

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

CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY

ADVENT AT ST. JAMES

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

AND MORE!



SOCK HOP 2023

HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

8:00 a.m. - RITE I

9:10 a.m. - Faith Formation

10:15 a.m. - RITE II & Livestream



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

SABBATH EXPLORATION

2nd & 4th MONDAYS | 5:00 p.m.

Group Member Home

T

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Tuesdays | 9:00 a.m.

Register for Location

W

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

SELECT WEDNESDAYS | 7:00 a.m.

2018 South 16th Street

LIVING WELL IN ADVENT

WEDNESDAYS | 11:00 a.m.

Graham Parlor or via Zoom

HOLY EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAYS | 12:10 p.m.

Celebrating Holy Communion

T

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Thursdays | 6:30 p.m.

Register for Location

CHOIR PRACTICE

Thursdays | 7:00 p.m.

St. James Choir Room

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Christmas - Our St. James Parish office will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th for Christmas.

New Years - The Parish office will be closed Monday, January 1st, 2024 for New Years Day.

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



From the Rector

advent ¹

Noun / US /'æd.vent

the fact of an event happening, an invention being made, or a person arriving

Dear St. James Parish Family,

Within the centuries old traditions of our beloved Church, we begin a new year on Sunday, December 3rd. After twenty-six weeks, the season after Pentecost (also known as Ordinary Time) draws to a close, and we now embrace Advent.

As seen above, the Cambridge Dictionary offers a secular and "little a" definition of the word advent. It's not hard at all, though, for faithful Christians to connect with this offering - the notion of "a person arriving," or "an event happening." Indeed, that is the very spirit of this season. We return during Advent to the vision of the prophets - calling out God's people to prepare for the arrival of the Messiah. In the Gospels we witness again of the holy work of the angels, most certainly preparing the way for an "event happening" - the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

As I reflect on Cambridge's worldly definition of advent, I've come to believe that the idea of "an invention being made" might be the best of the three offerings. As I mentioned in a prior message, the season of Advent is a tangible reminder of the one true Light that shines in the darkness of our troubled world, offering transformation here and now. That transformation is God's work, and it has changed everything. God spoke through Isaiah and said, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19).

Yes, the season of Advent offers time to remember the arrival of the Christ child. As followers of Christ, though, our faith is forward looking, toward the return of our true Messiah. Let us then remember his words in Revelation: "Behold, I am making all things new ... write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21:5).

I invite you to take advantage of all of the wonderful offerings and resources we share here at St. James for the season to come. I hope you and your beloved find intentional moments to ponder the message of the season. May we all live into our gratitude for God's grace, and find our hearts and minds pointed toward the invention of Christ's transformational love and grace.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phillip+". The signature is stylized and cursive.

The Rev. C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

phillip@stjamesp.org

¹ Cambridge Dictionary

Vestry Corner

"Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong."

You may have noticed during the 10:15am service there are a few more voices in the mix. These voices sometimes speak up when it's quiet, you may hear them following along the service, and occasionally singing a different hymn than printed. The coos, cries and sounds of the infants always remind me of how sweet Jesus must have been as a precious infant in Mary's arms. The chorus of children saying the Lord's Prayer in unison makes many adults pause to listen to those important words that Jesus told us to pray. Then there are the children who sing along to any hymn with the words they know best "Jesus Loves Me". As a parent, I appreciate the grace you give us when our children speak up in moments that might feel a little less reverent... I also hope you are able to share in the beauty of the moments described above and more when Jesus provides us a tangible reminder he is always with us!

We are so delighted to share the four parishioners who have agreed to serve on Vestry for the next three years! During our annual meeting on **Sunday, January 28, 2024** we will formally elect Billie Holland, Mary Lyons Rouse, Tom Dodson and Todd Hinshaw. When I think about these four, I see servant hearted leaders with wisdom, vision and energy. Please take some time to read their bios provided in this issue of the Grapevine and when you see them on campus thank them for their willingness to serve!

At our November vestry meeting, the Congregational Care Commission was our guest. This commission is remarkable in how many areas they help take care of our parish family through groups like Care Guild, Community of Hope, Grief Group and more. At our vestry meeting, Mary Elizabeth Roberts came to share about **St. Martha's Guild**. St. Martha's includes over 100 women in our parish! These women split into teams that each take a month during the year to share love and kindness through a warm meal, cards, gifts for babies and beautiful receptions. Many of you participate in this ministry and many have also experienced the grace and kindness of members. Did you know there are some members of St. Martha's Guild that have been a part of this ministry for almost 40 years! If you would like to join this group please reach out to Mary Elizabeth Roberts or Jane Rippy.

