

ST. JAMES GRAPEVINE SPECIAL EDITION

ANNUAL MEETING & GRAPEVINE

GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR

IN THIS ISSUE

FORWORD- THE REV. C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR.
SENIOR WARDEN'S FAREWELL ADDRESS
COMMISSIONS' UPDATES
ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL
MT. LEBANON CHAPEL
NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH
AND MORE!



CHRISTMAS EVE 2022



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From the Rector

Dear Parish Family,

On behalf of our talented staff and wonderful lay leadership, I am delighted to share with you this robust and informative St. James Annual Report. I encourage you to take intentional time and space to read through this entire offering. I trust you will be inspired and encouraged to see more fully the remarkable year we have had through the broad ministries of our active church.

St. James is a special place, and we have so much for which to be grateful. We have the gift of a rich history and a remarkable campus. Our sanctuary offers a place of beauty and majesty when we gather for worship, and it is complemented by the simplicity and natural grace of Mount Lebanon Chapel. It is our parish members, though, that remain 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 know you will see this reflected in the pages of this amazing report.

The Apostle Paul would remind us 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." (1 Corinthians 12:12). As we celebrate and honor both the successes and the challenges of our past year, and then likewise 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 2023.

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

HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

8:00 a - RITE I

9:00 a - RITE II

10:10 a - Faith Formation

11:15 a - RITE II

LIVESTREAM

9:00 &

11:15 a

- RITE II

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

W

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS | 7:00 a.m.

2018 South 16th Street

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS | 11:00 a.m.

Graham Parlor or via Zoom

HOLY EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAYS | 12:10 p.m.

Celebrating Holy Communion

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

WEDNESDAYS | 5:45 p.m.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

T

CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAYS | 7:00 p.m.

Choir Room

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 8

Sunday, January 8, 2023 | 11:30 AM | St. James Church

Save the date! On Sunday, January 8th, following a combined 10:30 a.m. service, our parish family is invited to gather in the Church for our Annual Meeting. We'll share a time of fellowship and hear from our Vestry, Financial Committee, and more! You won't want to miss it.

You may notice this Grapevine Issue is a little thicker than normal. That's because it contains reports from key ministries and committees around St. James Parish. We invite you to review them before the Annual Meeting and bring your questions! Representatives from each group will be with us at the Annual Meeting to help share anything you might like to know more about!



Senior Warden's Address

A FAREWELL ADDRESS - OUTGOING SENIOR WARDEN STEVE THOMAS

The great musician and poet, Jerry Garcia, once coined the lyric: "Lately it occurs to me - What a long strange trip it's been." I'm pretty sure that Jerry never served as a Senior Warden through a Rector Search and a worldwide pandemic, but Jerry's words certainly describe how I feel today, looking back. But not completely...

The truth is that no words could really describe the experience I've had. Honestly, it has been truly life-changing. I have often said that it has been a great privilege to have the chance to serve in this role because I get to witness first-hand all of the amazing things going on at St. James and how God is at work in this place. This is true in a way that only those who have had the honor of serving as a Warden can know. You really get to see the good and the bad - but the good is the overwhelming majority of it!

Today concludes three incredible years I know I will never forget. Rather than attempting to "report" on events or activities that took place during this time, I decided I would focus my parting thoughts around words that kept coming to mind repeatedly while I wrote this message over the Holidays. I hope it gives you a glimpse into my experience and why I say it was a privilege to serve as your Senior Warden. Now, I know Phillip already gave us another great sermon in the service, but since I don't know the next time they'll let me near a microphone, I am going to take this chance to share a few things.

GRATITUDE

One of the honors I had as Sr. Warden was the opportunity to call Rev. Phillip Craig, Jr. to serve as our Rector. Since the Rector Search Committee had very appropriately been allowed to conduct their work without anyone else's involvement, it was literally the first time I had spoken with him. I was immediately struck by his genuinely friendly nature and his humility in being called to the honor of serving as our Rector. Phillip and I have become true friends (despite his affinity for the wrong ACC Team) and when I think of him I think of gratitude. He opens our worship service with a statement of gratitude and his prayers also include thanks for others and God. He has taught me a tremendous amount in the past year and a half we've spent together and it is with GRATITUDE that I acknowledge my friend Phillip. It has been my honor to serve you.

HONESTY

Our Vestry this past three years has been nothing short of awesome. Yes, I am biased, but I tell you this in full honesty. The intentionally diverse mix of age, gender, experience with the Episcopal Church, and tenure here at St. James results in a diversity of ideas and perspectives as well. This Vestry has been a supportive group, but also a very honest group of leaders. No one's suggestions are simply adopted "blindly", but are instead examined and challenged - with respect and with both God's will and the best interests of the parish in mind. This is an extremely healthy structure and though it might take a little longer at times, it produces solid, well-considered direction for St. James.



PERSEVERANCE

Thanks be to God that most of the threat from COVID has subsided, even if it has not gone away completely. I am very proud that we were able, as a church, to provide some type of continuous worship offering throughout the entire uncertainty that was that time. From recorded Morning Prayer, to services out on the lawn at Lebanon Chapel, to carefully and safely opening back up the sanctuary with a livestream feed for those who did not feel comfortable joining us in person. This was not the case at the large majority of churches. Indeed, there are some who are still not worshipping together today. Hopefully, we all made it seem easy, but it was not really. Except that it was because there were so many hands helping make light work. So many folks came forward to pitch in. They did not come to tell us what they wanted to do, but rather came and offered to help in any way needed. Thanks to all of you who helped us persevere as a parish through that critical period - You know who you are!

SPIRIT

As the hymn sings, "There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place." I have very tangibly felt that spirit grow at St. James over the past few years and I expect each of you has as well. It would be tempting to try to cite one cause for this, but I believe it is truly the hand of God in action amongst and through all of us. Phillip's arrival and our ability to persevere through COVID has certainly played a role in it, of course, and so many newcomers from such different backgrounds has made all of our experience richer. But in the end, it comes back to God and the obvious fact that He has favored St. James and its people and His people have answered His call.

WELCOMING

I mentioned the newcomers to St. James already, but it is worth specific attention. By a quick show of hands, please raise your hand and keep it up if you joined St. James in the past 5-6 years. That's awesome! Each of you are feeding our parish with new ideas, perspectives, faith, and energy and we are so glad you are here! A big thanks to the founder of the Evangelism Commission, Frances Trask, their current leader and Chair, Randy Inge, and all others on the Commission who help in the good work of welcoming. The biggest thanks for welcoming, however, goes to all of YOU. This has become a warm and welcoming parish here at St. James, and it is thanks to every one of you.

THANKFULNESS

Looking ahead into the upcoming years, I believe all of the wonderful characteristics I spoke about will continue - with God's help. I hope for St. James to have the courage to discern even more how we can serve God's will in our community, State, and Nation. To use ALL of those same characteristics to lift up all of God's people, not just the ones like us who come through those doors. I hope for those who are referred to as "Other" to be treated and regarded as equals to us, as was His intent. From Matthew 5:14, "*You are the light of the world - like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.*" I truly believe St. James IS that light. We were not just put here with the love we have in our hearts to make ourselves feel good. No, we were meant for more. And I know - more than most after what I have witnessed - that we can do more and we can be the difference in this world.

