

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14TH, 2021

THE REV. MICHAEL SINGER



JESUS IS THE LORD OF LIFE

Like most communities, Wilmington has seen a downturn in visitors in shops and restaurants and foot traffic along the downtown Riverwalk. We have taken to wearing masks and keeping our distance. I'm trying to remember if I had ever heard the term "social distancing" before last March. But by now, many of us are "socially distanced" out. We are feeling a bit cramped in our own homes as spaces are modified to accommodate office(s), classrooms, playgrounds, day cares, etc. We are longing to see our co-workers, have playdates with our classmates, and have friends over for dinner. We have all missed being at St. James together, worshiping and socializing with our parish family. Many have felt the anxiety, fear and even sickness. We have all had to adjust and adapt to this "new

normal," while wondering when all of this is going to end. We are Zoomed out; stressed out and just plain worn out of this COVID-19.

As we approach the season of Lent, I am reminded of the Gospel reading with which you may be familiar, about how the death of Lazarus leaves a large absence in the lives of those who loved him. When Jesus tells Martha that her brother will rise again, he will show her that he means now: "I am the Resurrection and the life." The darkness of the tomb is not too dark for Jesus. The death of Lazarus does not mean that it is too late for Jesus to bring life. The great miracle is that while he is still dead in the tomb, Lazarus hears the word of Jesus and obeys it. Hearing the voice of Jesus, Lazarus lives again. The story of the raising of Lazarus proclaims the great truth that Jesus is the Lord of LIFE. He has the power to call us out of our tombs, our dark places, our uncertainties.

In times like these, we realize that no matter how strong and capable we think we are, we have little control over our lives. We also realize that despite these dark and uncertain times, God calls us to life, renewed and restored, over and over again. The spirit of love reigns and we find hope in the generosity and kindness of others. God is at work in our lives bringing goodness and light. Look and listen for the signs of spring! Look for the greening of the earth, hear the birds sing, reminding us that in Christ we have NEW LIFE if only we listen to His voice.

FULL LENTEN PROGRAM CALENDAR AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.stjamesp.org/lenten-offerings/

The Season of Lent is almost upon us! We invite everyone to join us in worship, fellowship, outreach, and prayer. On our website you'll find a calendar of our offerings as well as links to learn more.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

We welcome anyone who would like to participate in the ministry of St. James Parish! There are plenty of great ways to get involved. Like to write? Join our **Letter Writing Team**. Want to get to know people? Become an **Usher** and hand out Sunday bulletins. Enjoy reading? Sign up as a **Lector** to lead us in scripture readings during the service. Not sure what might be a good fit? Reach out to Erin at communications@stjamesp.org and she'll help you get in touch with the right ministry for you!

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

INDOOR SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

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

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Mary Will Burton, R.V. Fulk, Mimi Jones

CONDOLENCES TO:

Thomas Ray Harris on the death of his mother,
Barbara Wester Harris

Kathy Stovall on the passing of her husband, and to
Zander Koonce on the death of his brother,
Michael Stovall

Bob Workmon on the death of his mother,
Julia McKenzie Workmon

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Cissie and Claude Bridger on the birth of their
grandchild, Leslie "Elsie" Beecher Carse

PLEDGING & GIVING ONLINE

To donate and support St. James Parish, visit: <https://onrealm.org/StJamesParish/give/pledge>. You can visit stjamesp.org/stewardship for a video with step-by-step instructions for pledging online.

ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2021-2022 School Year is OPEN online! If you have not already registered your students, please don't wait to do so, spots are filling up quickly. Questions? Please contact Amy Taylor at director.dayschool@stjamesp.org.

YOUTH GROUP WATCHES THE CHOSEN

Sundays | 5:15 p.m. | RSVP REQUIRED

St. James Youth Group will be doing "10 @ 5" and together we will be watching The Chosen. Immediately following Winter Worship @ 4:00 p.m., 10 individuals will gather safely distanced & "masked" in the Great Hall. Together we will dig deeper into the stories and context of the people and events of the Gospels. Please contact Cookie Cantwell, cookie@stjamesp.org, or call or text 910-264-5910.

