

SUNDAY SERVICES OUTSIDE ONLY - LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2020

THE REV. CHERYL BRAINARD



LESSONS AND CAROLS

Recently, I was asked to create a Christmas Lessons and Carols service for St Mary's Episcopal Church, with whom St. James partners in Burgaw. Although I have participated in many of these services, as a fairly new ordained person, I had not had the opportunity to plan such. It didn't take long for me to discover how little I knew about the service. For me personally, it mostly served as a time catch up on all the Christmas Carols, from which, we as Episcopalians who observe Advent, had been deprived while the rest of the world was putting Christmas songs away for another year.

Nine Lessons and Carols, also known as the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, is a service traditionally celebrated on or near Christmas Eve. It tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus in nine Bible readings or lessons. The lessons are generally interspersed with the singing of Christmas Carols or other hymns and anthems.

Although the reading of Scripture and singing of Carols at Christmastide has a long history, the first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was held on Christmas Eve in

1918. It was planned by a chaplain, Eric Milner-White and others who were concerned that the distress of WWI had hardened attitudes against religion. Milner-White was convinced that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship and was looking for ways to attract people back to church after the war.

The service was held at King's College and was immensely successful. The following year Milner-White made some changes to the original format, introducing the tradition of opening the service with Once in Royal David's City, followed by a bidding. The popularity of the service increased in 1928 when it began to be broadcast.

Interestingly, 1918 was a year similar in many ways to the year we are in, where many churches around the world had closed their doors to save lives. Sharing similar circumstances, the church had to find creative ways to worship and continue to gather. Fortunately, we have technology to help us stay better connected, but for many families, then and now, the home has become the altar.

This year, our Lessons and Carols Services will be broadcast and held remotely. Although there will be no myriad of singers and instruments, the message is the same. We begin with the bidding prayer by asking God, in the Christmas Season, to let it be our "duty and delight" to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. I pray that however you hear music and readings this season, you will take time to celebrate all that has been given to us in the person of Jesus Christ and in one another.

Merry Christmas (a little early).

SANCTUARY IN ADVENT

December 21-24 | 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | St. James Sanctuary

We know this Advent will be different. We all miss worshipping together in the sanctuary. While we aren't able to safely return to indoor worship just yet, St. James Episcopal Church would like to offer the members of our parish the opportunity to sign up for a private time in the sanctuary for family photos with the Chrismon Tree and to be in the beautiful St. James sanctuary once more. Visit <https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/sanctuary-in-advent/>.

ST. JAMES UPDATES

INDOOR SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

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

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Margaret Barron, Emily Bridgman

CONDOLENCES TO:

Jean and Billy Smith on the death of their brother-in-law, Phillip Anniccharrico.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Katharine and Stewart Pittman on the birth of their son, Robert Maverick Pittman.
Dick Boisky is the happy grandfather.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Stewardship 2021: Nothing Can Separate Us is underway! As of December 15th, 2020, we have received 266 pledges, compared to the 327 we received as part of our 2020 campaign. We encourage you to make your pledge today! You can even pledge online. Visit www.stjamesp.org/stewardship for a video with step-by-step instructions.

GIVING ONLINE

Give online. To donate and support St. James Parish, visit: <https://onrealm.org/StJamesParish/give/pledge>.

GIVE: ST. JAMES PARISH FOUNDATION

The primary purpose of the Foundation is to help our Parish manage maintenance expenses of our wonderful campus, which, as you can imagine, are extensive and expensive. The more valuable the Foundation, the more income will be available to help keep our campus in great shape. Currently the Foundation has assets of approximately \$3,700,000. It is essential that we increase the Foundation's assets. Gifts can be made, among other ways, with cash and stock transfers or through estate planning. To make a gift or learn more about the Foundation, please contact our Financial Administrator, Maria Hollopeter, at the church office or contact one of the Foundation Board Members. To learn more about the Foundation and its Board Members, visit stjamesp.org/st-james-foundation/.

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the December 29th e-blast is Monday, December 28th.

ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

SERVICE TIMES

Our in-person services take place outdoors, two at Mt. Lebanon Chapel and one at our Downtown Campus. We are hosting two traditional services in the morning and a new service, Faith at 5, in the evening. During Faith at 5, we explore the different faces of worship together! We encourage everyone to come and share in the experience.

SUNDAY:

Mt. Lebanon Chapel

8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II

9:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Livestreamed)

Downtown Campus

5:00 p.m. - Faith at 5 - Holy Eucharist

SERVICE TIMES WILL CHANGE IN 2021

As we move further into winter, we will be adjusting our Sunday service times in the hopes that the outdoor services will be warmer and have better lighting for attendees. On January 3, 2021 we will begin hosting our outdoor services at the following times:

Mt. Lebanon Chapel

9:30 a.m.- Holy Eucharist - Rite II

10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Livestreamed)

Downtown Campus

4:00 PM - Winter Worship

A REMINDER FOR YEAR'S END

All year-end gifts must be in the church office by 10:00 a.m. on December 31st or postmarked no later than December 31st if you plan to claim them on your tax return. Keep in mind that the post office is very busy this year and you'll want to mail out your donations early to ensure they are postmarked appropriately. Please direct any questions to Maria Hollopeter at finance@stjamesp.org.

CHRISTMAS HOURS: DAYSCHOOL AND PARISH OFFICE

Christmas is almost here! St. James Day School's last day of school for 2020 was December 18th! Students will return from Christmas Break on Monday, January 4th, 2021. The Parish Office will close at 12:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and will be closed through Monday, December 28th to allow our staff to celebrate with their loved ones. The Parish Office will resume normal hours Tuesday, December 29th. Please also know that the Parish Office will have a half-day on New Year's Eve and will be closed on New Year's Day. stjamesp.org.

ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

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

STEWARDSHIP MEANS STABILITY IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE- WISHLIST 2020

Facilities Administrator, Bill McKenzie, has helped us compile a list of some of our parish needs as 2021 approaches. The challenges posed by our climate and the pandemic are on the top of mind for our team. We want to share with you some big-ticket items on our St. James "Wish List." We encourage each of you to truly consider what it takes to meet the needs of our property and communications infrastructure.

- Our 180-year-old metal roof covering the Church building needs to be replaced. Water intrusion, both known and unknown, threatens the structural members, including the roof supports and masonry walls. The bid quoted this month indicates a project cost of about \$360,000 or more depending on unforeseen water damage.
- The audio/visual equipment in the Great Hall and the Church. The Church needs the a/v to be updated for the next phase as these projects will enable events, lectures, and services to be live-streamed and recorded from our downtown campus. Recent bids for these upgrades have been in the range of \$90,000.
- The HVAC systems that serve our campus are aging. We have been notified that two need to be replaced prior to their failure. A current proposal for this project is \$39,000.
- We would like to replace the playground equipment. Cost could range from \$5000 - \$50,000.
- The stucco siding of Lee Perry Hall is in need of repair. Quotes have ranged from \$200,000 - \$250,000.
- We would like to reconstruct and repair the Parish House stairway. This will likely cost around \$25,000.
- The ceiling lights within the Cloister are in need of an upgrade, especially with outdoor worship taking place on campus in the evenings. Lighting and installation could cost around \$9,500.
- We would like to install a video surveillance security system for the St. James Downtown Campus. Given the size of our campus, this may cost upwards of \$28,000.

GIVING SPREE

While it looks a little different this year, we're inviting all of our parishioners to help support our Outreach Partners with their gifts. Instead of shopping this year, honor your loved one with a donation in their name! Visit the website for more information!
<https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/giving-spree-2020/>

CALLING ALL LECTORS: COME READ

As Christmas approaches, we find ourselves in need of more Lectors to read during our Sunday services. If you are interested in reading at one of our services, please reach out to Suzanne at Coordinator@stjamesp.org.