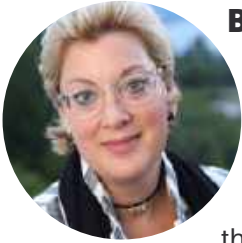


So, as I leave the role of Senior Warden, I pray for the Clergy of St. James that they are constantly filled with the Holy Spirit and are led by God in the way to share that best with all of you - and this community. I pray for the staff of St. James that they are reminded always of their value in helping the Clergy and the parish connect, learn, and grow. I pray for all the Committees and Commissions of St. James that they will courageously strive to serve both the Parish and our community in the ways we are led to do. I pray for the Vestry to continue to believe in one another, to believe in St. James, and to have ears to hear what God is saying to His church. Have courage to lead us in that direction.



I would like to end as my friend Phillip has taught me so well - in gratitude. I thank the parish for having faith in me to represent you. I thank the members of the Vestry for their trust in me. I thank Leslie Jarrett for being my "rock" as Junior Warden this year and providing an example of steadfast faith and support. I thank Phillip, Grey, and Cheryl for their faithful leadership and guidance. I thank my wonderful wife, Rhonda, and my kids, Sarah & Sean, for allowing me to spend almost as much time serving St. James as time with them over the past three years - a slight exaggeration, but only slight. Thank you for listening to my last speech as Senior Warden and I apologize for its length. And most importantly, I thank God for this gift and for his guidance along this "long, strange trip"! God bless you all!!

Vestry Candidates – Class of 2026

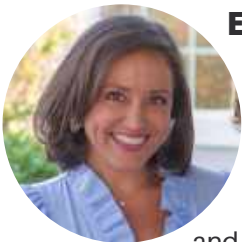


BRANDON CANDLER TULLY

Brandon is a “cradle” Episcopalian originally from Atlanta, GA.

Brandon and her husband Tom, moved to Wilmington in 2018 with their sons Conard and Hughes and their Goldendoodle Spartan. They

immediately joined St. James after hearing from her All Saints Atlanta community that Cookie Cantwell was the ultimate Youth Leader. Since joining St. James, Brandon has served on the Strategic Planning Group and the Stewardship Committee and has also been a Youth advisor to Cookie leading the charge for Faith at Five. Brandon’s latest volunteer adventure has been to envision and execute Wednesday Night Suppers! Brandon is a Senior Global Account Director for HelmsBriscoe (the largest meetings procurement company in the world). Her professional life has her on the road connecting with hotel leadership and advocating for her clients. Brandon’s greatest joy is her family. Conard and Hughes are very involved in Youth Ministries and Acolyting and Tom is a lay reader, sings in the choir, is an acolyte advisor, and volunteers with Men on a Mission. Brandon is excited to continue to serve St. James on the Vestry.



ERIN TRASK

Born and raised here in Wilmington, Erin's faith journey began in the Methodist church. She began attending St. James in college with her friend at the time, Allen Trask,

and over time it began to feel like home to

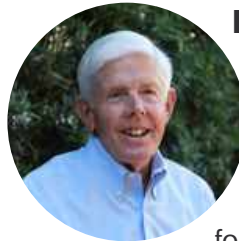
her. Allen and Erin were married at the Church in August of 2009. They now have three children, Nelson (8), Marian (6), and George (4), all of whom were baptized at St. James and lovingly call it their home. Each of them has attended St. James Day School. Having spent eight years teaching Kindergarten before having children of her own, Erin is passionate about serving the children of St. James and the greater community. When George graduates from the Day School this coming May, Erin will wrap up her third year of service on the Day School Board. Before that, she chaired many years of Vacation Bible School and various events and fundraisers for the children of St. James. Erin recently served as the communicator for the Christian Formation Commission. She is excited to join the Vestry in providing a warm and welcoming environment for parishioners of all ages to learn and grow together in their faith.



DAVID JOYNER

David Joyner (28) is an eighth generation eastern North Carolinian. He was raised in the Disciples of Christ tradition and more recently worked for the United Methodist Church’s General Board of

Church & Society in Washington, D.C. David moved to Wilmington in 2020 after completing law school and has been active at St. James ever since; he was confirmed in the Episcopal Church earlier this year. He is an Assistant District Attorney for New Hanover and Pender Counties, prosecuting all district court cases originating with the Wilmington Police Department. David’s involvement at St. James includes the young adults and young families group–Bread Breakers, serving as a Lector, serving as a communicator for the Outreach commission, and enrollment in Education for Ministry.



DEAN GORNTO

Dean Gornto is a lifelong Episcopalian, having been baptized, confirmed and married at St. James. He and his wife, Mary, have 2 children and 5 grandchildren;

for 46 years, they lived in an 1886 family

home in the Historic District, but recently ‘downsized’ to their home in South Oleander. Dean is a graduate of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, where later he was a member of the Board of Trustees. Dean served as the St. James Parish Administrator for 16 years, retiring in 2013; prior to that, he was in commercial real estate. Previously, he has been involved at St. James as an acolyte, a member of the Vestry, serving as Senior Warden, a member of a Rector Search Committee and the Outreach Commission and was instrumental in the creation of the St. James Homeless Shelter. He has also been active with various diocesan activities, including service on the Diocesan Foundation Board and on the Board of Visitors of the Kanuga Conference Center. In the community, Dean has been president of several nonprofits, including the Residents of Old Wilmington, the Historic Wilmington Foundation, St. John’s Museum of Art (now Cameron Art Museum), and was the first president of Phoenix Employment Ministry (now StepUp Wilmington). He has also served on the Board of Visitors of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Lower Cape Fear Hospice Foundation. Most recently, he has been a Guardian Ad Litem and a volunteer with the Help Hub and Meals on Wheels.

ON FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Financially speaking, 2022 has been a witness to the statement, "The Lord provides." The 2022 Budget is a balanced budget. This year's planned budget of \$1,570,000 came in with a \$2,900 surplus. This is a testament to our parish's commitment to being good stewards of our resources both in offering support and in how we allocate our time and funds.

We take a moment to thank our 2023 Stewardship Committee for their continued work and would like to once again share their closing letter from 2022 with a few updated numbers.

Members of St. James,

As this Stewardship Campaign approaches its conclusion, we write to report to you on the incredible results to this point. We are, simply stated, overwhelmed by your confidence, enthusiasm, and support. Few are the times that we have appreciated the strength and resolve of this Parish more than now. You have all brushed aside economic headwinds and the practical uncertainties of our current world and chosen to stand resolute in fueling the mission of this wonderful Church, and we are poised to be in great shape moving into 2023.

As of Monday, January 2, 2023, we are delighted to report that the Church has received 311 pledges for a grand monetary total of \$1,374,000. And, that is an average of nearly \$4,418 per pledging unit, a 10% increase from last year's average. Of course, it is important to remember that total pledged amounts and averages are fluid and depend on the dates and final pledging units reported, respectively. These significant increases still serve, however, as strong evidence of your steadfast commitment to St. James and all that it does, as well as your faithful investment in all that it still can do.

For those of you who have pledged so far, we cannot thank you enough. Those pledges are fueling a giving pace that outstrips the Campaigns of years past, giving us so much hope for furthering the mission of the Church. Saying that you have answered the call would be an understatement. For those of you who have not yet had an opportunity to pledge, there is still time. Even though the returns on this Campaign have been amazing to date, the Church still needs your support. We are so close to reaching a level of contribution that would truly throw off some of the shackles that the Church has struggled with in years past, so please do help us get there!

A quick note on pledges as compared to other types of gifts. Submitting a pledge as a part of the Campaign gives the Vestry and the Finance Committee the tools they need to accurately and responsibly plan for the future, both with next year's budget and beyond. Unpledged gifts and plate offerings are by no means unwelcome, but pledges do have a special, elevated place in the world of contributions because of their utility in the financial management of the Church. For that reason, please do consider submitting your pledge if you have not already.

