

ST. JAMES GRAPEVINE SPECIAL EDITION

ANNUAL MEETING & GRAPEVINE

GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR

IN THIS ISSUE

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MT. LEBANON CHAPEL
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AND MORE!

ADVENT 2023



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From the Rector

Dear Parish Family,

I am delighted to share with you once again a robust and informative St. James Parish Annual Report. As in years past, I encourage you to take intentional time and space to read through this entire offering. Here you will clearly come to know the unique season we have had through the depth and breadth of this parish. Indeed, the faithful dedication of our staff, lay leadership and ministry coordinators are palpable through these following pages.

St. James remains a very special place, and we have so much for which to be grateful and also accountable. We have the gift of a rich history which is brought to the forefront of our minds by St. James' fast approaching 300th anniversary. We have a large and distinct city block under our charge. Our sanctuary offers a place of sacred presence when we gather for worship, and it is complemented by the simplicity and natural grace of Mount Lebanon Chapel. It continues to be our parish members, though, that are the heart of our church. The faithful compassion and commitment of so many is what allows St. James to live into its mission - to "grow in love of God and neighbor."

I return again and again to the Apostle Paul, compelling us to remember that "just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (I Corinthians 12:12). As we celebrate and honor both the successes and the challenges of our past year, and then prayerfully ponder our future together, may we remain steadfast in all our doings - to trust, serve and glorify Jesus Christ our Lord.

I remain grateful to serve as your Rector and look with joy to our life together in 2024.

Faithfully,

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

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
~ Book of Common Prayer

Senior Warden's Address

A FAREWELL ADDRESS - OUTGOING SENIOR WARDEN LESLIE JARRETT

Dear St. James Parish Family,

When you sit down to reflect on the past year, I wonder where your mind goes first. Often there are pivotal moments in a year, defined by intense emotions that come to mind first. It may be a moment of great joy or it could be sorrow of tragedy. As you step back from those big moments, I hope you feel a sense of belonging, community and grace from our St. James Parish Family.

The Vestry at St. James is charged with furthering the mission and vision of our parish in addition to oversight and responsibility for the financial and property resources of our parish. For a parish of 1,350 members, encompassing an entire city block, this is no small task. We are grateful for the promise that "where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them" (Matt. 18:20). Our vestry meeting conversations and decisions always start with centering ourselves around the presence of God and being mindful of how our actions reflect the call to servant leadership.

When reflecting on 2023, there were many opportunities to welcome others to grow in love of God and neighbor through special speakers like Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston or the Diocese Jazz and Race Symposium, Wednesday evening suppers and Vacation Bible School. We continued to build community through ministries that strengthen our faith like the Orientation for Newcomers program, Community of Hope, Men on a Mission, St. Martha's Guild and Outreach events. We gathered for celebrations on the lawn, our parish picnic at Mt. Lebanon chapel and the Trinity Center for the Parish Retreat. We came together with a new schedule on Sunday mornings which resulted in growth of both worship services offered (8am and 10:15am). We saw the beautiful before and after work of the Great Hall Kitchen repairs in addition to the painting and refreshing of Day School, Sunday School and Children's Chapel rooms. There are plans in place to replace the market street steps early this year. We ended the financial year 2023 positively due to generous giving along with careful attention by staff and volunteers to being good stewards of our resources.



Now here we are in 2024, a thriving parish that is 295 years old! While it may be tempting to keep things 'the way it's always been', the reality is a parish thriving after 295 years shows that St. James has been evolving. Let's continue to constantly reflect on and respond to the needs of our parish family and surrounding community. We need to remember our role as servant leaders to our neighbors in Wilmington and eastern North Carolina.

I am so excited to see what this next year holds for St. James Parish. We are blessed to have incredible servant-hearted clergy in addition to vestry leadership that remains focused on Jesus. It has been an honor to serve on Vestry over the past three years alongside fellow dedicated parishioners. An extra huge thank you to Junior Warden, Alex Murchison who brings gratitude, wisdom, and kindness to every meeting and project at St. James.

With Gratitude,

Leslie Jarrett

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!

ON FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

TRACKING PARTICIPATION
345 households pledged so far!



GOAL: 350 Households | 98.6 %Complete

Dear Parish Family,

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign officially concluded just as we entered the season of giving thanks. Although we all are thankful for the many blessings in each of our lives, the end of this year's campaign gave us the opportunity to focus our thanks on you, the members of this Parish family.

In 2023, we invited you to invest in St. James and its people, its place, and its programs. We asked you to prayerfully consider your pledge and to reach deep to fuel the Church's march into the future. As of Monday, January 22, 2024, we have received 345 pledges totaling \$1,472,355. We are, in a word, astounded. "Although we fell slightly short of the \$1.6M proposed budget, we celebrate the successes of this pledge campaign including an increase in the number of pledging units and an increase average pledge amount.

We still have progress to make, the response to date gives us confidence that St. James is not only well-positioned to maintain its recent momentum, but will build upon it moving forward. Your commitment will allow the Church to invest in the people, both us all as members of the Parish and in the staff who so graciously and effectively steer us; to maintain and improve this place, our Parish campus and facilities, to guarantee that our community will remain physically rooted together; and to fund and build the Church's programs, which serve to bind us together and invigorate our spiritual growth.

For all who have pledged to give, we thank you. For those who are still considering their pledge, remember that there is still plenty of time to consider and pledge. Every dollar counts and no pledge is too small. As we conclude this campaign and move towards year end, we will partner with the Vestry and others to make our final push. We do so with grateful hearts, thankful for our Church, its volunteers and staff, and for each of you.