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

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

THE VERGER TEAM

Have you noticed a new role within our worship in the past year? Someone organizing our processions? Someone dressed in black and grey? Someone carrying a wooden stick topped by a cross? This role is called a vergers, and as of this Sunday, this ministry has been a part of our Sunday worship for one full year!

Now that we've reached this one-year anniversary, let's revisit why we have vergers and what they do: While this ministry is still relatively new to our parish, vergers have a long history in the Church. According to the Episcopal Church, a vergers is "a lay minister who assists the clergy in the conduct of public worship, especially in the marshaling of processions... The history of the vergers dates back to the Middle Ages when the vergers 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 10:15 AM services, special occasions such as Christmas and Holy Week, and other services as needed.


In all cases, vergers 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 to churches like St. James, and for good reason—there are a lot of people serving each Sunday in different roles! The responsibilities of the vergers include: checking in with clergy, acolytes, lectors, and Eucharistic ministers before services; organizing processions; assisting with communion stations, and more. So, if you're ever serving in a worship service, please check in with the vergers beforehand! 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.

We are especially grateful to our vergers team—a group of parishioners who have boldly and humbly stepped into this role over the past year—for their leadership and service.

Have more questions? Don't hesitate to ask the clergy. And even better, ask a vergers!

Yours in Christ,


The Rev. Joseph G. Hodsdon

Vestry Candidates – Slate Class 2024-2026



THOMAS L. (TOM) DODSON

Tom joined St. James Parish in 1988 when he moved to Wilmington due to a job transfer. He is extremely grateful for all that St. James has meant to him and his family over the years. Tom is married to

Eldridge Dodson, and together they have four children and eight grandchildren. After 50 years of banking, Tom retired in May 2023. He has worked as a banker in cities across North Carolina. Tom has been involved in many roles at St. James over the years. Currently, Tom serves on the Spiritual Growth Committee and chairs that group. He recently completed the Community of Hope training to become a lay caregiver. He also worked as a co-facilitator of the Sacred Ground Sessions held in recent years. His interest is in St. James' continued mission and support for each of us to grow in love of God and neighbor. Tom continues to be excited about the positive differences St. James is making for its parishioners as well as throughout our community.



BILLIE HOLLAND

I have lived in Wilmington for 45 years and my history at St. James goes way back. After moving to Wilmington, I met the Rev. Bob Cook at a social gathering. We talked that night and during the conversation

he invited my husband, Dale, and me to a service. I walked in that beautiful church and knew immediately I was home. After being welcomed, it took me only a short time to want to be a part of this community. I have worn many hats over the years. The first step was to join the choir, still singing after 40 years. Other things that I have been a part of is Altar Guild, Sunday School teacher, Care Guild, St. Martha's, Wedding Guild and the Vestry. One program that has meant so much to me is Happening, which is a Senior High youth event through the Diocese. I have gone with so many youth of this church and watched them grow to be wonderful adults and parents. After all my years attending, I still love walking through those doors. My children were married here and my grandchildren were christened here. St. James has become a part of me and a wonderful place to worship.



TODD HINSHAW

Todd Hinshaw grew up in Asheboro, NC (yes, the same hometown as our rector Phillip Craig!) with a faith journey that started within the United Methodist Church. He moved to the Wilmington area

in 1988, after graduation from UNC- Chapel Hill School of Pharmacy and immediately knew this was the place that he would call home. He met his lovely wife Elizabeth (physical therapist) while undergoing treatment for a shoulder injury and they have now been married for 21 years, raising two sons Will (18) and Davis (17). Will and Davis were both baptized at St. James and attended St. James Day School and this church has been such an important part of the family's continued faith journeys and growth. Todd has served as a member of the inaugural Faith Formation group at St. James and is currently serving as co-chair of St. James Worship Commission. Todd has been involved with youth throughout the community as a baseball, basketball and soccer coach and hopes to continue the growth of the amazing youth programs at St James. His professional life recently led him to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN. He collaborates remotely with a team of pharmacists, physicians, and researchers to maintain and optimize the current electronic medical record and develop tools that can make the system safer and more efficient.



