

SUNDAY SERVICES SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID-19

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
WEEK OF APRIL 5, 2020

THE REV. CHERYL BRAINARD



PHYSICAL SPACING AND CONTINUED CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Recently, I was working as a chaplain at the hospital when a code was called. Normally, when this occurs, the chaplain attempts to comfort or draw the family away from the patient or room so the medical team can get in with their life-saving measures. Holding hands to pray, a touch on a shoulder or even an embrace as we await the outcome, are all standard practices. On this particular day, neither of us (chaplain or the one being consoled) quite knew how to respond. I began by finding us chairs where we could be physically spaced and expressed to the grieving woman how awkward this was, and we both agreed it was the only way to proceed under the circumstances. Once the awkwardness was named for what it was, I asked her if she could tell me what had happened. From there, we communicated as “normal,” and this is where I can only give credit to the Holy Spirit who became the connection we both needed to communicate.

As I later pondered the events that day, I thought of how often we rely on our old familiar ways of doing things or we begin to rely too heavily on our own capabilities, which can thereby hide from our view the real work of the Spirit. Jesus called us to love one another and also said we would know his disciples by their fruit, but he never told us exactly how that would manifest itself individually. For that, we were each given gifts to build up the Body of Christ and for the common good.

In these days of transition, and of the unknown, it is particularly important that each of us use the gifts we have been given by the Holy Spirit to build up the Body so that we can best know how to help those in our midst and those in the wider community who are in need.

Since the shutdown of our “normal” way of loving and being together, many folks have begun calling one another with no excuses for calling and no apologies. New relationships have begun to bud and new life is on the brink of flourishing. With that noted, it will be easier for some than for others, and many in our community and also those outside our walls will need extra provisions.

Please check our website at stjamesp.org where you will find a growing number of resources. Morning Prayer, online classes and prayer requests are available and other pastoral resources. If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral, grief, spiritual, or other types of care, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the clergy for help. Watch for the Google form appointment calendar to schedule a meeting with a member of the clergy. Let's not struggle where we don't have to. If you have gifts available (monetary or other) to share with the Body during this time please let us know. Just as with the woman at the hospital, we have acknowledged the awkwardness and now trust the Holy Spirit to guide us to a new “normal,” and to one another, as we re-invent the way we do church and the way we care for one another.

Mornings With Messiah
Episode 9

ST. JAMES PARISH
ESTABLISHED 1729

rit and spoke th

ans 8:31-3

31 What, then, use to these thi
us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spar
him up for us all—how will he not also, along with I
all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against tho
chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the
one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who
the right hand of God and is also interceding for us
us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship
famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is

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/DDZEPCJGHB>.

Thank you for your support!



AN UPDATE FROM BISHOP SKIRVING REGARDING WORSHIP

Bishop Skirving shared a letter earlier this week. It has been linked on our website. We encourage everyone to visit www.stjames.org/covid19 and take a moment to read his message.

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.

LET US KNOW HOW TO PRAY FOR YOU!

Did you know that we have a prayer request page on our website? You can find by clicking PRAYER image on the homepage. Please let us know how to pray for you. Unfortunately, Clergy is not able to visit in the hospitals at this time so it is very helpful to us to be contacted when you are in need of support!

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.

SUMMER CAMPS 2020

Here are the exciting themes and dates for 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/st-james-day-school-summer-camps/.

CELEBRATE PALM SUNDAY

It's St. James tradition to welcome Jesus on Palm Sunday with a procession around the church campus. This year, we'll be hosting our parade a little differently. We're inviting all our families to participate by crafting palm leaves (downloadable coloring-page available on our website) and banners. We'll be having a picture parade! Let's fill our social media page with images of praise and worship this Sunday! #SJPpalmssundayparade

Here's how it works:

Step 1: Download and color your very own Palm to wave, make banners, get creative!

Step 2: Gather your family and a camera.

Step 3: Take a picture of you and your family welcoming Jesus on Palm Sunday!

Step 4: Share it with your friends at St. James by tagging us on social media or sending it to us so we can share it for you. Our email is communications@stjamesp.org.

<https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/palm-sunday-praise/>

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.

