

ST. JAMES NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRAPEVINE

GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR

IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE RECTOR- THE REV. C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR.
VESTRY CORNER
NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH
AND MORE!



ECUADOR MISSION: DINING WITH THE BISHOP

HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

SUMMER SERVICE TIMES

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

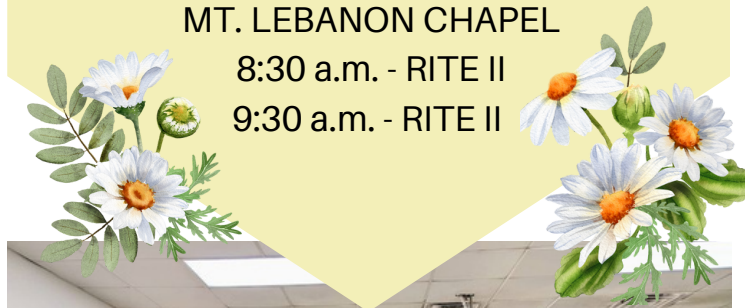
8:00 a.m. - RITE I

10:30 a.m. - RITE II & Livestream

MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

8:30 a.m. - RITE II

9:30 a.m. - RITE II



SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER



SUNDAYS AT MT. LEBANON CHAPEL



ECUADOR MISSION EXPERIENCE: VBS

WEEKDAY OPPORTUNITIES

M

MORNING PRAYER

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 8:00 a.m.

Join us on Zoom

LIVING WELL IN GRIEF

1st & 3rd MONDAYS | 5:00 p.m.

Graham Parlor or Zoom

W

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

SELECT WEDNESDAYS | 8:00 a.m.

2018 South 16th Street

HOLY EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAYS | 12:10 p.m.

Celebrating Holy Communion

WELCOME SUNDAY

Sunday, September 10 | St. James Parish

SCHEDULE:

- 8 AM - Rite I Worship Service
 - 10:15 AM - Rite II Service with the Blessing of the Backpacks
 - 11:15 AM- Parish Celebration
- Make plans to join us downtown for the first combined worship of Fall 2023! Welcome Sunday kicks off our new Fall Schedule, features the Blessing of the Backpacks, Children's Chapel, and our parish-wide celebration.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Saturday, September 9 | Perry Hall

Call for Volunteers: the Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing event is back. We'll once again be partnering with Rise Against Hunger to combat food shortages around the globe. Rise Against Hunger allows us to serve folks in 76 different countries who are experiencing hunger and food insecurity. Our goal this year is to sign up 250 volunteers to pack over 50,000 meals! Sign up to volunteer now.

Registration is OPEN online at
stjamesp.org/rah



From the Rector

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:19-20

Dear Parish Family,

It's been less than a week since our St. James youth mission group returned from nine days in Ecuador. As you would imagine, it was a remarkable and life-changing experience - in every respect. Thank you for your prayers for our safe journey. We felt your care and support all along the way.

I want you to know that the youth in our group embraced their call to Christian mission every single day with love, joy and enthusiasm. Our days were full and long, both in the capital of Quito and in the tiny community of Puyo (six hours south). They experienced cultural education, challenging service work, and leading a tremendous vacation Bible school with the 50+ children of Ascension Episcopal Church in Puyo. Beautifully, our time also included sharing God's love with the Amanzanga community - a native tribe living just inside the Amazon rainforest. We were all blessed by that experience.

Thanks to Cookie Cantwell (SJP Director of Youth Ministries), our connections with the Episcopal Diocese of Central Ecuador run very deep. Bishop Juan Carlos Quiñonez and Cookie have been friends for over a decade. Juan Carlos and his family graciously opened their home to us for a lovely dinner and evening, as evidenced by the picture on the front of this Grapevine. He gave us a small token of thanksgiving for our mission work. Importantly, he prayed for us and for St. James. I would ask you to keep Bishop Juan Carlos and the challenges of ministry in Ecuador in your prayers. We intend to seek sustainable ways to strengthen our friendship and relationship with that Diocese.

Three Ecuadorian missionary interns were with us as guides and interpreters for the duration of our stay. These young adults were all so taken by the ability of our young people to gather each evening, hear scripture from one another, and reflect with prayer and intention on their shared experiences of God and mission. It was wonderful to tell them that our young people practice those theological muscles every single week - here at home, when they gather early on Wednesday mornings for coffee and Bible study.



It was a gift to see Cookie in her element with our young people. Parishioner and Vestry member Brandon Tully was also an invaluable presence all along the way. All three adults and the participating youth would be thrilled to tell you more about the experience, and hope you will ask!

The journey to Ecuador was not a trip. Trips have a beginning and an ending. It was truly a mission. A mission we hope and pray will continue, like all of the other important and wonderful ministries taking place here at St. James each and every day. Indeed, the Gospel readings this summer remind us again and again that Jesus doesn't expect his mission work necessarily to be in another country or hemisphere. Rather, he calls us to mission today - right here and right now.

