

ST. JAMES NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRAPEVINE

GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR

A statue of a saint, likely St. James, stands in a garden. The statue is made of a light-colored material, possibly stone or bronze, and is dressed in a long, flowing robe. It is positioned in the center-right of the frame. The background is a textured, painterly depiction of a sky with soft, golden clouds. The foreground is filled with lush green foliage and flowers, including white lilies and red berries. The overall style is artistic and evocative.

THE SEASON OF LENT

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SLOW DOWN AND LISTEN FOR GOD

Rector's Address

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. (Book of Common Prayer, page 265)

Dear St. James Family,

The notion of a season dedicated towards a slowing down of our pace, a pondering of our shortcomings and an acknowledgement of our mortality is quite countercultural. Indeed, the world in which we live takes great strides to distract us from anything beyond this superficial embrace of immediate gratification, material success and the prize of youth. Wonderfully, we are presented yet again with a deep and meaningful gift from the Church - the season of Lent.

Like Lent itself, this letter is an invitation. It includes a variety of individual and corporate endeavors for your consideration, as well as the traditional Lenten calendar from Forward Movement (and our own Jay Sidebotham). Please look over these offerings and find what might connect with your own desire for self-examination and personal growth.

The themes of a wilderness experience or a period of intentional reflection resonate across scripture. Much is to be gained by this kind of prayer-filled and spiritual work. Indeed, Jesus himself modeled this kind of behavior many times over the course of his ministry. Our hope is that you will come to see these next 40 days as your own opportunity.

As you know, Lent begins with the solemn and meaningful day known as Ash Wednesday, which this year will be on March 2nd. We will be offering three services in our sanctuary that day (7:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.). I encourage you and your family to attend one of these services. While Lent is an opportunity for individual reflection, we are together the body of Christ. Importantly, we are all directing ourselves towards the cross and the empty tomb. I look forward to the grand celebration with you all on Easter Sunday.



Blessings to you and your families during this holy season.

Phillip

The Rev. C. Phillip Craig, Jr.
phillip@stjamesp.org
(910) 508-3764 cell/text

40 Days of Lent

Services & Offerings Schedule

Lent is almost here and with it comes new online and in-person opportunities to worship and engage with your St. James family. Please refer to the schedule below to see what offerings and services best fit you! We hope to see you soon.

Weekly Offerings

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom M-F

MONDAYS

5:00 p.m. Living Well in the Midst of Grief meets 1st and 3rd Mondays in the Graham Parlor or on Zoom

WEDNESDAYS

11:00 a.m. BYOB - Bring Your Own Bible Study Graham Parlor or via Zoom at

12:10 p.m. Eucharist in the Sanctuary

5:45 p.m. Children's Choir (Starts 3/9)

8:15 p.m. Episcoposse 1st & 3rd Wed. on Zoom

Sunday Christian Formation

March
6

Disciples Class led by Bishop Parsley (Great Hall or Zoom)
Faith Discussions led by Mebane Boyd (Bishop Wright Room)
Children's and Youth Faith Formation & Confirmation Class

March
13

"This is Us" Discussion (Great Hall)
Children's and Youth Faith Formation & Confirmation Class

March
20

Disciples Class led by Bishop Parsley (Great Hall or Zoom)
Faith Discussions led by Mebane Boyd (Bishop Wright Room)
Children's and Youth Faith Formation & Confirmation Class

March
27

Disciples Class led by Linda Murchison (Great Hall or Zoom)
Faith Discussions led by Mebane Boyd (Bishop Wright Room)
Children's and Youth Faith Formation & Confirmation Class

April
3

Disciples Class led by Susan Ingle (Great Hall or Zoom)
Faith Discussions (Green Room)
Children's and Youth Faith Formation & Confirmation Class

Services

March 1: Shrove Tuesday

8:00 AM - Jazz Morning Prayer on Zoom
5:30 PM - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner & Bingo Night

