

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC

WEEK OF JULY 18, 2021

FROM THE RECTOR

THE REV. C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR.

Be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. ~ Romans 12: 2

Dear St. James Parish Family,

What a remarkable and wonderful few weeks of discovery and learning this has been for me, as I begin to share this robust ministry with all of you. Jennifer, LucyWest and I have been grateful for all of the offerings of care, support and hospitality you have extended to us. We feel truly welcomed here. The first week of August we will have all three children in residence with us, and look forward to introducing them to as many of you as possible!

In just this short time, I've been blessed to experience Christ-centered and joyful worship both in the splendor of our historic sanctuary and in the natural beauty of Mount Lebanon Chapel. I've been on retreat with our Vestry. I've been able to meet regularly as a group and individually with the SJP staff. I've participated in Morning Prayer Zooms, and I've experienced chapel with the day school summer program. I've joined the Sacred Ground series, and engaged in a beautiful variety of inspiring commission and committee meetings. I've visited parishioners in the hospital, and in their homes, and welcomed all into my new office space. I've had coffee, lunch and dinner with folks. I've joined local Episcopal clergy in prayer and conversation. All of these experiences have illuminated God's presence, and I am honored to be your Rector!

During our discernment process, the members of your search committee spoke with enthusiasm (and delight) of how God's work was being actively advanced during the transition, due largely to the dedicated and empowered initiative of parishioners. With a few weeks under my belt, it's a joy to wholeheartedly agree! It's quite wonderful

to feel that I'm joining a tremendous variety of ministries simultaneously grounded and in motion. It is also clear that St. James Parish has been blessed to have Cheryl, Chris, the staff and the Interim Rectors guiding the rhythm and direction of the last couple of years, so a huge measure of gratitude is theirs from all of us! God is so good.

As you would imagine, I have had the chance to listen to many thoughts, impressions and flat out opinions among our parish family. I love hearing what is on folk's mind, and I want you all to know that I am open and available for times in conversation. To that end, I am sharing my email address and cell phone number below. Please do reach out to me, and know that I welcome hearing from you.

It will be important and helpful for me to live into and experience some of the seasons and traditions here at St. James, as we look ahead. That does inform one decision regarding our fall plans for Sunday worship downtown. As we return under one roof on September 12th, it will be my intention for us to continue with three services (8:00 am, 9:00am and 11:15am) this program year. I hope to see and learn how each of these time offerings provide worship grounded in scripture, hospitality, and service to others. I know there are a variety of opinions about this! Again, I welcome conversation with you, as we share the experience over the next months.

Paul challenges us to be transformed in all that we do and say as we seek the will of God. Sometimes that might be easier than others, and yet it is our great call. I am so excited about our work and ministry ahead, as together we seek to honor Christ with all that is good and acceptable and perfect.

Faithfully,

Phillip

Phillip

phillip@stjamesp.org

(910) 508-3764 cell/text



Prayer for the Parish ~ BCP page 817

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST. JAMES UPDATES

ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:

www.stjamesp.org

IN OUR PRAYERS:

David Champney, Bob Huffman, Cherry Woodbury,
Jane Woodbury, Missy Wright

CONDOLENCES TO:

The Butler Family on the passing of Pat's sister,
Ellie Gomatos

The Jarrett Family on the passing of Leslie's father,
David William Hash

The MacAskill Family on the passing of Diane's mother,
Edith Sue Axelson

SERVICE TIMES- SUNDAYS IN SUMMER

Join us for worship! We are hosting our services at the following times:

Online Worship

9:30 AM- Livestream from Mt. Lebanon Chapel

Mt. Lebanon Chapel

8:30 AM- Holy Eucharist - Rite II

9:30 AM- Holy Eucharist - Rite II

Downtown Campus

8:00 AM- Indoors- Holy Eucharist - Rite I

10:30 AM- Indoors- Holy Eucharist - Rite II

PLEDGING & GIVING ONLINE

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

Gifts may also be made to the St. James Foundation. Visit: stjamesp.org/st-james-foundation/ for more information.

UPDATE ON GREETER MINISTRY

The "Greeters- Good to Great" Initiative is well underway and we now have 43 greeters named to this important ministry. Our goal is "56 by September 6," so we are still in need of additional participants. This effort also includes clergy, the Parish Life Commission, and our congregation. If you want to be a part of a smaller community with a larger purpose at St. James or if you feel called to make Christ's love known to our visitors, this ministry is for you! Please contact Frances Trask at francestrask9@gmail.com or Elizabeth Hinshaw at ehinshaw@ec.rr.com to join us in this important endeavor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS THIS FALL

We need you! Help us build our Sunday School team of teachers and ministers. There will be several ways to get involved this fall. Email Children's Christian Formation Director Shannon Lockamy at christianformation@stjamesp.org to learn more and plan to join us in August for an information session!

