

SUNDAY SERVICES ONLINE ONLY DUE TO COVID-19

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC

WEEK OF AUGUST 16, 2020

THE REV. CHERYL BRAINARD



Many years ago, a seminary professor made a statement that I have never forgotten—a statement I have wanted to model my life after but also one that constantly keeps me asking where I stand on any particular issue. She said, “I am grateful for those who live on the edges and fight for the rights of others because they allow me to be a moderate. Otherwise, I too would have to stand and fight.” In today’s world, this statement haunts me because I so want to be that moderate, but I am constantly challenged to choose sides.

As a female priest in the year 2020, I realize there is much I take for granted because of the women prior to the 1970’s. The same with voting. It’s hard to imagine that my grandmother wasn’t allowed to vote until well after she was old enough to cast her ballot—not to mention the atrocities suffered by people of color in my own lifetime.

While I have always supported the “equality” of all people, I admit that I have rarely been an activist of any sort, be they women’s rights, voting rights, gay rights, religious, civil or any other rights. In my failure to understand “equity,” I have enjoyed the privilege of sharing my life with people who represent all of the above—not appreciating how much they have suffered just to fit into the world that I so easily assimilate, primarily due to skin color and economic status. It has taken longer than I care to admit, but it saddens me to think how I have at times taken that middle road and neglected to raise my voice for people,

whom I claim as friends.

I love variety, and I “proudly” enjoy listening to people who think differently than I do. Yet, buzz words like masks or rights immediately cast folks into boxes of Liberal/Conservative, Republican/Democrat, Fox/MSNBC news-watchers, and they instantly label people as “one of those” and continue the ever-growing chasm of “us versus them.” I want so badly to claim the middle ground, but I fear in my zest for moderation, I am in danger of missing the voice of Jesus calling me to stand. So I have to stand today against divisions in the Body of Christ.

As Christians, our divisions are simply wrong. They go against our baptismal vows that ask if we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. Unless, you have answered this question “tongue in cheek,” then you have agreed to strive for justice and peace among *all* people *with God’s help* more than just a few times in your life as an Episcopalian.

In Acts 17, we read how Epicurean and Stoic philosophers *debated daily* and even listened to the Apostle Paul’s *new teaching* in an effort to be open. Yet, in the end, they rejected the good news about Jesus. Hopefully, we will be more like the people of Berea who welcomed the message of Jesus very eagerly because they *examined the scriptures daily* to see whether these things were so.

As our society continues to divide us, I find myself looking more and more to God’s Word and the theme of “Unity in Diversity” continues to surface to the top. We are not all called to be, or to think alike, but we are called to love and treat all people with dignity.

ST. JAMES UPDATES

SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:
www.stjamesp.org/covid19

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Betty Calder, Bob Godley, Jocelyn Lynch, Kit Mason,
Pam Potter, Feriba Wetlin

CONDOLENCES:

Ann Hale on the death of her husband, William (Bill) Hale.

The family and friends of Mary Ann Hogue.

To Freddie Lewis and family on the death of his father, Frederick William Lewis, Jr.

Gail and Wright Smith on the death of their son-in-law, Charles Morgan.

Page and Joan Teer on the death of Page's brother, Nello L. Teer III.

SACRED GROUND

Tuesday, August 18, 2020 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

Join us as we discuss race and faith and our role at this moment in history. St. James Parish invites you to participate in Sacred Ground. Sacred Ground is a film- and reading-based dialogue series on race and faith. Participants will walk together through America's history of race and racism while weaving in the threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. It's an invitation for small groups to gather to learn, share, and prepare to become Beloved Community. Built around a curriculum of powerful documentary films, videos, and readings, this 10-part series considers some of the major chapters of the United States of America's history of race and racism. It focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian American histories as they intersect with European American histories. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to challenges and divides in the present day – all with a deep foundation in faith and love.

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Rev. Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org or Steve Thomas at stevethomas@live.com for access to the Zoom link. We are requesting RSVP so we can plan our breakout groups and know how many group leaders we will need.

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>



MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS YOU

Sunday, August 30, 2020 | St. James Parish

Meals and Wheels is an important part of St. James's outreach. It is also a vital service to our community. Sunday, August 30th is an opportunity to serve. We need cooks, packers, additional food items, and drivers. Please volunteer for this opportunity to serve. Gloves and masks are required for drivers. Contact Molly Roush at mollyroush@hotmail.com. Thank you for your participation.

