

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
DECEMBER 2021

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT REFLECTION

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 91-92

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE AT:

stjamesp.org/services/

ADVENT PROGRAMMING

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

Sunday, Dec. 19- Christmas Pageant at 9:00 Service & Bishop Parsley leads Advent Study Part II in the Great Hall during Faith Formation Hour

Sunday, Dec. 26- Lessons & Carols

ALSO OFFERED DURING ADVENT

Each Weekday: Morning Prayer on Zoom

ADVENT PROGRAMMING 2021

ADVENT WORDS

Get creative with Advent Words! We'll be looking for creative submissions from our parish family as we meditate on this year's Advent Words. All are invited to participate in submitting photos, art, music, poetry, anything that matches one of the words on the list. Let's take the time to contemplate the season of Advent together. Want to select a word? Reach out to Erin at communications@stjamesp.org and she will assist you!

December 17: Bountiful	December 21: Generations
December 18: Sing	December 22: Magnify
December 19: Blessed	December 23: Flock
December 20: Feed	December 24: Greeting
	December 25: Child

A Classical Christmas

Sara Westermarck, *soprano* Lucy Baker, *mezzo soprano*
Bob Workmon, *tenor* George Potulov, *tenor*
Caroline Braza, *treble*
John Sullivan, *piano* & Clark Spencer, *viola*

Monday, December 20th 7:30pm
St. James Episcopal Church, Wilmington, North Carolina
~free and open to the public~

Donations go to *A Safe Place*
<https://www.endslaverynow.org/a-safe-place>

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 UPDATES

ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:

www.stjamesp.org

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Bill Oakley, David Champney, Van King, Betsy Bede,
Bob Godley, George North

CONDOLENCES TO:

Al Marr and Family, on the passing of his mother,
Anna Greene Marr
Ted Koehncke and family, on the passing of his mother,
Mary Lou Fedick

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Erin and Michael Becker, on the birth of their daughter,
Alice Joanne Becker

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES: DECEMBER 19

Online Worship

9:00 AM- Livestream from St. James Parish

Downtown Campus

8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist - Rite I

9:00 AM - Holy Eucharist - Rite II, Christmas Pageant on
December 19

10:10 AM - Faith Formation - **Bishop Henry Parsley** in
the Great Hall: *Watch, Wait, and Wonder: The Invitation of
Advent* - Part I: December 12, Part II: December 19

11:15 AM - Holy Eucharist - Rite II

CHRISTMAS EVE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM - Holy Eucharist - Rite II

6:00 PM - Holy Eucharist - Rite II

10:30 PM - Holy Eucharist - Rite II

CHRISTMAS DAY: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist - Rite II

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist - Rite I

10:30 AM - Lessons and Carols

GET INVOLVED!

There are no "volunteers" at St. James. We do ministry. If you are interested in learning how you can minister 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
- Altar Guild
- Linen Guild
- Ushers
- Wedding Guild
- Office Ministry
- Parish Shop
- St. James Choir
- Care Guild
- St. Martha's Guild
- Men on a Mission
- ECW

Contact Erin at communications@stjamesp.org to learn more!

OFFICE HOURS UPDATE - Christmas

Please be aware that the Parish Office will be closed
December 24th - 28th for the Christmas Holiday.

OFFICE HOURS UPDATE - New Years

Please be aware that the Parish Office will be closed
December 31 - January 2 for the New Year's Holiday.

PLEDGING & GIVING ONLINE

To donate and support St. James Parish, visit: onrealm.org/StJamesParish/give/pledge. You can visit stjamesp.org/stewardship for a video with step-by-step instructions for pledging online. Gifts may also be made to the St. James Foundation. Visit: stjamesp.org/st-james-foundation for more info.

ST. JAMES FOUNDATION

What is the St. James Foundation? The St. James Foundation is a dedicated non-profit that oversees the care and preservation of our gorgeous campus. From air conditioners to restoring parapets, the funds from the St. James Foundation are integral to preserving our historic campus for future generations. We invite you to learn more about how you can support the St. James Foundation on our website at stjamesp.org/foundation.

