

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28TH, 2021

THE REV. CHRIS HAMBY



PERSEVERANCE

In the last couple of weeks, we have heard quite a bit about Perseverance. Perseverance is more than just doing something despite the difficulty of achieving success. Perseverance sums up what we have been through at St. James, too. A long journey. An unknown moment of time. Joy. Going into the unknown. All of this also is what occurred last week with a rover's trip to Mars. Perseverance is also the name of the newest Mars rover exploring the red planet. Since it landed has made me think about how difficult a journey we can have, but only through the collective action of us all working towards a common goal can we persevere with a concrete landing and begin going to a new place.

The journey of Perseverance has been incredible. First, the engineers had to design a rover that could land with no human assistance due to the sheer distance between Earth and Mars to send signals. The rover had to be resistant to the harsh climate of Mars while being able to carry out multiple scientific experiments. Then NASA had to hope for a successful rocket launch followed by a seven-month journey through space. When the rocket approached Mars and began the descent, there would be seven minutes

where no one would know if the landing was successful because it takes so long to send signals between Mars and Earth. Perseverance would enter the atmosphere of Mars, discard the heatshield, find a safe landing zone using onboard computers, deploy a parachute, release the parachute, and a descent vehicle would reverse thrust. At the same time, Perseverance, lowered via cable to the surface of Mars, the descent vehicle would launch itself as far away as possible. Finally, Perseverance would send a signal and photo back to NASA saying it had landed.

Any single moment could have gone wrong and scrapped years of work. Thousands of people had to be pulling in the same direction to make Perseverance a success. What lessons can we learn from Perseverance? We have a strategic plan which I hope everyone reads and digests. When we all pull in the same direction with our own dash of Perseverance to not give up in the face of difficulty, we can do incredible things to expand and deepen the Kingdom of Heaven.

The journey of St. James is very much similar to the Perseverance rover over the last few hundred years. St. James has seen the birth of a new nation, new buildings, generations of people come and go, and yet we still stand strong at Third and Market. There are multiple points throughout the history of St. James where things could have gone awry, but each generation stepped up to persevere through whatever came. We now have another part of the journey of St. James. The big question for us is how we will build on what has come in the past and make it better for the future. How will we be remembered during this part of the journey at Third and Market? Let us persevere and move forward together.

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:

R.V. Fulk, Mae Hoover

CONDOLENCES TO:

Teresa and The Rev. Michael Singer on the death of Teresa's father, Edward Lewis Belcher

Louise and Steve Coggins on the death of Louise's mother, Carolyn Weeks

Larry Robertson on the death of his brother, Joseph

Virginia Pierce on the death of her mother, Elizabeth Sapp Suiter

Family and friends of Dorothy (Dotty) Weathersbee

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Grace Everett Griffin and Carl Daniel North on the occasion of their marriage

Rachel and John Pace on the birth of their grandson, Harris Andrew Crowther

LENTEN CALENDAR AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.stjamesp.org/lenten-offerings/

We invite everyone to join us in worship, fellowship, outreach, and prayer.

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. Please contact Cookie Cantwell, cookie@stjamesp.org.

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

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!

THE THEOLOGY OF FILM

Thursdays During Lent | 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 at 7:00 p.m. 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? Next Film: Bridge of Spies.

THE BIBLE AND HANDEL'S MESSIAH: LENTEN EDITION

Wednesdays During Lent | 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. Together, we'll look into the biblical text on which Messiah is based. Please contact Rev Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org for more information.

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

Annual Silent Auction Coming May 2021 | Online

This year 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: Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE- STRATEGY #1

Strategy #1 – Energize the Sunday Morning experience in order to create a more hospitable, diverse, and spiritually enriching experience.

For Christians, worship, especially corporate worship, is fundamental to our faith and to our membership in a church community. For Episcopalians, the traditional worship liturgy is strengthened by the sermon, music, and prayers.

However, we at St. James aspire to something more – an energy that sends us into the world to live and preach the Gospel and to realize the full potential of our church community.

To that end, the Strategic Planning Group has offered recommendations in these areas to the Vestry:

- the centrality of the sermon;
- the use of both traditional and timely prayers;
- the critical importance of music;
- a congregation invigorated by more young families, singles, and even local college students;
- consideration of a choice of times and types of services to appeal to a parish with different family and personal needs and schedules.

The Vestry is currently studying our recommendations and will create the final strategic plan for St. James. They will encourage your suggestions too, at stevethomas@live.com.

In the SPG's self-evaluation and research into other churches, we considered many ways to meet the needs of our parishioners and to attract new members. That said, we assert in our plan the primary importance of excellence – we can't do everything, but "anything worth doing is worth doing well" – and the historic character of our 300-year-old church. We must be true to ourselves.

2021 DIOCESAN CONVENTION RECAP

Our Diocesan Convention was held virtually on Saturday, February 13. The usual two-day convention was condensed into a 3-hour zoom session. All efforts to make this happen produced a well-orchestrated, efficient experience and needed business was accomplished.

Our delegation included Bette Bauereis, Raymond Burt, Derrick Miller, Rachel Pace, and Frances Trask. Alternates were Kathy Bush, Florence Ellen Cowden, and Steve Thomas.