We do not make this final request for your pledge lightly. We know the world is an uncertain place and that there are many important demands on all of our resources. If you are unsure of how pledging fits into your Parish life or have questions about anything related to Stewardship, from allocation and management of the resources to the way that pledging informs our future mission to anything else, please do reach out to us. We are eager to have those conversations with you!

With grateful hearts,

Your 2023 Stewardship Committee



ALLEN TRASK, III
Co-Chair



LIZZIE HARTMAN
Co-Chair



BRAM COLONNA
Member



KRISTINE MONALTO
Member



JENNA PORTER
Member

ADVISORS

Bill Clark
Ryal Tayloe, Sr.

VESTRY LIAISONS

Kay Dougherty
Al Marr

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMISSION

Congregational Care is crucial to our St James family. During hard times and happy times for our members, we strive to show love and support to one another through a variety of ministries. Our vision is to strengthen the community and our faith through giving and receiving. Lay members as well as our clergy consider it a privilege to be present for one another. Please consider being part of one or more of these ministries. It is in giving that we receive, and lay ministers are welcomed always!

- **Care Guild**- Members visit parishioners who are homebound or in care facilities. There are three teams who are assigned every three months to visit 3-5 people during the month. Visits last from 15-45 minutes and many participated in **COHI training**. If you know of someone who needs care or you would like to participate in this vital ministry, please contact *Beth Souther, 404 307-0664*
- **Community of Hope International (COHI)** -St. James is a COHI parish. COHI training equips lay people to serve in all forms of pastoral care. Pastoral care is when a person is being “present” in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner to an individual or group for the purpose of consciously or unconsciously representing God to them and seeking to respond to their spiritual needs. Through the ongoing, spiritual formation and practical lessons on caregiving, members learn to match theological insights and spiritual practices with their experiences of ministering to others and giving spiritual guidance. Contact: *The Rev. Cheryl Brainard, 910 763-1628*
- **Flower Guild**- Following the last service in the church, members of the Flower Guild rotate delivering the altar flowers to parishioners in hospitals, nursing homes, homes or to those celebrating special events. Names of recipients are usually given to us by the clergy, but feel free to make requests. Contact: *Jane Martin, 910 619-8349*
- **Hospital Visitors**- This is a group of St. James parishioners who participated in the 14-module COHI training. They have hospital minister badges and visit parishioners who are in the hospital. Please contact the church office if you have a hospital stay. Advance notice of upcoming surgeries is very helpful. We want to pray for you and would also like to pay a short visit when possible. Hospital Visitors Contact: *The Rev. Cheryl Brainard, 910 763-1628*
- **Living Well in the Midst of Grief**- With the loss or death of a loved one, we may all experience grief in different ways. Grief can also surround loss of a job, sending a child off to school, losses that come from divorce, etc. Presently this group meets the first and third Mondays of each month and this diverse group passionately supports one another. Contact: *The Rev. Cheryl Brainard, cheryl@stjamesp.org, 910 763-1628*
- **Prayer Team**- This is a Confidential Prayer Group of dedicated St James parishioners who offer daily intercessory prayer for the needs and concerns of members and friends of St James Parish. All information is held in the strictest confidence. Prayers will be offered for one month or longer if requested. Anyone who feels called to the ministry of confidential prayer, please contact *The Rev. Cheryl Brainard* or *Linda Murchison, 910 619-0055*.
- **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. They also coordinate family receptions after memorial services. The Guild is comprised of over 100 members, working in teams headed by monthly team leaders who offer this care quietly. If you or someone you know needs help, or if you're interested in becoming a part of this ministry, you may email the team leader directly at the links below or by calling the church office 910-763-1628. Contact: *Mary Elizabeth Roberts, 910 232-4521* and *Jane Rippy, 910 471-4120*.
- **Support communities**- Several support groups meet on a regular basis to support one another through shared circumstances. See calendar listings for details.
- **AA and Al-Anon** - There are several opportunities to meet with the groups at St. James.
- **Divorce Support**—contact The Rev. Cheryl Brainard for upcoming events
- **Marriage Enrichment**—contact The Rev. Cheryl Brainard for upcoming events



EVANGELISM COMMISSION

A longstanding committee at St. James Parish, Evangelism Commission was formally established this year in recognition of this group's outstanding work.

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.

Ministry Events

- **Praying Shapes Believing Class** - The Evangelism Commission supports Clergy with the preparation and execution of Adult Confirmation and Inquires Classes known as Praying Shapes Believing. This year's class begins on Thursday, February 16th and takes place over the course of seven weeks.
- **Mt. Lebanon Chapel Azalea Festival Tour** - Commission members help organize and lead the tours of Mt Lebanon Chapel in Airlie Gardens; assign docents, develop handouts and discuss Mt Lebanon Chapel's history and usage as an extension of St James Parish downtown campus.
- **Summer Mingle** - Each year, the commission hosts a Summer Mingle to provide a social "meet and greet" opportunity for Newcomers. This event is usually held at a parishioner's residence with Clergy and Vestry participating. This event reinforces the welcoming environment of St James Parish. **2022's event had over 39 newcomers in attendance.**
- **Newcomer Orientation** - The Evangelism Commission organizes the annual St. James Orientation for Newcomers. The purpose of this series is to help familiarize newcomers and interested parishioners with the St. James' remarkable ministries, history, campus, and architecture. Usually three early evening sessions, one each week for three consecutive weeks. This series is a wonderful opportunity for newcomers to meet and hear from Clergy and Vestry. **Our 2022 offering had 29 newcomers participate.**
- **Newcomer Tours of Downtown Campus** - A couple of times a year, the Evangelism Commission hosts tours of the Downtown Campus to help introduce Newcomers to the many buildings and meeting rooms at St. James including kitchens, restrooms, and the Day School facilities.
- **Other Events** - Each year, the Evangelism Commission looks for new opportunities to Invite, Welcome, and Connect our Newcomers.

OUR MISSION:
Invite, Welcome,
and Connect

THE GREETER MINISTRY

Greeters are our frontline representatives, welcoming God's guests to St James. Greeters perform a central role in the St James mission, vision, and strategic plan. **Contacts:** Frances Trask (910-233-3319) and Elizabeth Hinshaw (910-617-6841)



FAITH FORMATION – 2022 ADULT OFFERINGS

2022 began with programming beginning to pick up in the arena of Faith Formation. More opportunities began to be offered in the Spring of 2022 with the option of a hybrid format of in-person and Zoom opportunities. Sunday morning classes started in person with one offering each Sunday. Activities for children were limited by safety concerns. In the Fall of 2022, programming in Faith Formation began to be offered in person with more variety and excitement! Classes have been well attended this Fall - for adults, youth and children. This has been a really great year for Faith Formation “getting back” after Covid. 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: Faith Formation for this year has been focusing on the topic “Who is My Neighbor?” Classes for adults have considered this issue from a wide variety of perspectives. The Disciples Class has provided a great series of speakers on the topic ranging from our Jewish neighbors to community members working for the benefit of those less fortunate. The Faith Discussions group also has considered this same topic of “Who is my Neighbor” in an informal discussion format. A study series was offered by Susan Ingle on the Signs in John that Jesus was and is Christ, the son of God. We also continued the “This is Us” series from last Spring including speakers on the Arts. The clergy and a dedicated group of volunteers have put together a robust Sunday morning program with variety for all adults.