OFFICE HOURS: PRESIDENTS' DAY

As a friendly reminder the St. James Parish Office and St. James Day School will be closed on Monday, February 15th in observance of Presidents' Day.

SERVICE TIMES

Our in-person services take place outdoors, two at Mt. Lebanon Chapel and one at our Downtown Campus. As we move further into winter, we have adjusted our Sunday service times in the hopes that the outdoor services will be warmer and have better lighting for attendees. We are hosting our outdoor services at the following times:

Mt. Lebanon Chapel

9:30 AM- Holy Eucharist - Rite II

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Livestreamed)

Downtown Campus

4:00 PM - Winter Worship

SHROVE TUESDAY: PANCAKE DRIVE-IN

Shrove Tuesday, February 16th | 5:00 p.m. | RSVP REQ.

While we can't gather together as we have in years past, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Drive-In is on! If you would like to order Shrove Tuesday Pancakes for your family, please request your food and reserve your time to pick up your pancakes in the Perry Hall Parking Lot through our website: www.stjamesp.org/blog/shrove-tuesday-pancake-drive-in. A \$2 per person donation is suggested but not required.

ASHES AT HOME

Ash Wednesday February 17th, 2021 | 2:00-4:00 p.m. | Cloister

For those of you who aren't interested in the full Lent-In-A-Box experience, which contains our Ashes At Home Service Kit already, we will be offering a drive-thru pick-up of our Ashes At Home Kit on Ash Wednesday, February 17th.

The kit will contain some palm ashes and a special bulletin with instructions. Questions? Please reach out to The Rev'd Chris Hamby at chris@stjamesp.org.

PRAYING IN COLOR

Saturday, February 20th, 2021 | 10:00 a.m. | Zoom

We are very excited to announce that St. James Parish will be joining St. Paul's, Wilmington in hosting a special Zoom workshop with Sybil MacBeth on Saturday, February 20 from 10am-noon. Mrs. MacBeth has authored several books, one of them, Praying in Color, will be the theme of the upcoming workshop. Make sure to register on the St. Paul's website to let us know you are coming! Questions? Please reach out to teresabsinger@gmail.com.

QUIET REFLECTION AT MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

Saturday, March 6th, 2021 | 7:30 a.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

You are welcome to join us for as much, or as little, of this hour as you can. You may sit in a pew, or on a garden bench, or enjoy a meditative walk around the Chapel. Our time together will be in silence. Questions-please email Lindamurchison65@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT

by *Bill Bivins*

During this difficult time of pandemic, each of us is looking for spiritual growth and peace in whatever way may be meaningful for us. Our Wednesday evening Education for Ministry group at St. James, which continues to meet via Zoom, has pursued spiritual growth, not only through reading and discussing scriptures, but also through reflection and prayer. One method of praying is the Daily Examen, a way of praying proposed by St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491 – 1556), a Catholic priest who founded the Jesuit order. It is centered on daily reflection upon the events of the day in order to sense God's presence and to discern God's direction for us. The process is simple: Toward the end of the day, sit quietly and try to become aware of God's presence, asking God to bring clarity and understanding. Then slowly review the events and experiences of the day with gratitude, remembering people you saw and the work that you did. What did you receive? What did you give? What sights did you see? Pay attention to your emotions, looking deeply for the meaning in these emotions. Choose one feature of the day and focus your prayer on it, requesting direction from God. Then, ask God to give you insight for tomorrow's challenges. Allow your doubts and feelings to turn into prayer, and pray for hope. In this way, you will begin to see and understand that in the very simple things of life, God's presence may be seen and felt if we but give ourselves time to discern this. My prayer for you is that in the midst of these very challenging times, the peace and understanding that can come through the Examen Prayer will deepen your faith, your hope, and your joy.

THE THEOLOGY OF FILM

Starting Thursday Feb. 18, 2021 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

Most of us enjoy watching movies. Do you know that most movies provide an intersection with the sacred? Theology of Film will be held as a Lenten opportunity for learning this year at 7:00 p.m., beginning February 18th. The Rev'd Michael Singer will lead us as we explore faith through conversation. What is our relationship with the sacred? Who are we? Where do we fit? First Film: *Les Miserables*

OUTREACH PARTNER: ONE LOVE TENNIS NEEDS YOU!