Blessings,

Your 2023-2024 Stewardship Committee



KRISTINE
MONTALTO
Co-Chair



ALLEN
TRASK, III
Co-Chair



DAVID
JARRETT
Member



MARY MCLEAN
EVANS
Member



LIN
SPEARS
Member

STEWARDSHIP 2024

345 PLEDGES
\$1,472,355

Scott & Katherine Andersen	LucyWest Craig	David & Charlotta Howell	John & Kathy Muzzey	Gail Spruill
Sara Anlyan	Sam Craig	Tolly & Jean Hughes	Charles & Caroline Neal	David & Wesie Sprunt
Harry & Sally Archer	The Rev. Phillip & Jennifer Craig	Randy & Nina Inge	Pamela Nesbitt	Kenny & Gloria Sprunt
Peggy Atkinson	Will & Sarah Crews	Susan Ingle	Fred Newber	Arthur Stephan
Martha Averitt	Parris & Barbara Croom	Wayne & Carolyn Jackson	Nathaniel Nonoy & Julie Adams	Taft & Cackie Stephenson
Richard Babb	Jim & Andrea Crumpton	Donald & Sue Jaeckel	Justin & Tammy Norwood	David Stertzler & Susan Darby
Martha Bachman	Steve & Bonnie Culbreth	Roger & Topsy James	Tuney & Rose Marie Nunnelee	Stedman & Susanna Stevens
Zack Bacon	Anne Curlett	David & Leslie Jarrett	Bill Oakley	Harry & Bettie Stovall
John & Nancy Baden	Ben & Suiter Currin	Pem & Patti Jenkins	Cy & Grace Oberle	Kathy Stovall
William Baggett	Charlotte Davis	Linda Jobe	Fred & Sheila Osann	Ann Stuart
Kim Balderson	Michael & Kitty Davis	Carroll Johnson	James & Elizabeth Overton	John Sullivan
Kay Ballard	Tom & Eldridge Dodson	Billy Johnston	John & Rachel Pace	Mary Virginia Swain
Julia Barfield	Aubrey Doggett	Murray Jones	Al & Michelle Parker	Jack & Barbara Swann
James & Kathryn Barmore	David & Kay Dougherty	David Joyner	Connor & Jean Keller	Anna Symmes
Watson & Greta Barnes	Ed & Bev Duff	Carl & Nancy Keller	John & Ann Parker	Bill & Mary Beth Tallman
Mark & Chelsey Bartholet	Crae & Lynn Dunn	Connor & Jean Keller	Paul & Betsy Parker	Jane Tatum
Bobby & Keri Bartholomew	Sandy & Sarah Easley	Vaiden Kendrick	Spencer & Claire Parker	Ryal & Kimbrough Tayloe
Stephen & Elizabeth Beacham	Doug & Bailey Echols	Joedy Kimball	The Rt. Rev. Henry & Becky Parsley	Ryal & Laura Tayloe
Michael & Erin Becker	David & Allison Eggleston	Bill & Sue Kimbrell	Howard & Beth Penton	George & Suzanne Taylor
Jeanne Bellamy	David & Mary Eggleston	Will & Elizabeth King	Roi Penton	Kurt & Anna Taylor
Bill & Laura Bivins	Sandra Elam	Will & Hayden Kirby	Margaret Phillips	Nat & Katie Taylor
Beth Blackwell	Carol Ellis	Ted Koehncke	Virginia Pierce	Walker & Aoife Taylor
Sam & Catie Blair	Cae Emerson	Nancy Korman	Barry Poe	Page & Joan Teer
Dick Boisky	Mary McLean Evans	Pat Laney	Stewart Poisson	Gordon & Beth Tefft
Jeanne Milliken & Robert Bonds	Rob Ferber	Tom & Amy Laney	George & Cindy Popajohn	Steve & Rhonda Thomas
Jim & Marsha Bonner	Dennis Fish & Beth Souther	Bob Lanham	Bob & Judy Porter	Davis & Miriam Thompson
Cynthia Boylan	Tim & Pat Ford	Jim & Anne Lanier	Carson & Jenna Porter	Sue Tompkins
Donald & The Rev. Cheryl Brainard	Gary & Sims Foulks	David & Anne Tyson Lee	Bennett & Pam Potter	Kevin Tornes & Taber Stockstill-Tornes
Graham & Mollie Brice	Noel Fox	Will & Michelle Leonard	Ted Poucher & Di Chamblee-Poucher	Brenda Towles
Claude & Cissie Bridger	R.V. & Judy Fulk	Emory & Jane Lewallen	Roger & Anne Powell	Dianne Tracy
Rob & Jan Bridgers	John & Mary Ann Furniss	Tom & Beth Lilly	Joel & Missy Pretlow	Allen & Erin Trask
Shawn & Anne Broderick	Bill & Hannah Gage	Bob Lloyd	Ashley Putney	Frances Trask
Henry & Linda Brown	Alice Gaines	Ann Longley	Terry & Betty Quinn	William & Ansley Trask
Michael & Jane Brown	Patricia Gardner	Lloyd & Diane MacAskill	Trisha Raynoha-Wilson	Tom & Brandon Tully
Mike & Jamie Brown	Shari Gardner	Bambi MacRae	Alex & Jamie Reed	Les & Anne Turlington
David & Hannah Brownlow	Frank & Judy Gibson	Hugh MacRae	Paul Rhinehart	Bob & Nancy Uzzell
Russ Bryan	Andrew & Kate Goodman	Rachel MacRae	Greg & Ann Richardson	Suzette van Arsdale
Thomas & Wendy Bugbee	Tommy & Anne Gore	David & Louise Mann	Jane Rippy	Allen Van Dyke
Zachary Bugg & Scott Judson	Dean & Mary Frere Gornto	Kathy Mann	Smith & Cathy Roberson	Erik & Sarah van Rens
Emmy Bullard	Joan Grainger	Jerry Mannen	Maria Ross	Anne Wilkerson Vaughn
Dr. Coleman Burgess, III & John Jordan	Stuart & Anne Grainger	John & Joyce Marling	Franklin & Mary Lyons Rouse	Vic & Leigh Venters
Raymond Burt	Hunter & Michelle Gray	Al & Jane Marr	Jerry & Helen Rouse	Jeff & Ashley Walton
Brian & Kathy Bush	Charles Green	Jane Martin	Bob & Doris Ruffner	Malcolm Warbrick
Kathy Bush	Wilson & Pat Greene	Timothy Marvin	C. K. & Polly Rust	Edward & Kathy Weaver
Michael Cain	Lynwood Grissom	Kit Mason	Todd & Elizabeth Sanders	Doug & Tracey Weigold
Bill & Lynn Calder	Frank & Marietta Gwathmey	William Mason	Bill & Jane Saunders	Harold & Ellen Wells
Katherine Cammack	Chip & Mandy Hackler	Rick Mayes	Sam Schadt & Savannah Pooor	Lee & Margaret White
Rachel Camp	Tom & Hope Hackler	Janna & Mark Maynard	Turner & Sarah Schaeffer	Ed & Barbara Whitesides
Toni Campbell	Ann Hale	Bob & Chris McArtoor	Greg & Marilyn Schimizzi	Richard Wilkins & Bev Setz
Si & Maria Cantwell	Catherine Halligan	James McCabe	Ralph & Judy Schlichter	H. Margaret Willetts
Dawn Carter	Frank & Berta Hamilton	Peter & Mary McClain	Catherine & Tom Schmid	Rick & Myrna Willetts
Oliver & Virginia Carter	Marilyn Harding	Angus McDonald	Beatrice Schomp	Ford & Anne Williams
Ruth Carver	Stuart & Marie Hardy	Betsy McDonald	Mollie Shiflet	Lee Williams, III & Amy Crittenberger
Rosa Champney	Wilson & Virginia Hardy	Jim & Sonja McFarland	Carla Shores	Richard & Monika Williams
Larry & Joanne Cheng	Donald & Luci Harley	Jane McGann	Jay Sidebotham & Frances Murchison	Nixie Wilson
Bill & Happy Clark	Steve & Marshall Harper	Herb & Gina McKim	Gorda Singletary	Jane Woodbury
George Clark	Cothran & Jane Harris	Tom & Mary McKnight	John & Louise Sloan	Tee Woodburr
Jack Clark & Mary Denison	Thomas Harris	Brian & Lyell McMerty	Billy & Jean Smith	Ginny Woodruff
Russell & Beverly Clark	Eric & Lizzie Hartman	Jane McGann	Claire Smith	Bob Workmon
Scott & Karen Clark	Mason & Jennifer Hawfield	Herb & Gina McKim	Cookie Smith	Turner & Della Wortham
Steve & Louise Coggins	Rhod & Frances Hawk	Tom & Mary McKnight	Wright & Gail Smith	Adair Wright
Woody & Melanie Coley	Joe & Ginger Helfrich	Derrick Miller	Cece Snow	James & Martha Wright
Bram & Rachel Colonna	Hughes Henderson	Tony & Kristine Montalto	Jim Snow	Chris & Kitty Yerkes
Steve & Caroline Cone	Robert Hickman	Deb Morgan	Greg Soltis & Rosemary Russo	Carrie Young
Tom & Mary Will Connolly	Joey & Lydia Hines	Richard Morgan & Jane Hight	Lin & Mandy Spears	Vance & Porter Young
Nate & Hayley Cook	Todd & Elizabeth Hinshaw	Suzanne W. Moss		Gaile Zack
Ron & Wanda Copley	Geoffrey & Sage Hoare	Steve & Ann Mueller		
Web & Florence Ellen Cowden	Rev. Gray & Catie Hodsdon	Alex & Anne Murchison		
	Susan Hogue	John Murchison		
	Dale & Billie Holland	Ned & Elizabeth Murchison		
	Rob & Katy Hooper	Reid & Linda Murchison		

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMISSION

Respectfully submitted by Jane Martin, chair of Congregational Care Commission

The committees that work under Congregational Care are busy daily. We strive to support the clergy, and all members who may be going through illness, grief, or celebrations. All who minister would agree that we receive far more than we give. Our ministries could use more help. Please consider joining one of these groups. We ALL are The Church and there are many opportunities to make a difference.

- **Care Guild**- This team of 15 visits home bound parishioners where they are living. The mission is to let them know they are valued, loved, and not forgotten. Their families are appreciative of this ministry. There were 15-17 visits each month with members making two-five 30-45 minute visits. Care Guilders "touch" parishioners 228 times in a year.
 - **Pen pals** (14 members) send cards to parishioners weekly or monthly as health conditions change. There were an estimated 840 cards sent last year to parishioners who were bereaved, or home or facility bound. (Contact: Beth Souther, bethsoutherfish@gmail.com)
 - **Community of Hope International (COHI)** -St. James is a COHI parish. COHI training equips lay people to serve in all forms of pastoral care. There are presently 39 members who have completed 6 weeks of intensive training for pastoral care ministries. While this training is not a prerequisite for giving pastoral care, it is helpful. Most months continuing education opportunities are offered. (Contact: cheryl@stjamesp.org)
 - **Confidential Prayer Team**- They represent a group of dedicated St. James parishioners who offer 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. (Contact: cheryl@stjamesp.org)
 - **Flower Guild**- 15 members, in teams of two, they deliver the altar flowers after the final Sunday service. The clergy let us know where the flowers are to go and we receive the flowers from the Altar Guild in the sacristy. We have our own note cards in the sacristy to include with the flowers. We may write a note or have the clergy write a quick note to the recipients. (Contact: Jane Martin, martinjane@ec.rr.com)
 - **Hospital Visitors**- This small group makes visits as needed and when requests come from the clergy. Please let the church know when you are aware that one of our parishioners is in the hospital. (Contact: The Rev. Cheryl Brainard, cheryl@stjamesp.org)
 - **Living Well in the Midst of Grief**- Our Grief Group has approximately 20 members. They meet every first and third Monday. This is a time of sharing, learning, and support for each other. There are also social opportunities for group members. (Contact: The Rev. Cheryl Brainard, cheryl@stjamesp.org)
 - **St. Martha's Guild**- This Guild at St. James provides care to our members by delivering meals to the sick, bereaved or those with new babies, writing notes, and making phone calls to individuals and families during life's ups and downs. Each month has a chair and a team. When there is a death in our church family, the clergy offer our funeral reception ministry to the family. We organize, prepare, and put on receptions following funerals as our gift of love.
 - In 2023 we estimate the following numbers but believe the totals are likely higher than these which are averaged.
 - 3 funerals with receptions per month, total 36
 - 12 cards per month, total 144
 - 5 flowers, plants, baby gifts etc. each month, total 60
 - 4 meals or food, total 48
- Contacts: Jane Rippy, janerippy@yahoo.com, Mary Elizabeth Roberts, maryelizabethroberts@seacoastrealty.com
- **Support communities**- such as AA, Al-Anon, divorce or separation, or marriage enrichment (Contact The Rev. Cheryl Brainard, cheryl@stjamesp.org)

REMINDER!

