

ST. JAMES NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRAPEVINE

GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR

NEW VESTRY CORNER

STEVE THOMAS (SENIOR WARDEN) &
LESLIE JARRETT (JUNIOR WARDEN)

IN THIS ISSUE

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- UPDATES FROM THE HELP HUB
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Vestry Corner

From the Vestry:

We are grateful to come to you with news of a wonderful vestry retreat that was held in mid-January. We stayed in town and are so grateful to many spouses who supported us throughout the weekend, especially at mealtimes.

First, we were able to unanimously pass our 2022 budget - a balanced budget to the great efforts of the stewardship committee and our parish family! Just for reference and with appreciation for all who made it possible, we entered the year 2021 with a deficit "faith" budget (~\$34,000) and ended up - with deep gratitude - coming out positive (\$48,000). This end of year surplus is helpful as our roof replacement ended up costing more than initially quoted due to additional repairs needed. Also, your pledges allowed us to once again generously support increasing amounts of Outreach efforts in our community and World.

On Friday night we shared in a mutual ministry review with Rev. Phillip Craig, Jr. Before the retreat, each vestry member was asked to provide feedback of different ministries of St. James Parish in addition to our work as a vestry and with Phillip. Phillip presented to the vestry the results of the review in the most thoughtful and inspiring way. Not surprisingly, the feedback was positive and enthusiastic for the energy of St. James Parish and Phillip! There was constructive feedback and ideas for how to move St. James forward as we navigate coming back together under one roof. We are all so grateful for Phillip's servant-hearted leadership, openness to feedback and humble nature.

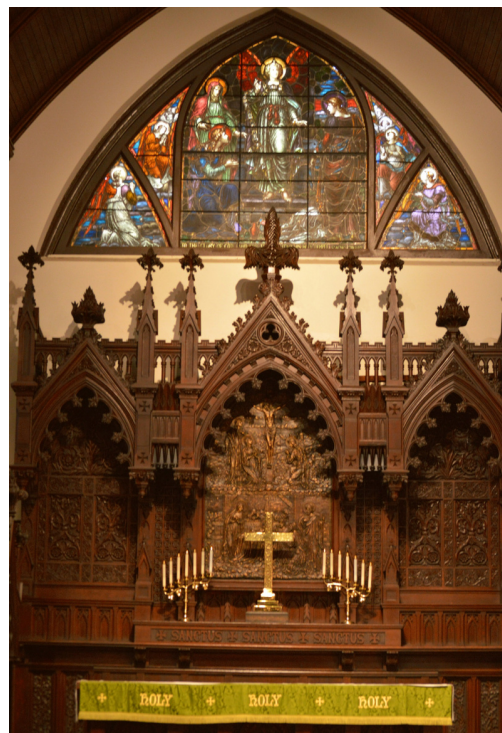
On Saturday we started out with a great presentation from Cheryl about Labyrinths and then had our own experience in Perry Hall with the beautiful Labyrinth which Cookie and Wes Clewis prayed down for us. It was a centering, prayerful experience and we hope all of you take advantage of any opportunity you have to experience the prayer and thoughtfulness that a Labyrinth experience includes. We continued the day with meaningful conversations about our Strategic Plan. We discussed the Sunday morning experience, the importance of Faith Formation, how to use our campus more and how to best empower leaders. We had a conversation about learning more about and leaning into our role in racial reconciliation in our community. We reviewed the commissions, the great work they are doing and how best to support them. The end of the day finished with affirmation of the meaningful and hard work of the St. James Clergy and staff and our desire as a vestry to support their great work!

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

Worship & Formation

5 Reasons to Connect

- 1 Amazing Christian Formation Hour**
SUNDAYS at 10:10 a.m.
Adult, Children & Youth.
- 2 Holy Eucharists with Choir**
SUNDAYS at 9 & 11:00 a.m.
Interested in joining the choir? Visit stjamesp.org/music for details.
- 3 Ways to Stream Online**
SUNDAYS at 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m.
www.stjamesp.org, Facebook, & YouTube
- 4 Weekly Worship Opportunities**
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST at 12:10 p.m.
SUNDAY MORNING EUCHARIST | 8:00 RITE I, 9:00 & 11:15 RITE II
- 5 Weekday Morning Prayer Services**
Monday-Friday at 8:00-8:30 a.m. | on zoom
Led and supported by laity and clergy.



Bible Studies



The Path Bible Study - Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. In Graham Parlor, or ZOOM option. The Path is a study of men and women who have followed God's call. We are using the New Revised Standard Version Bible for its clear and easy to read text. Join Susan Ingle and the Rev. Cheryl Brainard for a very interesting journey through holy week and Jesus' resurrection. For more information please visit: <https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/thepath/>.