Our friends at One Love Tennis are preparing to open their very own Academic Enrichment facility at 1406 Orange Street and they are in need of mentors that are ready, able, and willing to help kids with their school work starting before the end of this month! Volunteers are the most important piece of the puzzle. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please reach out to Lenny Simpson at info@one-love-tennis.org.

A THANK YOU: MEALS ON WHEELS

We want to take a moment to thank all of the wonderful volunteers and donors who make St. James' support of Meals on Wheels possible. Thank you for all you do!

MEN'S DAY ~ SAVE THE DATE

May 15, 2021 | TBA | Orton Camp | RSVP Requested

Calling all St. James' Men! The second Men's Day event will be held at Orton Camp on May 15 (rain date May 16) late afternoon. The men of St. James Parish are invited for a day of fellowship, fun, and early dinner. We're excited to see you. Everyone is invited to bring one guest to join! This is an opportunity for all adult men (21 years and above) of St. James Parish to come together in a safe way outdoors. More information to follow. Have questions? Please reach out to David Sprunt.

NOW ACCEPTING SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

Annual Silent Auction Coming May 2021 | Online

This year COVID-19 is leading us on a new journey towards "Outreach and Mission." We will be offering a three day Online "Silent Auction" beginning on Sunday, May 2 at 6:00 am and ending on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 8:00 pm. We are asking you to help us by giving a donation to this Auction. Have Questions? Reach out to: Billie Holland, Silent Auction Coordinator ~ 910-343-1354 bebeholl@gmail.com or Cookie Cantwell, St. James Youth Coordinator ~ 910-763-1628 cookie@stjamesp.org

THE BIBLE AND HANDEL'S MESSIAH: LENTEN EDITION

Starting Wednesday Feb. 25, 2021 | 11:00 a.m. | Zoom

Please join us Wednesdays during Lent for music and biblical texts from Handel's Messiah. Messiah tells the story of our Lord Jesus Christ and is one of the best-loved musical compositions of all time. In our study, we are going to take a look into the biblical text on which Messiah is based. This 5-week presentation is designed to deepen our appreciation of both the words and the music of Handel's oratorio. Please contact Rev Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org for more information.

SPECIAL MORNING PRAYER

Tuesday & Wednesday Feb. 16 & 17, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. | Zoom

You're invited to join us for Morning Prayer on Zoom. We have special services planned for Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. If you would like to pray as part of a community when applying your ashes, please join us on Wednesday morning via Zoom. You can find the links to join us on the St. James website: www.stjamesp.org/morning-prayer.

A STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP UPDATE

by David Dougherty

For the Strategic Planning Group, I proudly introduce a plan that affirms the historic charge of our 300-year-old St. James Parish, a good and special place for generations of families. It is also an important place, called to lead in Wilmington in service to God and man. Our seven-month-long planning process -- research, phone interviews, live and Zoom meetings -- required us to make choices -- we can't do everything -- and to seek excellence in whatever we choose. And in the process we:

- Defined our Mission: "To welcome all to grow in love of God and neighbor";
- Defined our Vision: "To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith";
- Studied "best practices" of churches in the region and nation;
- Assessed the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats to success at SJP;
- Committed to five "Strategies" and plans to implement them; and
- Summarized them in an Objective Statement: "Over the next three years St. James Parish will increase capacity for ministry by growing its resources (people, money, and use of campus) to serve the people of the congregation and the Greater Wilmington Community."

In future Grapevines and videos, SPG members will explain each "Strategy" and demonstrate its impact: to energize worship, increase participation in ministries, use the campus more fully, elevate financial support, and invite new members. With our search for a new rector at St. James this is a time of enormous opportunity. Our plan, we believe, seizes this moment and calls upon us all to act.

ST. JAMES RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Your rector search committee is making good progress, and remains excited about the high quality of candidates who entered the mutual discernment process with us.

In early December, we received about two dozen applications from the Diocese office of Transition Ministry, following their high level review. All applications received by the Diocese were forwarded to us. We spent the next three weeks or so reviewing those submissions; looking at church websites; listening to or reading sermons, podcasts and articles, all with the aim of discerning which candidates we felt God was calling us to get to know better via zoom interviews.

