

ST. JAMES NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRAPEVINE

GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR



IN THIS ISSUE

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VESTRY CORNER

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

AND MORE!

ST. JAMES CHILDREN'S CHOIR

HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

8:00 a - RITE I

9:00 a - RITE II

10:10 a - Faith Formation

11:15 a - RITE II

LIVESTREAM

9:00 &

11:15 a

- RITE II



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

WEDNESDAYS | 7:00 a.m.

2018 South 16th Street

HOLY EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAYS | 12:10 p.m.

Celebrating Holy Communion

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

WEDNESDAYS | 5:45 p.m.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

T

CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAYS | 7:00 p.m.

Choir Room



MEN ON A MISSION: BEACH BOIL



THANKSGIVING WITH OUR YOUTH



SUNDAY SCHOOL FUN



From the Rector

Dear Parish Family,

Here we are - just a few days into the season of Advent. In mind and heart, we are being encouraged by scripture and liturgy to hold a quiet space - to prepare - to reflect and to ponder all that is holy. At the very same time we stand in a parallel season where there is a much different spirit. There we are encouraged towards a more frantic pace - to shop - to spend and to excess. And even though we are still in the first week of Advent, there are people just itching to go ahead and sing "Silent Night." You know who you are!

Study after study declares this to be a time of the year when people report higher incidences of sadness, anxiety and even depression.

It just so happens this is also the time of year when we always encounter John the Baptist. No matter the lectionary year, the second Sunday of Advent always presents us with John. All four Gospel writers, despite their notable variety of early conversations, are in full agreement that we need to see and hear from John the Baptist. There in the Jordan River, calling out to us:

Repent! For the kingdom of heaven has come near!

We don't tend to use the word repent very much. It kind of feels like a word that points toward shame or guilt. Many people just think it means to be sorry. In the Greek, though, repent literally means to change one's mind. In other words, to reset.

Anne Lamott writes, "Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you." In this Advent season, that totally resonates with the message of that locust eating, leather belt wearing preacher in the Jordan River. The one we see every year. It's a time to reset ourselves, he says - back towards our loving God.

And the Kingdom of God is actually already here. Which is actually very good news.

Let's not miss it!

A blessed Advent to you and yours.

Phillip+

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



Vestry Corner

Jesus said to them, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him. - Mark 12:17

Thank you to all who have submitted your 2023 Pledge to support the ongoing work and mission of St. James Parish! The momentum of the current Stewardship campaign is good, but we really need *each member* to consider how you can step up to help St. James "turn the corner" on furthering our progress on our Strategic Plan. As you consider your pledge we think it only fair to let you know some of the considerations the Vestry must keep in mind as we plan our budget for 2023. As every household is experiencing, there are increased prices in a variety of areas. Maintenance of our historic property and utilities to keep it running continue to increase. Staff costs have likewise continued upward, with the cost of living adjustment (COLA) being set at 5.6% and 8.7% for 2022 and 2023, respectively. To compensate our hard-working staff appropriately, our budget (and, thus, the Stewardship Campaign) must increase to meet demand.

Separate from the facilities and staff, the resurgence of attendance and activities at St. James has provided multiple new opportunities for growth and outreach in Christ. These new opportunities do often require additional resources, so the Finance Committee and Vestry appreciate your help in pledging to St. James. Without these gifts to "count on" it may not be possible to include these great and worthy programs and outreach events in 2023. If you have not provided your pledge, or did not initially feel you could increase your previous pledge (to help St. James keep pace with inflation), please prayerfully consider this time-sensitive request. As others have mentioned, additional donations in the plate are wonderful (and we do budget on them coming in), but it is really critical to the sound planning of our Annual Budget to have **all pledges in before Christmas**. Now is the time to trust in God and make your pledge. We thank you so much for your generosity!

During our last vestry meeting our special guest was **Ansley Trask**. We are so blessed at St. James to have her serving as both the Director of the Day School and as the Children's Ministry Coordinator. Prior to the start of the school year she put countless hours into decluttering, organizing and simplifying the day school classrooms and Sunday school classrooms. They look and feel so welcoming and peaceful. If you get a chance to walk by on your way to faith formation on a Sunday, you will see the upstairs classrooms full of children! A huge thanks to Ansley and the volunteers for providing a nurturing learning environment for the children of St. James! Additionally, she has implemented some new curriculum in the day school for the 4's classes ('Handwriting without tears' and a 'Phonemic awareness' program)! Did you know that 80% of reading problems can be solved with phonemic awareness! Ansley's unique perspective having been a Kindergarten teacher for many years gave her the ability to identify areas to improve so that our Day School Graduates are best prepared for elementary school. While hard to catch as she leads Children's Chapel, helps John Sullivan with the Children's Choir, teaches Sunday School and more, please extend appreciation to her for her incredible work!

We wanted to highlight a few other notable news items from the past month. In November the **Evangelism Commission** hosted an incredible *Newcomer Orientation*! This collaborative event highlighting the history, ministries, clergy and opportunities at St. James was well attended by newcomers and current parishioners. Please consider attending when you hear about this great event next year!