The list of patients at the hospital is no longer available to our clergy. This is a newly enforced policy. Please let the church know when you are aware that one of our parishioners is in the hospital or of situations when members of our church family would appreciate a card, a call, or a visit.

EVANGELISM COMMISSION

The St. James Evangelism Commission reaches out in the name of God to invite others to St. James Parish. They work to ensure that all visitors receive a warm, Christian welcome each Sunday and at special events. This group takes the lead in connecting newcomers to their chosen ministries and helps them to become an integral part of the St James community.

OUR MISSION:
Invite, Welcome,
and Connect

2023 Year in Review:

- **Praying Shapes Believing - Confirmation classes** (Feb 16 & 23, March 2,9,16,23, & 30) - The Evangelism Commission supplied 2 volunteers for each of the seven classes. These volunteers were responsible for welcome, opening & closing program, introducing speakers, refreshments, lock-up, signage, etc. **PSB 2023 had 19 participants**, up significantly from previous years.
- **Azalea Festival (April 15 & 16)** Scheduled and provided docents to open and show Mt Lebanon Chapel to attendees of Azalea Festival. **Visitors- approx. 615.**
- **Newcomer Downtown Tour with Lunch (April 30) - 24 newcomers plus an additional 20 church members.** Significantly more tour takers than ever before. Lunch was served and table settings were delightful - Our Sunday School classes provided placemats drawn by children.
- **Parish Meet & Greet at MLC (July 9) - 160 participants** joined us for a fun event with elegant food and beverage; parishioners were very supportive and actively engaged with Newcomers. **22 Newcomers signed up for name tags.**
- **Newcomer Party at The Hardy's (Oct 8) -Attendance 74; including 48 Newcomers.** Fun and very successful; the Hardy's were wonderful hosts.
- **St James Orientation for Newcomers - (Nov 2, 9, 12, and 16)** - Our "Signature Event" each year. Three evenings designed to connect Newcomers with clergy, vestry, ministries, and history of St James; also includes a tour of downtown facilities. First time use of in-house video Introducing St James Commissions and Ministries to Newcomers; this video was produced by our Communications Director. **Avg. Newcomer attendance 20.**

Ongoing Programs:

- Greeter Ministry (*Contact - Frances Trask & Elizabeth Hinshaw*)
- Name Tag Ministry (*Contact - Dottie Benz*)
- Banners and MLC signage (*Contact - Florence Ellen Cowden*)

Greatest Challenge:

- Sustaining high level execution and success
 - Loaded schedule all year long; potential to burn out. Commission leaders and team members
 - Leadership change coming up in Jan, 2025.
 - Requires constant, active recruiting of new members.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Continuation of Newcomer focused events
- More use of digital advertising
- More use of in-house videos to educate and connect Newcomers
- Listening to our Newcomers and observing how they best engage with St. James and our programs to determine paths for growth.



DEEP APPRECIATION FOR:

- Clergy support of Newcomer welcome and events
- Congregation actively and intentionally providing a warm, Christian welcome for Newcomers

FAITH FORMATION – 2023 ADULT OFFERINGS

2023 delivered a robust Adult Faith Formation program at St. James Parish. We continue to offer a hybrid format for multiple classes featuring in-person and digital opportunities to engage. Sunday morning classes started in person with two offerings each Sunday, one of which is also available via Zoom. With the new fall worship schedule, we have seen an impact on classes. We are still in need of more attendees on Sunday mornings to take full advantage of the great offerings put together. And we are also in need of more volunteers to help formulate the programs being offered for the Parish.

Sunday Mornings for Adults: Spring 2023 brought a continuation of the theme, “Who is My Neighbor?”

The **Disciple’s Class** met in the Lippitt Room for presentations and discussions. We moved from the commandment to “Love God and Our Neighbor as Ourselves” to “Who is My Neighbor?” In the fall, the Disciple’s Class offered presentations and discussions centering on “Living in the Spirit.” Their studies focused on 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), as well as taking time to explore what it means to listen to the Holy Spirit and to keep the Sabbath.

Faith Discussions, also rounded out Spring 2023 with “Who is My Neighbor” before diving into a Fall Program centered around stand-alone discussion topics led by different members of the class.



Small Group Study:

- **A Study of the Passion Narrative:** During the season of Lent the clergy led a series on the Passion of Christ as part of our Lenten Dinner Series.
- **Grief Group:** A group of parishioners experiencing loss in their lives has met twice monthly with Cheryl Brainard. This group continues to attract new members.
- **Exploring the Sabbath Group:** Fall 2023 a group of parishioners met at group member homes to study what it means to keep the Sabbath. Guidance was provided by Bishop Henry Parsley and Rev. Mary McKnight.
- **Morning Prayer Zoom:** Started early in the pandemic, this group continues to meet daily to engage in Morning Prayer. This group has attracted members from other parishes who have become “members” of our Parish from afar!



Other Educational Opportunities:

- **EFM:** (Education for Ministry). This comprehensive study course for small groups continues to meet with members committing to 4 years of study together. Very dedicated leaders (Karen Clark and Rachel Pace) keep this program available for our Parish and others who might be interested.
- **Speakers’ Series:** The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston brought a new perspective on how our faith plays out in the world around us. Extensive groundwork was laid for a special series of events taking place in February 2024. This committee continues to work hard to bring exceptional speakers to the Parish.

Other Committees:

- **Spiritual Growth Committee:** Led by Tom Dodson, this committee works to find opportunities to enhance spiritual growth among members of the Parish. Members of this committee serve on the various Faith Formation committees to help create a spiritually enriching program for all adults. Some of the offerings this year have been a quiet retreat at Trinity Center as well as monthly quiet reflection times at Mt. Lebanon Chapel.



FAITH FORMATION – YOUTH MINISTRIES

Our St. James Youth Ministries has had a busy 2023. Thanks to the leadership of Cookie Cantwell, Jane Rippy, Jonathan Graves, and other dedicated members of the St. James family, we've taken on some great new projects and developed some wonderful new programs.

The mission of St. James Parish Youth Ministries is to create a safe environment where we respond to the spiritual, emotional, psychological, social and physical needs of 6th through 12th graders by providing programs, activities, worship and mission experiences where Jesus Christ will be known and served.

SOME 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2023

- Happening #79 at Trinity Center
- SJP Youth Members assembled over 136 Easter Baskets for the Children of Migrant Farmworkers.

APRIL 2023

- The Guardian Angel Prayer Experience connected members of our parish with members of our youth group through the power of prayer.

MAY 2023

- The SJP Youth began collecting plushies for children in Ukraine. To date they have sent over 500 stuffed animals.
- The SJP Youth Silent Auction raised over \$19,000 for our Youth's Outreach initiatives.

JUNE 2023

- SJP Youth traveled to Glory Ridge to establish relationships with the residents of Madison County by improving standards of living. Using their amazing skills of carpentry, repairing and building homes, plumbing, roofing, and creating deep and meaningful relationships with people who live alone or who have needs far beyond the resident's abilities.

JULY 2023

- SJP Youth and partnering adults, including our Rector, traveled to Quito, Ecuador to serve alongside Education Equals Hope and the Diocese of Ecuador.

AUGUST 2023

- SJP Youth kicked off the first Youth Bible Study of the school year continuing the strong community and spiritual growth that happens with caffeine and scripture.

SEPTEMBER 2023

- Inaugural IGNITE! Youth Gathering took place in the Bishop Wright Room with live music, prayer ribbons, and more.

OCTOBER 2023

- SJP Youth travelled to Galloway Farms to enjoy community building and the Corn Maze!
- SJP Youth hosted the first Parish-wide Sock-Hop, complete with a Blessing Bag outreach project.

NOVEMBER 2023

- SJP Youth served hot dogs to hundreds of participants at the 2023 Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk.
- Led our 2023 Thanksgiving Service at Mt. Lebanon Chapel.

DECEMBER 2023

- SJP Youth shopped and wrapped presents for local families in need!