March 2: Ash Wednesday Services

7:00 AM - Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary
8:00 AM - Morning Prayer Ash Wed service with self-imposition of ashes on Zoom
12:10 PM - Eucharist in the Sanctuary
7:00 PM - Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary

April 10: Palm Sunday

8:00, 9:00, and 11:15 AM Services
10:10 AM Intergenerational Event TBA

April 11 - 16: HOLY WEEK

TUESDAY - 7:00 PM - Taize Service
WEDNESDAY - 12:10 PM Eucharist
MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7:00 PM Service
GOOD FRIDAY - 12:00 PM Service
HOLY SATURDAY - 8:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter at Mt. Lebanon Chapel



April 17: EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 AM - Sunrise Tower Service | 8:00 AM - Rite I | 9:00 AM - Rite II & Flowering of the Cross
10:15 AM - Easter Celebration on the Lawn | 11:15 AM - Rite II & Flowering of the Cross

You can find out more about each of these opportunities for worship, fellowship, and giving on our website: stjamesp.org/lent2022

The Music of Lent

Lent is a very special time for music as part of our liturgy. We've turned a corner to a season that is a bit more subdued. Each hymn now compliments a journey that we are on for the next 40 days. And the music will be immersive, full of intricate beauty, haunting harmonies and lyrics that transform us.

One of my favorite hymns is #143 from the 1982 Hymnal called, "The glory of these forty days." It starts off with much joy and then slowly brings us into the calm introspection and reflectiveness of the season. I challenge you to listen closely to our music over the next few weeks. In the midst of darkness can you hear the burst of joy that occasionally shine through? Also, be sure to take note of the changing instrumentation. You may hear a few more solo string instruments and the occasional cymbal.

Our theme for Lent is, "Slow down and listen for God." Music is a powerful way to slow down. In the hymnal, there is a section for Lenten music. I would encourage you to find a few moments each week to read or sing through the texts. How do the words move you? And if you are near a piano or other instrument, try to play a few of the songs. You might just find yourself in the midst of contemplation and prayer.

Over the centuries many artists have contributed to the body of works that complement our Lenten journey. I pray that you can find the time and space for peace and renewal. May you be led into a deeper relationship with God through music this season.



John Sullivan
Organist-Choirmaster

The St. James Children's Choir is back in action!

Children's Choir will take place on Wednesdays in Lent, from 5:45 pm - 6:30 pm (starting March 9th). Parents are invited to join us for a time of fellowship in the Lippitt Room while our children practice together. Email our Director of Children's Ministries, Shannon Lockamy at christian.formation@stjamesp.org or our Director of Music, John Sullivan at music@stjamesp.org.

Adult Choir

The St. James Adult Choir will meet on Thursday evenings (September through May) from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (We are not meeting the Thursday after Ash Wednesday.) The choir sings at both the 9:00 am and 11:15 am Sunday Eucharists. (Choir members traditionally sing at one or the other of these services - there is no expectation to sing at both services!).

New Choir Members Welcome!

Interested in joining the choir? Email our Director of Music, John Sullivan, at music@stjamesp.org.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Bible Studies & Formation

BYOB - Bring Your Own Bible - A Lenten Bible Study

During His earthly ministry, Jesus met and interacted with many different people, and they responded to Him in many different ways, some with joy and gratitude, others by ignoring or rejecting His word to them. Each week in Lent, through daily Scripture readings, we will focus on one aspect of encountering Jesus, what it meant for the people with whom He spoke, and what we can learn and apply in our own faith journeys. The weekly themes will be: Called, Challenged, Rejected, Transformed, Empowered, and Open-Ended. Scripture readings for the first week are: Luke 5:1-11; Luke 5:27-32; John 1:35-42; Mark 10:46-52; Mark 15:21. The first session focuses on how encounters with Jesus in the lives of these biblical characters, and in our lives, present an experience of call that invites response. Please join us at 11 AM on Wednesdays, either in the Graham Parlor or via Zoom.