Voices of Scripture - 7 p.m. each Tuesday on ZOOM.
Join us as the Rev. Phillip Craig leads us in a new Bible Study called "the Voices of Scripture." Each week we'll be taking a look at different figures in the Bible and seeking to understand their unique perspectives and contributions to the Biblical narrative. In exploring the human experiences of these historical figures we seek a better understanding of the scriptures as we grow in faith.

EPISCO-POSSE WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY
February 2nd & 16th
8:15 p.m. | Zoom

In February we are doing a study of "The Fruits of the Spirit" from "She Reads Truth" (see website shereadstruth.com or app for the 14 day reading plan). All women (age 21+) are invited to join us for a time of fellowship, Bible Study and prayer! Contact Leslie Jarrett (Leslie.H.Jarrett@gmail.com) or Michelle Gray (michelle.gray@nhcs.net) if you have any questions!

Disciples Class - February 6th, 20th, and 27th, at 10:10 a.m. In the Lippitt Room, or ZOOM, "Development of the New Testament Canon". Join the disciples Class for a study of "Development of the New Testament Canon" presented by Dr. Cleve Callison, Ph. D from the University of Wisconsin in Medieval and Renaissance Literature and Linguistics. Cleve Callison is a retired station manager of WHQR Public Radio, adult education teacher for OLLI at UNCW, and is widely appreciated for his thoughtful presentations. This series will explore writings of the earliest Christian leaders and how, when, and why the Canon, comprising the 27 books of the New Testament, was finalized. ZOOM links will be provided soon.

Prayer & Wellness

LIVING WELL IN THE MIDST OF GREIF

Our grief support group, with Rev. Cheryl Brainard, will meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 5 p.m. between Feb 7 and Apr 4. The live group meets in Graham Parlor, or you may join in via ZOOM. If you have or are experiencing grief from loss, join us to receive or offer support. We all experience grief in our own way but we do not need to do it alone. Here is a community that understands loss and the process of grieving and has been established to support one another through the grieving process. Your loss, whether a death of a loved one, a divorce, loss of a job, or "empty nest" is important to the grieving process and those who support you. Come and share that with us and let us share with you. For more information please visit: <https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/livingwell/>. Newcomers are always welcome.

SACRED GROUND

Sacred ground encompasses the Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. It is a sensitive, prayerful resource that creates space for difficult but respectful dialogue on race and racism by inviting participants to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to where we are today. Each time we have run this 10-week program, over and over the constant comment has been, "I never knew... we weren't taught this... I wish I had known...." Sessions begin on ZOOM Feb 1 but there will be two introductory sessions with testimonials, worship and a time for Q & A.

For more information visit:
<https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/sacredground/>.



Living Compass Faith and Wellness Circles Zoom

We all have different compasses inside that vie for our attention and try to guide us, and we all get out of balance at certain times. In Faith and Wellness Circles, our focus is on possibilities, not problems. We make space to be still to hear from God, and all are welcome wherever you are on your spiritual journey. Please consider this invitation to a journey of wellness and wholeness. There is no better time to begin again than right now. The Circles will meet on zoom the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30PM for 6 weeks. Feb 7 will be the last opportunity to join this particular circle, but watch for more to come. Contact the Rev Cheryl Brainard to register or for more information at cheryl@stjamesp.org. You may also read and learn more about this at livingcompass.org. See weekly email for Zoom link.

Service Opportunities

If you are interested in learning how you can serve with our church family, there are tons of great ways to get involved! Here are a few ministry opportunities with immediate availability to serve (aka, we need you):

- Lectors/Readers
- Altar Guild
- Lemonade & Cookies
- Acolytes/Crucifers
- Ushers
- Office Volunteer Ministry
- Greeters
- Wedding Guild
- Parish Shop
- Chalice/LEM
- St. James Choir

Contact Florence Ellen
admin@stjamesp.org to learn more!

Calling All Who Love to cook!



We are creating a group to cook casseroles or soups. We plan to meet at the church every 4-6 weeks and cook together. These items will go into the Gift Shop freezers to be sold and used by St. Martha's Guild. Organization meeting details to follow. If interested, please get in touch with Missy Pretlow or Barbara Whitesides.

Children's Choir Resumes Wed. March 9th

All children ages 4 years old and up are invited to join the childrens' choir. Beginning on Wednesday March 9th at 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm, children will meet in the sanctuary with John Sullivan and Shannon Lockamy. While children are in the sanctuary, adults will meet for a Lenten study program in the Graham Parlor. Afterwards, all will enjoy a potluck dinner. Details to follow. Questions? Please contact John Sullivan music@stjamesp.org.