Fifteen zoom interviews with the full committee were then scheduled beginning the first week of January. Those fifteen represented a broad range of ages. We asked each of them to lead the assembled group in an opening prayer, and then engaged in wide ranging conversations that gave us some sense of their hearts, minds and experiences. After spending time with fourteen of those fifteen -- one of whom decided he was not called to join in the process, but all of whom have impressive gifts and passions for ordained ministry -- we felt called to continue conversations with roughly a half dozen.

We will be completing a second round of interviews -- again as a whole committee -- with that smaller group by the time this issue of The Grapevine reaches you. In each case, we have asked the candidate to lead the committee in our opening ten-to-twenty minutes of "spiritual discernment", using whatever approach they choose. The power of those times has been extraordinary, reflecting both the spiritual leadership gifts of the candidates as well as the deep bonds of trust that our committee members have formed with one another.

Our next aim is to discern the two-to-four candidates who should be our short-list of finalists. Further time with that smaller group will commence during the second or third week of February.

Our charge from the Vestry is to present the Vestry with a single recommendation. Our hope is for that single recommendation to be a unanimous one, believing that striving towards unanimity is a covenantal discipline that will help us truly listen to God's voice. So far, we have not taken any step forward without unanimous consent.

Please continue to pray for this process. We have felt your prayers undergirding us. We have also felt in palpable and meaningful ways God's hand on our shoulders as He guides us step by step. We feel that we are on schedule for the Vestry to issue a call sometime this spring.

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH

MONDAY- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15-19

MORNING PRAYER

8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom | Led by laity and clergy.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

PRESIDENTS' DAY

SJDS & PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

FELLOWSHIP AA

7:00 PM | Lippitt Room

SHROVE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

SPECIAL MORNING PRAYER: SHROVE TUES.

8:00 AM | Zoom

TUESDAY STILL MATTERS

8:30 AM | Zoom

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

9:00-11:30 AM | Zoom

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

5:00-6:30 PM | Perry Hall Parking Lot | RSVP only

WDAА BASKETBALL PRACTICE

6:30-8:30 PM | Perry Hall

SACRED GROUND SESSION 5

7:00 PM | Zoom

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

PCJ BIBLE STUDY

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

SPECIAL MORNING PRAYER: ASH WED.

8:00 AM | Zoom

ASHES AT HOME KIT PICK UP

2:00-4:00 PM | The Cloister Drive Thru

HALO HOOPS BASKETBALL

4:00-6:00 PM | Perry Hall Gym

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

6:00-8:30 PM | Zoom

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

THEOLOGY OF FILM: LES MISERABLES

7:00 PM | Zoom

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

PRAYING IN COLOR

10:00 AM | Zoom

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

9:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel | BYOS*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

10:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel & ONLINE |
BYOS*

WINTER WORSHIP AT 4

4:00 PM | St. James Parish | BYOS*

YOUTH GROUP WATCHES THE CHOSEN

5:15 PM | Great Hall | RSVP only

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

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

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the February 23rd e-blast is Friday, February 19th.

ST. JAMES PARISH

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Wilmington, NC 28401

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ST. JAMES PARISH

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STAFF

Priest-In-Charge The Rev. Michael Singer

Associate Rector The Rev. Chris Hamby | **Associate Rector** The Rev. Cheryl Brainard

Organist/Choirmaster John Sullivan

Facilities Administrator Bill McKenzie | **Parish Coordinator** Suzanne Adams

Finance Administrator Maria Hollopeter

Youth Minister Cookie Cantwell | **Children's Ministries** Shannon Lockamy

Day School Director Amy Taylor | **Communications Director** Erin Becker

Registrar Marybeth Tallman | **Property & Maintenance Manager** Wes Clewis

Sexton Joey Dobson

VESTRY

Senior Warden Steve Thomas

Junior Warden Jane Martin

Treasurer Mike Brown | **Clerk** Diane MacAskill

Class 2021 | Watson Barnes | Pem Jenkins | Jane Martin | Jim Spruill

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

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

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