We appreciate your patience over the last couple months due to **filming** around our campus. These unique opportunities occasionally arise given our location in Wilmington and historic buildings. We do not allow filming in the sanctuary but our many other enticing buildings are sometimes featured in movies. The proceeds from this work is used for building upgrades and repair. In August, 'movie proceeds' were for fresh paint along the hallway, day school classrooms and children's chapel.

One final spotlight and thank you to our fantastic facilities team that keep our campus safe and clean for the many events and activities we have going on every day of the week! We are so grateful for our fantastic Facilities Manager Wes Clewis who continues to bring joy to his work and those around him. It is with relief and joy that we welcome back, Norman Sutherland to our team at St. James to add part-time assistance as a Sexton. BIG thanks to Wes for keeping everything running and clean for so long by himself!

Steve Thomas (Senior Warden) & Leslie Jarrett (Junior Warden)

STEWARDSHIP 2023

Members of St. James,

As this Stewardship Campaign approaches its conclusion, we write to report to you on the incredible results to this point. We are, simply stated, overwhelmed by your confidence, enthusiasm, and support. Few are the times that we have appreciated the strength and resolve of this Parish more than now. You have all brushed aside economic headwinds and the practical uncertainties of our current world and chosen to stand resolute in fueling the mission of this wonderful Church, and we are poised to be in great shape moving into 2023.

As of Friday, November 11, 2022, we are delighted to report that the Church has received 249 pledges for a grand monetary total of \$1,168,530, a 13% increase over last year's total reported pledges at this week by week stage of the Campaign. And, that is an average of nearly \$4,700 per pledging unit, an 11% increase from last year's average. Of course, it is important to remember that total pledged amounts and averages are fluid and depend on the dates and final pledging units reported, respectively. These significant increases still serve, however, as strong evidence of your steadfast commitment to St. James and all that it does, as well as your faithful investment in all that it still can do.

For those of you who have pledged so far, we cannot thank you enough. Those pledges are fueling a giving pace that outstrips the Campaigns of years past, giving us so much hope for furthering the mission of the Church. Saying that you have answered the call would be an understatement. For those of you who have not yet had an opportunity to pledge, there is still time. Even though the returns on this Campaign have been amazing to date, the Church still needs your support. We are so close to reaching a level of contribution that would truly throw off some of the shackles that the Church has struggled with in years past, so please do help us get there!

A quick note on pledges as compared to other types of gifts. Submitting a pledge as a part of the Campaign gives the Vestry and the Finance Committee the tools they need to accurately and responsibly plan for the future, both with next year's budget and beyond. Unpledged gifts and plate offerings are by no means unwelcome, but pledges do have a special, elevated place in the world of contributions because of their utility in the financial management of the Church. For that reason, please do consider submitting your pledge if you have not already.

We do not make this final request for your pledge lightly. We know the world is an uncertain place and that there are many important demands on all of our resources. If you are unsure of how pledging fits into your Parish life or have questions about anything related to Stewardship, from allocation and management of the resources to the way that pledging informs our future mission to anything else, please do reach out to us. We are eager to have those conversations with you!

With grateful hearts,

Your 2023 Stewardship Committee



ALLEN TRASK, III

Co-Chair



LIZZIE HARTMAN

Co-Chair



BRAM COLONNA

Member



KRISTINE MONALTO

Member



JENNA PORTER

MEMBER

ADVISORS

Bill Clark
Ryal Tayloe, Sr.

VESTRY LIAISONS

Kay Dougherty
Al Marr

Thoughts from the Clergy- On the Verge!

Have you noticed a new role that has been added to our Sunday morning services? Beginning this Advent, we have incorporated a new ministry into our worship known as vergers.

As with anything new, we anticipate that you may have some questions, such as, "Why do we need them?" "What do they do?" "Does this mean our worship is changing?"

While this ministry is new to St. James, vergers have a long history in the Church. According to the Episcopal Church, a verger is "a lay minister who assists the clergy in the conduct of public worship, especially in the marshaling of processions... The history of the verger dates back to the Middle Ages when the verger was the "Protector of the Procession." The role is primarily found in Anglican/Episcopal churches and is rooted specifically in our tradition.

Here at St. James, vergers serve at our 9 am and 11:15 am services for this purpose—to help us as your clergy organize and facilitate our worship, such that everyone who enters our doors will encounter engaging and holy worship to the glory of God.

Vergers are common at churches the size of St. James, and for good reason—there are a lot of people serving each Sunday in different roles! Among the responsibilities of the vergers will be to check in with clergy, acolytes, and Eucharistic ministers before services; organize and lead processions; and be ready to retrieve more bread and wine at communion. While they will be vested for services, this role is far more practical than ceremonial, and it is far more behind-the-scenes than front-and-center.

