeds of faith, love and understanding that were sown. As I faced defeat, rejection, sadness, pain and death, I had been taught that God would accompany me. As I achieved my goals and tasted success, I had been taught that God had guided me. When my son was badly injured, The Community of Faith known as "the Church" surrounded our family and carried us when we were frightened and exhausted. My parents had immersed me in FAITH and they taught me that God was always with me! Psalm 23 still resides within me.

During this time of limited activities and socializing, why not take some time to hear the "Whisper of God." I don't know about you but I feel better when people listen to me and when I can share my thoughts, fears, doubts, thanksgivings and joys. So, during this time of "separation," let's join together as the "Body of Christ" and hear what your family or friends are saying. We just might hear the "Whisper of God's Love."

YOUTH MINISTRIES 2020-2021

During this time of "social distancing," I have been doing a lot of pondering and creative thinking. As I share each Wednesday morning with our youth Bible Study via Zoom, I have listened and been amazed at their desire to know God more fully and to live authentic lives serving God. The questions that they ask, the "Highs and Lows" of their week and my favorite.... where/when each of them experienced the "Presence of God" during the week....all are holy moments of deep sharing and reflections of our living and loving God! Each day I am inspired to look to the future and to begin to shape our 2020 - 2021 St. James Youth Ministries..... Worship, youth group, Bible Studies, small groups, mission, outreach, creating opportunities for authentic relationships, adult mentors, fun, sabbath. Etc. I would love to hear your ideas, suggestions, and thoughts. If you have special memories from your own experiences within Youth Ministries or if you would like to become a part of the Adult Team to help create the next "chapter" of Youth Ministries at St. James, please contact Cookie at cookie@stjamesp.org.

NEXT WEEK AT

ST. JAMES PARISH

ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY, APRIL 26 - FRIDAY, MAY 1

MORNING PRAYER DURING QUARANTINE
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom | Led by Jay Sidebotham

You can find the Morning Prayer linked on our website around 8:00 a.m. Please let Erin at communications@stjamesp.org know and she will help you get access to the video.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
7:00 PM | Zoom | Led by Jay Sidebotham

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

PCJ BIBLE STUDY
8:45 AM | Zoom | Led by our Youth Group and with Youth Advisor support

SUNDAY, MAY 3

MORNING WORSHIP
8:00 AM | YouTube | Youth Sunday

Sunday Morning Worship may be found several ways. The easiest will be through our email that will come on Saturday night. Simply click the image link to view the service.

You may also view it on our YouTube Page which may be found by searching "St. James Wilmington" on YouTube or on our Facebook page which is found at, www.facebook.com/stjamesp.

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the May 5th e-blast and May 10th Grapevine is Friday, May 1st.

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WILMINGTON, NC
PERMIT NO. 298

ST. JAMES PARISH

• ESTABLISHED 1729 •

STAFF

Interim Rector The Rev. Pierce Klemmt

Associate Rector The Rev. Jay Sidebotham | **Assistant Rector** The Rev. Chris Hamby

Assistant Rector The Rev. Cheryl Brainard | **Organist/Choirmaster** John Sullivan

Facilities Administrator Bill McKenzie | **Parish Coordinator** Suzanne Adams

Office Administrator Jerry Worley | **Finance Administrator** Maria Hollopeter

Youth Minister Cookie Cantwell | **Children's Ministries** Shannon Lockamy

Day School Director Amy Taylor | **Communications Director** Erin Becker

Registrar Marybeth Tallman | **Property & Maintenance Manager** Wes Clewis

Sexton Joey Dobson

VESTRY

Senior Warden Steve Thomas | **Junior Warden** Florence Ellen Cowden

Treasurer Mike Brown | **Clerk** Diane MacAskill

Class 2020 | Bill Bivins | Florence Ellen Cowden | Stuart Hardy | Ed Whitesides

Class 2021 | Watson Barnes | Pem Jenkins | Jane Martin | Jim Spruill

Class 2022 | Caroline Cone | Berta Hamilton | Brian McMerty | Steve Thomas

25 S. Third Street | Wilmington, NC 28401

Visit us online: stjamesp.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/stjamesp](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesp)

Instagram: [@stjamesparish](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesparish)

Office: 910-763-1628