Small Group Study:

- **Just Mercy Book Study:** A book study was offered by Rector Phillip Craig on the book Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson. A group of adults read and discussed the book bringing to light many interesting questions and challenging thoughts.
- **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.
- **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!
- **Episco-posse:** A small group of young women that meet monthly to discuss podcasts and Bible studies as they relate to their everyday lives.



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:** Several excellent speakers were included in this year’s offerings: Pan Conrad, Becca Stevens and David Zahl. Each speaker brought a new perspective on how our faith plays out in the world around us. 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 2022. Thanks to the leadership of Cookie Cantwell, Jane Rippey, 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.



SUNDAY MORNINGS: JUBI-LATTE ROUNDTABLE

Sundays | 10:10 a.m. | Cookie's Office

Our youth put the Latte in Jubi-latte. During the Sunday School hour, 6th-12th graders gather for a special roundtable in Cookie's Office. Get ready to be caffeinated and talk about God. If you're interested in participating and have questions, reach out to Cookie at Cookie@stjamesp.org.

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays | 5:00-7:00 p.m. | Youth Room & Perry Hall

Sunday nights are for our Youth! After all the day's activities are done, Youth Group provides the perfect time to recenter on Christ and recharge with friends for the week ahead. Keep an eye on our calendar for special meetings!

STARBUCKS HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays | 7:00 AM | 16th St. Starbucks

The Starbucks Bible Study is a favorite. We've consistently had an average of 25 participants each week. All St. James High School Youth are invited to join us each Wednesday for our weekly "Check In & BIBLE STUDY. Grab your favorite Starbucks Beverage & a tasty muffin or pastry. Enjoy this mid-week opportunity to talk, share, learn, listen, laugh and explore faith with friends. Hope YOU will JOIN US! If you're interested in participating and have questions, reach out to Cookie at Cookie@stjamesp.org.

MISSION TRIP: QUITO, ECUADOR

In July, 2023, St James Youth Ministries will be partnering with "EDUCATION EQUALS HOPE" in QUITO, ECUADOR. During our 9-DAY Mission, we will worship, partner with Children's Ministries, experience a new culture and see the Face of Christ in the people around us! We will unite as we are woven together in unity and in love. Young people who will have completed the 9th, 10, 11, or 12th Grades in June 2023 may apply. We have space for 15 youth, and 5 adults! If you're interested in participating and have questions, reach out to Cookie at Cookie@stjamesp.org

SKI TRIP 2023

Registration Deadline: JANUARY 10, 2023!

Make plans to join us for the Annual St. James Youth Winterplace Ski Trip! Registration is now live. Join us at Winterplace from February 9-12, 2023. The deadline to register is January 10th! Have questions or need the release and covenant forms? Email Cookie Cantwell at Cookie@stjamesp.org.



EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- Brunswick Stew Super Bowl Sale - February 5
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner- February 21
- Guardian Angel Prayer Experience- February 22
- Happening #79 - March 5
- Guardian Angel Celebration- April 2
- Youth Sunday- May 14
- Silent Auction- May 14-17



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 Narnia 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.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL SHEPHERDS

Looking for a fun way to engage with Sunday mornings? Consider joining our Children's Chapel shepherds. To help safely direct our little ones to and in Children's Chapel on Sunday mornings, we're in need of some additional adult hands to assist our Clergy and Sunday School teachers as they lead the Chapel. These special shepherds are so important to our Children's Ministries. Visit our website to sign up!
stjamesp.org/childrens-chapel/

BUSY BAG MINISTRY

Did you know that we have special Sunday morning activity bags available for those who get the wiggles or need something to do with their hands? You can find our Busy Bags in the transept entrance each Sunday. If you would like to donate to the Busy Bag ministry, please reach out to Ansley Trask at christianinformation@stjamesp.org.

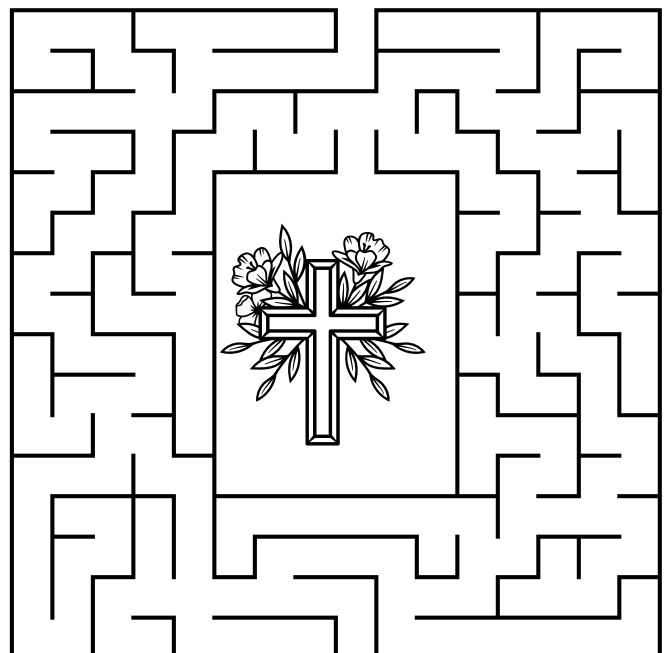
FAMILY FUN EMAIL LIST

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!



2022 BROUGHT REFRESHED SPACES FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

We want to take a moment to highlight all of the hard work and planning that went in to making the spaces ready for Sunday School this past Fall. We painted several rooms and cleaned them out. Many from around the parish participated in our Lego drive and the Lego room has a lego wall and millions of bricks ready to recreate stories from the Bible. The 4th-5th grade room has bean bags and cozy seating to help create an environment for kids to enjoy bible study.



UPCOMING Faith Formation Opportunities:

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:10 AM

DISCIPLES' CLASS - Meets in the Lippitt Room

- **January 15, 2023: Beginning the New Year with Joy and Hope**
 - *Guest Speaker- The Rev. Robert Bayley*
 - Dr. Robert Bayley is an ordained Presbyterian minister who most recently has served as Interim Head of Staff at St. Andrews Covenant Presbyterian Church here in Wilmington. He has spoken to our Disciples Class a number of times over the past several years and has provided lessons for our Praying Shapes Believing program. Always thoughtful and deeply spiritual, he will talk to us about starting the new year in the spirit of joy and hope which can carry us through even the most difficult times.
- **January 22, 2023: Discovering New Spirituality in the Teachings of Father Richard Rohr**
 - *Speaker- Marion Gittings LCSW*
 - Marion is one of our newer parishioners. She is a licensed clinical social worker providing therapy to adults and families at Awakening Wellness Counseling PC here in Wilmington. She will talk to us about the teachings of Fr. Richard Rohr, a Catholic priest who has written extensively and thoughtfully about new perspectives in the Christian faith. Fr. Rohr's teachings have been important to Marion in her professional work.
- **January 29th, 2023: Serving Our Neighbor: Radical Hospitality**
 - *Speaker- The Rev. Deacon Kitty Davis*
 - Deacon Kitty is well-known, and much appreciated, at St. James Parish. She served as deacon at St. James for a number of years and is now retired. She returns to the Disciples Class to talk to us about radical hospitality—recognizing people's needs and our calling to do all that we can to welcome and serve our neighbor.