Phillip, Cheryl, and I hope you will see this as a wonderful, new leadership opportunity in our parish—one that will help all of us as we come together to worship and serve God each and every week.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. Gray Hodsdon



COUNTING ON: THANKING BILLY SMITH

As we recognize the ministries of those behind the scenes, we can not miss the opportunity to thank Billy Smith for his years of service at St. James Parish. Billy has been involved with the financial ministry of the church for over 45 years. He was Parish Treasurer for 17 years and twice served on the Vestry. With his long involvement in Parish finances, Billy was a valuable resource during his many years as a member of the finance committee.

Billy grew up as a Presbyterian and joined St. James in 1975 when his son was confirmed. His wife, Jean, and their 5 children were already members of the parish. Billy and Jean have both been active members with four girls, they were asked to coach the church's girls' basketball team which they did for 5 years. Practices were held in the basement, the only open space on campus. Jean has served on the Vestry twice and on a search committee. She especially enjoyed being an overnight volunteer at St. James' homeless shelter once a month for 10 years. Jean has been an office volunteer for over 25 years and continues to support the staff.

With Jean's support, Billy's ministry continues. Each week, you can find Billy in the Bacon House helping to count the offerings for deposit. One of the things he's learned through his time with St. James is the simple truth that the church doesn't function without money. While many shy away from conversations about funds, Billy faces the need head-on. With inflation, the cost of each day at St. James grows just as it does in our parishioners' homes. As we consider the budget of a church the size of St. James, it is important that we keep in mind the ever-increasing need of our day-to-day overhead. Without the consistent stewardship of our church family, planning simply cannot happen. The gifts of our parishioners support the ongoing work of our Clergy and our lay leaders, through their pledge to support the budget.

There a spirit of family thriving at St. James and seeing people of all ages participating in parish life is such an encouragement. In talking with Billy, our biggest takeaway is this, "We are called to give. With what we give, God creates so much more than what we can ask or imagine."

Faith Formation Opportunities:

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:10 AM

DISCIPLES' CLASS - Meets in the Great Hall

- **December 4, 2022: Experiencing the Psalms**
 - *Speaker- Carla Shores*
 - "Just as we taste food with the mouth, so we taste the psalms with the heart." --Bernard of Clairvaux
 - The Psalms are integral to the liturgy of the Episcopal Church. We speak, pray, chant, and sing the psalms, covering emotions from joy and wonderment, to anger and disbelief. Where did the psalms really come from? Are they David's? Are they simply a bunch of prayers in a book? How can we use the psalms in our personal prayers? Perhaps, the psalms will fascinate you as much as they do the church! Come and see.
- **December 11, 2022: Waiting together in Song: Exploring the Hymns of Advent**
 - *Speaker- The Rev. Gray Hodsdon*
 - Advent is a holy season of expectation and waiting. We traditionally think of this short season as preparation for the Christmas season, much like Lent prepares us for Easter. But Advent is not just about waiting for Jesus's first coming at Christmas. It is also about waiting for Jesus's second coming. We encounter both of these themes in Advent, not only in our readings, but also in our hymns. Join Fr. Gray in this opportunity for learning and singing as we explore the rich poetry, theology, and tunes of our Advent hymnody, arguably some of the best in our tradition.
- **December 18, 2022: Advent and Beyond—how can we prepare for the difficult future ahead?**
 - *Speaker- The Rev. Phillip Craig*
 - Fr. Phillip will make a presentation on 'Advent and Beyond—how can we prepare for the difficult future ahead?'
- **December 25, 2022: Christmas Day**
 - Classes will not meet this week.

FAITH DISCUSSIONS - Meets in the Stephen Ministry Room

- **December 4, 2022: Serving Our Neighbors**
 - *Topic: How Helping Hurts*
- **December 11, 2022: Serving Our Neighbors**
 - *Topic: Serving Our Neighbors as a Family*
- **December 18, 2022: Serving Our Neighbors**
 - *Topic: Serving Our Neighbors at Christmas*
- **December 25, 2022: Christmas Day**
 - *Classes will not meet this week.*



JUBI-LATTE ROUNDTABLE - Meets in Cookie's Office

On Sunday Mornings, our 6th-12th graders are invited to join us in Cookie's Office for the Jubi-Latte Roundtable, with coffee and conversation.

FAITH ADVENTURERS - 2nd Floor Milton Hall

(4th and 5th graders): Grab a cozy seat and get ready to get lost in Narnia. This fall, we will set out to uncover the themes in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

FAITH BUILDERS - 2nd Floor Milton Hall

(2nd and 3rd graders): Building Faith Brick by Brick. We will explore the Bible in an imaginative way using our minds, hands and LEGOS!

FAITH FOUNDATIONS- 2nd Floor Milton Hall

(K5 & 1st Graders): Building a foundation in faith invites learning about God using the Bible as our road map. Explore, create and marvel at God's big love for us!

FAITH THROUGH WONDER- 2nd Floor Milton Hall

(3s & 4s): Explore God's love for us. We will engage in stories, create crafts and enjoy time together exploring all the wonder in God's creations.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICES

- **December 24:**
 - 4:00 p.m.
 - 6:00 p.m.
 - 10:30 p.m.
- **December 25**
 - 10:30 a.m.

