

# THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC  
WEEK OF JANUARY 31, 2021

## THE REV. CHERYL BRAINARD



### CONNECTION MINISTRY

One day, my 91 year-old mother, who has 2 computers, an iPad, and wears an iPhone on her belt, said, "I sure am glad I lived long enough to play with all these toys." On days when I have experienced zoom-fatigue, zoom-neck, inbox overload and virtual exhaustion, it still thrills my soul to see her join St. James for Morning Prayer each day from South Carolina.

Even as we enter the 11th month of the new season of Covidtide, the Church is still strong folks – and I'm not talking about the buildings. The buildings have stood the test of time and will be there once we are able to return to live inside worship. Wes and Bill are making sure of that. What I have witnessed is the Church (you, the people) demonstrating more energy and more excitement with

ministry commissions working diligently to execute the strategic plan of St. James, all the while making ourselves ready and attractive for a new rector whomever or wherever he or she may be.

With all the excitement and new ministry alive and well at St. James, I recognize that many do not feel that same connection. I fear we are losing some, and I need your help to reconnect with those who may not be quite as tech savvy or just don't care to embrace the virtual world as much as my mother seems to have. So I, and the Congregational Care commission, are asking you to be a part of our connection ministry. This can take on any mode of connection with which you feel called. Calling, writing notes, dropping off church bulletins or a Forward Day by Day or even helping someone make an appointment to get a vaccine or teach them how to Zoom. If this is something you feel called to, contact me or one of our Congregational Care co-chairs and we will get a list of folks for you to call.

With that noted, we also need you, who may be reading this and feeling isolated or in need, to reach out to us and let us know how your church family may assist. After all, communication goes both ways. Therefore, I am inviting anyone reading this to overload my inbox, write me a letter or pick up the phone and call me if you are still part of St. James and desire more communication or are willing to help reconnect others.

### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

We welcome anyone who would like to participate in the ministry of St. James Parish! There are plenty of great ways to get involved. Like to write? Join our **Letter Writing Team**. Want to get to know people? Become an **Usher** and hand out Sunday bulletins. Enjoy reading? Sign up as a **Lector** to lead us in scripture readings during the service. Not sure what might be a good fit? Reach out to Erin at [communications@stjamesp.org](mailto:communications@stjamesp.org) and she'll help you get in touch with the right ministry for you!

### THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SUNDAY

*Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021 | 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel*  
For many years the Episcopal Church has set aside the first Sunday of February each year as Theological Education Sunday. It is a time to remember the seminaries of the Church and those in the ordination process. St. James is happy to announce that Rhonda Thomas, a Postulant in the Diocese of East Carolina, will be our preacher on Sunday, February 7, 2021 at Mt. Lebanon Chapel for the 9:30 and 10:30 am services We hope all will come and hear Rhonda preach.

### ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

### ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

To welcome all to grow in love of God and neighbor.

# ST. JAMES UPDATES

## INDOOR SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:  
[www.stjamesp.org/](http://www.stjamesp.org/)

## IN OUR PRAYERS:

Mary Will Burton, Billy Owens, Elizabeth Willetts Owens

## CONDOLENCES TO:

John Balderson on the death of his brother, James Hatton Balderson

Bill Trask, William Trask, and their families, on the death of Virginia Council Trask, mother and grandmother.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Susan Harriss on the birth of her granddaughter, Lucy Bennett Kackenmeister

Jess and Helen Powell on the birth of their daughter, Peyton Ellis.

CeCe Snow on the birth of her granddaughter, Astrid Eloise Snow

## PLEDGING & GIVING ONLINE

To donate and support St. James Parish, visit: <https://onrealm.org/StJamesParish/give/pledge>. You can visit [stjamesp.org/stewardship](http://stjamesp.org/stewardship) for a video with step-by-step instructions for pledging online.

## SHROVE TUESDAY: PANCAKE DRIVE-IN

*Shrove Tuesday, February 16th | 5:00 p.m. | RSVP REQ.*

While we can't gather together as we have in years passed, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Drive-In is on! If you would like to order Shrove Tuesday Pancakes for your family, please request your food and reserve your time to pick up your pancakes in the Perry Hall Parking Lot through our website. A \$2 per person donation is suggested but not required.

## GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER EXPERIENCE

*Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021 | Registration Requested*

One of our St. James traditions is the Guardian Angel Prayer experience. We invite adults to take time this Lent to pray for a young person in our parish. Please remember to keep your identity as their "angel" a secret and to pray for him/her each day. Have questions? Visit our website to learn more.

## ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2021-2022 School Year is OPEN online! If you are interested in touring the Day School, please contact Amy Taylor at [director.dayschool@stjamesp.org](mailto:director.dayschool@stjamesp.org).

## SERVICE TIMES

Our in-person services take place outdoors, two at Mt. Lebanon Chapel and one at our Downtown Campus. As we move further into winter, we will be adjusting our Sunday service times in the hopes that the outdoor services will be warmer and have better lighting for attendees. We are hosting our outdoor services at the following times:

### Mt. Lebanon Chapel

9:30 AM- Holy Eucharist - Rite II

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Livestreamed)

### Downtown Campus

4:00 PM - Winter Worship

## LENT-IN-A-BOX REQUESTS OPEN

*Boxes to be distributed ~ Sunday, February 14, 2021*

During this time of separation, we want to encourage you with a take-home activities and resource box. The St. James Lent-In-A-Box Program is designed to provide you with tools to learn, engage, and grow. The boxes are perfect for people of all ages and will contain:

- An At-Home Family Ash Wednesday Service
- Shrove Tuesday Crafts
- Lent Madness
- and More!

You can find out more and request your family's box at [www. https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/lent-in-a-box/](http://www.stjamesp.org/blog/lent-in-a-box/).

## LENT-IN-A-BOX BUILDERS & CAKE BAKERS

Planning for St. James Lenten programming is underway and one of the many great offerings coming is the Lent-In-A-Box. If you are interested in helping our team to bake the treats to be included in the boxes or assemble/wrap these boxes prior to their distribution on Sunday, February 14th, please reach out to Erin Becker at [communications@stjamesp.org](mailto:communications@stjamesp.org) and she will help you get connected!

## YOUTH GROUP WATCHES THE CHOSEN

*Sundays | 5:15 p.m. | RSVP REQUIRED*

St. James Youth Group will be doing "10 @ 5" and together we will be watching The Chosen. Immediately following "Winter Worship @ 4:00 p.m.", 10 individuals will gather safely distanced & "masked" in the Great Hall to learn more about some of the people like Simon Peter, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene who were touched and influenced by the presence of Jesus in their lives and, of course, we will encounter Jesus. Together we will dig deeper into the stories and context of the people and events of the Gospels. Please contact Cookie Cantwell, [cookie@stjamesp.org](mailto:cookie@stjamesp.org), or call or text 910-264-5910.

## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT**

*by Hughes Henderson*

I have seen God in more places than just one, but where I have felt the most connected to Him was through Kanuga. Kanuga is a church retreat that my old church, All Saints in Atlanta, used to go to. Kanuga is about a 7-hour car ride from Atlanta. When you finally get there you walk into the main building and you are immediately greeted by smiling faces and told where your cabin will be for the year. There are a plethora of services available to attend, but that is not where I saw God. I saw God when I woke up early enough for the morning dew and the morning mist to still be there. I would wake up, put on a comfy sweater, and go outside to kind of sit and think. I would think about all the things that would bother me and all the things that we had planned for the day, such as kayaking or having a scavenger hunt, things like that. Then, my parents would wake up and we would just sit and talk and laugh. Sometimes we didn't have anything planned for the day, those were my favorite days. We could just sit by the fire or go on walks and hang out with friends. One of the services I loved to go to was the candle lit service. The service was late at night and people would pass out candles. The part of the service that I enjoyed the most though was the silence and being able to think and pray. After the service had concluded, we were instructed to blow out candles and just sit. It was so relaxing. I miss Kanuga and I miss the people there and I hope that I will be able to go back and enjoy it all over again.

## **FULL LENTEN PROGRAM CALENDAR AVAILABLE ONLINE**

[www.stjamesp.org/lenen-offerings/](http://www.stjamesp.org/lenen-offerings/)

The Season of Lent is almost upon us! We invite everyone to join us in worship, fellowship, outreach, and prayer. On our website you'll find a calendar of our offerings as well as links to learn more.