FAITH DISCUSSIONS - Meets in the Stephen Ministry Room

- **January 15, 2023: Faith Discussions**
 - *Topic: Where do you see God in your life?*
- **January 22, 2023: Faith Discussions**
 - *Topic: Where do you see God in others?*
- **January 29, 2023: Gathering with Disciple's Class to participate in "Serving Our Neighbor: Radical Hospitality"**
 - *Speaker: The Rev. Deacon Kitty Davis*

JUBI-LATTE ROUNDTABLE - Meets in Cookie's Office
On Sunday Mornings, our 6th-12th graders are invited to join us in Cookie's Office 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 Narnia. This fall, we will set out to uncover the themes in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

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

Begins Wednesday, January 18 | 11:00 AM | Graham Parlor or Zoom

Mark your calendars! Our Wednesday Bible Study resumes on January 18th with our four-week series *Journey Through Epiphany: Living Well with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*. On Jan 18, Jan 25, Feb 1, and Feb 8, The Rev. Cheryl Brainard will lead this special course. The materials will soon be available online for you to download or you may call the church office for assistance with a printed copy.

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 chaired by 2 co-chairs, 2 Communications Leaders, independent Mission Volunteer Leaders “chairs” and individual volunteers willing to give time and financial resources to help others. 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 looks to a planned calendar of events, Long term vision, planning, thoughtfully responsible financial support and “Call to Action” events requiring immediate/unexpected response to direct crisis management.

In 2022, we aided 14 Direct Missions:

- **Help Hub** - Emergency Financial Assistance, referrals and connections to community resources, guidance, and support.
- **Rise Against Hunger** - September Annually - 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Angel Tree Campaign** - {serving Community and Brigade} - November/December Annually - 150 individual children's Christmas wish addressed with a designated Angel and a volunteer willing to give time (shopping), money (gift) and heart to a child in need at Christmas.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Good Shepherd** - The mission of Good Shepherd Center is to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and foster transition to housing.



OutReach COMMISSION

ADDITIONAL EFFORTS

St. James Parish Gift Shop - the Parish the Gift Shop provides an opportunity to purchase faith-based items, locally sourced items and gifts

Meals on Wheels - Community-minded senior nutrition/meal delivery program.

2Share Furniture - Donated furniture 2SHARE then delivers, free of charge, to families in need in the Greater Wilmington area.



FORWARD FACING INVOLVEMENT: 2023

- **Eden Village** - Eden Village of Wilmington will be 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
- **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
- **POP - Plastic Ocean Project** - Ocean, waterway, field and forest advocacy for the clean up of harmful non-recyclable "trash" affecting marine life, wild life, and human life in the form of the food we consume and air we breathe.



OTHER PROJECTS

In partnering with our St. James Youth, Men on a Mission, and other St. James Groups, we've supported during 2022:

- Glory Ridge
- Habitat for Humanity
- Trinity Center
- Local Community Projects

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 have been called to the Outreach ministry and understand that, in such, 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.

PARISH LIFE COMMISSION

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



- **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.

- **Episcopal Church Women (ECW):** 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, the EFC will bring 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! 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.



- **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. All ages are welcome. New groups are formed each year in January and stay together for the year. The group meets as often as the group desires.

- **Men On Mission:** Men on a Mission, affectionately known as "MoM," is a group of St. James men who join forces in a fun way to focus on Service and Fellowship at St. James and throughout our community. The purpose of Men on a Mission is to provide the men of our parish with an opportunity to get to know each other better and to work together to serve our parish and our community in fun ways. MoM organizes and leads various service projects on the St. James downtown campus, Mount Lebanon Chapel, Trinity Center, Glory Ridge and several local not-for-profit sites. MoM is a great way for the men of our parish to get to know each other better, and a wonderful vehicle or newcomers to become engaged in our parish.



- **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.



WELCOME SUNDAY 2022



PARISH PICNIC



EASTER CELEBRATION 2022

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Worship Ministry Summary for Calendar Year 2022 - by Todd Hinshaw

The Worship Ministry is grateful for the help and support from the various leaders and volunteers that help to make the worship experience at St. James very special. Our goal is very simple: use the worship experience to help all to grow in love of God and neighbor. We were happy to welcome new members to the Children's Choir and to see those smiling faces at the front of the sanctuary. Our acolytes, lectors, and ushers continue to be an integral part of the worship service, and thanks for your patience as we experimented with some changes in responsibilities to make the service flow smoothly.

Of course, you also noticed that we added a verger to the larger services toward the end of the year. The verger history within the church dates to the Middle Ages and is fascinating. The vergers have provided much-needed help for our clergy and add a nice focal point to the service.



Let's not forget the groups that work behind the scenes such as the Altar Guild, Linen Guild, Wedding Guild and Seasonal Decorations. These are the unsung heroes that help us to experience a beautiful and purposeful place of worship. Thank you to our lay eucharistic ministers and lectors and especially the new volunteers to these groups.

A huge thank you to our choirs (adult and children) and to the musicians who have graced us with their presence at Mt. Lebanon Chapel and downtown throughout the season. I especially enjoyed the jazzy feel with the clarinet and brass a few weeks ago and realized that we have some darn talented folks in our midst!

Please let us know what you have enjoyed this past year and let us know what things we could do to help the worship experience draw us all closer to God. We welcome your feedback, and we also welcome you to join any of our worship ministry groups.

We welcomed Gray to our already stellar clergy list! I would like to thank our clergy and administrative staff for all that they do. I am especially thankful for the clergy's willingness to try new things and mix it up a bit to keep us on our toes. Mixing old traditions with new ones can be risky but also very rewarding. We may strike out from time to time, but we may also really stumble upon an activity that connects us to God and neighbor in ways that we never imagined.

Finally, a very special thanks to Wes Clewis and his crew. Wes is always behind the scenes to make sure that the audio is working as designed and that everything is ready to go for our service.

I would like to propose a raffle fundraiser for 2023- guess how many keys Wes carries with him each day and win a prize!



All joking aside, thanks to all of you for another great year of worship at St. James!



MUSIC AT ST. JAMES

Thanks to the dedicated work of our Director of Music, John Sullivan, 2022 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, Wilmington Voices, the Tallis Chamber Orchestra, and Brooklyn Arts Music Academy just to name a few!



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.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICES

Join us on Wednesdays from 5:45 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 Winter and spring.

Winter Session 2023

- January 11
- January 18
- January 25
- February 1
- February 8

Presentation: February 12th

Spring Session 2023:

- March 1
- March 8
- March 15
- March 22
- March 29

Presentation: April 9 | Easter Sunday



2022-2023 Academic Year

This academic year has been a big year for St. James Day School. Not only did we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we brought in several new programs, equipment, and team members!

2022-2023 STATS:

St. James Day School
Registration for the 2022-23
School Year has full enrollment.

Toddler Program: 19 children -
split into 2 classes
Twos program: 22 children - split
into 2 classes
Threes program: 23 children -
split into 2 classes
Fours program: 20 children -
split into 2 classes

Total Day School Enrollment: 84
Total number of teachers: 19



We completed a successful campaign, Thrive at 75, to raise money for our new playground which was installed in September. We hosted a ribbon cutting as part of our 75th Anniversary Celebration with alumni from all ages!



Pre-K Curriculum Update: **Handwriting Without Tears**. Each student has a set manipulative to build letters, flip crayons to foster hand dexterity, workbooks to practice letter formation, and chalkboards to help build fine motor skills.



Pre-K Curriculum Update: **Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Program**. The program starts our students on their journey to reading. Strong phonemic awareness skills are one of the earliest predictors for reading success.