St. James is well represented in the heart and soul of our diocese with participation in both elected positions and in others appointed by the bishop. These include Florence Ellen Cowden, Commission on Ministry, Barbara Whitesides who will be extending her term due to situations brought on by the pandemic, Trinity Center Board of Managers, Cheryl Brainard and Steve Thomas, Executive Council, David Brownlow, Diocesan Foundation Board, Florence Ellen Cowden, and Ginny Woodruff, Racial Healing Commission, and Steve Thomas, Diocesan Finance Committee. Any of these would be happy to tell you about any of their roles. Just ask.

Following are thoughts shared by Derrick Miller, who was one of our delegates.

"Like so many other events in this unusual time, the convention was mediated through Zoom, and somehow the organizers found a way to condense days of activities into just a few hours. Yet, there was a sense of joy and a feeling of togetherness in being there. (It was fun seeing familiar faces and names in the Zoom gallery!) The diocese appears to be in good health, especially considering the circumstances. A highlight of our time together was a video report on "Journey Through East Carolina," a project in which members of St. James participated. Seeing the images from across the diocese made it easy to forget for a few minutes that most of us were sitting at home watching on a screen. If virtual convention was that uplifting, I can only imagine what it will be like next year when delegates will finally be able to meet together again."

· **SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT: WAIT**

by Joanne Cheng

Waiting can be full of energy and excitement. I've just ordered that coconut cake and my mouth is watering in anticipation. Or I'm standing by enthusiastically for the concert I've been looking forward to for months. My most wonderful waiting times (though they were not without anxiety) were when we were waiting for the births of our daughters.

But sometimes waiting is just difficult. Sometimes there is real need, and my hands are tied. I have done what I know to do, but my loved one still needs help in a crisis, or a job, or release from pain, or relief from isolation. I pray for God's provision, but little or nothing happens. At least, not that I can see. And so my waiting becomes a dark stillness in my soul.

In this Lenten season, I find myself thinking about a certain Sabbath waiting of Jesus' disciples. The women, waiting in grief for daybreak and wondering how they will deal with the heavy stone. The eleven, waiting in fear of a leaderless future. We know what is coming for them. We know that the stone will be rolled away, and the Risen Lord will appear in their midst. They will be surprised by the victory of Love and Life.

Lord, remind me that I am yours: body, mind, and soul. Nudge me to use waiting time to nourish all three, and fill my darkened spirit with Easter anticipation.

CONFIRMATION 2021

St. James is happy to announce that The Rt. Rev'd Robert Skirving, Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina, will be at St. James on Sunday, May 2, 2021, to preach, celebrate the Holy Eucharist, and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Book of Common Prayer states that, "Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." (p. 860).

In Confirmation, baptized persons are "confirmed" in the Christian faith with a laying on of hands by a bishop. Reception is a way for adults who have been confirmed by a bishop in the Roman Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or Eastern Orthodox Church to be received into the Episcopal Church by a bishop. The bishop does not lay hands on them but receives them into the church. Adults wishing to be confirmed/received or who may have questions are asked to contact The Rev'd Chris Hamby at chris@stjamesp.org.

With the support of the Clergy and Vestry, Confirmation for our young people will mark a change beginning this year. To help ensure that the candidates are making a mature and independent affirmation of their faith, we ask that young people who desire to be confirmed be a sophomore in high school or older. The commitment made during this very special sacrament is one that must be made with a clear understanding of what it means to continually dedicate each day to living the Christian faith and growing in love of God and neighbor. We want to encourage and empower our young people to explore ways that their Christian commitment can be lived through an intentional and thoughtful approach to Confirmation. The formation of a Christian takes time and should never be rushed.

Those wishing to register for the youth class, please contact Shannon Lockamy at christianformation@stjamesp.org. Following your registration particulars about the class will be sent to you. Those with concerns regarding this year's confirmation, please contact Father Michael at michael@stjamesp.org.

HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL WITH EASTER LILIES OR MUSIC

Remember someone special this Easter by donating \$20 for Easter lilies or music! Print the information below as you would like it to appear in the church bulletin.

BULLETIN PRINTING DEADLINE IS 12:00 NOON ON TUESDAY, MARCH 23RD.

Donations will be accepted after March 23, however, the names might not appear in the bulletin.

One dedication per \$20 donation. Please **PRINT** clearly. Check one:

- Easter Lilies Music
 In Honor of In Memory of _____

Given by: _____



Please return your completed form to the parish office with your check marked "Easter Lilies" or "Easter Music"

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH

MONDAY- FRIDAY, MARCH 1-5

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

MONDAY, MARCH 1

FELLOWSHIP AA
7:00 PM | Lippitt Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

TUESDAY STILL MATTERS
8:30 AM | Zoom

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
9:00-11:30 AM | Zoom

WDAA BASKETBALL PRACTICE
6:30-8:30 PM | Perry Hall

SACRED GROUND SESSION 7
7:00 PM | Zoom

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

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

THE BIBLE & HANDEL'S MESSIAH
11:00 AM | Zoom

HALO HOOPS BASKETBALL
4:00-6:00 PM | Perry Hall Gym

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
6:00-8:30 PM | Zoom

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

THEOLOGY OF FILM: BRIDGE OF SPIES
7:00 PM | Zoom

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL CLOSED
All Day | Teacher Workday

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

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 March 9th e-blast is Friday, March 5th.

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street
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

25 S. Third Street | Wilmington, NC 28401

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