Faithfully,

The Rev. C. Phillip Craig, Jr.
phillip@stjamesp.org

Vestry Corner

"So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." -Romans 12:5

We have enjoyed having some special visitors during our vestry meetings this year. During our July meeting, **Porter Young** and **Hannah Brownlow** from the **Parish Life Commission** joined us to share about their experience leading this commission along with **Virginia Pierce**. This thoughtful commission coordinates gatherings of our community. They are focused on making sure events are fulfilling their purpose, building community and sustainable for future years. If you are interested in helping coordinate these great events please reach out! Most recently we all were together for the Parish Picnic, and their next event coming up is our **September 10th Welcome Sunday** gathering!

Erin Becker, our amazing Director of Communications, also joined us for our July meeting to share with us more about her role and jump-started a discussion on how we can be most effective in communicating to the parish. Erin is in charge of the website, social media, Grapevine publication, e-mail communications, wayfinding signs, and publications for the parish. One of her favorite parts of her work is working with all the ministries of our church and getting to share their incredible growth and witness through work in our Parish and community. While St. James is well beyond church-wide averages when it comes to e-mail open rates (St. James has an open rate of ~60% for emails vs. ~27% industry average), Erin encouraged that the most effective way to communicate about events is through a personal invitation and connection. She also discussed some options for an updated pictorial directory which you will hear more about this fall. We are all VERY grateful for Erin's continued expertise and dedication!

Throughout the summer if you have been to **Mt. Lebanon Chapel** then you will notice that we have shifted from two police officers directing traffic to one on Airlie road and a volunteer directing the internal traffic. This shift was in part to save some on costs of Sunday morning traffic control. Our friends at St. Andrews on the Sound are helping with traffic flow following their 7:30 am service, and St. James volunteers provide traffic coordination following the 8:30am service. **A HUGE thank you to these volunteers!**

As you read this we will be coming up on our Fall Vestry retreat, a time set aside for reflection, conversation about the future of St. James, our strategic plan, stewardship, the tricentennial committee and continued conversations on communicating effectively. We will share in fellowship and are excited to hear about the recent Ecuador mission trip.

Please continue to reach out if you have any questions, comments or thoughts.

-Leslie Jarrett (Senior Warden) & Alex Murchison (Junior Warden)

ST. JAMES PARISH FOUNDATION



As we officially move to the back half of the year, we want to send many thanks to all who have given generously to the St. James Foundation. To date, we have received \$78,020 in 2023 gifts, which directly support parish needs.

The Foundation oversees more than \$4 million in assets. Historically, up to 4% of the assets are distributed to the Vestry for campus expenses such as the repair and replacement of the church roof, storm restoration, structural repairs, and operational needs.

We welcome all parishioners to contribute to the Foundation as part of your annual giving. Gifts to the Foundation are long-term investments, or perpetual pledges, that impact the financial health of our church and help ensure our church mission continues for generations to come.

To learn more about the Foundation and how to make a gift, visit stjamesp.org/st-james-foundation/.



DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA

Events to know!

JAZZ & RACE SYMPOSIUM

Presented by: the Diocesan Racial Healing Commission

Where: St. James Parish

When: September 16 | 1:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Musician & Speakers:

Skip Walker & Dr. Catherine Meeks

Who is invited: EPISCOPALIANS, JAZZ ENTHUSIASTS, & WIDER COMMUNITY

Registration: stjamesp.org/jazz

Jazz and Racial Healing intersect in many ways. Join us as we listen to Jazz and learn more about its history from Skip Walker. Dr. Catherine Meeks will share from her extensive involvement in Racial Healing in the larger Church and beyond.

Please Save the Date!!!

Watch for Hospitality Opportunities

Have questions? Please reach out to communications@stjamesp.org!

OPEN HOUSE, OPEN HEARTS: EXTENDING GOD'S WELCOME IN EAST CAROLINA!

Mark your calendars for our **East Carolina Episcopal revival with Presiding Bishop Curry: October 21, 2023!** Gates are open 10:30 AM-5:00 PM. This festival is open to all people, so please invite and welcome your neighbors! Stay tuned for information about carpooling and transportation to the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry campus in Dunn, NC.

Some things to get excited about: an interactive ministry fair, activities for individuals and the whole family, live music, food trucks, worship, and opportunities to pray together and make new friends!

Our Revival Prayer Team shares the Revival Prayer.

Holy and amazing God, We ask you to open the hearts and minds of the people of East Carolina to what your Holy Spirit is preparing for us. Remind us of your presence in our everyday life so that we can see your hand at work in the world around us. Strengthen the leaders of our upcoming Revival and show them the path you are laying out. Help us let go of the things that distract us from your purpose, and show us where our focus should be. Sustain our energies before, during, and after this Revival so that we may be the agents of transformation you have called us to be.

Empower us to engage our neighbors so we can share the loving, liberating, life-giving Good News of Jesus. In his holy name we pray.

Amen.

If you are interested in participating as a volunteer for this special event, please reach out to Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org.

BOOK REVIEW CORNER

Welcome to the Book Corner! Join us as we share some of the books that have been of interest to members of this committee in learning more about race and racial issues in our world. Members share books we hope will inspire you to read and learn as we all work together to share the message of Jesus' love for us and ALL of our neighbors.