MARY LYONS ROUSE

I moved to Wilmington 11 years ago. I am married to Franklin Rouse who is owner of Franklin Rouse State Farm. I work at Cape Fear Academy as the Assistant Director of Advancement. We have 2 children Arthur, age 8, and

Mitchell, age 5. Both of our children were baptized at St. James Episcopal Church. We have been attending St. James since we first moved to the area. Franklin and I are involved in the church. Our shared ministry centers around Sunday School teaching, Ushering scheduling, greeting and serving on the Worship Committee. In my free time, I enjoy time with family and friends, reading, running and keeping myself busy and active!

Faith Formation in December

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:10 A.M.

DISCIPLES' CLASS - Meets in the Lippitt Room or via Zoom

The Disciples Class was established some years ago for those who seek to know more about what it means to truly be a disciple of Jesus. This fall, we invite everyone to join us in the Lippitt Room on Sunday mornings for presentations and discussions centering on "Living in the Spirit." Our studies will focus on subjects to include the "Fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5: 22), the Gifts of the Spirit (I Corinthians 12: 4-11), Our Call to Ministry (Matthew 25: 35 - 40), and The Way of Love (Presiding Bishop Curry's practices for a Jesus-centered life). We will also take time to explore what it means to listen to the Holy Spirit and to keep the Sabbath. The Disciples Class will also offer sessions focused on other timely subjects and seasons of the church, celebrating Advent and Lent.

- **December 3, 2023: Combined Faith Formation**
 - On the First Sunday of Advent - All Faith Formation and Sunday School Classes are invited to join us in the Great Hall as we explore the lessons of the advent wreath. Each family who registered will have the opportunity to produce their own wreath. Some spare wreaths will be available but supplies are limited.
- **December 10, 2023: Second Sunday of Advent - "The Second Coming of Christ"**
 - Join us in the Lippitt Room as the Rev. Phillip Craig shares a look forward as we ponder what the Season of Advent has to teach us about the second coming of Christ.
- **December 17, 2023: Third Sunday of Advent - "The First Coming of Christ"**
 - The Season of Advent lends itself to the contemplation of the gift of Jesus' life and ministry on earth. During this class, the Rev. Gray Hodsdon invites us to delve deeper into the first coming of Jesus Christ.
- **December 24, 2023: Fourth Sunday of Advent - No Classes Meet**
- **December 31, 2023: First Sunday After Christmas - No Classes Meet**

FAITH DISCUSSIONS - Meets in the Stephen Ministry Room

Each of these Faith Discussions' sessions is a guided, round-table discussion around a set topic to be announced during the two weeks prior to each session, during which all have the opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences, from greatest joys to deepest challenges. All adults are invited to join in these discussions as we explore how our faith in God meets our daily lives.

- **December 3, 2023, First Sunday of Advent** - Joining with our parish family for the Advent Wreath Event in the Great Hall.
- **December 10, 2023: Second Sunday of Advent** - Stages of Faith
- **December 17, 2023: Third Sunday of Advent** - Topic to be Announced
- **December 24, 2023: Fourth Sunday of Advent - No Classes Meet**
- **December 31, 2023: First Sunday After Christmas - No Classes Meet**



JUBI-LATTE ROUNDTABLE - Meets in the Youth Room

On Sunday Mornings, our 6th-12th graders are invited to join us in the Youth Room 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.

ADVENT AT ST. JAMES

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays during Advent | 11:00 AM | Graham Parlor or Zoom

The Wednesday following Thanksgiving, our Wednesday Bible Study group will kick off their Advent Study. Please come as you are able.

OLD WILMINGTON BY CANDLELIGHT

Saturday, December 2, 2023 | 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 3, 2023 | 1:00-5:00 p.m.

This December, St. James will be joining the Latimer House and other historical downtown landmarks in opening our doors to our community for a candlelight tour. If you would like to learn more about this event or join us in greeting our neighbors, please email communications@stjamesp.org.

ADVENT WREATHS

Sunday, December 3, 2023 | 9:10 a.m.

All are invited to join us for an inter-generational-formation hour on the first Sunday of Advent. Together we will explore the history and meaning of the advent wreath, and each family will have the opportunity to produce their own wreath to take home. Please RSVP online to help us know what materials we need to prepare.

LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 3 | 5:00 p.m. | St. James Parish

Make plans to join us for Lessons and Carols featuring our St. James Choir! Together we'll welcome the season of Advent with song and scripture.

SAM TRIPP - CELLO RECITAL

Sunday, December 17 | 6:00 p.m. | St. James Parish

Our parish family is invited to join Sam Tripp as he shares melodies of dance. All are welcome!

POINSETTIAS & MUSIC

Deadline: December 19th at 12:00p.m

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 or call the church office to participate.

stjamesp.org/blog/poinsettia/



ST. JAMES CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 17 | 10:15 a.m. Service

The St. James Christmas Pageant is coming! We're so excited to share the Christmas story at the 10:15 a.m. Service on Sunday, December 17th, 2023. Have questions about the pageant? Please reach out to Ansley Trask at christianinformation@stjamesp.org.

As we prepare for this year's Christmas pageant, we invite all participating families to join us for the following dates.

- **Sunday, November 5th:** This is the final day to let us know your child(ren) will be participating in the pageant. Our Sunday School classes will be assigning key roles and introducing the Christmas story this week.
- **Sundays, November 12th & 19th:** Sunday School Focuses around the Birth of Jesus
- **Sunday, December 3rd:** Families are invited to participate in our Advent Wreath making event!
- **Sunday, December 10th:** AFTER THE 10:15 SERVICE, all of our participating children will meet in the church for pageant practice, costume pick-up, and lunch. Special instructions for pageant day will be included in your child's costume bag.
- **Sunday, December 17th:** Pageant day! Don't forget to pack your costumes.

A CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 22 | 7:30 p.m. | St. James Parish

Save the date and make plans to join us for A Classical Christmas concert featuring some of our favorite vocalists and musicians.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST. JAMES

Advent 2023 sees Christmas Eve and the Fourth Sunday of Advent fall on the same Sunday. As such, we'll be offering a unique service schedule on the 24th to help allow our Altar Guild and Seasonal Decorating Committee plenty of time to prepare for the afternoon and evening services.

Our Service Schedule for Christmas Eve 2023 will be:

- 9:00 AM - Fourth Sunday of Advent - Rite II in the Great Hall
- 4:00 PM - Christmas Eve Liturgy
- 6:00 PM - Christmas Eve Liturgy
- 10:30 PM - Christmas Eve Liturgy

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25th, we will offer a Christmas Service at 10:30 a.m. both in-person and via our livestream. All are warmly welcome!

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

THANKFUL FOR OUR ST. JAMES MEN ON A MISSION

Many thanks to all who served people in our community over the Thanksgiving week. MoM provided food for 170 families in our community to enjoy a full Thanksgiving meal, including fifty turkeys donated by Rick Wilkins. Thank you VERY much, Rick! Five MoM guys even served dinner at Good Shepherd on Thanksgiving. Thank you Thomas Harris, Spencer Parker, Lin Spears, Trip Knox and Turner Wortham! We are so thankful for the work that MoM did for others during the week. 20 of us participated in some way to make Thanksgiving nicer for others.



VESTRY MEETING

December 11 | 5:15 p.m. | Graham Parlor

Our Vestry gathers on the second Monday of each month at 5:15 p.m. in the Graham Parlor to discuss the business of the parish and to hear from our parish family. These meetings are open and members of St. James Parish are welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity for those considering serving on the Vestry to get a feel for the work of the Vestry in our parish.

UPDATED ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28 | 9:10 a.m. | St. James Parish

Our Annual Meeting has been pushed back to January 28th, during our Faith Formation hour on Sunday Morning. All ages are invited to attend this meeting. Those who have been confirmed or received as members of St. James are especially encouraged to attend to participate in voting. During this meeting we will elect a new Vestry slate, and share information regarding plans for 2024, the budget, and what to expect as we move forward together.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Beth Cornelison, Judi Davis,
Leslie Hively, Topsy James,
Lani Lawrence, Lois Sawyer,
Anne Vaughn

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER

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

Come join us for the Daily Office of Morning Prayer! Each weekday, we gather on Zoom 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.

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.