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- **Brunswick Stew Sale** - Begins - January 29 | Pick-Up Feb. 4
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner**- February 13
- **Guardian Angel Prayer Experience**- February 14- March 24
- **Happening #80** - March 1-3
- **Youth Sunday**- April 28
- **Silent Auction**- May 12-15
- **Glory Ridge Mission Experience** - June 9 - 16

FAITH FORMATION – CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

Sunday Mornings for Children: Under the direction of Ansley Trask (Children’s Formation Director), we have offered Sunday morning classes for children of all ages. Learning about God through legos and books are just a few of the fun opportunities for our younger members to think about God and his love for us and our neighbors. We are thankful for the volunteers who have helped teach these classes. It is a definite gift of time and talents.

2023-2024 AT-A-GLANCE

During the 2023-2024 Faith Formation year, we saw an average Sunday School attendance of between **25 and 30 children** across preschool through 5th grade each Sunday.

These children were divided in to 4 Classes:

- **Faith Built Through Wonder (3’s and 4’s):** 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.
- **Faith Foundations (Kindergarten and 1st grade):** 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 Builders (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 Adventurers (4th and 5th graders):** Grab a cozy seat and get ready to get lost in a good book. This Spring, we will set out to uncover God at work in the stories around us. This is a Bible study not to be missed!

BIBLES FOR 4th & 5th GRADERS

As part of our program for 4th and 5th Grade students, they each received their own Bibles this year. They are using them each week to read and take notes.

2023 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS 2023: Twists and Turns brought 4 days of pure joy with **70 children** and countless volunteers who cooked, danced, sang and played.

2023 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Over 30 children participated in the Christmas Pageant. These children starting learning about the birth of Jesus in November and knew the meaning of each part in the pageant. They also helped us create some special artwork on display in the Parish House! We encourage you to check it out on your way to get coffee in the Great Hall.

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!

2024-25 GOALS

- We would like to expand and build on our existing Sunday School Program.
- Add a monthly outing for our 3-5th Graders to help build community!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024 THEME: PARTY TIME!

August 5th-August 8th | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
VBS returns August 5th-August 8th. Mark your calendars now and stay tuned for announcements about this year’s theme! As we begin to dive into planning for another wonderful VBS, we’re calling on our parish family to help us make it happen. There lots of ways to get involved! We have opportunities for all ages and abilities.

**REGISTRATION FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
OPENS ON MARCH 4, 2024**



PLANNING FOR AN EGG HUNT

Plans are in the works for an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Day! We need your help preparing. All are invited (especially families planning to participate in the hunt) to donate 12 stuffed eggs for the hunt. The box will be in the Day School Lobby starting **Sunday, March 3rd**. Volunteers are also need to help stuff extra eggs and set up the hunting grounds. Contact Ansley if you would like to help!

UPCOMING Faith Formation Opportunities:

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:10 AM

DISCIPLES' CLASS - Meets in the Lippitt Room

- **February 4th, 2024: The Anglican Communion and Why It Matters**
 - *Guest Speaker- Bishop Henry Parsley*
 - Join us in the Great Hall for a special offering from the Disciple's Class. As a preface to Dr. Hawkey's sermon at 10:15 am, Bishop Henry Parsley will share with us about the history and importance of Episcopalians' role in the greater Anglican Communion.
- **February 11th, 2024: The Community Justice Center**
 - *Guest Speaker- Ben David*
 - Join us in the Lippitt Room as Ben David presents, sharing his vision for the opening of the new Community Justice Center (at the Harrelson Center), and opportunities for our relationship with the new organization.
- **February 18th, 2024: God's Shalom as Salvation and Wholeness in the Old Testament**
 - *Led by the Rev. Robert Bayley and the Clergy of St. James Parish*
 - Join us in the Lippitt Room for a Lenten Series: "Continuing the Healing Ministry of Jesus." A collaborative series from the Reverend Robert Bayley and the Clergy of St. James Parish.
- **February 25th, 2024: The Healing Ministry of Jesus in the Gospels**
 - *Led by the Rev. Robert Bayley and the Clergy of St. James Parish*
 - Join us in the Lippitt Room for a Lenten Series: "Continuing the Healing Ministry of Jesus." A collaborative series from the Reverend Robert Bayley and the Clergy of St. James Parish.

FAITH DISCUSSIONS - Meets in the Stephen Ministry Room

- **February 4th, 2024: Bible Study Reflection Series: Making Space - Session 2**
 - During the coming weeks, the Faith Discussions group will be engaging with a special study guide to lead us through the season of Lent. Unlike typical book studies, this series is designed to be picked up one session at a time with no homework in between!
- **February 11th, 2024: Bible Study Reflection Series: Making Space - Session 3**
- **February 18th, 2024: Bible Study Reflection Series: Making Space - Session 4**
- **February 25th, 2024: Bible Study Reflection Series: Making Space - Session 5**

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 a book. This spring we will set out to uncover the themes of God's love for us.

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.

WEEKDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY: LENTEN SERIES

Begins Wednesday, February 21 | 11:00 AM | Stephen Ministry Room or Zoom

Bring your Bible and join us in the Stephen Ministry room at 11 on Wednesday mornings during Lent as we examine Jesus' encounters and conversations with 5 very different people and the effect the encounters had on their lives. Each of these people has something to teach us as once again we make our Lenten journey. Every session is stand-alone and handouts will be available. Study begins on February 21st. Questions? Reach out to the Reverend Cheryl Brainard or Susan Ingle.

OutReach COMMISSION

Why are O and R capitalized – because we embody reaching outward, beyond the walls of the Parish to assist those in need or requiring support. **What are we** – St. James OutReach is comprised of the commission chairs Ashley Walton, Taber Stockstill-Tornes, Alex Wnek and independent Mission Volunteer Leaders “chairs,” and individual volunteers willing to give time and financial resources to help others within each mission.

The OutReach Commission submits an annual budget to the vestry with financial projections for the coming year. Funds are allocated to missions based on verified need, expressed need with substantiation and event fees supporting a result-based occurrence (ex. Rise Against Hunger). We are a Commission comprised of internal “missions” or “ministries” with a 3-tiered approach: protection, guidance and help (the symbolism should not be lost). The Commission is a conduit to ministry. The OutReach Commission’s planned calendar is comprised of events, Long term visioning, planning, thoughtfully responsible financial support and “Call to Action” events requiring immediate/unexpected response to direct crisis management.

2023 Year in Review:

- **Help Hub** - Emergency Financial Assistance, referrals and connections to community resources, guidance, and support.
- **Rise Against Hunger** - September Annually – a volunteer-based program that coordinates the assembly of nutritious dehydrated meals deliverable to need-based areas around the world – in 2022 St James executed 50,000 meals in a single event, in 2023 35,000 meals. This may move from under OutReach in 2024 to Parish-wide events.
- **A Safe Place** - Prevention, advocacy and restorative programs assisting victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking.
- **Episcopal Farm Workers Ministry** - EFWM is a joint project of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina and the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. The ministry coordinates direct services, leadership programs, community education programs, and advocacy in support of the community agricultural workers (farmworkers, meat processing plant workers, and workers from nurseries, packing houses and poultry, swine, or livestock farms) and immigrant families in rural NC.
 - General support – over the course of the entire year ** *Need a Parish Mission liaison*
 - Christmas gift support – 2023 over \$2,000 in Amazon deliveries were executed by St. James
 - Back to School Backpack Campaign
- **One Love Tennis** - Tennis and academic enrichment program created to improve the life prospects of at-risk children in the Wilmington community by engaging them in productive activities that teach discipline, build confidence, improve school performance, and encourage a healthy lifestyle.
- **Community Boys and Girls - Brigade Boys and Girls** - The mission and core beliefs of Boys & Girls Clubs fuel the commitment to promoting safe, positive and inclusive environments for all. Boys & Girls Clubs of America supports all youth and teens – of every race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic status, and religion – in reaching their full potential. ** Looking to advance this relationship in 2024
 - Angel Tree Program – 150 individual Children’s Gifts
- **Backpack Campaign** - {serving EFWM} – July/August Annually – 80+ individual children issued a backpack containing basic education and classroom supplies.
- **New Hanover County Disaster Coalition** - Equitable and efficient communication and collaboration across the community to improve disaster preparedness and recovery for all in preparation of and post-disaster.
- **Good Shepherd** - The mission of Good Shepherd Center is to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and foster transition to housing. St. James was a founding Parish and has retained roots of support to the organization.
- **Eden Village** - Eden Village of Wilmington is a 31-unit tiny home community specially designed to provide permanent homes for chronically homeless individuals including patients of the local hospital. Many patients of the medical center experience chronic illness, which are treatable but require consistent living circumstances to improve treatment results. A home is an essential component to long-term health care for these individuals and a proven, permanent solution to chronic homelessness. Residents of Eden Village may live in the village for the duration of lifespan provided they are able to maintain the nominal rental fee, adhere to internal policies and provide support to the community itself by (examples) serving on the farm, working within the village store or on the grounds committee.