FORWARD TOGETHER: STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We look forward to what the year ahead will bring. There are many opportunities and needs before us as a community. As of 12/15/21 we have received 297 pledges, compared to the 362 we received as part of our 2021 campaign. We encourage you to make your pledge today! You can even pledge online.

297 Pledges to date, totalling - \$1, 241, 507.00

Stewardship Update - A letter from your stewardship chairs

Dear St James Family,

With this season of gratitude upon us, we all have the important opportunity to reflect on so much for which we can be thankful. A huge thank you to those who have added their names to our pledges for 2022. It brings us such joy to see families support the mission of St. James Parish-which is precisely why we took this ministry on! To date we have 253 pledges totaling \$1,089,000. We have big aspirations for 2022 and would like to see the campaign exceed \$1,300,000 in pledges.

This year we have changed the way we look at stewardship. We are hoping to move from the mindset of "paying our bills" and rather move forward by viewing this as spiritual generosity. If you, like us, have strong roots and memories in this parish, or if you are a relatively new member of our family, your participation is vital. Please consider adding your name to a pledge for 2022. With more families involvement and financial support we can enhance the ministries of our church, help the Episcopal community at large (ex. Trinity Center) and improve our engagement with the needs of our greater Wilmington community. We can also continue to be good stewards of our wonderful church facilities, grounds, and Mount Lebanon chapel-which we are so blessed to have. Ultimately our hope and prayer is to keep our church thriving for future generations.

If you have not yet pledged, please take a moment to prayerfully consider a pledge to St James church for the 2022 year. Remember, this is between you and the church. We cannot see what you pledge and no amount is too small. St. James Parish gives us so much and we feel it is our Christian duty to give back to our church and community. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us or anyone on the stewardship committee.

Thank you for helping us move forward, together.

In gratitude,

Hayden Kirby & Suiter Currin

FAITH FORMATION

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES

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

Start your day with a little prayer! Join us on Zoom for a time of prayer, fellowship, and music. Sign up for our email list by reaching out to communications@stjamesp.org.

BIBLE STUDY: THE VOICES OF SCRIPTURE

Tuesdays, December 7, 14 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom each Tuesday night as The Rev. Phillip Craig leads us in a new Bible study, called "The Voices of Scripture." Each week we'll be taking a look at different figures in the Bible and seeking to understand their unique perspectives and contributions to the Biblical narrative. Exploring the human experiences of these historical figures helps us to better connect with scripture as we seek to grow in faith. stjamesp.org/blog/the-voices-of-scripture
Classes resume in January.

GRIEF MINISTRY: LIVING WELL IN THE MIDST OF GRIEF AND LOSS

December 6, 13, 20, 27 | 5:00 p.m. | Graham Parlor or Zoom

When someone you love dies, you experience grief in a number of ways and one size does not fit all. We also grieve many things other than death and we want to acknowledge this also. There is grief that comes from loss of a health, loss of a job, sending a child off to school, and losses that come from divorce, to mention a few. Please reach out to the Rev. Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org for more information.

BIBLE STUDY: THE PATH

Wed., December 1, 8, 15 | 11:00 a.m. | Zoom or the Graham Parlor
Join us as we continue our journey through The Path. We'll walk in the footsteps of faithful men and women who have done their best to follow God's call. Follow the path of God's love all the way from the beginning to the end, from Adam's creation to John's revelation. Contact Cheryl at cheryl@stjamesp.org to sign up or to order the book.
Classes resume in January.

FAITH FORMATION CONTINUED

EPISCO-POSSE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

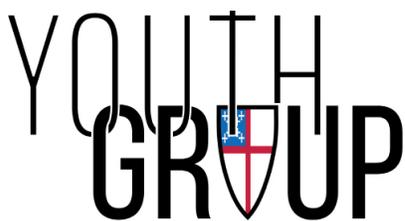
Wednesdays, December 1, 15 | 8:15 p.m. | Zoom
All women (Age 21 and up) are invited to join us for Bible Study! We're currently reading through the book of Hebrews. We meet every other week on Zoom! Contact Leslie Jarrett (Leslie.H.Jarrett@gmail.com) or Michelle Gray (michelle.gray@nhcs.net) to learn more!