## **THE THEOLOGY OF FILM**

*Starting Thursday Feb. 18, 2021 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom*

Most of us enjoy watching movies. Do you know that most movies provide in intersection with the sacred? Theology of Film will be held as a Lenten opportunity for learning this year at 7:00 p.m., beginning February 18th. The Rev'd Michael Singer will lead us as we explore faith through conversation. What is our relationship with the sacred? Who are we? Where do we fit?

## **THE BIBLE AND HANDEL'S MESSIAH: LENTEN EDITION**

*Starting Wednesday Feb. 25, 2021 | 11:00 a.m. | Zoom*

Please join us Wednesdays during Lent for music and biblical texts from Handel's Messiah. Messiah tells the story of our Lord Jesus Christ and is one of the best-loved musical compositions of all time. In our study, we are going take a look into the biblical text on which Messiah is based. This 5-week presentation is designed to deepen our appreciation of both the words and the music of Handel's oratorio. Optional readings and a background study guide will be available. Please contact Rev Cheryl Brainard to sign up at [cheryl@stjamesp.org](mailto:cheryl@stjamesp.org) or to receive a copy of the study guide.

## **READ WITH US!**

You are invited to record special stories to be shared with the children and families of our parish. Contact Shannon Lockamy at [christianformation@stjamesp.org](mailto:christianformation@stjamesp.org) to learn more!

## **ASHES AT HOME**

*Ash Wednesday February 17th, 2021 | 2:00-4:00 p.m. | Cloister*

For those of you who aren't interested in the full Lent-In-A-Box experience, which contains our Ashes At Home Service Kit already, we will be offering a drive-thru pick-up of our Ashes At Home Kit on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. The kit will contain some palm ashes and a special bulletin with instructions. Questions? Please reach out to The Rev'd Chris Hamby at [chris@stjamesp.org](mailto:chris@stjamesp.org).

## **PRAYING IN COLOR**

*Saturday, February 20th, 2021 | 10:00 a.m. | Zoom*

We are very excited to announce that St. James Parish will be joining St. Paul's, Wilmington in hosting a special Zoom workshop with Sybil MacBeth on Saturday, February 20 from 10am-noon. Mrs. MacBeth has authored several books, of which, one of them, Praying in Color will be the theme of the upcoming workshop. Make sure to register on the St. Paul's website to let us know you are coming! Questions? Please reach out to [teresabsinger@gmail.com](mailto:teresabsinger@gmail.com).

## **NOW ACCEPTING SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS**

*Annual Silent Auction Coming May 2021 | Online*

This year COVID-19 is leading us on a new journey towards "Outreach and Mission. We will be offering three day Online "Silent Auction" beginning on Sunday, May 2 at 6:00 am and ending on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 8:00 pm. We are asking you to help us by giving a donation to this Auction. Have Questions? Reach out to: Billie Holland, Silent Auction Coordinator ~ 910-343-1354 [bebeholl@gmail.com](mailto:bebeholl@gmail.com) or Cookie Cantwell, St James Youth Coordinator ~ 910-763-1628 [cookie@stjamesp.org](mailto:cookie@stjamesp.org)

## **A STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP UPDATE**

From November 6, 2019 to June 20, 2020 a Strategic Planning Group of fifteen men and women met to create a vision for Saint James Parish in anticipation of our search for a new rector.

Now, with the endorsement of the Vestry, our group is assured that we have faithfully and prayerfully prepared a far-sighted, ambitious plan for Saint James that is fully compatible with its rich, nearly 300-year history and tradition and its aspirations for the future.

Soon, members of the SPG will explain the Strategic Plan in six short videos devoted to a general introduction and each of the five strategies. In all, our Mission and Vision Statements and five strategies inform a simple Objective: "Over the next three years, St. James Church will increase its capacity for ministry by growing its resources (people, money, and use of campus) to serve the people of the congregation and the greater Wilmington Community."

With more detail – and plenty of enthusiasm – we will in these six videos tell you more about the future of St. James, and then in a Zoom session open to all members of the parish, we will answer questions about it. Please take time to watch the videos, take notes about them, and plan to join us later to talk about our ambitious plan. We welcome and appreciate your support of our work.