August Book Review by Leslie Jarrett

Hair Love

by Matthew A. Cherry

Hair Love, is an illustrated children's book and New York Times bestseller that came out in 2019. The story is about a young girl named Zuri who wakes up one morning and knows she needs an exceptional hairstyle for a special day. She goes to her Dad for help and after trial and error he manages to pull off a beautiful hairstyle that makes them both feel proud. This story emphasizes the sweet relationship of a Daddy and daughter while sharing many beautiful hairstyles of natural African American hair. It quickly has become a favorite book in our house and is often requested by our 5-year-old daughter.

Following the release of the book, the author went on to produce a short film that in 2020 won the Academy Award for best animated short film. You can find the short film on youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNw8V_Fkw28

FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RACIAL UNITY



LET'S GET TOGETHER

ARE YOU REGISTERED? 2023 PARISH RETREAT

The 2023 Parish Retreat will be here before we know it. Make plans to join the St. James Parish family at the Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores September 29 - October 1.

What does the cost include? Lodging for 2 nights and all meals from dinner Friday, September 29th through breakfast Sunday, October 1. Plan for 4:00 PM check-in on the 29th and 11:30 a.m. check out on the 1st of October.

The full itinerary and details on what types of programming to expect will be released as we get closer to the retreat!

We plan to have spiritually driven, fun and engaging offerings for all ages.

REGISTER NOW ONLINE!

LIVING WELL IN THE MIDST OF GRIEF & LOSS

1st & 3rd Mon. | 5:00 p.m. | Graham Parlor or Zoom

When we face an ending or a loss, we can experience grief in a number of ways and one size does not fit all. Come join us as we take this journey together. Reach out to the Rev. Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org for information.

MORNING PRAYER

Mon. -Fri. | 8:00-8:30 a.m. | Zoom

Come join us for the Daily Office of Morning Prayer! Each weekday on Zoom with gather for a time of prayer and fellowship. If you would like a direct link sent to your email each morning, please reach out to Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org.

VIVACE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers Needed! The Vivace Music Festival is returning to Wilmington this summer and St. James is looking for volunteers who will act as greeters for Vivace Festival participants who will be utilizing spaces at St. James from **August 1 through August 13**. Job Description? Sit at a greeting table to direct participants to various spaces in our parish buildings that are being used for practice rooms and masterclasses. (Easy peasy)

There will be a schedule where volunteers can sign up for an hour or two throughout these two weeks. (Classical music enthusiasts are particularly encouraged to sign-up!)

For questions or to sign-up, please contact John Sullivan at music@stjamesp.org or by calling 910-763-1628.

VIVACE! EMERGING ARTIST CONCERT AT ST. JAMES PARISH

Tuesday, August 8 | 7:30 p.m.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous virtuoso, Vivace implemented the Emerging Artists program, created to feature young rising stars of the piano in a solo recital during the festival. We are thrilled to have Rachel Breen and Sasha Kasman Laude with us this year, winners of the 2022 Honens International Piano Competition in Calgary, Canada. Join us August 8 at 7:30pm at St James Episcopal Church for a thrilling program with music by these talented artists.

VBS: TWISTS AND TURNS

**Monday, July 31 - Thursday, Aug. 3
9:00 am - 12:30 pm**

Get ready to spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this year's St. James Vacation Bible School. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up, it's never "game over." The fun runs from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day! Questions? Reach out to Ansley Trask at Christianinformation@stjamesp.org



QUIET REFLECTION IN AUGUST

Saturday, Aug. 5 | 7:30 - 8:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

If your spirit longs for peace and rest, join us at Mt. Lebanon Chapel for a time of quiet and refreshment from 7:30-8:30 AM. You are welcome to come for as much or as little of the hour as you wish. There will be interludes of quiet piano music during the hour. Some poems and prayers will be provided should you wish to have something to read in the silence, or bring your own reading material.



VESTRY RETREAT

August 4-5th

The mid-year Vestry Retreat will be held August 4th and 5th. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or concerns you'd like to share, please make them known to a member of the Vestry (vestry@stjamesp.org) or clergy (clergy@stjamesp.org) so they can be discussed at the retreat. We're so excited to see all of the wonderful ministries growing at St. James this fall!

BREAD BREAKERS: HOSPITALITY AT HOME AUGUST EDITION

Sunday, Aug. 20 | 10:30 - 1:00 PM | The Clark Home

The St. James Bread Breakers' are hosting Hospitality at Home in August! The Clark, the Hodsdon, and the Joyner Families have teamed up to host this great event. We'll be gathering at the Clark's dock to enjoy a day of swimming and fun. Please bring whatever appetizer, side or dessert you would like to go with the entrees. We will have juice boxes, water, and some beer and wine. Don't forget to pack sunscreen and BYOC - Bring your own chair. RSVP now online!