MIDWEEK EUCHARIST RETURNS

Wednesdays | 12:10 p.m. | St. James Sanctuary
We are so very excited to be offering Holy Eucharist during the week. Take a few minutes during your Wednesday lunch break to come and celebrate the Eucharist with us!

ADVENT COMPANIONS, SCRIPTURE AND QUIET

Thursdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom
All are invited and warmly welcome to join this weekly gathering during Advent. Come once and see what it's about, come all three times during Advent, come from wherever you are since we are meeting by ZOOM. We will spend the time engaging in a reflective way to listen to the Scriptures of Advent and a time of practicing contemplative prayer/meditation in silence which is simply a way to open ourselves to God's loving presence without using words. No experience necessary – just curiosity and a desire to connect with God a bit more deeply as we wait again for the birth of Jesus. Questions - please call or email Linda Murchison. lindamurchison65@gmail.com , 910-619-0055.



PORT CITY JAVA BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, December, 1, 8, 15, 22 | 7:00 a.m. | S. 17th St. PCJ
Good News! Our Youth Ministries Port City Java Bible Study is back in person. Youth are invited to join us at 7:00 a.m. at the Port City Java on S. 17th Street for a time of prayer, Bible study, and caffeinating. If you're interested in participating, reach out to Director of Youth Ministries, Cookie Cantwell, at Cookie@stjamesp.org.

EDUCATION FOR (LAY) MINISTRY 2022

The Education for Ministry (EfM) daytime group will begin a new year January 2022. We meet Tuesday mornings from 9 – 11:30 am. We have several openings and friends from all churches are welcome.

EfM is a 4-year study that only asks for a yearly commitment. This program has been provided through the School of Theology in Sewanee, TN for over 40 years. It enables participants to explore and deepen their Christian belief through the study of the Bible, Christian history, and theology. We examine our own beliefs and reflect on applying scripture to our everyday lives. We work to deepen our faith and to discover how to express it in service to others.

What EfM has meant to our participants:

“one of the most meaningful and exciting activities I have participated in”

“the thoughtfully planned 4-year program was a wonderfully fulfilling part of my life”

“a chance to connect with other Christians in a loving and welcoming environment”

To learn more about EfM and the Tuesday morning program please contact:

Rachel Pace (H) 350-0248 or (M) (910) 612-9777

rppace@hotmail.com

Please make plans to register by the end of December 2021.

Visit sewanee.edu/EFM

SUNDAY NIGHTS!

Sundays | 5:00 -7:00 p.m. | Perry Hall & The Youth Room
On Sunday evenings without special events, we'll meet at St. James Parish, downtown in Perry Hall at 5:00 pm. All 6th - 12th graders are encouraged to come and to participate in a uniquely wonderful experience of faith, fun, food and friends. YES! Bring your friends! Let the JOY begin! As people of God, it is good & it is helpful to gather together to share our lives and our faith. Often, we can feel that our lives are living us instead of each of us living the lives that God is inviting us to live. Each Sunday evening we will gather to enjoy being together! We will laugh, play, learn, serve and remember who we are as people of God. God calls each us of by name to “Come & Follow Me.” Our goals are to stay safe and to allow God to create an environment where a community of faith, fun, outreach and service can be experienced and shared. Questions? Contact Cookie Cantwell, cookie@stjamesp.org, or call or text 910-264-5910

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP - DECEMBER 5

Our Annual Meeting on December 5th was well-attended, and filled with positivity. Parishioners heard updates and lots of good news from the St. James Commissions Cochairs. Our four new Vestry Members were voted on and approved.