Food, Fellowship & Outreach

FEB 6: BRUNSWICK STEW PICKUP

SUPER BOWL BRUNSWICK STEW: Limited Quantities..... To place your Order, please email Cookie at cookie@stjamesp.org. Each Quart of Brunswick Stew is \$12.00 and all proceeds go to "Youth Outreach and Mission." You may pick up your Brunswick Stew on Sunday, February 6, from 8:30 am - 11:00 am in the hallway near The Great Hall.



FEB 6: LOW COUNTRY BOIL

Calling all St. James parish men and male guests (21+)! The St. James Men On a Mission are having an outdoor low country boil on February 6, 2022 at 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. This event is being hosted by Bill Clark at his pier on Banks Channel - 422 South Waynick BLVD, Wrightsville Beach. Come join us for a time of delicious food and great fellowship!

Net proceeds from this event will go to 2share, a local ministry collecting furniture, fixtures, household items, and delivering them at no charge to those in our community with the greatest needs. The cost is \$40. If you need transportation and/or have questions, please contact Brian McMerty at bmcmerty@arris.partners, Web Cowden at web.cowden@mirimichigreen.com or David Brownlow at david.brownlow@wellsfargoadvisors.com



FEB 25: CHILI COOK-OFF!

First annual parish wide chili cook-off for all ages of St. James parishioners and our guests! Date: Friday Feb. 25th, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Perry Hall Gym

Hosted by - Episcopal Church Women (ECW), St. James Day School, St. James Youth Group, Breadbreakers, and Men On a Mission (MOM). Details to follow... But there will be great food; activities for the children, beer brewed by our own St. James Brew Crew, live music, and joyous fellowship! Form a three plus person team to make the winning pot of chili, and enjoy a years' worth of bragging rights! Net proceeds to benefit 2share, a wonderful local ministry that collects and delivers furniture, fixtures and household items to those in greatest need in our community.

Community Care & Outreach

ST. MARTHA'S GUILD

If you would like to be part of an integral, caring ministry at St. James, consider St. Martha's guild. St. Martha's is made up of 100+ parishioners dedicated to helping those in a time of need. Members of St. Martha's Guild are "on call" for one month and help with funeral receptions, provide meals, or make calls to check in on parishioners. Please contact Mary Elizabeth Roberts, maryelizabethroberts@seacoastrealty.com or Jane Rippy, janerippy@yahoo.com with any questions.

HELP HUB UPDATE

By Bill Bivins, St. James Parish Representative



The Help Hub at the Harrelson Center is one of the major outreach ministries supported by St. James Parish, a Help Hub founding member. The Help Hub serves people in need by providing emergency financial assistance, and by offering referrals to Harrelson Center partners and other available community resources. In addition to financial assistance from St. James, a number of St. James parishioners regularly volunteer to serve as greeters, advisors, and data entry assistants; and Sonja McFarland, a St. James parishioner, serves as the director of the Help Hub.

The new year is off to a busy start at the Help Hub, with 129 individuals seeking help in the first two weeks. At the rate of over 20 per day, folks in need came to the Help Hub to meet with volunteer advisors who listen, assess, and determine ways to deal with various emergency situations. Restrictions on eviction and utility disconnections have been removed, and government relief funds and child tax credit payments have ended, resulting in more precarious situations for Help Hub clients. The Help Hub expects the high volume to continue, and hours have been extended in order to complete follow-up calls and data entry.



A new staff member, Alisa Brightman, was added in November to assist with the increasing needs at the Help Hub, particularly with the Help Hub's new assignment to secure housing and essential utility connections for high-risk Medicaid beneficiaries. The Help Hub is one of 54 organizations selected to serve in the Healthy Opportunities Pilot Program.

For the year 2021, the Help Hub assisted 1,106 individuals, with an average funding of \$228 per person, all totaling nearly \$250,000. For medical concerns, 25% of our visitors requested referral to our health care navigator, Dania Josey, who assisted with arranging prescriptions, medical equipment, eyeglasses and dental care. In addition to funding from supporting members of the Help Hub, such as St. James, funding assistance during 2021 was also received from the Champion McDowell Davis Charitable Foundation, the Catherine Kennedy Home Foundation, and the Hope Community Church. The Help Hub is continuing to file applications for additional funding grants.