EPISCOPOSSE WOMEN'S GROUP

Thursday, August 24 | 7:00 PM | The Tornes Home

Ladies (21+) are invited to join us as we gather in July! This group meets once a month to discuss Podcasts, books and the day to day challenges of living faith. Join together in prayer, fellowship, and connect with other women. If you have questions about this group or would like to RSVP to Erin Becker for directions, please reach out to communications@stjamesp.org.

GREETER MINISTRY - JOIN US IN WELCOMING NEW FAMILIES!

This summer, we'll be hosting a new round of Greeter Training! This means we're opening up the Greeter Ministry to new recruits. If you know someone (yourself included) who would make an excellent Greeter with their warmth and enthusiasm for the Christian family, please reach out to communications@stjamesp.org.

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

ST. JAMES PARISH BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, August 9 | 10:00-3:00 p.m. | Perry Hall

Save the date! The St. James Men on a Mission are officially on the books to host a Blood Drive on August 9th from 10:00-3:00 p.m. with the American Red Cross. We are inviting our parish family to participate by signing up to donate and/or volunteer. We have several ways to support the drive even if you are not planning to give blood. Use the QR CODE to learn more or to sign up.



GATHERING OUR RECIPES

The St. James Cookbook Project is officially underway! We would like to invite parishioners of ALL ages to submit a story and a recipe to us by August 31st. From there, we'll work on editing for grammar and preparing the recipes for pictures! To help us plan page layouts for the final product, here are our guidelines for submission.

- If possible, please type out your submission for the cookbook.
- Clearly list the name of your dish and the name(s) of the submitting chef(s) at the top of your document.
- Please try to keep your food story under 350-400 words maximum.
- Your recipe should be able to fit on one page typed in 12 point font.
- When you are done, please send it to Erin Becker at Communications@stjamesp.org and be on the lookout for an email from her confirming the receipt of your recipe.

Thank you again for helping us create this unique cookbook that helps bring everyone to the table!



JUST A TASTE: COOKING UP A BOOK EVENT

COMING THIS FALL

HEBREWS BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, September 13 | 11:00 AM | Graham Parlor or via Zoom

Join Susan Ingle and the Rev. Cheryl Brainard for a Wednesday Bible study focused on the book of Hebrews. We will meet in the Graham Parlor or via Zoom on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. beginning September 13th. Have questions about this offering? Please reach out to Cheryl at cheryl@stjamesp.org.

COMMUNITY OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING!

Tuesday, September 5 | 5:30 PM

St. James Parish is once again opening the door for individuals to acquire the skills to handle different situations in their every day journey and to grow spiritually deeper in their relationship with God through a pastoral care ministry called *The Community of Hope International (COHI)*.

COHI creates communities committed to pastoral care, and equips lay persons to learn to "listen with the ear of their heart"; to be present in a compassionate, listening, non-controlling manner in order to make a difference in the health and well-being of those in need.

We invite you to prayerfully consider if you are being called to share your spiritual gifts within this church and community to take part in the upcoming Community of Hope training class. This particular training will be in partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal Church. You may find the tentative training schedule on our website. Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings, 5:30-7:30 p.m. beginning in September. Contact the Rev. Cheryl Brainard (cheryl@stjamesp.org) for more information.

PARISH HOURS

Please note that the St. James Parish office will be closed on Monday, September 4th in observation of Labor Day.

Regular Office Hours resume September 5th!

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-Th &

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. F

"TELLING YOUR STORY" THROUGH GUIDED AUTOBIOGRAPHY RETURNS THIS FALL!

Many adults would like to share the story of their lives, but don't know where or how to begin. The Birren Method of Guided Autobiography offers a series of themes and unique resources to help participants recall, organize, and write their stories, just two pages at a time. After writing two pages at home, participants share one story each week in a small group committed to confidentiality.

Guided Autobiography was researched and developed by Dr. James Birren (USC). It has been used for more than 45 years as a method to help people recall and share their life stories. There are many benefits to those who take a seven week Guided Autobiography class. People who write and share their stories often gain insights about themselves — insights that are not available from journaling or writing stories on their own. Based on James Birren's research, we know that writing and telling stories is very stimulating for the brain. In fact, one researcher said that writing and sharing stories is "like chocolate" for the brain. As stories are shared, class members often discover a sense of connection with others while also gaining new perspectives on themselves and new appreciation of their lives. Sharing life stories with others is an ideal way to find new meaning in life and to put life events into perspective.

This class is for YOU if you want to write your stories, even if you have never thought of yourself as a "real" writer. For most participants, Guided Autobiography is an opportunity to connect with their own stories and identities in a new and meaningful way. Some people will be writing their stories for their own personal benefit. Others may hope that at least some of their stories might be legacy gift to hand down to their family.

Guided Autobiography is offered throughout the country and around the world. It is held at UNCW through the Osher Life Long Learning Institute (OLLI) here Wilmington, where it is very popular and classes are small, making it often hard to get in.

Here at St. James, Mary McKnight, a retired Presbyterian pastor, will be offering Guided Autobiography for 7 weeks in the Fall. She has led many small groups, including writing groups and retreats. From experience, she knows that being in a Guided Autobiography group can be a rich and quite meaningful practice.