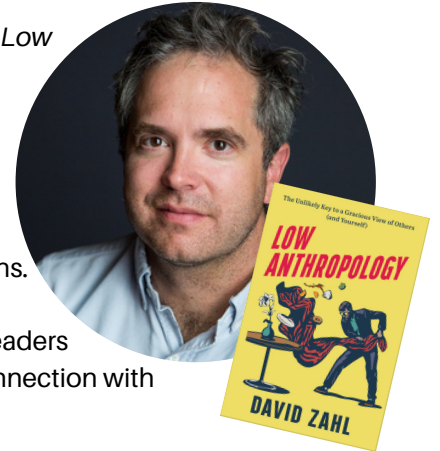


Advent Opportunities

ST. JAMES SPEAKER SERIES: THIS DECEMBER

December 6 | 7:00 PM | Author David Zahl - December 6, 2022, David Zahl, Author of *Low Anthropology* and *Seculosity: How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics, and Romance Became Our New Religion and What to Do About It*, will be presenting "How Realistic Expectations Lead to Grace for Others—and Ourselves."

In *Low Anthropology*, Zahl explores how our ideas about human nature influence our expectations in friendship, work, marriage, and politics. We all go through life with an "anthropology"—an idea about what humans are like, our potentials and our limitations. A high anthropology—thinking optimistically about human nature—can breed perfectionism, anxiety, burnout, loneliness, and resentment. Meanwhile, Zahl invites readers into a biblically rooted and life-giving low anthropology, which fosters hope, deep connection with others, lasting love, vulnerability, compassion, and happiness.



SOUTHERN HOLIDAY SUPPER

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 | 6:00 PM | Perry Hall

You're invited to join the St. James Parish family for a special Southern Holiday Supper. On Wednesday, December 7th, we'll gather at 6:00 p.m. in the Perry Hall Multipurpose Room & Gymnasium for dinner and fellowship as we highlight the coming of the Christ Child through a nativity experience. During this event, we'll be selling nativities and accepting donations to support our St. James Youth as they travel to Quito, Ecuador this summer! Please RSVP to let us know you're coming: stjamesp.org/blog/holiday-dinner/

LIVING WELL DURING ADVENT

Join our parish in reading through our Advent devotional, "Living Well Through Advent." Copies are available now in the Church Office or the Great Hall on Sunday mornings? Have questions about the Living Well series? Reach out to The Rev. Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org.

BREADBREAKERS EVENT

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Inspired by last year's Gingerbread event, we've got something in the works for our young families. Stay tuned to our communications for more details coming soon!



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC

Deadline for Submission - Sunday, December 18, 2022

You are invited to participate in sharing the joy of tradition with the St. James Christmas Music & Flower Honorarium. We will be playing Christmas music and placing poinsettias and greens in honor of our loved ones this holiday season. Visit our website to learn more: stjamesp.org/blog/poinsettia/

ADVENT WORD

What is Advent Word? Advent is a time of prayer and reflection. Advent Word is an international community of prayer that meditates on one word each day of Advent. We invite each member of our parish to participate in Advent Word 2022 by picking a word and sending us a photo, art, music, or poetry inspired by that word. You can do as many as you'd like! Please share them on social media using the hashtag #sjpadventword or by emailing us at communications@stjamesp.org.

NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 25			
2022			
27	WALK	12	WILDERNESS
28	TOGETHER	13	STRANGER
29	TEACH	14	BELOVED
30	MOUNTAINS	15	THIRSTY
1	MAKE	16	TRAVELER
2	READY	17	MAJESTY
3	UNITY	18	PURIFY
4	DELIGHT	19	SIGN
5	RAIN	20	HEAR
6	WELCOME	21	OBEDIENCE
7	WINNOWER	22	CHOOSE
8	BREATHE	23	RESTORE
9	FIRE	24	BIRTH
10	FLOURISH	25	EMMANUEL
11	MESSANGER		

A Musical Advent

BROOKLYN ARTS MUSIC ACADEMY: A STARRY NIGHT HOLIDAY CONCERT

Saturday, December 10, 2022 | 10:30 AM | Perry Hall

Please join us for a special holiday performance featuring Brooklyn Arts Music Academy students of all ages. On Saturday, December 10th at 10:30 a.m., come enjoy a lovely morning of holiday favorites performed by our large ensemble and featured soloists. The BAMA ensemble features students of all ages on violin, viola, cello, piano, and harp. This event is free and open to the public.

UNCHAMBERED: GLORIA!

Tuesday, December 22, 2022 | 7:30 PM | St. James Parish

You're invited to come and enjoy an evening at Unchambered's Christmas concert "Gloria!" at St. James Episcopal Church on Dec. 22nd at 6:30pm. All tickets are general admission for a minimum donation of 10\$. Proceeds from the tickets go to support the Restored Souls Foundation whose mission is to glorify God by providing restful experiences to families with vulnerable children. We want foster, adoptive, special needs and medically fragile families to be encouraged and have their hope restored after going through difficult situations. Families that play together, stay together.