- **Northside Co-Op** - The Northside Food Cooperative is a community-owned cooperative grocery store planned for the Northside of downtown Wilmington that will ensure food security and end the food desert, generate resilience in our neighborhoods, and create a self-sustaining business model that will enhance the local economy through equity and ownership. Additionally, Northside hosts Frankie's Market – a Saturday Farmers Market and community dinners – feeding 150+ community residents in a communal evening event (Thursdays in season).
- **2Share** - 2Share delivers gently used furniture and home goods free of charge to families in need in the greater Wilmington area.

Support concluding in 2023 -

- **Cape Fear River Watch** - A permanent nonprofit organization, open to everyone, dedicated to the improvement and preservation of the health, beauty, cleanliness, and heritage of the Cape Fear River basin. The CFRW mission is to protect and improve the water quality of the Cape Fear River Basin for all people through education, advocacy, and action.

Indirect Support

- **St. James Parish Gift Shop** - Internal to St. James Parish, the Parish Shop provides opportunity to purchase faith-based items, locally made and grown items and gifts. A few of the groups directly supported by Parish Shop sales are Thistle Farms, A Safe Place, and Kids Making it.
- **Meals on Wheels** - Community minded senior nutrition meal delivery program

Forward Facing Involvement: 2024

- **Trinity Center** - an island refuge on the Southern Outer Banks. Trinity Center is home to Camp Trinity, a residential Episcopal summer camp that allows campers to share in a Christian program that helps them grow spiritually and emotionally while giving them opportunities to develop new interests, skills, and friendships. It is also home to The Sound to Sea Environmental Education Program, the only residential environmental education program on the Outer Banks, which offers school groups a multi-disciplinary hands-on learning experience and hands-on educational programs for adults as well through our Road Scholar programs.
- **POP - Plastic Ocean Project** - Ocean, waterway, field and forest advocacy for the clean up of harmful non-recyclable "trash" affecting marine life, wildlife and human life in the form of the food we consume and air we breathe.
- **St. James Campus Community Support Opportunities** - More to come at a later date.
- **Glory Ridge** - Glory Ridge is a multi-denominational Christian camp founded in 1973. The camp is located in Madison County, North Carolina on 26 acres overlooking the French Broad River. The camp has been used by local and out of state groups alike. Glory Ridge is a simple place for Christian retreat & worship all year long. St. James Parish has been a long time partner to Glory Ridge for Mission Based Youth Events.
- **Habitat for Humanity** - Cape Fear Habitat is dedicated to helping build hope, homes and community. As donation centers - ReStore, home goods, furniture, building supplies, and more. Items are resold to help support the mission of affordable homes in our community.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We understand and see an Ocean of Opportunity. As partners to the St. James OutReach Commission, we are in constant review of partners and support the annual OutReach budget. We fully believe that we have been called to the OutReach ministry and understand that we have been trusted in this capacity. We invite all to join our team in any scope suitable. No single person can do it all. There are everyday challenges. We look to take inventory of untapped resources – physical space, community links and individuals. There is a resource or function here for anyone and everyone. Please feel free to reach out to one of us any time – email is usually best.

YOU CAN HELP BY:

- **Read the Monthly Spotlight** - look to the Grapevine for updates on our OutReach Partners and their details.
- **Respond to our "Calls to Action"** - Help us support one-and-done, need-based often crisis based calls for items and/or funding need for a very specific situation.
- **Mission Volunteer** - dedicated volunteer to specified Mission. ("Mission" is long-term, steady dedicated support to a specific organization.) You can even serve as a Mission Chair and act as an immediate liaison to a specified Mission. Expect to be deeply involved and update OutReach with status and any needs.

PARISH LIFE COMMISSION

The Parish Life Commission strives to create fun opportunities for people to connect with one another in a faith community.

2023 Year in Review:

- **Easter Celebration** on the lawn following the 9:00 a.m. worship service.
- Hosted reception following an afternoon Confirmation **with Bishop Skirving**.
- **Annual Parish Picnic at Mt. Lebanon** for approximately **225 people**. Provided a bluegrass band, homebrewed beer, jump house for children, hotdogs, and hamburgers. Families brought a covered dish, including the recipe to share.
- **Welcome Sunday** celebration started with **200+ people** gathering for breakfast and fellowship prior to a combined worship service and culminated with a reception on the lawn.
- **Sunday Morning Family Breakfast** going strong!

Looking ahead to 2024:

- **Parish Picnic** at Mt. Lebanon in June 2024
- **Easter Celebration 2024** on the parish lawn.
- **Kick-off/Welcome Sunday** rename and new plans for 2024
- **Test Sign-up Genius** for volunteer support for larger parish events - Some of our ministries have already begun using this platform for ministry sign-ups in other capacities.

Challenges:

- Encouraging parishioners to **RSVP or Register for events** in advance. This assists us in knowing how to best plan for the number of participants at events.
- **Volunteer sustainability** - We have a very active parish, hosting lots of events means we need lots of hands to help prevent volunteer burnout.
- **Rising food cost** - Cost is an ever-present factor in all parish activities, especially those centered around food. While we never want a ticket cost or entry fee to prohibit someone from participating, we want to encourage everyone to contribute the suggested donations to help ensure our budget can continue to support larger events.

How can I help?

- **Volunteer to help at one or more events:** set-up, provide food or clean-up! As the old adage says, "many hands make light work."
- **Help plan a parish event-** Share your ideas with us and be willing to lead the charge!



- **Bread Breakers:** The Bread Breakers are a welcoming group of young adults and families that gather to share fellowship and service. Their monthly gatherings 'Hospitality at Home' include a potluck meal, plenty of time and space for conversation and fun activities for kids of all ages. They are heavily involved in activities across the parish and our goal is to help connect young adults and families to feel at home at St. James.



- **Foyer Groups:** Foyer groups provide a way for parishioners to get to know other members of the St. James community at a deeper level. Foyer groups consist of 12-14 members including couples and singles who gather in members' homes or at a local restaurant for a meal and socializing.
- **Parish Events:** The Parish Event committee facilitates various parish events. We hope that through these events, parishioners and guests will find a gathering which fosters fellowship and camaraderie. Committee members might help with food preparation, set-up, serving and/or clean-up. This committee is a great way to meet and serve with fellow parishioners.



ST. JAMES MEN ON A MISSION

Men on a Mission, affectionately known as "MoM," is a group of approximately 200 St. James men who join forces in a fun way to focus on Service and Fellowship at St. James and throughout our community. The MoM Squad has had a very busy and fulfilling 2023. We are so thankful for these men, their service, their leadership, and their fellowship.

2023 WITH MEN ON A MISSION:

These are just a few of the wonderful things happening with MoM!

- **Regular Serving opportunities at the Good Shepherd Center and the Sgt. Ashley Center** saw MoM Squads serving dinner to the homeless families and veterans three times monthly.
- **Volunteering with A Safe Place.** MoM helped raise awareness of sex trafficking in Wilmington by presenting ASP materials to owners, managers and employees of businesses where victims are most likely "groomed". They also helped with construction and maintenance projects at the ASP shelter.
- **April 2023 Mission Trip to Glory Ridge** - Glory Ridge is a special place to many at St. James. They help serve so many in their community. A MoM Squad spent a long weekend providing construction and maintenance improvements to the camp that facilitates so much good for not just families in need, but our St. James Youth and countless other youth seeking to serve God by making work worship.
- **Weekly pickups and deliveries for 2Share** - Each Saturday members of MoM pick up donated furniture and fixtures, and delivers them to families in our community that have almost nothing in their homes.
- **Special Projects** - Throughout 2023, MoM served several members of our parish family with special projects and other small construction needs.
- **Thanksgiving with the Boys & Girls Club and Northside Food Co-Op.** MoM Showed up in force to make sure that area families had plenty to feast on this past holiday season. We can't say enough about their generosity.
- **Fellowship Events at Figure Eight and Pleasant Oaks Plantation.**



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

ECW officially stands for Episcopal Church Women - we have also heard it to mean Everyone Caring and Working! As a member of St. James, every woman is automatically a member of ECW. All parish women are invited to participate and help with activities that ECW sponsors.



- In February 2023, the ECW brought **Sheri Castle** (hosts of PBS show, the KEY INGREDIENT, previous Food Editor at Southern Living Magazine, as well as the Food Editor at Our State Magazine) for a fun evening of Fellowship! She inspired us to create a new St. James Cookbook.
- The editing process of our **2024 Cookbook** is underway and we hope to have it available for purchase later this May. St. James' ECW supports children and family outreach programs in our Wilmington community and the diocesan support through the National Church's Mite Box Campaign.
- ECW is also one of the groups behind our **Creative Connections** offering that takes place on Wednesday mornings. We invite you to come craft with us!
- Please join us as the **ECW is hosting the Lenten Dinner on February 28th**. Our menu will be Italian. Stay tuned for the link to our Sign-Up Genius.