Classes at St. James are on **7 Wednesday mornings, from 9:00 - 11:00. Sept 20, 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 and Nov 1.** Before signing up, please check your calendar to be sure you can commit to the whole 7 week process. The classes and resources build on each other, so this is not a "drop-in" class. To register, please contact the Rev. Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org. The cost is \$45 (scholarships are available) and *Space is limited*.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER MEETING

Sunday, August 27 | 11:30 AM | 3-4s Sunday School Room - AKA the Yoga Room

Save the date! We'll be hosting a Children's Ministries Sunday School Teacher Meeting on Sunday, August 27 at St. James Parish following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. We'll gather in the Yoga Room on the Second Floor of Milton Hall. If you are interested in participating as a Teacher or Substitute Teacher for our Children's Ministries during the Faith Formation year, please plan to attend. This year, we will be forming teams so no one is expected to teach every Sunday. Have questions? Please reach out to Ansley Trask at christianformation@stjamesp.org.

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION HOUR RETURNS

Sunday, September 17 | 9:00 AM | St. James Parish

Our fall Faith Formation programming for Sunday Mornings officially begins on Sunday, September 17th. We are excited to once again be offering:

- DISCIPLE'S CLASS - meets in the Lippitt Room
- FAITH DISCUSSIONS - meets in the Stephen Ministry Room
- GATHERING - 6th-12th Grades
- SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES - 3's through 5th Grade - 2nd Floor Milton Hall

CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES

Thursdays | 7:00-8:30 p.m. | Choir Room

Our St. James Choir is back in action on with regular weeknight practices resuming on Thursday, September 7th. What's it like? Choir practice always begins with vocal warm ups peppered with encouraging quips and anecdotes from Choir Director John Sullivan. As a transition from warmups we sing through the hymns for the upcoming Sunday to polish up the phrasing and four-part harmonies. Then we work on our parts for upcoming anthems. But hold onto your seats, because the rapid fire musical quotes and jokes will delight you and keep you ready for more singing! Remember when you sing for church you pray twice. And the Lord says make a joyful noise!! So come join the fun in the choir room—we always have an extra chair!

If you are interested in learning more about joining the St. James Choir, please reach out to music@stjamesp.org.

CHILDRENS CHAPEL RETURNS!

Sunday, September 10 | Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel is a special time of gathering for the children of the parish that occurs during the 10:30 a.m. Service. During Children's Chapel, they'll hear the same gospel shared during the service with an age-appropriate homily shared by a member of our clergy or another leader of the church. We invite parents to join us as Chapel Shepherds! You can sign up to Shepherd [online](#) or simply accompany your child to check it out.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, September 10 | Children's Chapel

On Welcome Sunday, September 10, we want to celebrate and bless the beginning of another school year. Students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks, school bags, or lunch boxes to worship. The 10:30 a.m. service on Welcome Sunday will include a special blessing lifting up children and students of all ages, dedicating them to God's glory as we begin a new school year. We also invite teachers, aides, principals, administrators, secretaries, cafeteria workers, librarians, janitors, and bus drivers...come to church to be blessed, affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work!

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM): CONSIDER JOINING US THIS FALL

We're making plans to gather a new group for Education for Ministry this fall. If you are interested in deepening your faith through the study of the Bible, history, and theology, this is the class for you! Education for Ministry is a 4-year program that is provided through the School of Theology in Sewanee. Enjoy the benefits of a formal curriculum surrounded by friends. This class invites lively discussions, contemplative prayer, and offers the chance to connect with other Christians in a loving and welcoming environment. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Karen Clark at clark11@gmail.com or Rachel Pace at rppace@hotmail.com

OUTREACH

OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT: NORTHSIDE FOOD CO-OP



This month's Spotlight is dedicated to Northside Food Co-op. In July, St. James donated \$5,000 to Northside, below is a little background on the organization, and a "Thank you" letter from Cierra Washington, the Project Manager of Northside.

The Northside Food Cooperative is a community-owned cooperative grocery store planned for the Northside of downtown Wilmington that will ensure food security and end the food desert, generate resilience in our neighborhoods, and create a self-sustaining business model that will enhance the local economy through equity and ownership.

There are currently 8 identified food deserts in Wilmington, NC. A food desert occurs in an urban area where affordable, fresh food is unable to be purchased due to location and resources. Northside Food Co-op is hoping to end the food desert that impacts people who live in the Northside neighborhood in downtown Wilmington.

In her letter, Cierra Washington informs St. James members on how our contribution will be used, and other ways we can help build community with Northside Food Co-op. Please contact Please contact Alex Wnek at Alexandra.wnek@sptech.com or David Joyner at davidbilljoyner@gmail.com if you have more questions or if you have any interest in Cierra's suggestions on how to get involved!

Dear Vestry and Members of St. James Parish,

We extend heartfelt thanks for your generous \$5,000 donation to the Northside Food Cooperative. Your support will enable us to continue our bimonthly community dinners, weekly farmers market, and vital outreach efforts. We are excited to begin a meaningful partnership and work together to bring food security to our community.