Learn more at: stjamesp.org/blog/unchambered-gloria/

WILMINGTON VOICES: SONGS OF THE SEASON

Saturday, December 17, 2022 | 7:30 PM |

St. James Parish

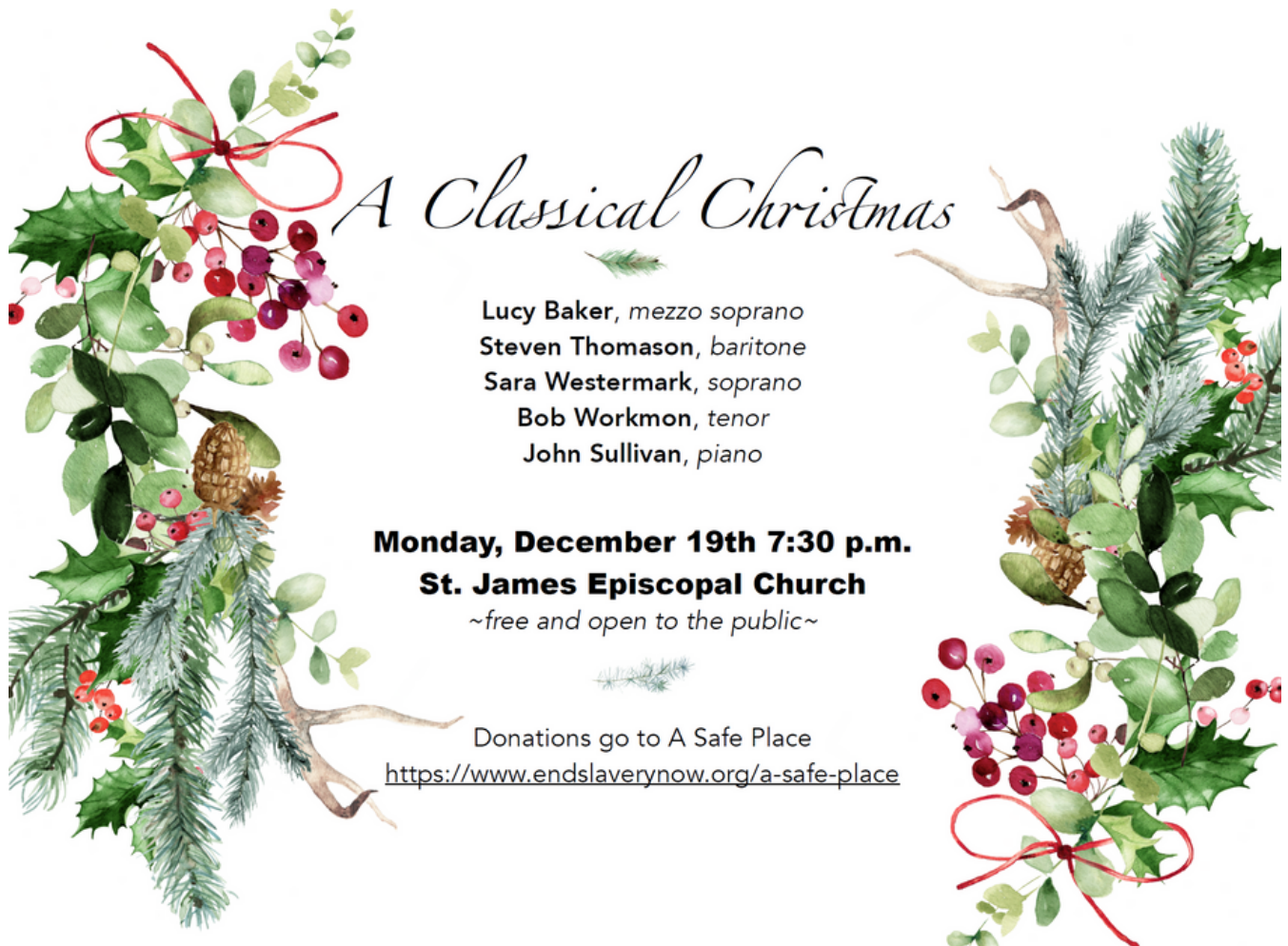
On December 17th at 7:30 p.m. come enjoy Songs of the Season with Wilmington Voices. This concert will feature classics, contemporary holiday favorites, and selections from Handel's "Messiah."

TALLIS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Tuesday, December 20, 2022 | 7:30 PM |

St. James Parish

Make plans to join us on Tuesday, December 20th at 7:30 p.m. for the Baroque Christmas Concert performed by the Tallis Chamber Orchestra for the benefit of The Good Shepherd Center.