We would like to offer you the opportunity to get to know your new Vestry Members:

RACHEL COLONNA



Rachel grew up in the Christian faith and joined the Episcopal denomination in 2012 when she and her husband Bram Colonna, were married. In 2019 they relocated to Wilmington, NC from

Charleston, SC. They joined St. James with their two young children; Stella and George. Rachel has been serving as the Communication Liaison on the Outreach Committee. She is personally very involved in St. James Angel Tree Ministry, Bread Breakers community, Meals on Wheels, and serves as a lay reader at Mt. Lebanon. Rachel is an Account Executive at Benefitfocus.com, Inc. and sells software to state government officials across the country. She is excited to work with the Vestry to keep our young families engaged at St. James.

ALEX MURCHISON



Alexis a 69-year-old lifetime, baptized, and confirmed member of SJP. His wife Anne, son Ned and Elizabeth, daughter Anne and Ford, and 6 grandchildren are all baptized members of St. James.

Anne and Alex both believe that encouragement for our family is best led by example. His St. James Parish experiences include Junior Lenten Choir (for those who may remember six weeks of daily 5:00 services with sermons), a Lay Reader, a Lector, a Junior Warden, a chairman of the Diocesan Convention, and a participant of Men on a Mission. His most recent service was as a member of the Rector Search Committee, through which God led us to Phillip and Jennifer Craig. That journey has become the single most spiritually rewarding experience in his life. He is pleased and proud to have the Craigs as his friends. "The energy and talents of the parishioners of St. James Parish are remarkable. We have been through a challenging period, yet we are poised to do wonderful things, both for ourselves and our community. I am honored and thrilled to be a part of it."

WEB COWDEN



Originally from Lexington, KY, Web moved to Wilmington in 2006 and has been a member of St. James ever since. He has been involved in a variety of ministries including the Youth Group, the Men's

Breakfast Team, Men on a Mission, and Co-Chair of the Parish Life Commission. Web is the COO of Mirimichi Green, a local manufacturer of sustainable products for the Landscape Supply Industry, and in his free time cheers on his Kentucky Wildcats sports teams. He is married to Florence Ellen, and has three children, Millie, Houston, and Web.

BARBARA WHITESIDES



Barbara has been a member of St. James since her family moved to Wilmington in 1993. Their family grew upon our arrival and continues to grow as they have added significant others for each

child (two weddings coming up!) and one grandson with a second on the way! While Barbara grew up as a Presbyterian minister's kid in a family full of Presbyterian ministers, the Episcopal Church has been her church home since they started their family. This will be Barbara's second term on the Vestry - she was part of the Light a Fire Campaign to expand our campus to a full city block! She has had the privilege of enjoying the leadership of a variety of rectors, assistant rectors and seminary students. She has taught Sunday school for 4th and 5th graders (her very favorite St. James opportunity), helped with the Junior Choir, been an acolyte advisor, served on the Day School Board, volunteered and travelled extensively with the youth group, cooked and served with St. Martha's Guild, taught Bible Studies for women (teenagers and older) and she is currently serving as Commission Co-Chair of the Faith Formation Commission. Barbara is also currently serving on the Trinity Center Board of Managers. "I think of St. James as my 'family,' and I look forward to this exciting time of new opportunity for our Parish."

St. James Parish

EST. 1729



25 S. Third Street

Wilmington, NC 28401

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St. James Parish

EST. 1729



STAFF

Rector The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

Associate Rector The Rev. Cheryl Brainard

Organist, Choir Master John Sullivan | Parish Administrator Florence Ellen Cowden

Facilities Administrator Bill McKenzie | Finance Administrator Maria Hollopeter

Youth Minister Cookie Cantwell | Children's Minister 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

Junior Warden Leslie Jarrett

Treasurer Mike Brown | Clerk Diane MacAskill

Class 2022: Caroline Cone | Berta Hamilton | Brian McMerty | Steve Thomas

Class 2023: Kay Dougherty | Tom Hackler | Leslie Jarrett | Al Mar

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

25 S. Third Street | Wilmington, NC 28401

Visit us online: www.stjamesp.org

Facebook: facebook.com/stjamesp

Instagram: @StJamesParish

Office: 910-763-1628