HELP WANTED: LETTER WRITERS

In this time of social distancing, the Care Guild is unable to visit parishioners who are homebound or reside in care facilities. You can imagine how these residents look forward to receiving mail! If you are interested in helping us bring joy to some of our community members by writing a letter or two, please email Beth Souther at bethsoutherfish@gmail.com. She will assist you with next steps and help you choose a Letter Buddy or two.

DIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR RACIAL HEALING

Sunday August 23, 2020 | 3:00 p.m. | Zoom

Mark your calendars. At 3:00 PM on the afternoon of Sunday August 23rd, the Diocesan Commission for Racial Healing invites all members of our diocese to participate in a film-based discussion. We will meet by Zoom as we begin to explore what our faith has to say to the current and historic issues surrounding race in our common lives.

WEEKLY PRAYERS OF LAMENT & REPENTANCE

All are welcome to join religious communities from all around Wilmington as we pray Prayers of Lament and Repentance on the Wilmington City Hall steps (102 N. 3rd Street) Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Sundays | 10:00 A.M. | Zoom

Join us for Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom! The fun starts Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Find the link on www.stjamesp.org.

THE VESTRY IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A RESTRUCTURING OF THE MINISTRIES AT ST. JAMES!

What does this mean? A new layer of leadership will be added to our current structure of ministries. The many ministries at St. James have been divided into 6 groups, called commissions. They are: Worship, Administration, Outreach, Congregational Care, Parish Life, and Faith Formation. We have co-chairs and one communicator assigned to each commission. The main goal of the co chairs and communicators is to help each ministry see where they can help implement the St. James Strategic Plan, recently adopted by the vestry.

What are the benefits and how does this work? The co-chairs and communicators will help spread the good news about what's going on at St. James and let people know how they can get involved in the various activities. The commission leaders will work together to enhance parishioner participation and will help the ministries to be more collaborative. This new structure will give great support to our wonderful clergy and staff. We believe everyone will be more informed and feel a greater sense of community.

Where did the idea come from? Rev. Jim Hanisian, who has been a consultant for St. James in a few capacities over the last 2 years introduced the plan to the vestry. He has implemented this plan in churches similar to St. James and it has proven very successful. Vestry members contacted representatives at these churches and heard only positive feedback.

Will the current ministries themselves, "change"? The co chairs and communicators are dedicated to encouraging each ministry within their commission. Whatever is already working beautifully will continue, with full support. If there is a ministry wanting any additional help, they will get it.

This is a work in progress, and will evolve as the co chairs and communicators get on board with their own ideas. We feel it is the right path for St. James and will help us live into our mission statement, To welcome all to grow in love of God and neighbor.

Commission Leaders are:

Administration Co-Chairs -

Wanda Copley wandacopley@aol.com
Greg Richardson oceanlod@bizec.rr.com
Communicator - Stewart Poisson esp@poissonnonlaw.com

Outreach Co-Chairs-

Alex Wynek Alexandra.wnek@sptech.com
Ashley Walton ashleyls@yahoo.com
Communicator - Rachel Colonna rcolonna85@gmail.com

Congregational Care Co-Chairs-

Jane Marr jmarr@intracoastalrealty.com
Cathy Roberson cathyroberson726@gmail.com
Communicator - Lizzie Hartman ewellons@gmail.com

Parish Life Co-Chairs-

Porter Young poyoung@ec.rr.com
Web Cowden web.cowden@mirimichigreen.com
Communicator - Kenan Drum kenanlee92@gmail.com

Worship Co-Chair -

Dawn Carter dawnbcarter@gmail.com
Todd Hinshaw thinshaw0625@gmail.com
Communicator - Mary Lyons Rouse marylyons.rouse@capefearacademy.org

Faith Formation Co-Chairs -

Barbara Whitesides whiteside6@me.com
Mandy Hackler mandyhackler@gmail.com
Communicator - Erin Trask erin.scott.trask@gmail.com

QUIET REFLECTION AT LEBANON CHAPEL

Please note that the invitation for Quiet Reflection at Lebanon Chapel, scheduled for the first Saturday of September and October will be cancelled until further notice. While we wait to worship together in person again, we give thanks for the time when we can safely return.

MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES

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

Our Weekday Morning Prayer continues! We'd love to have you join us on weekday mornings at 8:00 am for Morning Prayer on our Zoom. You can now find copies of the readings and the link to the Zoom Meeting on our website.

PEOPLE COMPUTERS JESUS BIBLE STUDY

Join us for 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! Now starting at 10:00 a.m.

ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

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

ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT

by Kay Dougherty

There are times when crises can frighten and divide people, turn them against one another, but there are also times when crises can bring people together.

The year was 2001, the day September 11, and for David and me, it was the first day of the school year at The Hill School, a coeducational boarding school located west of Philadelphia in Pottstown, PA. David was the Headmaster, and I was the Associate Director of Admissions, and until 8:45 that clear, blue-skied Tuesday morning, we were very much focused on helping our new and returning students make the often difficult transition from a more relaxed summertime schedule to a routine consisting of required classes, a dress code, meals, twice-weekly chapel, and afternoon sports.

However, in spite of all our planning, nothing could prepare us for what happened next. We began to receive calls alerting us to a crash of an American Airlines Boeing 767 into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. And once it was made clear that this was not an accident, but instead, part of a terrorist attack against the US, we knew our response had to be immediate, and yet sensitive to the needs of our students, many of whom came from places all over the world. We all went to work on a plan – communicated to students and their parents – that provided structure at a time of real uncertainty as to what the future would bring.

One step in our plan was a decision to hold a service that evening in our beautiful campus chapel. That year, a science professor from our sister school, Charterhouse School, in Godalming, England, was with us as part of a teacher exchange. But that night Stephen was more than just a visitor. In front of the assembled group, he stood and began to speak. His words were of an undying friendship between our two schools, of a concern for all Americans from his fellow countrymen, and most importantly of a universal God whose message is one of love, unity, peace, and forgiveness. Our visiting angel will probably never know how much his presence meant to all of us at the end of that difficult day, but for certain the grace of the Lord was with us during a very dark hour.

ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for school year 2020-2021 is underway. Anyone interested in visiting or touring the Day School should contact Amy Taylor at director.dayschool@stjamesp.org.

Many thanks to the St. James Day School Task Force for Safe Reopening (listed below), who created comprehensive guidelines for reopening. With these guidelines in place and an average class size of 10 children, **SJDS plans to open on August 24**. Please keep the Day School in your prayers as we move forward with our reopening plans.

SJDS Task Force on Safe Reopening:

St. James Parish Staff:
Wes Clewis, Property and Maintenance Manager
Chris Hamby, Assistant Rector
Bill McKenzie, Facilities Administrator

SJDS Staff/Teachers:

Jan Bridgers
Stephanie Burney
Mitzi Daughtry
Amy Taylor
Sue Williams

SJDS Board of Directors:

Michelle Gray (NHCS)

Pre-School Education Specialist)

Medical Advisor:

Dr. Deana Miller, Pediatric Hospitalist, NHRMC
*Dr. Susannah Aylesworth, Pediatrician, Wilmington Health

*Dr. Allison Eggleston, Pediatric Dentist, Dr. Egg Pediatric Dentistry

*Dr Hayden Kirby, Anesthesiologist, NHRMC

*special consults

ONLINE WORSHIP:

We're so grateful for our church family and are so pleased with your continued participation in our online services!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 275 people watched last Sunday!

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER: 32 people joined for at least one morning this week!

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY: NEW PROGRAM YEAR BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER

On September 23, the Wednesday evening Education for Ministry (EfM) group at St. James Parish will begin a new program year. We have several places for new members, and we invite your consideration of whether this is the time for you to begin EfM. If you would like to know more about EfM at St. James, please contact Bill Bivins at wpbivins@gmail.com or Karen Clark at clarklc11@gmail.com.

LINK /RE-LINK YOUR HARRIS TEETER VIC CARD:

Help SJDS by linking or re-linking your Harris Teeter VIC card to our school! Each year SJDS gets funding from HT for the number of cards linked, and a portion of proceeds from the sale of HT brand items. The code for SJDS is 5264-the folks at the customer service desk can help you with this! Many thanks!

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

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NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY, AUGUST 17 - FRIDAY, AUG. 21

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, AUGUST 18

SACRED GROUND: A DISCUSSION OF FAITH
AND RACE
7:00 PM | Zoom

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

PRAYERS OF LAMENT AND REPENTENCE
9:00 AM | Wilmington City Hall Steps

PCJ BIBLE STUDY

10:00 AM | Zoom | Led by our Youth Group
and with Youth Advisor support

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

MORNING WORSHIP

8:00 AM | YouTube | www.youtube.com/st-jamesparish

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.

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the August 25 th e-blast and August 30 Grapevine is Friday, August 21st.