A Classical Christmas

Lucy Baker, mezzo soprano
Steven Thomason, baritone
Sara Westermarck, soprano
Bob Workmon, tenor
John Sullivan, piano

Monday, December 19th 7:30 p.m.
St. James Episcopal Church
~free and open to the public~

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

Coming Up at St. James

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Rick Coombs, Deborah Gille,
Janet Jones, Van King,
Roger Powell,
Phiney Rhineheart



PRAYER TEAM

Looking for a way to support others? The Confidential Prayer Group of dedicated St. James parishioners who offer daily intercessory prayer for the needs and concerns of members and friends of St James Parish. All information is held in the strictest confidence. Anyone who feels called to the ministry of confidential prayer, please contact the Rev. Cheryl Brainard for more information.

LIVING WELL IN THE MIDST OF GRIEF & LOSS

1st & 3rd Mondays | 5:00 p.m. | Graham Parlor or on 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 more 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

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICES

Join us on Wednesdays from 5:45 to 6:15 p.m. Please contact Mr. John at music@stjamesp.org if you have any questions!

Session Two (Fall of 2022):

- December 7
- December 14

Presentation: Christmas Eve | 4:00 PM Service

Session One (Winter of 2023):

- January 11
- January 18
- January 25
- February 1
- February 8

Presentation: February 12 | 9:00 a.m. Service

CHOIR REHEARSAL

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

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.

SAVE THE DATE: ST. JAMES CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 18 | 9:00 a.m. Service

One of our favorite St. James traditions is scheduled for Sunday, December 18th. Make plans to be in town, you won't want to miss this wonderful story of the Nativity.

ST. JAMES CHILDREN'S CHOIR ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

Saturday, December 24 | 4:00 p.m. Service

Our Christmas Eve worship service at 4:00 p.m. will include a special musical offering by the children of our Children's Choir, who will be lifting up their sweet voices to welcome the Christ Child!

ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCH

Sunday, January 8, 2023 | 11:30 AM | Perry Hall
Save the date! On Sunday, January 8th, following a combined 10:30 a.m. service, our parish family is invited to gather in the Perry Hall Multipurpose Room and Gymnasium for our Annual Meeting and Parish Luncheon. We'll share a time of fellowship and hear from our Vestry, Financial Committee, and more! You won't want to miss it.

MoM DELIVERS DINNER

The St. James Men on a Mission joined forces with the Boys and Girls Club to deliver Thanksgiving Dinner to area families in need!



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Begins Wednesday, January 18, 2023 | 11:00 AM | Graham Parlor or via Zoom

Mark your calendars! Our Wednesday Bible Study resumes on January 18th with our four-week series *Journey Through Epiphany: Living Well with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*. On Jan 18, Jan 25, Feb 1 and Feb 8, The Rev. Cheryl Brainard will lead this special course. The materials will soon be available online for you to download or you may call the church office for assistance with a printed copy.

STAY TUNED

During Lent, Susan Ingle will lead a 5-week Lenten study!

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

EfM: Education for (lay) Ministry | Starting January, 2023

Explore your faith traditions in a small community meeting weekly. We discuss readings from the Bible, church history, and theology, we reflect on applying scripture to our lives and we seek to deepen our faith and discover how to express it in service to others. The fellowship that occurs within the group is one of the best parts of EfM. You sign up for one year at a time for this four-year program. The group meets once a week for 2 1/2 hours. Tuition is \$325/year. Scholarships are available. Participation is not limited to Episcopalians or to any particular church.

Enrollment is now open for the class beginning January 2023. It will meet in the morning from 9 - 11:30am.

To learn more please contact:

Rachel Pace (M) 612-9777 rppace@hotmail.com
rppace@hotmail.com | Visit www.sewanee.edu/EFM

STREAM TEAM RECRUITING!

We're working to build out a new ministry, the St. James Parish Stream Team. Our St. James Livestream now has a set up that allows us to remotely aim our livestream camera during the service from an iPad. Stream Team Members will be trained on how to direct the camera during the service while they sit with their family! If you are interested in learning more about this great new offering, please reach out to Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Christmas Observed - Our St. James Parish office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 26th & 27th to allow our Staff time with their families.

New Year's Day Observed - Our St. James Parish office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd.

If you have questions please reach out to admin@stjamesp.org.

Outreach & Community

OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT: CAPE FEAR RIVER WATCH

The Outreach Commission is proud to share that St. James Parish has formally partnered with Cape Fear River Watch as a part of our church's commitment to caring for God's creation. Cape Fear River Watch (CFRW) was founded in 1993 with the mission of protecting and improving the water quality of the Cape Fear River Basin for all people through education, advocacy, and action.

St. James Parish has been named as the official sponsor of CFRW's 2023 monthly cleanups of creeks, roadways, and railroad tracks. Each month, CFRW hosts their Second Saturday Cleanups where volunteers from the region work to divert litter and debris from entering our waterbodies. So far in 2022, volunteers have collected over 15,000 pounds of litter.

We are proud to support CFRW with our donations and human power. 2023 Second Saturday Cleanups will begin on 11 February 2023 at 9:00 am. A location will be shared closer to the date-of. You can sign up on CFRW's website or contact parishioner David Joyner for more information (davidbilljoyner@gmail.com). We ask you to pray for this collaboration and to reflect on the neighbors who share our same water sources: those upstream, those downstream, and all of God's creatures and creation that rely on the Cape Fear River.