### **THE REV'D MICHAEL SINGER'S COVID UPDATE**

Dear Friends,

I pray this letter finds you and your loved ones well. My reason for writing you currently is regarding St. James' response to COVID-19.

You may be aware that we currently are not meeting in the church for worship, and by order of the Governor there can be no meetings of greater than 10 people on church property.

Since 1729, St. James has been a place where people have gathered for public worship. We have come together on joyous occasions to celebrate joyous occasions such as baptisms, weddings, for Christmas, Easter, listen to music, for youth events, the list goes on and on. There have been times we have been able to comfort one another and share our grief ... for national disasters like 9/11, when we have gone to war, for funerals. St. James has been a safe place, a special place, a sacred place, and it will continue to be our sacred space. But, since April 2020, we have not been able to gather in that holy place due to COVID restrictions.

Some have stated, "Other churches are worshipping indoors, why can't we?" The churches of which you speak are also experiencing cases of COVID. You will not hear this reported on the evening news or in their church bulletins. It is happening. We all know of individuals who have/had COVID and unfortunately, we all know people who have died from COVID. Honestly, we are currently not meeting inside because I do not want to do your funeral. Simply put, the experts tell us.... it is just not safe.

We are blessed to have Mt. Lebanon Chapel and the lawn at St. James' downtown campus where we can currently meet outside on Sundays safely. Working in these conditions is more work for the parish staff than if we could just open the doors. There is nothing I or the parish staff would like to do more than to worship indoors at St. James.

Being people of hope, we pray that we soon will be able to gather in St. James. There is light at the end of the tunnel. The light is getting brighter every day. Until such time...wear your mask.... practice social distancing .... wash your hands and get the vaccine when it is available.

Faithfully,

Michael+

The Rev'd Michael Singer

Priest-in-Charge

# NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH

## MONDAY- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1-5

MORNING PRAYER  
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom | Led by Cheryl Brainard

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

FELLOWSHIP AA  
7:00 PM | Lippitt Room

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

TUESDAY STILL MATTERS  
8:30 AM | Zoom

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

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

SACRED GROUND SESSION 4  
7:00 PM | Zoom

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP AS A GUARDIAN  
ANGEL PRAYER PARTNER

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

BIBLE STUDY: THE PATH  
11:00 AM-12:00 PM | Zoom

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

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

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

WALK IN LOVE  
7:00 PM | Zoom

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

SJDS DONUTS WITH DAD  
TBA | Zoom

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SUNDAY

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II  
9:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel | BYOS\*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II  
10:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel & ONLINE |  
BYOS\*

WINTER WORSHIP AT 4  
4:00 PM | St. James Parish | BYOS\*

YOUTH GROUP WATCHES THE CHOSEN  
5:15 PM | St. James Parish

**\*BYOS:** Bring Your Own Supplies- Please bring your own masks, chairs, picnic blankets, etc.

**RESTRICTIONS AS OF 12-9-2020:** We are limiting indoor gatherings to 10 individuals and unlimited attendance outside provided that social distance protocols are being followed.

**EDITORIAL DEADLINES:** The deadline for the February 9th e-blast is Friday, February 5th.

# ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

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# ST. JAMES PARISH

• ESTABLISHED 1729 •

## STAFF

**Priest-In-Charge** The Rev. Michael Singer

**Associate Rector** The Rev. Chris Hamby | **Associate Rector** The Rev. Cheryl Brainard

**Organist/Choirmaster** John Sullivan

**Facilities Administrator** Bill McKenzie | **Parish Coordinator** Suzanne Adams

**Finance Administrator** Maria Holloper

**Youth Minister** Cookie Cantwell | **Children's Ministries** Shannon Lockamy

**Day School Director** Amy Taylor | **Communications Director** Erin Becker

**Registrar** Marybeth Tallman | **Property & Maintenance Manager** Wes Clewis

**Sexton** Joey Dobson

## VESTRY

**Senior Warden** Steve Thomas

**Junior Warden** Jane Martin

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

**Class 2021** | Watson Barnes | Pem Jenkins | Jane Martin | Jim Spruill

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

**Class 2023** | Kay Dougherty | Tom Hackler | Leslie Jarrett | Al Marr

25 S. Third Street | Wilmington, NC 28401

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