COMMITTEE FOR RACIAL UNITY

"In alignment with the Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan of St. James Parish and in the furtherance of our Baptismal Covenant to respect the dignity of every human being, our committee will foster compassion and mutual understanding among people of different racial identities and will create a trusted community of love and reconciliation."

2023 Year in Review:

- Provided physical space and coordinated hospitality for the Diocesan Racial Healing Commission's **1st annual Race & Jazz Symposium** featuring Dr. Catherine Meeks and The Rev. Skip Walker on September 16. Dr. Meeks then joined us as preacher the following day, Sunday, September 17.
- Established a **landing page on St. James' website** for the Racial Unity Committee as a means to share community events and book reviews with the congregation.

CHALLENGES OF 2023

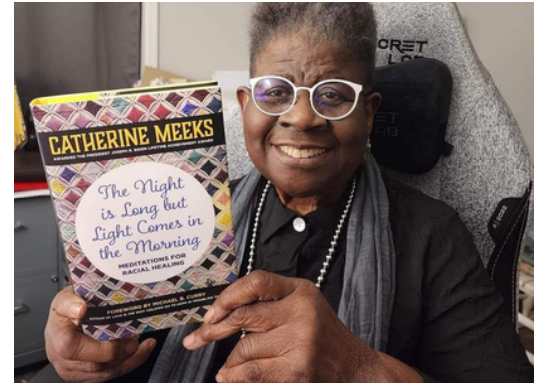
- Meeting time
- Volunteers for event coordination
- Determining the best ways to further involve our congregation in issues related to racial unity

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

- Brainstorm offerings for the parish to engage in formation that focuses on our baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace among all people.
- Pursue opportunities to engage with our community partners in events focused on equity and justice.
- Explore the full scope of our history as we approach our 300th anniversary in 2029.

How can I help?

- If you are interested in developing and implementing offerings focused on equity, justice, and peace or are interested in getting involved with local efforts in the community with members of St. James, please contact Ginny Woodruff (ginny@vcwoodruff.com) or Barbara Whitesides (whiteside6@me.com).



THANKS FOR THE JAZZ & RACE SYMPOSIUM

We were honored to host the First Annual Jazz & Race Symposium in Perry Hall on Saturday, September 16, 2023. This event brought together over 200 people from across the Diocese of East Carolina and our greater Wilmington community to hear presentations from Dr. Catherine Meeks and Reverend Skip Walker on racism, its impact on our collective life together, how we answer the call to eradicate racism, and what jazz can teach us about these interwoven concepts. This event would not have been possible without the efforts of several area parishes including St. Paul's, St. Mark's, Holy Cross, St. Andrew's On-the-Sound, Church of the Servant, and St. Mary's providing supplies and volunteers, nor would it have been possible without those from St. James who volunteered to provide incredible hospitality. We'd also like to offer a special word of thanks to Ginny Woodruff who serves on the Diocesan Racial Healing Commission and worked as co-chair on this event. We look forward to future opportunities to engage with our community and diocese as we strive to live more fully into our Baptismal covenant, honoring the dignity of every human being.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Worship Ministry Summary for Calendar Year 2023 - by Todd Hinshaw

Worship is alive and well at St. James Parish! We continue to grow and are so happy to see many new families and faces throughout the congregation. We continued with the new worship schedule that kicked off toward the end of 2022. The changes were well received and really seemed to help unify our church community and families.

Worship opportunities go well beyond our Sunday morning services and Faith Formation. Did you have a chance to attend a weekday Bible study, Youth Bible study at Starbucks, Ignite youth gathering, keynote speaker event, Trinity center gathering, Meals on Wheels, Rise Against Hunger, Men On A Mission, or participate in a Foyer group this year? There are so many options for worship at St. James, bringing glory to God and sharing our faith with our congregation and community.

None of this would be possible without our resolute clergy and staff and our many volunteers. It takes a village, literally! A special thank you to all groups that make our worship at St James so special:

- Linen Guild
- Altar Guild
- Seasonal Decorations
- Wedding Guild
- Acolytes
- Lectors
- Vergers
- Ushers
- Choirs
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers.

We hope that you have enjoyed worshipping at St. James this year and we hope that you will continue to share your many talents by volunteering to help with various commission activities. We value your opinion and thoughts.

**AVERAGE SUNDAY
ATTENDANCE
351**

**AVERAGE CHILDREN'S
CHAPEL
ATTENDANCE
29**



MUSIC AT ST. JAMES

Thanks to the dedicated work of our Director of Music, John Sullivan, 2023 has been a particularly musical year at St. James Parish! We've been treated to wonderful performances by our St. James Choir and Children's Choir as well as performances by talented members of our wider community. We've heard artists from Vivace, Cellist Sam Tripp, and Brooklyn Arts Music Academy just to name a few!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICES

Join us on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. in the Children's Chapel for Children's Choir practice. Please contact Mr. John at music@stjamesp.org if you have any questions! Below is a look at the practice and performance schedule for Lent.

Lenten Series 2024

- February 21
- February 28
- March 6
- March 13
- March 20

Presentation: March 24 | Palm Sunday

Be a part of the music!

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursdays | 7:00-8:30 p.m. | Choir Room
Choir practice always begins with vocal warmups 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.

2023-2024 Academic Year

This academic year has been another year of growth for St. James Day School. We brought in several new programs, equipment, and team members!

2023-2024 STATS:

St. James Day School
Registration for the 2023-24
School Year has full enrollment.

Toddler Program: 20 children -
split into 2 classes
Twos program: 21 children - split
into 2 classes
Threes program: 21 children -
split into 2 classes
Fours program: 20 children -
split into 2 classes

Total Day School Enrollment: 82

Total number of teachers: 19

1 Director

1 Chaplain



Facilities Updates: The Day School purchased new tables and chairs for every classroom. This new addition allows our students to have seating that is just the right size for each age group. Feet touching the floor will help them develop proper coloring skills.



Added a new Literacy Teacher! The Day School added an enrichment class this year to our programming. Ms. Townsend comes once a week and provides story and movement time with each of the class. During her time, she is working on listening skills, vocabulary, retelling and other essential skills to develop strong readers. If you ask the SJDS students, they will tell you their time with Ms. Townsend is magical.

GOALS FOR 2024-2025

We have a goal of replacing our shelving in all the classrooms. Shelving will allow our students to access materials at a proper heights. It will allow the layout of the classrooms to have clear definition of space and purpose.



SAVE THE DATE: SJDS SUMMER CAMPS REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1st

It's almost time to register for camp! We're so excited to announce our two exciting themes for this year's camps. plan to register on Feb. 1, 2024.

- June 10-14 - Zoo Explorers
- June 24-28 - Under the Stars: Camp Out Adventure

Learn more about our camps at stjamesp.org/blog/sjds-summer24/



AN UPDATE ON 2024-2025 REGISTRATION

St. James Day School Registration for the 2023-2024 Academic Year opened to St. James Parishioners and current SJDS Families on January 8th, 2024 and was met with great enthusiasm. As of now, we have a waitlist for all classes. We do anticipate a few families to change plans before September so we encourage you to reach out regarding the waitlist if you are interested in enrolling for the upcoming school year. We are so thankful for the families and friends who have spread the word about our wonderful program and staff.

ST. JAMES FOUNDATION

In 2023, the St. James Parish Foundation provided \$74,450 in contributions to support the capital needs of our Parish and has more than \$4,271,066 under management as of Dec. 31, 2023. Contributions to the Parish are based on requests from the Vestry through a concerted effort to fund distributions from income and appreciations.

The Foundation was established in 2003 as a 501(c)3 organization with the mission of supporting the needs of St. James Parish in perpetuity. The Foundation supports its mission by providing financial contributions to the Parish through targeted distributions for capital or specific campaign-related needs. Those contributions are through the assets that have been so generously donated to St. James Parish over the years by its congregation.

In 2023, approximately \$98,856 in cash and stock donations were generously given to the Foundation. Since inception, \$2,722,061 has been donated to the Foundation, with \$1,023,941 in distributions made directly for Parish use.

Last year also marked the formalization of the Foundation's long-range plan. In coordination with the Vestry, the Foundation established distribution and growth targets ahead of the Parish's 300th anniversary in 2029. The long-range plan agreement targets 2-4 percent annual distributions and a capital campaign in partnership with the Parish to raise money for identified capital improvement needs. In addition, the Foundation created an endowed pledge account, also managed by the Foundation, where parishioners may endow their annual pledge by contributing to the account, and an annual 4 percent distribution will be made to the Parish based on a trailing 12 quarter average account value.