MEALS ON WHEELS: CHRISTMAS EDITION

Delivery Day: December 26th

St. James has had a very successful year so far; we have delivered meals to Wilmington residents who are shut inside and otherwise unable to have a midday meal every 5th Sunday, and it has meant so much to the recipients, some of whom only have the meal delivery as contact with another person all day.

St. James is once again responsible for the delivery on the day after Christmas. Those of you who have done this before may remember that we incorporate it into a fun family activity on Christmas afternoon, packing bag lunches to be delivered on the morning of December 26. This can be a great group activity as well, so if you are part of a small group and all want to participate that would be welcome! We have 300 meals to deliver this year; the Senior Center will also be responsible for 200 meals, so it's a big delivery!

Please let Molly Roush (mollyroush@hotmail.com) know if you are willing and able to make sandwiches! We will leave instructions and supplies in the church office to be picked up no later than 12/15/22. Also, please let us know if you can drive a route or help us pack for delivery on the morning of 12/26/22.

We really appreciate being able to count on the most wonderful volunteers. This ministry is invaluable to our community, and one that gives back in the faces of our recipients.



THE PARISH SHOP

Shop and give at the same time!

The Parish Shop is OPEN! Come do your Christmas shopping and help support our outreach efforts. We have delicious food & recipes from our parishioners, Thistle Farms products, Heating Packs from A Safe Place, and more!

A SAFE PLACE DRIVE

Donation Deadline: December 7th

Let's help keep our neighbors warm as colder weather approaches. Through December 7, we will be holding a Winter Clothing Drive for A Safe Place. Please bring in gently used coats, winter clothing, and shoes/boots (in all ladies' sizes) to the Bacon House. You may contact Tanner Dodson with questions or to arrange pickup:

tannerbanks82@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for your help!

SHARING THE CARING!

Ever wonder who sends cards when there's a member of our church family who suffered a loss, is celebrating a birth, or even just needs a reminder they're loved? The Care Guild is on it! To help us reach all of the folks in our parish family in need of care, we need more volunteers! As part of the Care Guild, volunteers write and visit those who may not otherwise hear from friends or family regularly. The Care Guild's mission is to help each person know they are important and loved. If you would like to join the Care Guild, please reach out to Beth Souther to sign up! bethsoutherfish@gmail.com

FAMILY BREAKFAST RECRUITING

Sunday Mornings | 8:30-9:30 AM | Great Hall

We are looking for some Team Leaders to help us take on this wonderful ministry. Teams arrive at 7:30 a.m and are asked to supply whatever food they want to serve. If you are interested in being a Team Leader, or simply joining a team, please reach out to Web Cowden at web.cowden@mirimichigreen.com

JOIN THE USHER MINISTRY

Sunday Mornings at St. James

Sunday mornings need you! We are looking for men and women of the parish, age 16 or older, to join our Usher Ministry. With hearts for service, our Ushers live up to their name. They welcome us each Sunday, ushering folks into the church and assisting with needs as they arise. Ushers are responsible for handing out worship materials, collecting offerings, and directing traffic during communion. If you would like to join this special ministry, please reach out to Brian McMerty at bmcmerty@arris.partners by **December 15**.

Please know that junior ushers, under the age of 16, are welcome to serve alongside a parent or supervising adult.

ANGEL TREE 2022

A big thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Angel Tree Project, especially our Outreach Committee and all our volunteers who helped with sign-ups and collections. Together we were able to help families in need make Christmas special this year. On November 29th, members of the Boys and Girls Club team came and picked up the gifts!



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



Youth Opportunities



SHOP'N'HOP

Sunday, December 4, 2022 | 5:00 PM | Walmart

We will gather at Walmart on Market Street to SHOP for families with children who need our help at Christmas. We will divide into small groups and use our Youth Ministries Outreach Budget to purchase meaningful gifts for each family member. Once we complete our purchases, we will HOP over to IHOP for a delicious supper. Join the fun! Help other people! Bring your friends! SHOP & HOP! For further information contact Cookie cookie@stjamesp.org.

WRAP'N'YAP

Sunday, December 11, 2022 | 5:00 PM | Youth Room

We will gather in Perry Hall, St James for dinner and to WRAP all of the gifts that we have purchased at "Shop & Hop." Even if you could not join us for "Shop & Hop" there are LOTS of gifts to wrap so please come and help us! We will also be watching a Christmas Movie as we act like an ELF and WRAP our gifts! For further information contact Cookie cookie@stjamesp.org.

SWING SET MINISTRY

Several years ago, our St James Youth Ministries was asked to help a five year old child who had a terrible disease that prevented her from walking or talking. When she wasn't in her wheelchair, she had to be carried by her parents. This little girl loved to be outside so our Youth Group was asked to build a Swing Set with a handicap swing so this child could experience the freedom of "flying through the air."