Sadly, one of the Help Hub's most dedicated volunteers, Charlotte Murchison, passed away recently. She was a parishioner at St. James and was named the Harrelson Center Volunteer of the Year in 2017. This award recognized Charlotte's deep commitment to the Help Hub, and her compassionate attention to each person whom she counseled, making them feel heard and loved. Thank-you notes received at the Help Hub often expressed appreciation specifically for Charlotte, and for her kindness towards each individual. She will be greatly missed.

The Help Hub is very appreciative of the dedicated volunteers from St. James, and for the funding assistance provided by St. James Parish.



at The Harrelson Center



Youth Opportunities

Winterplace Ski Trip: think snow!!!! On February 10, 40 young people and adults will be headed for Winterplace, West Virginia for the St. James Youth Ministries ski trip! Being mindful of Covid protocol, we will be skiing and enjoying being together in joy, fun, and worship! We will return with good memories and deeper friendships! Please pray for our group.

10 a.m. Sunday morning in Perry Hall Kitchen "Waffle with Jesus": breakfast & friends! All 6th-12th graders meet in the Perry Hall Kitchen following the 9 a.m. Worship service. We have conversations about our faith, the Church, doubts, joy, questions & other things you are pondering like "what does it mean to 'go to Church' and to 'follow Jesus'." Yes! You may bring your friends! "food for thought".... Feed your body and feed your soul! (Yes! Our young people actually make Belgian waffles adorned with blueberries, strawberries, bananas and other awesome toppings and we do discuss how our faith "waffles" yet Jesus' love never "waffles.")

Youth confirmation: confirmation is an opportunity for baptized youth to make a mature commitment to their faith and is celebrated by the prayers and laying on of hands by our Bishop. All 6th-12th graders are encouraged to participate in "confirmation 2022: How? What? When? Where? Why?" The group will meet to learn and ponder what it means to be "confirmed" and why it is essential as you navigate your own spiritual journey. There will be an "information meeting" on Wednesday, February 9, at 5:30 p.m. For parents and young people interested in discovering more about Confirmation. The rite of confirmation will occur on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at St. James. If you have questions, please contact the Rev. Phillip Craig.



Guardian Angel prayer experience: parish adults each volunteer to pray for one of our young people during the season of lent. Each adult receives a young person who has requested their own personal "guardian angel" who will "secretly" pray for "their young person" each day from Ash Wednesday, March 2, until Palm Sunday, April 10. On Palm Sunday, April 10, the adults & their "special youth" will meet one another in person. Meaningful and lasting relationships have been formed during this guardian angel prayer experience. Please contact Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org to volunteer to be a "Guardian Angel" for one of our 6th - 12th grade youth.

Youth.... It is time for you to sign up to have your very own guardian angel!!!! An adult who has volunteered to pray for you from Ash Wednesday, March 2, until Palm Sunday, April 10, will be your own "special prayer partner." You will not know the identity of this person until our "guardian angel closing." "Angels" are mentioned throughout the bible as "God's messengers" to watch and protect. Sign up now for your own "guardian angel" by contacting Cookie at cookie@stjamesp.org.

Sunday "youth group" 5 - 7 p.m.: so.... It's Sunday at 5:00 p.m. and your weekend is almost over! You face another week of school, sports, tests, challenges, and relationships. Join us as we gather in Perry hall for food, fellowship, friendship, fun, and faith. Faith? One definition of "faith" is "complete trust or confidence in someone or something...." Join us as we play, pray and ponder who we are and who we belong to.

"Chilly Outside Chili Inside" Sunday, February 6, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Our youth community will gather in the Perry Hall Kitchen to stay warm as we discern "the chosen chili recipe" to prepare for the St. James chili cook-off. Bring a pot of your favorite chili and the recipe. We will then taste each batch of chili and collectively decide which recipe will be "the chosen chili recipe."



Starbucks Youth Bible Study: Wednesday mornings at 7 a.m., a group of young people and adults gather at Starbucks, 2018 South 16th Street. We share our week and discuss scripture that invites us to delve deeper. Questions? Ask Web, Cameron, Sophie, Hughes, Cathie, LucyWest, Frank, Cecilia, Jane, Kim, Ginny, Palmer, Jennifer, Phillip or Cookie.

ST. JAMES PARISH

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Rector The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

Associate Rector The Rev. Cheryl Brainard

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

Parish Coordinator **Bill McKenzie**

Finance Administrator **Maria Hollopeter** | Youth Minister **Cookie Cantwell** | Children's Minister 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 **Leslie Jarrett**

Treasurer **Mike Brown** | Clerk **Diane MacAskill**

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

Class 2023: Kay Dougherty | Tom Hackler | Leslie Jarrett | Al Mar

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

Contact Us

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