Historically, up to 4 percent of the Foundation's assets are used annually to provide financial support for campus expenses such as the repair and replacement of the church roof, storm restoration, structural repairs, and operational expenses. Foundation investments are managed by an outside professional investment firm with concentrated efforts to appropriately manage and grow the Foundation assets. In addition, a Foundation committee works directly with the investment firm to monitor and report on the health of the Foundation assets to the board.

The current Foundation Board of Directors are as follows:

- Claire Parker, President (2024)
- Ryal Tayloe, Sr., Vice President (2023)
- Vance Young, Treasurer (2023)
- Elizabeth Hartman, Secretary (2024)
- Pam Potter (2025)
- Betsy Williams McDonald (2025)
- David Brownlow (2026)
- Jennifer Chiavetta (2026)
- Ben Currin (2026)
- Allen Trask (2026)
- Rachel Colonna, Vestry member
- Al Marr, Vestry member

For the year ahead, the Foundation plans to host the William & Alexander Society celebration in the spring of 2024 to recognize those who have made planned charitable gifts to the Foundation. The Society is named for the gentlemen who made the first three bequests to St. James. In 1739, William Flavell left 200 pounds in his will for the construction of "an English church in Newton" - an earlier name for Wilmington. William Faris, in 1757, and Alexander Duncan, in 1768, left money to finish the church building, which took 19 years to complete (1751-1770).

Of course, if you haven't included St. James Parish in your estate planning, but would like to do so, any Foundation Director or Maria Hollopeter, Financial Administrator, can provide the details of how the Foundation can help. Leaving a lasting legacy to St. James for the continued preservation of our campus and facilities is one of the finest gestures that can be made to honor the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Parker
President



MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

We've had a busy 2023 at Mt. Lebanon Chapel! We'd like to take a moment to share with you some of the highlights as shared with us by Frank Hamilton, Mt. Lebanon Chapel Board Chair.

In 2023 we...

- Improved accessibility into the Cemetery by installing pavers from the entrance to the All Saints Memorial Garden thanks to a generous gift from Bill Oakley.
- Worked to maintain the structural integrity and longevity of Mt. Lebanon Chapel by replacing rotten exterior siding.
- Maintenance thinning and trimming of the trees around the Chapel. This serves both to beautify the grounds and to prevent potential storm damage from falling limbs.
- The Cross atop the Chapel was straightened and its fastenings were replaced as a donation from one of the teams who performed work on the campus.
- Purchased tables and chairs, which are stored at Mt. Lebanon Chapel and dedicated to MLC events, i.e. Parish Picnic, etc.
- Installed stainless steel hinges on all windows.
- Constructed and installed the Rugged Cross at the Labyrinth and Bradley Creek with the help of several parishioners. A special thank you to Pem, Lee, and Frank.
- Frank Gwathmey built a new Baptismal stand, skillfully crafted to match the interior design of the Chapel.



HISTORY OF MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

In the early 1830s, Dr. Thomas Henry Wright conceived the idea to build Mt. Lebanon Chapel. The chapel was to serve those members of St. James who lived in the vicinity of the Greenville, Wrightsville, Masonboro and Middle Sounds, and those who vacationed in the area during the summer months. Dr. Wright paid for the construction of the chapel, with the exception of a few contributions from other members of St. James Parish.

The chapel was completed in 1835. The land was part of a 320-acre tract known as "Mount Lebanon," named for the surrounding cedar trees that recalled the Biblical "Cedars of Lebanon." Dr. Wright decided to give the chapel to St. James Parish. However, he died without having deeded the building and its surrounding acreage. The property passed to his son, Adam Empie Wright. Adam also died without formally passing the title to St. James Parish. Not until 1875 was the property deeded to St. James Parish by his son's guardian, Mrs. Marion Potter for the sum of one dollar, as per the intent of Dr. Thomas Wright.

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



DATES TO KNOW

- **THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER**
Saturday, March 30 | 8:00 PM | St. James Parish & Livestream
- **EASTER DAY**
Sunday, March 31 | Service Schedule:
 - 6:30 AM - Sunrise Service
 - 8:00 AM - Rite I - St. James Parish
 - 9:00 AM - Rite II - St. James Parish & Livestream
 - 11:15 AM - Rite II - St. James Parish & Livestream
- **YOUTH SUNDAY**
Sunday, April 28, 2024 | 10:15 AM | St. James Parish
- **BISHOP VISIT & CONFIRMATION**
Sunday, May 5, 2024 | 10:15 AM | St. James Parish
- **FIRST SUNDAY AT MT. LEBANON CHAPEL**
Sunday, May 26, 2024 | Summer Service Schedule:
 - 8:00 AM - Rite I - St. James Downtown
 - 8:30 AM - Rite II - Mt. Lebanon Chapel
 - 9:30 AM - Rite II - Mt Lebanon Chapel
 - 10:30 AM - Rite II - St. James Downtown & 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

T EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
Tuesdays | 9:00 a.m.
Register for Location

W YOUTH BIBLE STUDY
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



WESTMINSTER ABBEY COMES TO WILMINGTON

The St. James Speaker Series has invited The Rev. Dr. James Hawkey, Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey, and Mr. Martin Castledine, Dean's Verger of Westminster Abbey, to share with us their experiences as clergy and staff of the royal church.



ST. JAMES SPEAKER SERIES: AN EVENING WITH WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Monday, February 5 | 7:00 p.m. | St. James Parish

The St. James Speaker Series presents its first event of 2024, "An Evening With Westminster Abbey". Join us Monday, February 5 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary to hear from special parish guests The Rev. Dr. James Hawkey, Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey and Mr. Martin Castledine, the Abbey's Dean's Verger about their unique experiences as clergy and staff in a royal peculiar and in one of the world's most highly recognized houses of Christian worship. A brief time of Q&A will follow the presentation, and we'll greet our speakers in a reception afterward in the Great Hall.

This event is free to our community. A Livestream of this event will be available on our social media and website.

A SERMON FROM CANON HAWKEY

Sunday, February 4 | 10:15 a.m. | St. James parish
During our 10:15 Worship Service on Sunday, February 4, the Rev. Dr. James Hawkey will preach from the St. James pulpit. All are warmly welcome!

THE MINISTRY OF THE VERGER - WITH MR. MARTIN CASTLEDINE

Saturday, February 3 | 10:00 a.m. | RSVP Requested

Join us on Saturday, February 3 at 10:00 AM at St. James Parish for a special verger workshop with **Mr. Martin Castledine, Dean's Verger at Westminster Abbey.** Regardless of whether you are a verger or if your church has a verger ministry, we invite you to attend to hear Martin's story—how he became a verger, what it means to be a verger, his experience serving in the role (including at Westminster Abbey), and the lessons he has learned along the way. The workshop will be followed by a bagged lunch.

THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION AND WHY IT MATTERS

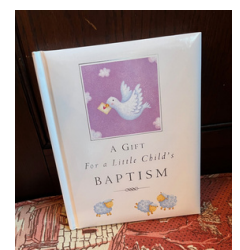
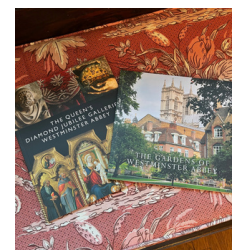
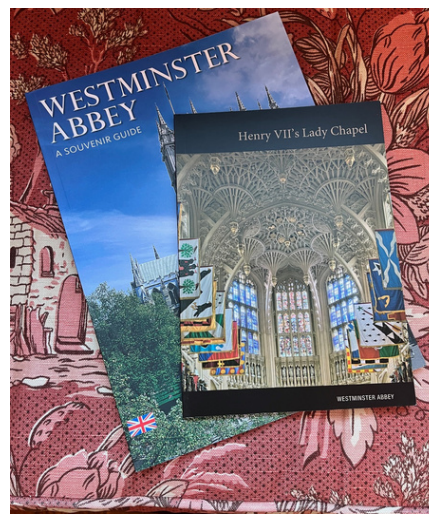
Sunday, February 4 | 9:10 a.m. | The Great Hall

Join us in the Great Hall for a special offering from the Disciple's Class. As a preface to Dr. Hawkey's sermon at 10:15am, Bishop Henry Parsley will share with us about the history and importance of Episcopalians' role in the greater Anglican Communion.