And..... we did! Within weeks we were asked to build more Swing Sets for children with all sorts of needs. Some were physical needs.. Others were financial needs and others were medical needs. All of the Swing Sets were purchased by our St James Youth Ministries Outreach Fund and all of the children that we helped were given an amazing gift of love! St James Youth Ministries furnished the Swing Sets and our young people built the Swings. It was a WIN-WIN opportunity of Grace, Love, and Healing! We have now been asked to revive the building of Swing Sets and we have said "YES!" Thank you, St. James, for your support, your encouragement, and your prayers! Questions? Contact Cookie Cantwell or Cece Snow!

STARBUCKS BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays | 7:00 AM

The Starbucks Bible Study is back in action! All St. James High School Youth are invited to join us each Wednesday for our weekly "Check In & BIBLE STUDY." Grab your favorite Starbucks Beverage & a tasty muffin or pastry. Enjoy this mid-week opportunity to talk, share, learn, listen, laugh and explore faith with friends. Questions? Talk to Web, Hughes, Catchie, Mae, Annie, Sophie, Will, Maggie, Robert, Palmer, Cameron, Frank, Henry, Luke, LucyWest, Cecilia, Averette, Jane, Kim, Caroline, Ginny, Marietta, Jennifer, Phillip, Cookie. Hope YOU will JOIN US! If you're interested in participating and have questions, reach out to Cookie at Cookie@stjamesp.org

MISSION TRIP: QUITO, ECUADOR

In July, 2023, St James Youth Ministries will be partnering with "EDUCATION EQUALS HOPE" in QUITO, ECUADOR in an INTERNATIONAL SHORT TERM MISSION EXPERIENCE. During our 9-DAY Mission, we will worship, partner with Children's Ministries, experience a new culture and see the Face of Christ in the people around us! We will unite as we are woven together in unity and in love. Young people who will have completed the 9th, 10, 11, or 12th Grades in June 2023 may apply. We have space for 15 youth, and 5 adults! If you're interested in participating and have questions, reach out to Cookie at Cookie@stjamesp.org



SKI TRIP 2023

Registration Deadline: December 16th

Make plans to join us for the Annual St. James Youth Winterplace Ski Trip! Registration is now live. Join us at Winterplace from February 9-12, 2023. The deadline to register is December 16, 2022! Have questions or need the release and covenant forms? Email Cookie Cantwell at Cookie@stjamesp.org.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PRACTICES

In the weeks leading up to the pageant, we'll be teaching the heart of the Christmas story to our parish children. Our goal is to help them understand the importance of the story they will share with everyone on the 18th! As we prepare for this year's Christmas pageant, we invite all participating families to join us for the following dates.

- **Wednesday, December 7th:** Children participating in the pageant are invited to join us for a special Children's Choir Practice at 5:45 p.m. before the Southern Holiday Supper from 6:00-7:30.
- **Sunday, December 11th:** This Sunday, all of our children will meet in the church during the Sunday School hour for pageant practice. During this practice, the costumes will be distributed and sent home with families. Please make sure your child attends if they are participating in the pageant. *Special instructions for pageant day will be included in your child's costume bag.*
- **Sunday, December 18th:** Pageant day! Don't forget to pack your costumes.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL SHEPHERDS

Looking for a fun way to engage with Sunday mornings? Consider joining our Children's Chapel shepherds. To help safely direct our little ones to and in Children's Chapel on Sunday mornings, we're in need of some additional adult hands to assist our Clergy and Sunday School teachers as they lead the Chapel. These special shepherds are so important to our Children's Ministries. Visit our website to sign up! stjamesp.org/childrens-chapel/

BUSY BAG MINISTRY

Did you know that we have special Sunday morning activity bags available for those who get the wiggles or need something to do with their hands? You can find our Busy Bags in the transept entrance each Sunday. If you would like to donate to the Busy Bag ministry, please reach out to Ansley Trask at christianinformation@stjamesp.org.

FAMILY FUN EMAIL LIST

Did you know we have a special email list for families with kids? Email Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org to have your contact information added today!



THANKFUL FOR YOU!

Over Thanksgiving, our St. Nick at St. James event SOLD OUT! Thank you so very much to all of the volunteers who helped make this event happen and to the participating families. The funds raised by this event go to help support Day School activities throughout the year. We're so blessed by this year's turn out.

REGISTRATION SAVE THE DATE

St. James Day School Registration for the 2023-2024 Academic Year opens to St. James Parishioners and current SJDS Families on January 9th, 2023. Open enrollment for the wider community comes on January 17th.

CHRISTMAS BREAK IS COMING

Don't forget to mark your calendars, Christmas Break is just around the corner for SJDS Students. Please note that SJDS is closed from December 19th through January 2nd, 2023. We can't wait to start the new year with you!



ST. JAMES PARISH

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EST. 1729

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

Associate Rector **The Reverend Cheryl Brainard**

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

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

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**

Facilities Manager **Wes Clewis** | Sexton **Norman Sutherland**

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 Marr**

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

Contact Us

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