Facilities Updates: Over the summer, we cleaned out closets, classrooms, and more. The Day School office, library, workroom, Children's Chapel, and 2 classrooms, all received a fresh coat of paint.



Hired a new Day School Director! St. James Day School welcomed Ansley Trask as our Director in the summer of 2022. We've seen a wonderful growth in the Day School program with her arrival. "It feels like coming home being back at SJDS. I was a teacher at the Day School for 5 years prior to my job as a kindergarten teacher at New Horizons Elementary School. My first day back, I stood outside and watched the teachers open car doors while smiling children were greeted with love."



SAVE THE DATE: 2023-2024 REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 9th

St. James Day School Registration for the 2023-2024 Academic Year opens to St. James Parishioners and current SJDS Families on **January 9th, 2023**. Open enrollment for the wider community comes on January 17th, 2023.

MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

We've had a busy 2022 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 2022 we...

- Moved Legacy for Lebanon bricks to the front lawn.
- Replaced and upgraded the handrails at the front door to the Chapel and in the All Saints Garden in the Cemetery.
- Purchased, installed and funded The Mt. Lebanon Chapel Labyrinth. As part of the Labyrinth Project, we shored up the Bradley Creek berm, planted a live oak tree, and situated two lovely benches and planters beside the Labyrinth.
- Purchased and installed two signs near the Chapel. One recognizing the contributions of Dr. Thomas Wright and one sharing the history of the relationship between Mt. Lebanon Chapel and St. James Parish. An additional sign will be installed at the Labyrinth shortly.
- Refurbished and shored up the bell and its post.
- Upgraded the ceiling fans in the Chapel.
- Pressure-washed the Chapel and thoroughly cleaned the wooden floors and pews.
- Installed sod in the front lawn.
- Formalized and supplemented our contract with Flora in order to improve overall landscaping.
- Secured a donation to fund attractive hardscaping for the cemetery walkway to improve accessibility. Work to be done during the first quarter of 2023.
- Hosted 9 weddings in the Chapel in 2022.
- Participated in the filming of several movie and TV scenes in the Chapel and on the grounds.



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.

STEWARDSHIP 2023

TO DATE: 311 Pledges
\$1,374,000

Harry & Sally Archer	The Rev. Phillip & Jennifer Craig	Robert Hickman	Brad & Elizabeth Mickle	Jim Snow
Richard Babb	Will & Sarah Crews	Ham & Linda Hicks	Jim & Linda Miles	Greg Soltis & Rosemary Russo
Martha Bachman	Parris & Barbara Croom	Jane Hight	Derrick Miller	Lin & Mandy Spears
John & Nancy Baden	Jim & Andrea Crumpton	Joey & Lydia Hines	Tony & Kristine Montalto	Jim & Gail Spruill
William Baggett	Steve & Bonnie Culbreth	Todd & Elizabeth Hinshaw	Deb Morgan	Annie Gray Sprunt
Linda Baker	Patty Cullen	Geoffrey & Sage Hoare	Mike & Sarah Morris	David & Wesie Sprunt
Kim Balderson	Anne Culet	Rev. Gray & Catie Hodsdon	G. Vance Moser	Kenny & Gloria Sprunt
Kay Ballard	Ben & Suiter Currin	Susan Hogue	Suzanne W. Moss	Arthur Stephan
Julia Barfield	Charlotte Davis	Dale & Billie Holland	Steve & Ann Mueller	Taft & Cackie Stephenson
Watson & Greta Barnes	Michael & Kitty Davis	Robert (Rob) & Katrina (Katy) Hooper	Alex & Anne Murchison	Stedman & Susanna Stevens
Margaret Barron	Tom & Eldridge Dodson	Robert (Bob) & Mae Hoover	John Murchison	Harry & Bettie Stovall
Bobby & Keri Bartholomew	Aubrey Doggett	David & Charlotta Howell	Ned & Elizabeth Murchison	Kathy Stovall
Stephen & Elizabeth Beacham	David & Kay Dougherty	Ben & Leslie Hudson	Reid & Linda Murchison	Ann Stuart
Michael & Erin Becker	Ed & Bev Duff	Tolly & Jean Hughes	Charles & Caroline Neal	John Sullivan
Betsy Bede	Crae & Lynn Dunn	Randy & Nina Inge	Pamela Nesbitt	Mary Virginia Swain
Jeanne Bellamy	Sandy & Sarah Easley	Susan Ingle	Fred Newber	Jack & Barbara Swann
Bill & Laura Bivins	Doug & Bailey Echols	Wayne & Carolyn Jackson	Nathaniel Nonoy & Julie Adams	Nancy Symmes
Elizabeth Blackwell	Alex & Ruthie Efird	Donald & Sue Jaeckel	Justin Norwood	Bill & Mary Beth Tallman
Sam & Catie Blair	David & Mary Eggleston	Roger & Topsy James	Tuney & Rose Marie Nunnelee	Jane Tatum
Dick Boisky	Sandra Elam	David & Leslie Jarrett	Bill Oakley	Ryal & Kimbrough Tayloe
Mae Borneman	Carol Ellis	Pern & Patti Jenkins	Cy & Grace Oberle	Ryal & Laura Tayloe
Cynthia Boylan	Caе Emerson	Linda Jobe	Fred & Sheila Osann	George & Suzanne Taylor
Donald & The Rev. Cheryl Brainard	Mary Evans	Carroll Johnson	John & Rachel Pace	Nat & Katie Taylor
Graham & Mollie Brice	Dennis Fish & Beth Souther	Billy Johnston	Al & Michelle Parker	Walker & Aoife Taylor
Claude & Cissie Bridger	Madeline Flagler	Catesby & Mimi Jones	David & Lesley Parker	Page & Joan Teer
Shawn & Anne Broderick	Tim & Pat Ford	Sara Jordan	John & Ann Parker	Carol Chase Thomas
Henry & Linda Brown	Gary & Sims Foulks	David Joyner	The Rt. Rev. Henry & Becky Parsley	Steve & Rhonda Thomas
Michael & Jane Brown	Noel Fox	Robert Kearns	Margaret Phillips	Miriam Thompson
Mike & Jamie Brown	R.V. & Judy Fulk	Carl & Nancy Keller	Virginia Pierce	Sue Tompkins
David & Hannah Brownlow	John & Mary Ann Furniss	Connor & Jean Keller	Barry & Nancy Poe	Kevin Tornes & Taber Stockstill-Tornes
Russ Bryan	Bill & Hannah Gage	Joedy Kimball	Stewart Poisson	Brenda Towles
Thomas & Wendy Bugbee	Alice Gaines	Bill & Sue Kimbrell	George & Cindy Popajohn	Allen & Erin Trask
Zachary Bugg & Scott Judson	Patricia Gardner	Billy & Elizabeth King	Bob & Judy Porter	Frances Trask
Emmy Bullard	Shari Gardner	Will & Hayden Kirby	Carson & Jenna Porter	William & Ansley Trask
Dr. Coleman Burgess, III & John Jordan	Alex & Kelly Georgiou	Ted & Annie Koehncke	Bennett & Pam Potter	Tom & Brandon Tully
Raymond Burt	Frank & Judy Gibson	Nancy Korman	Roger & Anne Powell	Les & Anne Turlington
Pat Butler	Peter & Nancy Gillon	Pat Laney	Joel & Missy Pretlow	Allen Van Dyke
Bill & Lynn Calder	Bob Godley	Jim & Anne Lanier	Terry & Betty Quinn	Enk & Sarah van Rens
Katherine Cammack	Andrew & Katherine Goodman	David & Anne Tyson Lee	Paul Rhinehart	Anne Wilkerson Vaughn
Rachel Camp	Tommy & Anne Gore	Tom & Beth Lilly	Greg & Ann Richardson	Jane Venters
Toni Campbell	Dean & Mary Frere Gortto	Bob & Barbara Lloyd	Bob & Jenny Rippy	Vic & Leigh Venters
Si & Matia Cantwell	Joan Grainger	Ann Longley	Jane Rippy	Everett & Janet Ward
Dawn Carter	Stuart & Anne Grainger	Lloyd & Diane MacAskill	Smith & Cathy Roberson	Doug Weigold
Oliver & Virginia Carter	Hunter & Michelle Gray	Bambi MacRae	Franklin & Mary Lyons Rouse	Frances Wells
Ruth Carver	Charles Green	Hugh MacRae	Jerry & Helen Rouse	Harold & Ellen Wells
Rosa Champney	Wilson & Pat Greene	Rachel MacRae	Bob & Doris Ruffner	Lee & Margaret White
Larry & Joanne Cheng	Lynwood Grissom	Fred & Mary Maliga	C. K. & Polly Rust	Ed & Barbara Whitesides
Bill & Happy Clark	Frank & Marietta Gwathmey	David & Louise Mann	Greg & Marilyn Schimizzi	Rick & Myrna Willetts
George Clark	Chip & Mandy Hackler	Kathy Mann	Ralph & Judy Schlichter	Ford & Anne Williams
Jack Clark & Mary Denison	Tom & Hope Hackler	Jerry Mannen	Tom & Catherine Schmid	Lee Williams, III & Amy Crittenger
Russell & Beverly Clark	Ann Hale	John & Joyce Matling	Bea Schomp	Richard & Monika Williams
Scott & Karen Clark	Catherine Halligan	Al & Jane Marr	Mollie Shiftet	Nixie Wilson
Steve & Louise Coggins	Frank & Berta Hamilton	Jane Martin	Jay Sidebotham & Frances Murchison	Cherry Woodbury
Woody & Melanie Coley	Marilyn Harding	Kit Mason	Gorda Singletary	Ginny Woodruff
Bram & Rachel Colonna	Stuart & Marie Hardy	Mark Maynard	Jim & Blair Sloan	Bob Workmon
Steve & Caroline Cone	Wilson & Virginia Hardy	Bob & Chris McArtor	John & Louise Sloan	Turner & Della Wortham
Ron & Wanda Copley	Donald & Luci Harley	Jim & Mary McCabe	Billy & Jean Smith	Adair Wight
Beth Cornelison	Steve & Marshall Harper	Peter & Mary McClain	Claire Smith	James & Martha Wight
Randy & Kathy Coupland	Cothran & Jane Harris	Angus McDonald	Cookie Smith	George & Kakie Yelverton
Web & Florence Ellen Cowden	Thomas Harris	Betsy McDonald	Wright & Gail Smith	Chris & Kitty Yerkes
	Eric & Lizzie Hartman	Jim & Sonja McFarland	Cece Snow	Vance & Porter Young
	Mason & Jennifer Hawfield	Jane McGann		Peter & Gaile Zack
	Rhod & Frances Hawk	Brian & Lyell McMerty		