WORLD'S GREATEST COFFEE HOUR UPDATE

The World's Greatest Coffee Hour will be back in action in September. If your ministry group would like to sponsor a Sunday, or if you would like to help on a team, that would be great! Please get in touch with Bill at bill@stjamesp.org.

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 will soon begin the work of locating and calling the next Rector of St. James Parish.

2020 ST. JAMES RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

(Presented in Alphabetical Order)

Claude Bridger - Co-Chair

Reid Murchison - Co-Chair

Frank Gwathmey

Elizabeth Hinshaw

Susan Ingle

John Jordan

Connor Keller

Betsy McDonald

Sonja McFarland

Alex Murchison

Ann Parker

Sheila Osann

Ginny Woodruff

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

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.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT: LIFE, LIVE IT

by The Rev. Jay Sidebotham

Not too long ago, someone asked me what I like about being a priest. The answer that immediately came to mind had to do with spiritual growth. I noted in particular the joy and privilege of watching people take steps in their spiritual journey, growing in relationship with God and seeing how that deeper relationship changes the way they related to neighbors, how they lived faithfully in the world.

I have in mind one parishioner in Chicago, who started coming to church because she liked some of the justice work we were doing in the community. She was tough, and she made it clear to me at the outset that there was a lot of this doctrine/dogma stuff that she thought was fake news. But she'd put up with it because in her mind, we were doing some good. She began to hang around the church and demonstrated for me the wisdom that says faith is more often caught than taught. (Dare I say faith is contagious.) It didn't happen overnight, but she had a dramatic conversion, and became part of the faith community, diving deep into prayer and study, serving in leadership roles in the church and the diocese. It was quietly thrilling to see the change. It was God's work, not my own, but it was heartening to see this growth unfold, and to have a sense that I didn't screw it up.

Clergy aren't the only ones who have this privilege. We can all draw encouragement from seeing others go deeper in their lives with God, seeing that unfold with the youngest and oldest among us. One of my favorite questions I ask as I meet with Episcopalians around the country: When in your life did you experience spiritual growth? Once I get an answer, I follow up: What caused that growth to happen? For me, my own spiritual growth happens in witnessing the various ways that the Holy Spirit is at work in people's hearts, sometimes in the most unlikely folks. As I write from my socially distant quarantine, I'm especially grateful that God places us in community so we can discover that growth.

MORNINGS WITH MESSIAH IS ON YOUTUBE

Join us on the St. James' YouTube page as the Rev. Cheryl Brainard leads us for Handel's Messiah and the Bible. This 9-part series focuses on the music and biblical texts from Handel's Messiah. Listening alerts and the full libretto can be downloaded from the site. Please contact Rev Cheryl Brainard if you have any questions or need help accessing the study at cheryl@stjamesp.org

SILENT AUCTION 2020 IS COMING!

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!

MORNING PRAYER DURING LENT

Monday-Friday During Lent | 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. | Facebook
The Rev. Jay Sidebotham is going digital with Morning Prayer During Lent! We'll be trying something new this week and will use Zoom, a virtual meeting room, for morning prayer. Log in to Zoom each weekday morning around 8:00 a.m. for a time of prayer. We'll be sharing the login/call-in information via our website and social media. Can't find it? Email Erin at communications@stjamesp.org and she will assist you.

BREAD BREAKERS IS GOING DIGITAL

Since we can't meet in person and I am sure some of you are sick of "meetings" via Zoom how about a Happy Hour on Zoom? Stay tuned for the next date. Pour a big glass of your beverage of choice and let's check-in with one another. An open conversation with any direction for a conversation ranging from: holding onto faith without meeting as a community, how you can help those in need during this time, life under quarantine, Tiger King on Netflix (have you seen that show yet? It's CRAZY), Sports (do we miss them?), and wherever else the conversation leads.

When: TBA

Where: Within the confines of your home

Menu: What your refrigerator giveth, you taketh

Childcare: Your own home

Need the login info? Email Chris at chris@stjamesp.org

PRAYERS COMPUTERS PEOPLE BIBLE STUDY

Good News! We're now Prayers Computers People 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!

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.

KEEPING CONNECTED

In an effort to continually share our love and support for one another through this time apart, we're encouraging everyone to share pictures, stories, music, etc. that bring you joy. Let's share the everyday blessings. Send what encourages you to Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org and she will share on our social media.