SABBATH EXPLORATION GROUP

2nd & 4th Mon. | 5:00 p.m. | Group Member Home

Find rest, renewal and delight in our busy lives by the practice of keeping the Sabbath Holy. As Christians we can renew this ancient tradition to find the fullness and balance God meant for us to have in our busy and productive lives that sometimes seem empty. We will explore what this Sabbath time means from a Christian perspective and how to move into the rhythm of it using simple practices. The group will meet every 2nd & 4th Monday from 5:00 p.m. till 6:00 p.m., ending on December 11. Please make a commitment to the group to attend every session if possible. If you have questions, please contact Charlotte Davis or Rev. Cheryl Brainard.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursdays | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Room

Love to sing? Join the St. James Choir. The choir meets on Thursday evenings to rehearse for Sunday morning worship. If you are interested in learning more about joining the St. James Choir, please reach out to music@stjamesp.org.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Wednesdays | 12:10 PM | St. James Chapel

Join us in the St. James Chapel for a Noonday Eucharist. Offered each week throughout the year. We especially encourage you to attend on Wednesday.

ST. JAMES CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PRACTICE DAY!

Sunday, December 10 | 11:30 a.m. | St. James

AFTER THE 10:15 SERVICE, all of our participating children will meet in the church for pageant practice, costume pick-up, and lunch. 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. Have questions about the pageant? Please reach out to Ansley Trask at christianinformation@stjamesp.org.



SAVE THE DATE! EPIPHANY - MINI RETREAT: WATCHING & WAITING

January 13 | 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Lippitt Room

What/Who is the light we are following? What gives us light for the journey and hope in the darkness? What gifts do we have to offer? Through poetry, Scripture, and prayer practices, we will explore these questions Epiphany gives us the opportunity to consider. This mini-retreat will be led by Mary McKnight and Linda Murchison. All are welcome! Please invite fellow parishioners, family, or friends of any age. Registration online now! Childcare is available with advance registration. Have questions about this special offering? Please reach out to Linda Murchison, lindamurchison65@gmail.com

NAME TAG PICK-UP TABLE OUT!

Sunday, December 10 | St. James

If you ordered a nametag before Thanksgiving, your name tag is in! We'll have all of our nametags out and available for pick up on Sunday morning after the service on December 10th. Have questions? Please contact Dottie Benz at Dottiebenz@hotmail.com.

FOYER GROUPS

Do you want to get to know others in the parish in a smaller setting? Then joining a Foyer Group is just for you. Each year, those who indicate that they would like to be part of a Foyer Group, are divided into smaller groups of 12 - 14 parish members with a Group Leader. New groups will be formed in January and will remain in place until next December. The Group Leader will contact you for your first meeting. The plan is to have new groups formed by the first of the year and the first meeting to be held by the end of January.

How often, when and where you meet is totally up to the group. You can host a dinner in your home, all go to brunch after church on Sunday or have a picnic at the beach. Use your imagination.

If you have been in a group this year, please tell your Group Leader if you want to continue in a group next year. If you haven't been in a group this year and want to be included, or have additional questions, contact Sheila Osann at: osannshe@aol.com.

This is a fun opportunity to gather with old friends and make new ones.

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- Mar. 14, 5:30-7:15 PM. Stay tuned for how to register!

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

OUTREACH

OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT: PARISH SHOP

Did you know that the Parish Gift Shop has given over \$31,000.00 in those 19 years to outreach in our community!

THAT IS PRETTY AMAZING since we are only open 1.5 hours on Sunday mornings from September through May. We are proud to say that this is singularly achieved through the patronage of The Parish Shop. We could not have achieved this milestone without the support of the parish, our supporters and our volunteers. Together, we have created a huge impact for our community. We could not have achieved this milestone without the support of the parish, our supporters and our volunteers. The Parish Shop's mission over these years has been to support Women, Children, and Family outreach projects and we shall continue that pledge.

In serving this mission, The Parish Shop carries a range of products: some North Carolina-based products, many Christian books, gifts for baptism & confirmation, cards, and more. This also includes a freezer space where soups, casseroles, your favorite ham biscuits, and other delicious treats are sold! Not only can you do some Christmas shopping, you can pick up dinner, all while supporting the outreach that St. James does.

We are very excited that this Christmas Season, we are going to add some additional hours for shopping to accommodate everyone's wish lists. Not sure where we are - we're on the left heading up the ramp to the Great Hall! Please use the cloister door.