We invite you to join us at Frankie's Outdoor Market on Saturdays, 10 am to 2 pm, at 1019 Princess St. Additionally, we'd love to share a meal with you at our community dinners held on the second and fourth Thursdays from 6 pm to 8 pm at 901 Fanning St. If you're interested in further supporting us, our immediate needs include reusable plates, cleaning supplies, dish rags for the dinners, and 10x10 tents for the farmers market.

Please stay connected with us by following us on Facebook and Instagram: @northsidefoodcoop

With gratitude,

Cierra Washington

Project Manager
Northside Food Co-op



2SHARE FURNITURE UPDATE

Thank you for your support for 2SHARE, Inc. As you know, we are a local Wilmington non-profit, public charity. This ministry has been operating since late 2018. Their goal is to provide basic furnishings to folks-in-need in our community. They do this by picking up and delivering previously-owned furniture in good condition throughout Greater Wilmington and the Cape Fear region. In doing so, they turn dwelling places into real homes for those in need.

2Share has been very busy during the first half of 2023. Thus far in 2023 they have delivered furniture to 103 households representing 330 adults, including 180 children. Fifty-seven of these households were single parent families, another 20 were single senior households. We delivered 115 beds (98 were newly purchased) and 350 plus other significant pieces of furniture. In March we achieved an important milestone as we delivered furniture to the 500th household since our inception in 2018.

Our general operating funds for truck rental, storage fees, gas and other expenditures are provided through the generosity of Church of the Servant Episcopal, St. James Parish, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Wrightsville UMC. Additionally, St. Peter the Fisherman Church continues to donate the vast majority of our storage space (1,400 sq. ft.) located on their church grounds.

To read the full update visit:

stjamesp.org/blog/2sf-update/

HELP HUB UPDATE

By Bill Bivins

St. James Parish Rep., Help Hub Advisory Council

The Help Hub is one of the major outreach ministries supported by St. James Parish. As one of the three founding member churches, St. James has contributed financial and volunteer support since 2015; and parishioner Sonja McFarland serves as the director. Located at the Harrelson Center along with other non-profit partners, the Help Hub provides emergency financial assistance to those in need, as well as referrals to other community resources.

In the 2nd quarter of 2023, the Help Hub provided \$74,000 in assistance to more than 400 households, covering emergency needs for assistance with rent, utilities (power, gas and water), transportation, medical, and other needs. As an example of the broad-based assistance that the Help Hub can provide or arrange for those in need, one of the families helped this quarter included a grandmother and two grandchildren. The crisis arose when the grand-mother had to take custody of her two grandchildren, requiring time off from her job at Harris-Teeter to rearrange her home, register the children for summer day care and camps, apply for food stamps, and find clothing for the children. The Help Hub provided assistance with the monthly power bill. St. James volunteer Harper Fraser referred the grandmother to the YWCA's Grandparents Network for support and resources, arranged to find clothing for the grand-children, then accompanied by her own granddaughter, took the clothing to the family in need.

There have been several new developments at the Harrelson Center which enhance the collaborations available to the Help Hub. The **Salvation Army** staff offices have recently relocated to the 3rd floor of the Harrelson Center, helping with rent and utilities. Two days of the week, the Salvation Army also offers groceries, bagged lunches, household supplies and clothing. Life skills classes are hosted in coordination with the **Cape Fear Community College**. The **Kairos Center**, another Harrelson Center partner, offers "Money Matters" classes to help people eliminate debt, restore credit, and accumulate savings. The Kairos Center sponsors Kingdom Cars LLC, led by Warren Evans, which provides quality vehicles at affordable prices to people in need. The Help Hub is now able to provide reimbursable car repair assistance through the HOP Program. To assist with health care issues, a new Healthcare Navigator has been appointed. Sharon Davis is an LPN with **Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear** and is available to assist Help Hub clients. Sharon's knowledge and experience are invaluable in assisting Help Hub clients struggling to afford adequate health care.

Upcoming events at the Harrelson Center include the **7th Annual Harrelson Center Golf Tournament at 10am on Monday, September 18 at Magnolia Greens Golf Club**. Registration is now open, and you can arrange foursomes and tournament sponsorship by contacting **Lindsay Prickett at the Harrelson Center, phone: 910-343-8212**.

Tours of the Harrelson Center are available every 1st Tuesday and 3rd Thursday, or other times by appointment. To arrange a tour, **call Christy Aley at 910-343-8212**.

The support of our donor groups—including churches and other faith organizations, non-profit organizations and foundations, businesses, and individuals—has been essential to the mission and ministry of the Help Hub. Everyone is invited to participate in the ministry of the Help Hub.

For more information, to make donations, or to access the volunteer interest form, please visit the Help Hub at harrelsoncenter.org/help-hub.

CAPE FEAR RIVER WATCH: SECOND SATURDAY CLEAN UPS

Saturday, August 12, 2023

St. James Outreach invites you to join us for the 2023 Second Saturday Cleanups with Cape Fear River Watch. The CFRW takes the month of July off for the clean ups so the next clean up will be on August 12, 2023 at 9:00 am. A location will be shared closer to the date. You can sign up on CFRW's website or contact parishioner David Joyner for more information (davidbilljoyner@gmail.com).



SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER

Tues., August 1st & 15th 2023, 4:30 PM

Thursday, August 24th 2023, 4:30 PM

The MoM Squad continues to serve meals to the homeless on the first and third Tuesday of each month! The Good Shepherd Center appreciates our efforts and we've added an additional opportunity to serve! Men on a Mission will now serve on the fourth Thursday of each month as well! Please let us know if you can serve. Shifts run from 4:30 PM to about 7 PM. The guys who have already done this found it to be a very simple, yet highly rewarding, experience. If you can stand for 45 minutes, you can do this! Reach out to Brian McMerty to volunteer! (bmcmetry@arris.partners)

EFWM BACKPACK DRIVE

A huge thank you to our parish family for your support with this year's Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry Backpack Drive. From those who shopped and donated, to our dedicated office volunteers who helped us stay organized by checking in the donated bags, this truly was a team effort. Together, we were able to send 40 children back to school with fully stocked backpacks and additional funds that will allow the EFWM to supplement any needs that arise as they continue to serve the migrant farmworkers in Newton Grove. What a gift for these families!



SERVING IN THE SUMMER

A SAFE PLACE LUNCHES

St. James Parish is actively a partner with A Safe Place, the Wilmington organization that focuses on prevention, advocacy, and restoration to assist victims of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. One of the ways we assist ASP is by providing lunch for the twenty girls who visit the Outreach Center twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) to meet with their case managers, their substance abuse counselors, receive employment assistance and attend life skills classes all in a safe and welcoming environment. This meal can be as simple as a pizza or sub-delivery gift card, a pickup from a favorite bbq or fried chicken outlet, or a really appreciated and rare home-cooked meal. If you are interested in providing a lunch for these girls please visit the MealTrain Sign Up. There are 8-10 opportunities per month!

Have questions about this ministry? Please reach out to Cathy Halligan at cathyfhalligan@gmail.com.

SUMMER ACOLYTES

The summer is here and it's time to refresh the acolyte schedule. We're inviting all of our trained acolytes to sign up to serve at the 10:30 a.m. service downtown! If you need the link to the Sign-up Genius, please email communications@stjamesp.org.

We would love to keep the rotation full all summer long but we need your help to make it happen. For those young people would like to join the acolyte ministry, please reach out to The Rev. Gray Hodsdon at gray@stjamesp.org to learn more about the training program **planned for August 27th following the 10:30 a.m. worship.**

Service Opportunities

If you are interested in learning how you can serve with our church family, there are tons of great ways to get involved! Here are a few ministry opportunities with immediate availability to serve (aka, we need you):

- Lectors/Readers
- Acolytes/Crucifers
- Greeters
- PenPals
- Altar Guild
- Ushers
- Wedding Guild
- Chalice/LEM
- Sunday School Teacher
- Office Volunteer Ministry
- Parish Shop
- St. James Choir

REFRESHING REALM



ST. JAMES ONLINE DIRECTORY

REALM is our online directory & ministry tool designed for real-time connection. It helps St. James connect with you and you connect with us. REALM allows you to manage your personal information and who is allowed to see it, control your giving, and keep in touch with the groups that matter to you. And yes, it does have an app so you can keep in touch on the go.

If you aren't already connected with REALM and would like to be, please let us know! In order to access the information in REALM, parishioners must be invited by a member of the St. James Staff. This measure is to help ensure we protect your personal information.

In preparation of our directory project, a group of dedicated parishioners will be reaching out to help you make sure your REALM contact information is correct and that the settings are to your preference. Our dedicated team of volunteers and staff members plan to begin contact with families in August so please keep an eye out for them.

If you have questions about how St. James uses REALM or your REALM account, please reach out to Maria Holloper at finance@stjamesp.org or Leah Magruder at leah@stjamesp.org.

THANKS FOR THE PARISH MEET & GREET



Our St. James Evangelism Commission hosted the Parish Meet & Greet in July and welcomed around 160 attendees despite the heat! A big THANK YOU to everyone who joined us and helped serve the delicious drinks and treats.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

NEWCOMERS: DATES TO KNOW

HARDY PARTY - NEWCOMER MINGLE HAS A NEW DATE- October 8th!

One of our favorite newcomer events is officially on the books! The upcoming Newcomer Mingle, aka the Hardy Party is scheduled for Sunday, October 8th. We invite you to make plans to join us at the beautiful waterside home of Drs. Marie and Stuart Hardy. Directions will be shared with those who RSVP as we draw closer to event day.

Get to know St. James newcomers and "oldcomers," the Vestry and the Clergy at this fun event featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres, plenty of parking and childcare onsite with ADVANCE RESERVATION. Details on how to RSVP will come at a later date.

SAVE THE DATE - NEWCOMER ORIENTATION

Get acquainted with us at the St. James Orientation for Newcomers (SJON), November, 2nd, 9th, and 16th from 5:30- 7 PM.