EPISCOPOSSE Woman's Group

Looking for an encouraging way to end out your day? Are you in need of conversations with adults after a day of talking to littles? Join us as we build community through studying the Bible, prayer and encouragement. We meet via ZOOM on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 8:15pm. For the season of Lent we will be using the "Living Well in Lent" daily devotional to guide our reflections. You can pick up a copy of the daily devotional from church. Contact Leslie Jarrett (Leslie.H.Jarrett@gmail.com) or Michelle Gray (michelle.gray@nhcs.net) if you have any questions!

FAITH DISCUSSIONS



St James Parish and the Faith Discussions Class are delighted to welcome Mebane Boyd, LCSW, for a three part series entitled "Safe, Capable, and Loved – From Children to Communities." Her presentations will take place during Formation Time (10:10 am - 11:00 am) on Sundays March 6, March 20 and March 27 in the Bishop Wright Room. All are welcome to attend.

Mebane Boyd, LCSW, has extensive experience working with numerous non-profits in the Wilmington area, including the Domestic Violence Shelter, the Children's Museum and Smart Start. For the past nine years she has offered family parenting services. Since 2018 has been working to help build resilience at the individual, organizational and community levels.



Names are deeply important to human beings and our relationship with God.

Jesus calls each one of us by name. To show His love to others, we are encouraging everyone to please wear a nametag during the Christian Formation hour. This is a great way to show hospitality to new members of our community as we welcome them to our church.

A special thanks to Don and Sue Jaekel who do such an incredible job organizing our name tag ministry.

Prayer & Wellness

LIVING WELL THROUGH LENT

Beginning Ash Wednesday: March 2, 2022

Lent is just around the corner! Watch for all of our special Lenten offerings and don't forget to pick up your copy of Living Well Through Lent when you're at church on Sunday! We'll be going through this daily devotional together as a church family. Have questions about the Living Well series? Reach out to the Rev. Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org.

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.



EASTER LILIES & MUSIC

As with St. James tradition, we will be placing Easter Lilies and playing music in honor of our loved ones this Easter. If you would like to participate, please visit our website for more information: www.stjamesp.org/blog/lilies/.

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

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

Community Care & Outreach



MEN ON A MISSION

Men on a Mission participated in a Low Country Boil. This event raised funds for 2share, a local ministry collecting furniture, fixtures, household items, and delivering them at no charge to those in our community with the greatest needs.

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.

WELCOME NEW OUTREACH COMMISSIONERS



Meet Taber Stockstill-Tornes who was born and raised in just outside of Oklahoma City, OK. She attended the University of Oklahoma where she received a degree in Human Relations. Soon after college she decided to backpack in Europe and then met her husband, Kevin. They lived in Chicago from 2016-2020. While there, she became a doula and found this new profession to be one of her passions. In September of 2020 she and her husband made their way to Wilmington, NC. And in October of 2021 they were thrilled to welcome their little boy Kevin into the world. Taber is very personable and enjoys meeting new people. She is excited to be at St. James and we are so glad to welcome her as an Outreach Commissioner.



Meet David Joyner who is new to St. James as of the summer of 2020. David moved to Wilmington after law school but has always been a native North Carolinian. He grew up in eastern North Carolina outside of Goldsboro and was proud to gain his undergraduate degree from UNC Chapel Hill. After college, David worked for the United Methodist Church's public policy agency in Washington, DC before returning to NC and attending Campell University's School of Law. He then worked as a criminal prosecutor before recently joining the Lea/Schultz Law Firm as a litigator. You may be interested to know that David is an avid amateur chef. He is excited about outreach ministries such as Meals on Wheels and St. James' budding relationship with the Northside Food Co-Op. St. James is glad to welcome David as an Outreach Commissioner.

Day School Updates

Three Amazing Summer Camps

Our day school director, Amy Taylor, has crafted three Summer Camps that will be sure to bring giggles and smiles to your children as they learn, grow and play together.

Ages: 18 months (walking) to rising 1st graders
\$150 for 1st child and \$120 for additional sibling(s) *Please note: each child must be registered separately.*

What can you expect?