Coming Up at St. James

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Peg Rorison

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 HOURS

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Our St. James Parish office will be closed on Monday, January 16th.

EPIPHANY SERVICE

Thursday, January 5, 2023 | 5:00 PM | St. James Parish

Come join our St. James Youth as they lead us through a special Epiphany service on the eve of the Epiphany. We'll gather together at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 5th at St. James Parish to celebrate the arrival of the wise men.

EPIPHANY MORNING PRAYER

Friday, January 6, 2023 | 8:00 AM | Zoom

Join us for a special edition of Morning Prayer as we gather to celebrate the Epiphany! Daily Morning Prayer is live on Zoom!

FAMILY BREAKFAST RETURNS 1/15!

Sunday Mornings | 8:30-9:30 AM | Great Hall

We are looking for some Team Leaders to help us take on this wonderful ministry. Teams arrive at 7:30 a.m and are asked to supply whatever food they want to serve. If you are interested in being a Team Leader, or simply joining a team, please reach out to Web Cowden at web.cowden@mirimichigreen.com

MEALS ON WHEELS: JANUARY EDITION

Sunday, January 29, 2023

St. James is once again responsible for the delivery of Meals on Wheels on Sunday, January 29th and we need volunteers to deliver meals to elderly and shut-ins! Anyone willing to drive a route, cook, pack, or bring cookies or tangerines is greatly appreciated. If you are able to help us pack, please plan to be in the Perry Hall Kitchen by 7:30 am on the 29th. If you are interested in cooking or providing supplies, please reach out so we can send the recipe for the meal. Contact: Missy Pretlow at bpretlow@me.com

STREAM TEAM RECRUITING!

We're working to build out a new ministry, the St. James Parish Stream Team. Our St. James Livestream now has a set up that allows us to remotely aim our livestream camera during the service from an iPad. If you are interested in learning more about this great new offering, please reach out to Erin at communications@stjamesp.org.

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

ST. JAMES SPEAKER SERIES: THE REV. DR. SCOTT BLACK JOHNSTON

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 7:00 PM

In partnership with First Presbyterian Church, St. James Episcopal Parish is pleased to announce our Spring Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston. On February 8, 2023, Dr. Johnston, author of *Bread Enough for All* and *Questions Preachers Ask: Essays in Honor of Thomas G. Long*, will be presenting from his most recent book, *Elusive Grace: Loving Your Enemies While Striving for God's Justice*.

In *Elusive Grace: Loving Your Enemies While Striving for God's Justice*, Dr. Johnston challenges us to consider how we as Christians face the increasing divide in our nation and in the world. As Johnston reminds us, we are called to participate in God's ongoing struggle for justice from a perspective of love.

Dr. Johnston is a husband, a dad, a friend, a pastor, a comic book reader, and a fan of almost any sport that involves a ball. Dr. Johnston serves as the senior pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in Manhattan. He is always on the lookout for God and good conversation. This lends itself well to his writings. Dr. Johnston frequently writes about reformed theology, preaching, psalms and prayers. His pieces focus on the challenges, absurdities and joys of an urban faith.

We invite the community to join us on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 for this special presentation. At 6:00 p.m. there will be a reception for Dr. Johnston in the Great Hall followed by his 7:00 p.m. presentation of "Elusive Grace: Loving Your Enemies While Striving for God's Justice" in the St. James sanctuary. Livestreaming and replay opportunities will be available.



PRAYING SHAPES BELIEVING

Thursday, February 16, 2023, 6:00 PM

Mark your calendar for Praying Shapes Believing (PSB) which begins Thursday, February 16, 2023, 6:00-7:15 p.m.

- Has it been a while since Confirmation?
- Are you thinking of making St. James your permanent home but have come from another denomination or faith group and want to know more before committing?
- Do you wish to deepen your faith or just want to get to know some folks?

If you answered yes to any of the above, this is for you! "Praying Shapes Believing" (PSB) is a class that offers something for the above scenarios and more. All are welcome. PSB also serves as Confirmation Class for adults who want to be confirmed or received in April 2023.

