

SUNDAY SERVICES ONLINE ONLY DUE TO COVID-19

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
WEEK OF AUGUST 2, 2020

THE REV. CHRIS HAMBY

PASCAL & ME

This year has been one for the ages. A year that will be written about in multiple books and generations will learn about 2020 as the year of Black Lives Matter becoming a phrase everyone knows about and the year of the pandemic. I would be lying if I were not already concerned, not only about how our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ are treated, an uptick in virus numbers, but also hurricane season. The staff at St. James has worked to prepare for hurricane season so we are ready to mitigate issues at the church but also ready to help our community. We never know what is coming our way in any given year, month, day, or hour during 2020. This feels like the longest year that never ends.

Recently I visited some family and, during the long drive, my wife and I were talking about how 2020 will impact not only our own children but those who are in various stages of life. We reflected on our own upbringing in school. I told her about math being my least favorite subject but, in an ironic twist, I took more math classes in High School than any other core subject as it was my desire to get ahead for college. Given reluctant love of math my teachers would be happy to know I still retain the knowledge imparted on me many years later. This leads to Pascal and me.

I have heard people say 2020 is Groundhog Day. Groundhog Day has become a cultural term for experiencing the same day ad infinitum. I would have agreed in mid-March, but now it feels like we are experiencing a never-ending Pascal's triangle. The top of the triangle is comprehensible and everything seems fine but each level gets larger and larger. The numbers eventually become so large you can no longer quickly predict the exact number below and each row takes more time to fill. This is 2020. We are living with Pascal and his triangle.

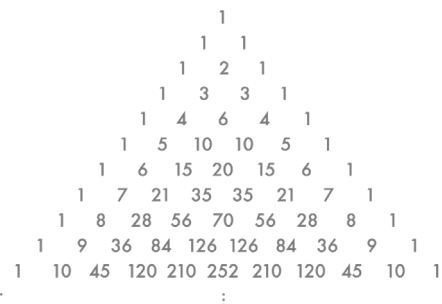
Each passing day, week, and month becomes harder to predict. The problems we face seem to exponentially grow and overwhelm and this is before any hurricane threats.

How do we not only keep our faith strong, help the less fortunate, pray, and love one another while at the same time letting go and remembering the ever-present love and grace of God while knowing "Jesus loves me." It is not easy to see when you're in month six of work-from-home order, planning children's education, figuring out how to see beautiful grand-children, making plans to meet with your monthly friend dinner group over zoom, wondering when you can safely enter a store and the clerk can actually see your smile, and just trying to remember what day-to-day life was before we entered this uncharted reality.

Look at Pascal's Triangle. You will notice a constant number on the outside of the triangle. The same number exists, no matter how big the numbers infinitely become in the middle, the outside will always be enveloped by the number one.

This is our reminder that God is with us throughout this journey. God will be constant in our life.

The pattern on the outside of Pascal's Triangle is the easiest to discern the next number below. What I remembered while driving from Lexington back to Wilmington with two kids and a dog crammed into a four-door sedan is our relationship to God is easy to see if we only look to understand that God is love and God will be with us every step along the way. When we look away from God, those big numbers in the middle become overwhelming, we get lost and we can no longer fathom the next row below, but returning to God we find comfort. I ask each of you to remember God's mercy is boundless, the love of Christ extends to all, and the grace we experience is forever life-changing when we keep God central in our lives.



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, Mary Ann Hogue, John Murchison

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>



SACRED GROUND

Tuesday, August 4, 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. We hosted our first night of discussion via Zoom on Tuesday, July 28 at 7:00 pm. Even if you missed night one, come join us for night 2!

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.

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 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

Medical Advisor:

Dr. Deana Miller, Pediatric Hospitaist, NHRMC
*Dr. Susannah Aylesworth, Pediatrician, Wilmington Health
*Dr. Allison Eggleston, Pediatric Dentist, Dr. Egg Pediatric Dentistry
*Dr Hayden Kirby, Anesthesiologist, NHRMC
*special consults

SJDS Board of Directors:

Michelle Gray (NHCS Pre-School Education Specialist)

LINK /RE-LINK YOUR HARRIS TEETER VIC CARD:

Help SJDS by linking or re-linking (this has to be done every summer) 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 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 RECTOR SEARCH FOCUS GROUP RESULTS AVAILABLE

The results are in! Please take a moment to review the compiled notes from our St. James Rector Search Committee. The Rector Search Committee conducted a series of focus groups over the course of two weeks beginning June 15th. Facilitated by members of the committee, these sessions, in which members of the parish were invited to respond to a list of prescribed questions, proved to be an invaluable source of insight and information. Here you will see a compilation of your fellow parishioners' responses to those questions, as well as other areas of interest and strong feeling/opinion that came forward in the sessions. The Rector Search Committee greatly appreciates the input of the congregation as we seek to discern who God is calling to be the next rector of St. James. If you have questions, please contact: search@stjamesp.org. Results may be found at: <https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/rector-search-focus-groups/>

DIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR RACIAL HEALING

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

Mark your calendars. At 3:00 PM on the afternoons of Sunday August 9th and 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 AND 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.

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. We hope you will consider our program and let us know if we can provide further information

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 out more info on our website: <https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/virtual-coffee-hour/>

NEW FORWARD DAY-BY DAY AVAILABLE!

The parish office now has issues of the new Forward Day-by-Day. If you'd like one, please call the office to arrange for curbside pickup. Also, please consider dropping one off to someone you know who may be homebound but would appreciate a copy. Thank you.

ONLINE WORSHIP:

We're so grateful for our church family and are so pleased with your continued participation in our online services! Here are the attendance numbers for participation last week.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 198 people watched last Sunday!

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER: 30 people joined for at least one morning this week!

QUIET REFLECTION AT LEBANON CHAPEL

Please note that the invitation for Quiet Reflection at Lebanon Chapel, scheduled for the first Saturday of the months of August, September and October will be cancelled until further notice. Many of us would cherish this opportunity right now. While we wait to worship together in person again, we will hold the picture of this beautiful chapel and its grounds in our minds and hearts, and 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 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.

MEET ON ZOOM: RENEWALWORKS FOR ME

Thursdays | 7:00 P.M. | Zoom

All who are participating in RenewalWorks for Me are invited to join a weekly Zoom group meeting with Jay Sidebotham on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Even if you haven't read or haven't started RenewalWorks For Me yet, come join us and see what it's all about! Find information about the Zoom on our website. If you would like to be emailed the link to join each Thursday, please reach out to Erin at communications@stjamesp.org.

ST. JAMES PARISH

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Wilmington, NC 28401

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NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY, AUGUST 3 - FRIDAY, AUG. 7

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 4

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

RENEWALWORKS FOR ME
7:00 PM | Zoom | Led by the Spiritual Growth
Committee

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

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 11 th e-blast is Friday, August 7th. The next issue of the Grapevine runs on August16th, 2020.