FILMING AND SHARING WORSHIP

Ministry is still happening, it just looks a little different. We're working to digitize lessons, Bible studies, and, of course, Sunday mornings! If you would like to participate as a reader or help support our team as they work to keep everyone connected in worship, please reach out to Chris Hamby at chris@stjamesp.org.

GUARDIAN ANGEL CHANGES HERE

What a wonderful time to have your own personal "Guardian Angel!" We are encouraging all of our Guardian Angels to keep for their young person and we are inviting each young person to pray for your own personal Guardian Angel. While you will not know your Guardian Angel's name, God knows exactly who it is! So pray for your Guardian Angel. If you would like to send you Guardian Angel a note or a card, please drop it by my house or drop it by St. James. I will send it to your Guardian Angel. When this nasty virus is defeated, we will have a unique and wonderful "GUARDIAN ANGEL CELEBRATION!" We will create a wonderful experience where you will meet your Guardian Angel/ Youth face-to-face and share the joy of your Guardian Angel Experience 2020!

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.

ST JAMES YOUTH CONFIRMATION 2020

Each year the St. James young people are invited to learn more about the history, the beliefs and the traditions of The Episcopal Church, about the St James Parish, and about the process of preparation that occurs as one journeys on the path toward CONFIRMATION. Through education, experiences, relationships and group gatherings, our young people on this faith journey discern if and "when they are ready and have duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop" BCP p. 412. The journey towards Confirmation within The Episcopal Church is an exciting and meaningful experience where each young person decides if they are ready to take responsibility for their journey of faith within The Episcopal Church. The Confirmation process and education seeks to create an environment where an authentic Christian community can be formed and all parts of our liturgies, traditions, history, and faith formation can be studied and questions can be asked. It was our hope that this year, our young people participating in the 2020 Confirmation Process would participate in an "active learning style" of education. Each person would experience the depth of our Episcopal Traditions and also have the freedom to ask questions and perhaps "struggle" and "question" why we believe what we believe and what our worship means within our lives.

Several unavoidable circumstances and events have disrupted the 2020 Youth Confirmation Educational Experience. Since we do not have a clear sense of what the next weeks and months might bring, the Confirmation Formation Process of our young people will be offered during the 2020-2021 Academic Year. Many Episcopal Churches are encouraging young people to wait to go through the Confirmation Process until they are in high school or even later. It is important for us To remember that during the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, "you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever." During Confirmation, the candidate reaffirms the renunciation of evil, renews their commitment to Jesus Christ and with God's grace, they promise to follow Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. The congregation prays "for these people who have renewed their commitment to Christ." BCP p. 417 St. James is extremely committed to the journey of faith that our young people are experiencing and we will gladly and authentically accompany each of them on their journeys of faith.

FLOWERING THE CROSS

One of the special Easter traditions at St. James is having our children process down the aisle to bring flowers to decorate our white cross. We will miss being in our beloved sanctuary this year but the cross will still be decorated!

We invite parishioners of ALL ages to stop by the church any time after 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11th and bring a flower to add to the cross. The cross will be standing right at the front doors of the church for all to see!

We owe Mary and Dean Gornto a huge thank you for coming up with this beautiful idea. This will be a special way for us to stay connected with our church family during this holy season.



NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY, APRIL 6 - THURSDAY, APRIL 9

MORNING PRAYER DURING LENT

8:00-8:30 AM | Facebook | Led by Jay Sidebotham

You can find the Morning Prayer linked on our facebook page each morning around 8:00 a.m. Simply go to www.facebook.com/stjamesp and it will pull up our Facebook page. If you do not have a facebook page of your own, you may not be able to view it this way. Please let Erin at communications@stjamesp.org know and she will help you get access to the video.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

MORNING WORSHIP

8:00 AM | YouTube | With a Sermon from Bishop Skirving

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 is found at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxy1hvtSnsU84I_5nnbGUwg or on our Facebook page which is found at, www.facebook.com/stjamesp.

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the April 14th e-blast and 19th Grapevine is Friday, April 10th.

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

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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
Finance Administrator Maria Hollopeter
Youth Minister Cookie Cantwell | **Children's Ministries** Shannon Lockamy
Day School Director Amy Taylor | **Communications Director** Erin Becker
Registrar Susan Ingle | **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

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Office: 910-763-1628