In this 7-week class, we will begin with prayer and ice breaker questions to ponder, read through *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*, hear from a seasoned speaker and get to know one another better. If you have any questions or need a copy of the book, please contact the Rev. Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

EfM: Education for (lay) Ministry | Starting January 2023

Enrollment is now open for the class beginning January 2023. We will meet Monday mornings from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. Explore your faith traditions in a small community meeting weekly. We discuss readings from the Bible, church history, and theology, we reflect on applying scripture to our lives and we seek to deepen our faith and discover how to express it in service to others. The fellowship that occurs within the group is one of the best parts of EfM. It is a four-year program but you only sign up for one year at a time. The group meets once a week for 2 1/2 hours. Tuition is \$325/year. Scholarships are available.

To learn more please contact: Rachel Pace (M) 612-9777
rppace@hotmail.com | Visit www.sewanee.edu/EFM

2023 NHC AME CHURCH FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 16, 2023 | 1:00-6:00 PM

Our friends at St. Stephen AME in downtown Wilmington are organizing a Blood Drive for Martin Luther King Jr. Day! They've invited us to come donate, volunteer, and support this great multichurch effort. You can learn more about how to get involved by emailing Communications@stjamesp.org.

Thanking Our Senior Warden!

Steve Thomas has served as Senior Warden for four of the past seven years. His contributions are numerous in his role as a Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Vestry member and as a Lay Eucharistic Minister. He has been a faithful member of the Finance Committee, Evangelism Commission and Men On Mission (Steve started the 'Brew Crew'). We look forward to Steve's continued contributions but we do want to pause and thank him for his abundant kindness and dedication over the years.

- All of St. James is better for having had Steve as our Senior Warden for a very critical time in our history. He has been a thoughtful, professional, loyal, steady, wise leader as we navigated through several interim rectors, junior wardens, vestries, and consultants. Other vital contributions of his are that through many transitions, his faith was strong and his sense of humor was a gift! It was a gift to me to work with him. **-Jane Martin**
- "You give but a little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." This exemplifies what Steve has done over these past several years at least. He both led us into some growing pains at SJP, and he has now been leading us into many growing joys at SJP. The even more joyful thing about all Steve is and has done is he follows Matthew 6:1, "True righteousness is about doing good for the sake of doing good, not for recognition." You hardly know the guy is there and yet look at all that he has helped SJP accomplish under his leadership. I saw a quote recently "It's not about how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." I've watched Steve give and give over these years, and the dude is always smiling, never complaining, and always willing to do more. It is such a God given talent, and we all should aspire to be like Steve, though yes "Be like Mike/MJ", was a pretty good slogan, and let's me jab at Steve's Wolfpack roots a little. **-Bill Clark**
- I remember Steve conducting the Annual Meeting on the steps of a cold, windy day at Mt. Lebanon Chapel during Covid. Despite the hardships, the meeting was well conducted and informative. For me, Steve's most impressive quality is how much his Faith determines his actions and decisions. I think he is well deserving of a life ministering to others. "Thank you Steve for helping preserve the community of Saint James Parish through some monumental challenges." **-Alex Murchison**
- Steve, Thank you so much for your efforts on behalf of St. James. You have gone above and beyond and helped us stay on the right track over the past 10 years or so. You are a special talent and we are all so appreciative. **-Claude Bridger**



- Dear Thomas family, The sacrifice of volunteer work is a reflection of the person and family involved. Steve has safely and skillfully guided us through many important spiritual decisions during his extended time as Senior Warden. The list of accomplishments goes on and on. None are as important as the vibrancy that now fills St James Church. That vibrancy is a testament to his efforts and your family's character. We are forever grateful. **-Tom Hackler**
- Many thanks to Steve for his fine leadership during very challenging years of transition for St. James Parish, especially for his willingness always to listen attentively and answer questions thoughtfully. His deep understanding of the parish, and his vision for the way ahead, are a great gift to our parish. Thank you, Steve! **-Bill Bivins**

- Steve Thomas has, without a doubt, been a blessing to St. James Parish in too many ways to number. That said, for me, the contributions that stand out are his support of the Strategic Plan, his leadership during time of great transition at St. James, and his enthusiastic endorsement of our new Rector and his family. On a personal note, I am so grateful to Steve for his assistance and encouragement as many of us worked to advance the process of installing a Labyrinth at Mount Lebanon Chapel. And finally, I will always remember and appreciate the fact that his calm approach to difficult issues resulted in decisions that have unified rather than divided, have advanced rather than stalled progress, and always have included the importance of looking to God for guidance. Thank you, Steve. With great admiration,

Kay Dougherty

- "Steve, St. James is truly blessed to have leaders like you. Thank you for your tireless, humble leadership over these challenging years!" -**Watson Barnes**
- When Steve was on the vestry, the year before he was senior warden, he was the vestry liaison for the Evangelism Committee. He was at almost every meeting we had, participated fully and truly understood what we were trying to do. He has been doing that ever since, 5 years, attending our meetings when possible and almost all of our events! -**Frances Trask**
- Steve, thank you so very much for guiding our parish through a very tumultuous time, and for your leadership in getting us to this wonderful place. The St. James parish family is more cohesive and enthusiastic than at any time I remember. I know there have been many incredibly difficult issues and challenges during your tenure as our Senior Warden, and you have handled them wisely and prayerfully. I am glad that you agreed to serve again as our Senior Warden over the past year so you could have a year leading us while we flourish and grow. I will always be very appreciative of all of the time, talent and dedication you have provided to our parish family! -**Brian McMerty**
- My first memory of meeting Steve was his participation in the first Renewal Works Workshop we did at St. James. I remember Steve was a newcomer at the time, and he had such great ideas and enthusiasm for church! He came with suggestions of ways to get people engaged ... some of which we have done with great success. I remember him talking about the "class" they offered at his church for newcomers that was such a great way to get people plugged into the church. I am not sure that all credit goes to him for the origin of this idea at our church, but I feel as if his energy and suggestion in that direction got some people thinking and planning. I just remember his energy ... and that has not lessened throughout his time at St. James. I know of no one who has given more, worked harder or loved this place more in his actions than Steve. His model of servant leadership is always a motivator to me. I am thankful to have worked with him, and I know he will continue to share his gifts of leadership and love of the Lord with us for many, many years. -**Barbara Whitesides**
- Steve is thoughtful, kind, serious, prayerful, spiritual and honest. He has spent a significant amount of time each week working to help make St. James the welcoming, loving place it has become for so many. He is passionate for all to feel welcome, for racial healing and reconciliation, and for allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our work. He is the first to remind you that we are doing God's work and in prayer God will guide us forward. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work alongside Steve and learn from a true leader in our church. -**Leslie Jarrett**
- Steve's extraordinary dedication to the St. James community will always be used as an example of dedicated and selfless leadership. His organizational skills are legendary. His sense of humor remained intact even in the most challenging times. Through the highs and lows, challenges and victories, his brewing skills have served the Vestry and Parish especially well. -**Berta Hamilton**
- Dear Steve, we are all especially grateful for your leadership and dedication during the last several years at St. James. Your deep faith coupled with your ability to problem solve served us very well. You pay attention to details, but don't lose sight of the big picture always keeping God at the heart of your decisions. All of those qualities and more made you just the right leader at the right time. We also owe a debt of gratitude to your wonderful family as they have been so supportive of your work at St. James. God bless the Thomas family! -**Florence Ellen Cowden**



Thank you, Steve!

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** | Parish Administrator **Florence Ellen Cowden**

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**

Facilities Manager **Wes Clewis** | Sexton **Norman Southerland**

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 Marr**

Class 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)