Each camp offers fun with crafts, music, games, and a whole lot more! Day camp can be a child's first independent experience away from parents. A child can strengthen emerging skills of making new friends, taking care of their own belongings, trying new activities, and taking risks. This first experience away from home, in a new setting with unfamiliar peers, can create the foundation needed for successful longer-term experiences away from home.

We ask you to provide: a healthy snack, lunch, and sunblock. Please label ALL items.

How do I register? You can register online for the summer camps by visiting:
<https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/daycamps2022/>



Moments of Joy!



Anyone interested in visiting and touring the Day School should contact Amy Taylor at director.dayschool@stjamesp.org.

yo!

Youth Opportunities



Confirmation 2022

All current 8th - 12th graders are invited and encouraged to participate in Confirmation 2022. The program will be led by a variety of facilitators, including Cookie Cantwell, Jane Rippy, Tom Tully and the Rev. Phillip Craig. Details on time and place to follow.

Youth confirmation: All 6th - 12th Graders are encouraged to join us in the Youth Room, 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings for discussions, muffins and friendships. As we journey together during the Seas of Len, we delve deeper into our faith and we will confirm our intentions to "Follow Jesus" within Our Church. Join Phillip, Jane, Andy, Tom, Cookie and your other friends for meaningful conversations and muffins.

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. ALL ARE WELCOME!

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.

Please pray for Happening #77 which will take place on March 4-7. This is an incredible experience led by young people who are spending a weekend learning more about the love of Christ.



Mark your calendars for the Virginia Creeper Trail April 22-24! Registration to open after March 7. See the website after this date for more details.



Glory Ridge Mission Experience: June 19-25

Present 6th-12th graders & adults who like to work with Youth are invited to join us for the 2022 Glory Ridge Mission experience this summer. Space is limited to 35 people so if you are interested in joining us, please email Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org. Cost to attend is \$425, sponsorships are available.

Reminder: Guardian Angel Prayers begin Ash Wednesday.



Meet Our Staff: Wes Clewis

Property & Maintenance Manager

Wes began as a Sexton at St. James in 2016 and was promoted to Property and Maintenance Manager in 2019. He does an outstanding job preparing for events and caring for our facilities. When capital projects are underway, Wes makes it his personal goal to maintain the historical significance and value of the buildings. His skills, including: carpentry, plumbing, electric, audio visual, and computer troubleshooting, compose a highly responsible and very important job. But, you may be surprised to discover that Wes has debuted as Mr. T-Wes, the dinosaur, the Easter Bunny, and even a cow and a pirate for the St. James Day School when he is not helping with dropoff and pickup.

The first experience Mr. Clewis had with St. James was between 2008 - 2012 while working for a contractor to restore the bell tower, the Bacon House and then the church. "All the trim around the windows, I redid that," said Wes. "We even took out the pews and restored them." During this time Wes also met his wife Sara. She would often join him in the St. Francis Garden for lunch. He remembers telling Sara, "This church has a special place in my heart."

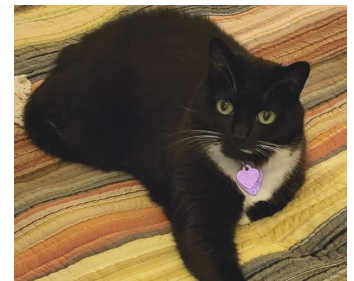
You may not be aware, but Wes has his own ministry helping homeless members of our community who show up in the breezeway. Once during a cold, rainy storm, a homeless man came to the church. Wes tells the story, "I took him into the kitchen and realized that he had no footwear to keep his feet warm and dry, just plastic shoes we used to call, 'jellies.' He had no socks and stood there shivering. As we talked about his life and what God could do, I realized I had to help this man. I took off my new boots and socks and gave them to this person as Jesus taught us. I always tell the homeless who come here to focus on God. God is our provision when we are rich; God is our provision when we are poor. Many times in my life, I have been down and out so I know what they are experiencing. For that reason, this is my ministry - to reflect the love of Jesus Christ." Wes and his wife Sara keep a portable clothes rack at St. James just in case a visitor in need shows up.