EDUCATION FOR (LAY) MINISTRY

The Tuesday morning Education for Ministry (EfM) group will begin a new year in January. We meet by Zoom from 9 - 11:30am. We have several openings and all are welcome. To learn more about EfM and the Tuesday morning program, please contact: Rachel Pace at rppace@hotmail.com.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Christmas is the wonderful time of the year when we can be with our families and enjoy the wonder of the birth of our Lord, Jesus. All of our WRAPPED Gifts to our Outreach families have been safely delivered and we will look forward to reconvening in January 2021! Have a terrific Christmas and I hope to see all of you on January 3!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT

by Susan Ingle

In the good old days (pre COVID-19), one of my favorite things about worship was the time before the service started, a time to pray, to sit quietly, and simply prepare my heart and mind for worship. In the new normal of masks and social distancing, one of my favorite things about worship at Mt Lebanon Chapel is the time before the service starts, a time to (safely) visit with other members of the St. James' family, to laugh and catch up, until we are all summoned to our circles so worship can begin. What is fitting within the well-loved walls of St. James' sanctuary can be very different from what is delightfully appropriate at our well-loved Chapel.

One of the things I've learned during this unprecedented season we're living through is that meaningful, authentic worship can take many forms. And, I have come to understand what a precious gift it is to be able to worship in community. There's a reason we are called to be in fellowship with each other. Zoom is a great tool, but it has its limits. Of the early church, Acts 2:42 says---'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.' That sounds to me like a good model to follow, wherever and however we worship.

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH

MONDAY- FRIDAY, DEC.21-25

MORNING PRAYER DURING QUARANTINE
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom | Led by Cheryl Brainard

MONDAY, DEC. 21

SANCTUARY IN ADVENT
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | RSVP only | St. James

FELLOWSHIP AA
7:00 PM | Lippitt Room

TUESDAY, DEC. 22

SANCTUARY IN ADVENT
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | RSVP only | St. James

TUESDAY STILL MATTERS
8:35 AM | Zoom

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
9:00-11:30 AM | Zoom

WDAA BASKETBALL PRACTICE
6:30-8:30 PM | Perry Hall

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23

SANCTUARY IN ADVENT
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | RSVP only | St. James

PCJ BIBLE STUDY
7:30 AM | Zoom | Led by our Youth Group and
with Youth Advisor support

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
6:00-8:30 PM | Zoom

THURSDAY, DEC. 24- CHRISTMAS EVE

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES AT 12:00 P.M.

SANCTUARY IN ADVENT
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | RSVP only | St. James

CHRISTMAS EVE: HOLY EUCHARIST
2:00 PM | Livestream and Mt. Lebanon Chapel
| BYOS*

CHRISTMAS EVE: HOLY EUCHARIST
4:00 PM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel | BYOS*

CHRISTMAS EVE: HOLY EUCHARIST
8:00 PM | St. James Lawn Downtown | BYOS*

FRIDAY, DEC. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

CHRISTMAS DAY: HOLY EUCHARIST
10:30 AM | St. James Lawn Downtown | BYOS*

SUNDAY, DEC. 27

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
8:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel | BYOS*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
9:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel & ONLINE | BYOS*

FAITH AT 5 - EXPERIENCE WORSHIP
5:00 PM | St. James Parish | BYOS*

***BYOS:** Bring Your Own Supplies- Please bring your own masks, chairs, picnic blankets, etc.

RESTRICTIONS AS OF 12-9-2020: We are limiting indoor gatherings to 10 individuals and unlimited attendance outside provided that social distance protocols are being followed.

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

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ST. JAMES PARISH

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STAFF

Interim Rector The Rev. Pierce Klemmt
Associate Rector The Rev. Chris Hamby | **Associate 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 Marybeth Tallman | **Property & Maintenance Manager** Wes Clewis
Sexton Joey Dobson

VESTRY

Senior Warden Steve Thomas
Treasurer Mike Brown | **Clerk** Diane MacAskill
Class 2021 | Watson Barnes | Pem Jenkins | Jane Martin | Jim Spruill
Class 2022 | Caroline Cone | Berta Hamilton | Brian McMerty | Steve Thomas
Class 2023 | Kay Dougherty | Tom Hackler | Leslie Jarrett | Al Marr

25 S. Third Street | Wilmington, NC 28401

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