SUPPORTING OUTREACH BY SHOPPING WESTMINSTER ABBEY'S BOOKS & GIFTS

Sundays | 8:45 - 10:30 a.m. | The Parish Shop

In honor of our guests' arrival, The St. James Parish Shop has reached out to the Westminster Abbey Gift shop and imported some of their best sellers! You can support local outreach by shopping Westminster Abbey's souvenir collection and other publications in the Parish Shop on Sunday mornings. You will also be able to shop these books and other gifts on Monday, February 5th during the reception.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 13, 2024 | 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday is coming and with it, our Annual Pancake Supper February 13th is Shrove Tuesday. What exactly is Shrove Tuesday? Christians started celebrating Shrove Tuesday in the 16th Century. In the days preceding Lent, a season of fasting was observed. Fatty foods, such as milk and butter, were consumed prior to the fasting. The goal was to use up these ingredients, as they wouldn't be able to be consumed during Lent. So, on Shrove Tuesday, we celebrate with pancakes, rich in butter and milk. In modern times, many don't take fasting literally. However, the Lenten Season is important in the Episcopal Church, as is Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is an important time to join with your parishioners, have a meal, and enjoy each other's company. Bring a friend or two and join us on Tuesday, February 13 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. as we celebrate the last day before Lent. Proceeds from this event support the outreach efforts of our St. James Youth! Stay tuned for how to RSVP!

SHROVE TUESDAY MEANS JAZZ ON MORNING PRAYER

February 13, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. | Zoom

Join us for a Jazz Morning Prayer as we gather to celebrate Shrove Tuesday! Meet us on Zoom at 8:00 a.m. as we pray, read scripture, and enjoy a little jazz to start Shrove Tuesday on the right foot. If you would like the link sent directly to your inbox, please reach out to Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 14, 2024 | Multiple Services

Ash Wednesday is the first of the forty days of Lent, named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of worshipers at Ash Wednesday services. The ashes are a sign of penitence and a reminder of mortality and may be imposed with the sign of the cross. This year we will offer three services with the imposition of ashes.

7:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

A Morning Prayer service will be offered online without the imposition of ashes. 8:00 a.m. on Zoom.

HOLY WEEK AT ST. JAMES

March 25 - March 30, 2024

During Holy Week, we prepare for the trial, sentencing and crucifixion of our Lord, all are invited join us for worship.

Here is our tentative service schedule for Holy Week:

- 3/28 - 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Service - SJP
- 3/29 - 12:00 PM - Stations of the Cross - MLC
- 3/29 - 12:45 PM - Good Friday Service - MLC
- 3/30 - 8:00 PM - The Great Vigil of Easter - SJP

LENT AT ST. JAMES

LENTEN MINI-RETREAT

Saturday, March 9, 2024 | 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. | Lippitt Room

The season of Lent is a time for introspection and self-reflection. It is an invitation to consider the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. You are invited to a morning of centering and prayer during a mini retreat on Saturday, March 9, from 9:00-11:30. Through Scripture, poetry and prayer, we will spend an unhurried morning together as we consider what the ancient practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving might mean for us on our faith journey, in our busy lives, in a world full of uncertainty and change. We will meet in the Lippitt Room. This mini retreat will be led by Linda Murchison. Childcare is available with advance registration online. Questions, please email Linda, lindamurchison65@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICE

Wednesdays | 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. | Children's Chapel

Mark your calendars for this fall children's choir dates! Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays in the late afternoon. The children's choir will sing on Palm Sunday. This year, we'll offer a faith formation opportunity alongside the choir practice. Please contact John Sullivan at music@stjamesp.org or Ansley Trask at christianformation@stjamesp.org if you have any questions!

WILL YOU? LENTEN STUDY ON OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Wednesdays | 5:30-6:15 p.m. | Lippitt Room

Adults and youth are invited to join us for a combined time of study during this Lenten season. Our clergy will lead this combined offering.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS -LENTEN DINNERS

Feb. 21 - Mar. 20 | 6:00-7:00 p.m. | Great Hall

We invite you all to save your Wednesday nights for dinner and fellowship. Dinner will be hosted in the Great Hall. A donation of \$10 per person/ \$25 per family is requested to help support this wonderful family ministry. Stay tuned for how to RSVP.

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 24, 2024 | St. James Parish

Come worship with us at St. James on Palm Sunday! We will have an 8:00 a.m. Rite I Service and a 10:15 a.m. Rite II Service. The 10:15 a.m. will include a procession and a presentation from our St. James Children's Choir.

Coming Up at St. James

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Rob Bridger,
Mary Eggleston,
Doug Weigold

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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURES

- Presidents Day - Monday, February 19
- Easter - Monday - Tuesday, April 1 & 2
- Memorial Day - Monday, May 27

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

Wednesdays | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. | Stephen Ministry Room

Join us for our Drop-in Community Building Opportunity & Bible Study! Bring your creative projects—knitting, crochet, origami, scrapbooking, quilting (whittling perhaps?) or any project you can fit in your lap or on a table. Some will choose to work on mission projects together, like making socks and hats or rice bags. Others may need help with a personal project. Come and learn to sew, knit, or crochet from the pros. We meet in the 2 rooms above the Great Hall. Stay as little or as long as you can. This offering will continue through the season of Lent.

WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY: THE ARTS & THE BIBLE

Wednesdays through Feb. 7 | 11:00 a.m. | Stephen Ministry Room

At 11:00AM, our regular Wednesday Bible Study will meet in the Stephen Ministry Room (above the Great Hall). Join us as we study The Bible & The Arts. Together we will take a look at the tabernacle and meet Bezalel and Oholiab, the artisans God called to build it. Other sessions will focus on how musical, literary, and dramatic arts play a large role in Scripture. Hear how David played the harp to sooth King Saul and see how Ezekiel uses drama and symbol. The psalms are obviously a beautiful form of both musical and literary arts. Feel free to keep working on your hand projects during the Bible Study. Stay for Eucharist at 12:10 if you can. Contact the Rev Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org with any questions, interest or to order a booklet.

MEALS ON WHEELS: EASTER DAY

Meals on Wheels is an Outreach Ministry of St. James Parish. On the fifth Sunday in any given month, we are responsible for preparing, packaging, and delivering meals to approximately 180 grateful Meals on Wheels recipients. Easter Day falls on the 5th Sunday of the month. This means it's also a Meals on Wheels Sunday. If you would like to be a part of bringing food to shut-ins on Easter Day, please reach out to Molly Roush at [mollyroush@hotmail.com!](mailto:mollyroush@hotmail.com)

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

AROUND THE PARISH

MEN ON A MISSION: GLORY RIDGE 2024

April 25-28 | Glory Ridge

Each year many of our St. James Youth travel to the camp at Glory Ridge in the mountains of western North Carolina. Glory Ridge offers our Youth the opportunity to slow down and to hear the whisper of God through the quiet of nature and the service of others. Glory Ridge has been giving to our Youth and to our parish for many years, and the St. James Men on a Mission are giving back to the camp that makes it all possible!

April 25-28, MoM will travel to Marshall, NC to get Glory Ridge ready for summer 2024, as well as make some light construction improvements on behalf of the folks in the very impoverished surrounding area. We will send a team of 20 MoM members and male adult guests who are ready to serve in this way. No construction skills are needed, but you will need to be able to navigate the uneven paths and terrain of the camp. A \$100 per registrant fee will help cover the costs of food, lodging in the cabins, and transportation. **Stay tuned for how to register or donate to support this special trip.**

MOM: SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD AND SGT. ASHLEY CENTERS

In 2024, The St. James Men on a Mission will continue to serve dinner at Good Shepherd on the first and third Tuesdays of the month (4:30-7:00 pm), as well as at the Sgt Ashley Center for homeless veterans on the fourth Thursday of each month. If you are interested in signing up to serve with this special group of guys, please reach out to Brian McMerty at bmcmerty@arris.partners.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UNITY BUILDS

Saturdays through March 16 | Volunteer Online

The Habitat for Humanity Unity Build is underway with dates to serve in February, and March up online now! The kickoff build at 509 Morningside Drive is a renovation, so limited volunteer spots are available for that first day. From there Habitat for Humanity plans to paint on February 3rd, 2024, and install hardware on February 10th. The tentative start date for our second Unity Build house in Legacy Landing is Saturday, February 17th, 2024! This build has plenty of opportunities to get involved.

This build will proceed as follows:

- February 17th - Wall Raising
- February 24th - Roof Sheathing
- March 2nd - Miscellaneous Framing
- March 9th - Vinyl Prep
- March 16th - Vinyl Siding

These dates also have opportunity for lunch donations! To learn more about how to get involved, please visit: stjamesp.org/habitat24

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH GIFT SHOP



Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Parish Shop not only over the Christmas Season but continually throughout the year. We want to let you know that your support of **THISTLE FARM** products helped support:

- **9,947** nights of safe housing
- **79,551** hours of meaningful employment for residents and graduates
- **3,532** medical and counseling appointments
- **456,000** products produced by women survivors.

There are many products in the shop that are part of our outreach support, A Safe Place and Kids Making, are a couple more names you may recognize. We are grateful for each purchase. These organizations are thankful for our support.

Thank you all for choosing to support the Parish Shop and sharing your generosity.



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 Choir Master **John Sullivan** | Director of Operations & Administration **MaryPaul Beall**

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**

2023 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)