In his off-time, Wes takes his dog Phoebe, a Pointador, for walks on the doggie beach at Emerald City, cuddles with his cat, Socks, or plays with his 3 year old grandson, Palmer. Or, Wes heads to his favorite fishing waters, in the river, shallow water, the grass flats, or the Intracoastal Waterway. "Gotta' boat, goin' fishin'!"

Over all his activities and relationships, Wes focuses on love, "Love like there's no tomorrow." We are so happy that Wes chose to be part of our St. James Community and share that love.

Our theme for Lent is, "Slow Down and Listen for God." Wes's plan for following our Lenten theme is: "Sit in my personal prayer space, and listen for the voice of God, for His Spirit to guide me. Establish a priority list, do what is most important, and focus on one thing at a time. Pray and read the word of God - that is where I get my peace. That is where I get my direction."



Stay Safe Online

How do I recognize a scam email?

Increasingly we have become aware of scammers who are attempting to impersonate clergy from churches across the country and steal money from members. The information below is our proactive attempt to help you recognize and avoid scam emails, so that you don't become a victim of a cyber crime.

If you receive an email that appears to be from the Bishop, or a member of our clergy, asking you to take some kind of unusual action – click a link or download an attachment you didn't request, wire money to a specified account, purchase gift cards and reply with the serial numbers, or simply to reply quickly, watch out – it could be a form of email "phishing" known as "whaling."

Whereas "phishing" involves sending a fraudulent email to a large group of people in the hope that a few will respond, "whaling" involves forging communications that look like they're from the "big fish" in an organization, i.e. the "whale." For us, this usually means the Bishop or a clergy person, although it could be someone else in authority.

The message will give some explanation of why the leader needs your help immediately. They may include some story about another person in dire circumstances whom the bishop or priest is trying to help. But instead of helping a needy person, if you respond you will actually be turning over money and possibly your identity information to a scammer. Because these emails are usually crafted more carefully than your standard "phishing" email, they can be more difficult to detect.

It appears that the scammers have been operating over a period of several weeks. Parishioners have alerted us to emails that "appear" to be from Rev. Phillip Craig. Sometimes, the staff and other members have received them as well. One of our Facebook accounts was also impersonated, sending out fake messages purporting to be from a member of our staff.

Unfortunately, it's difficult to stop these "whaling"

attacks. The email accounts in question have not been hacked. Instead, they are being "spoofed" – that is, a fraudulent email account is cleverly configured to look at first glance like a legitimate one. Even if you block the fraudulent email, they'll just use another. Same thing with text messages from fraudulent phone numbers. It's like playing "whack-a-mole."

You can't stop the senders of "whaling" emails, but what you can do – which is entirely free – is educate yourself and other potential recipients. Here are two simple guidelines to help potential recipients avoid being tricked:

Verify the "from" email

The malicious actors behind "whaling" attacks are counting on people springing into action as soon as they see an important name on an email. You can outsmart them by looking beyond the name and checking the "from" email address to see if it matches what you know the alleged sender's email to be.

If you only see a name, you can cause the "from" email address to be displayed by hovering the cursor over the name.

Rev. Phillip Craig's email is always phillip@stjamesp.org. No other variation of his email address is official.

Confirm requests with a conversation

Even if the email or text seems legitimate, if a request seems even remotely "off," don't act on it until you confirm it with a phone call or face-to-face conversation.

In the case of an alleged message from the Rector, you may want to reach out to a member of our staff, using their contact info in the staff directory. DO NOT reply to the suspicious email or text. Likewise, if a member of your parish staff is asking you to do something unusual, confirm with a phone call. Additionally, you can forward the message to spaminfo@stjamesp.org for us to review.

Observing these two steps will go a long way in identifying and avoiding "whaling" attacks before they get their hooks in you.

ST. JAMES PARISH

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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://instagram.com/StJamesParish)