HOLIDAY HOURS

SUNDAY - 8:45 AM – 10:30 AM
DECEMBER 3, 10, 17, & 24

WEDNESDAY - 12:15 PM – 1:30 PM
DECEMBER 6, 13, & 20

THURSDAY - 4:15 PM – 5:45 PM
DECEMBER 7, 14, & 21



TRINITY GROVE - STOCKING STUFFER DRIVE

Deadline December 11, 2023

Our neighbors at Trinity Grove have reached out with an invitation to support residents in need of a lift this holiday season. To donate, please bring non-slip socks, word activity books, craft supplies, coloring books, and puzzles to the Bacon House by the end of the workday on December 11th.

MEN ON A MISSION: SERVING THE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER

Tues., December 5th & 19th 2023, 4:30 PM

Thursday, December 28th 2023, 4:30 PM

The MoM Squad continues to serve meals to the homeless on the first and third Tuesday of each month and the fourth Thursday! We'll serve at the Good Shepherd Center on Dec. 5 & Dec 19 and the Sargent Ashley Veteran's Center: Dec. 28. If you are interested in serving on one of the above dates, please contact Brian McMerty at bmcsmerty@arris.partners.

MEALS ON WHEELS

December 25&26th, 2023 & December 31st, 2023

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. This month, we do double duty taking meals on the 31st and the 26th! St. James is once again responsible for the delivery on the day after Christmas. We have 300 meals to deliver again this year so we need all the help we can get. Interested in participating? Reach out to Molly Roush at mollyroush@hotmail.com.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UNITY BUILD UPDATE

The first construction project scheduled to start on December 5 remains on temporary hold, due to health problems in the prospective owners family. The second construction project is now scheduled to start on January 6th. The specific construction schedule of events has not been nailed down as yet. Stay tuned for more information and volunteer opportunities in the near future. Alex Murchison and Brian McMerty are your best points of contact. To learn more, please visit capefearhabitat.org/buildforunity/.

ENGAGE MEET OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



SHOP'N'HOP

December 10 | 5:00 p.m. | Walmart - Sigmund Rd.
Instead of our regularly scheduled IGNITE!, you're invited to join the St. James Youth as we take on one of our favorite annual outreach projects. 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 pop over to IHOP for a delicious supper. Join the fun! Help other people! Bring your friends! SHOP & IHOP! For further information contact Cookie cookie@stjamesp.org.

SERVING AT SALVATION ARMY

December 15 | 5:00 p.m. | Salvation Army
On Friday, December 15, join our St. James Youth as we serve alongside other Salvation Army volunteers to sort and wrap Christmas presents for families in need. We'll serve together from 5:00-6:30 p.m. then head to the Mess Hall for dinner! Have questions about this opportunity? Reach out to Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org.

WRAP'N'YAP

December 17 | 5:00 p.m. | Youth Room
During IGNITE! on December 17th, our St. James Youth are invited to join us for snacks and to WRAP all of the gifts that we have purchased at "Shop'N'IHop." Even if you could not join us for "Shop'N'IHop" 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, eat pizza, and WRAP our gifts! For further information contact Cookie cookie@stjamesp.org.

IGNITE! SUNDAY NIGHTS WITH ST. JAMES YOUTH

Sunday Evenings | 5:00 -6:30 PM | Youth Room

Youth Group on Sunday Evenings - get ready to "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. Come be a part of this FUN and enriching journey. Together we 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!

UPCOMING DECEMBER DATES

- December 3: Youth Ministries IGNITE! will attend "Lessons and Carols"
- December 10 - IGNITE! Shop'N'Hop
- December 17 - IGNITE! Wrap'N'Yap
- December 24 - No IGNITE! this week.
- December 31 - No IGNITE! this Week

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY AT STARBUCKS

7:00 AM | 16th St. Starbucks

The High School Bible Study at Starbucks is 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 at janerippy@yahoo.com or Ginny Woodruff at Ginny@vcwoodruff.com. We hope to see you there!

UPCOMING DECEMBER DATES

- December 6 - Meet at Starbucks!
- December 13 - Meet at Starbucks!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Here are a few important dates you'll want to know!

- December 27 - SKI TRIP REGISTRATION DEADLINE
- January 7 - Ski Trip Meeting in the Youth Room
- January 10 - High School Bible Study Resumes!
- January 14 - No IGNITE! Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend.
- January 25-28 - Ski Trip

ST. JAMES PARISH

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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**

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 Southerland**

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://instagram.com/StJamesParish)