PRAYING SHAPES BELIEVING - RETURNS IN FEBRUARY 2024

Our adult inquirer's class doubles as a confirmation class for those who are interested in joining the Episcopal Church. It's also a wonderful way to get to know other members of our parish and refresh your knowledge of the Episcopal tradition. Plan to Join us for evening sessions Feb 1- March 14, 5:30-7:15 PM.



NEWCOMER ORIENTATION



HARDY PARTY - NEWCOMER MINGLE

ECUADOR MISSION EXPERIENCE

SERVING TOGETHER

On July 12, eleven young people and three adults began a journey to Ecuador that would change our lives in such a wonderful & powerful way!

We served with joy at "Iglesia Episcopal - Mision Ascencion in Puyo, Pastaza. Ecuador"scrapping, painting, tiling, cleaning, restoring, sharing Vacation Bible School with over 50 children, singing, worshipping and getting to know the people of this sweet and wonderful Church.

We experienced the beauty of the Amazon Jungle, the wonder of Quito and the joy of worship with the Amazanga Tribe. Having Dinner at the home of Bishop Juan Carlos Quiñonez Mera was a highlight and a privilege.

We learned so much about our Ecuadorian friends and they enjoyed learning more about us. God's Love embraced us as one body united in Jesus Christ.

We returned safely home on July 21 a bit tired yet filled with hope, wonderful memories and hearts overflowing with thanksgiving and love! Thank you, St James, for your thoughts and prayers!



While away we invited our Mission Team to choose one word that stood out to them during their trip. We invite you to reach out to the team members and ask them about their word!



ENGAGE MEET OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



GET READY TO IGNITE!

Sunday Evenings Beginning September 17th

Youth Group on Sunday Evenings beginning in September.... "IGNITE!!" Ignite is not another program; it's an invitation..... An invitation to embark on a transformative journey to discover the unique SPARK that lies within you and to experience God's Love more fully. Beginning this Fall, this FUN and enriching journey will be immersed in music and into thought-provoking discussions, while partaking in fun activities. We will be meeting together each Sunday evening so mark your calendars now for Sunday Youth Gatherings of fun, Faith, friends and fellowship!

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY AT STARBUCKS

Returning Wednesdays this Fall

7:00 AM | 16th St. Starbucks

Wednesday Morning Starbucks Bible Study begins on Wednesday, September 6, at 7:00 am (16th Street). This Starbucks Bible Study will be held each week unless it is a school holiday or a teacher workday. . All young people are encouraged to join us for this "youth led" experience where friendships are strengthened and sharing our thoughts are shared. It is a great time to ponder and to ask questions. It is a wonderful time to get to know the other young people and to hear the whisper of God. Questions? Contact Cookie at cookie@stjamesp.org, Jane Rippey janerippy@yahoo.com or Ginny Woodruff Ginny@vcwoodruff.com. HOPE to see you there!



COMING THIS FALL: PHENOMENON

"Phenomenon" is an awe-inspiring "lock in" event to be held this Fall designed to awaken the extraordinary within you. Join us on a transformative journey where you'll uncover your hidden potential, challenge your limits, and ignite your passion for life. Through captivating talks, engaging activities, and meaningful connections, Phenomenon empowers you to embrace the remarkable moments that shape your story. Dare to step out of your comfort zone, unlock new possibilities, and embark on a path of self-discovery. It's time to embrace the extraordinary and unleash the phenomenal force within you. Get ready for an unforgettable experience that will leave you inspired and empowered. You will not want to miss "Phenomenon!"



ST. JAMES PARISH

EST 1729

25 S. Third Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

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

ST. JAMES PARISH



EST. 1729

Rector **The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.**

Associate Rector **The Reverend Cheryl Brainard**

Associate Rector **The Reverend Joseph "Gray" Hodsdon**

Organist & Choirmaster **John Sullivan** | Executive Assistant to Clergy **Leah Magruder**

Parish Coordinator **Bill McKenzie** | Finance Administrator **Maria Holloper**

Director of Youth Ministries **Cookie Cantwell**

Day School Director & Children's Ministries Coordinator **Ansley Trask**

Communications Director **Erin Becker** | Registrar **Marybeth Tallman**

Director of Facilities **Wes Clewis** | Sexton **Norman Sutherland**

VESTRY

Senior Warden **Leslie Jarrett**

Junior Warden **Alex Murchison**

Treasurer **Mike Brown** | Clerk **Diane MacAskill**

Class 2023: **Kay Dougherty** | **Tom Hackler** | **Leslie Jarrett** | **Al Marr**

Class 2024: **Rachel Colonna** | **Web Cowden** | **Alex Murchison** | **Barbara Whitesides**

Class 2025: **Dean Gornto** | **David Joyner** | **Erin Trask** | **Brandon Candler Tully**

Contact Us

25 S. Third Street | Wilmington, NC 28401 | Office: 910-763-1628

Visit us online: www.stjamesp.org | Facebook: facebook.com/stjamesp | Instagram: [@StJamesParish](https://www.instagram.com/StJamesParish)