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN MEETING

Sunday, July 25, 2021 | 4:00 p.m. | Great Hall

Calling all women (and other interested persons - we don't discriminate)! You're invited to join the Episcopal Church Women's Reorganization Meeting on Sunday, July 25, 2021, at 4:00 pm. The Episcopal Church Women, formerly known as the St. Anne's Guild, is getting an update. Join us to discuss how the restructured ECW will look! Contact Beth Cornelison at 443-532-6958 for more info.

EPISCO-POSSE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Next Meeting July 28, 2021 | 8:15 p.m. | Zoom

All women (Age 21 and up) are invited to join a new group meeting via Zoom! Join us every other week as we walk through life together! Have questions contact Leslie Jarrett (Leslie.H.Jarrett@gmail.com) or Michelle Gray (michelle.gray@nhcs.net).

QUIET REFLECTION

August 7, 2021 | 7:30-8:30 a.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

Join us for a time of contemplated prayer and meditation at the beautiful Mt. Lebanon Chapel.

MEN ON A MISSION- BEACH COOKOUT

Save the date - August 15, 2021

All men of our parish 21+ years old are invited to a good old-fashioned cookout at the beach home of Frank and Berta Hamilton. Mark your calendar - details to follow! Have questions about Men On a Mission? Reach out to Chris at chris@stjamesp.org or Brian McMerty at bmcmetry@arris.partners.

CALLING ALL ACOLYTES

Get ready for a dinner invitation! The Acolyte Leadership Team is planning a special dinner for our young people who are interested in learning more about what it means to be an acolyte. Stay tuned for more info!

BREAD BREAKERS' HOSPITALITY AT HOME

Sunday, August 29, 2021 | 4:00-6:00 p.m. | The Kirby Home

Join us for Hospitality at Home! We will be at the Kirby Home on Sunday, August 29th at 4pm. Bring a dish to share, and St. James will provide the meat. RSVP via the MeetUp Page or by contacting Chris@stjamesp.org.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT: TRUSTING, EVEN IF

by Florence Ellen Cowden

I have a new favorite song. It has been around a few years but I recently discovered it and find myself playing it on repeat. The melody and the message are so meaningful. The title is "Even If" by a contemporary Christian music band called MercyMe. I learned that the song was written by the lead vocalist as he describes a "bad day" he had, as he was coming to terms with his young son's chronic illness.

The song begins with the singer describing that he wants to be able to lift the audience up with encouraging words and beautiful music, but he is simply feeling spent. He is heavy hearted. He is feeling like many folks do when times are tough and we can't make sense of suffering. He sings that he undoubtedly believes God has the power to heal, but "Even If" God doesn't take this illness away from his son, the artist's hope is in God alone. The lyrics are:

I know You're able and I know You can
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone

A few stanzas later we hear,

But God, when You choose
To leave mountains unmovable
Oh give me the strength to be able to sing
It is well with my soul

I just love this verse. Even if the mountains are not miraculously moved and even if the outcome is not what you were prepared for, let it be well with your soul. This song is all about trust. As Proverbs 3: 5-6 says;

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

SEPTEMBER 12th IS WELCOME SUNDAY!

Make plans to join us on Sunday, September 12th for Welcome Sunday. We'll be gathering together at St. James Parish for a time of community and worship. Here's a preview of what to expect on this special Sunday.

- **8:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist Rite I
- **10:30 a.m.** Holy Eucharist Rite II & The Blessing of the Backpacks
- **11:30 a.m.** Welcome Sunday Celebration

Stay tuned for more information on this special day and the Blessing of the Backpacks!

GET INVOLVED!

As Rev. Chris shared last Grapevine, there are no "volunteers" at St. James. We do ministry. If you are interested in learning how you can minister with our church family there are tons of great ways to get involved. Here are a few ministry opportunities with immediate availability to serve (aka, we need you)!

- Lectors/Readers
- Acolytes/Crucifers
- Greeters
- Altar Guild
- Ushers
- Wedding Guild
- Lemonade & Cookies
- Office Ministry
- Parish Shop

Contact Erin at communications@stjamesp.org to learn more!

SJDS OLYMPICS CAMP STARTS MONDAY

The Summer Olympics are right around the corner, and SJDS is hosting an Olympics camp, July 19-23. This camp is currently full, but if you'd like to add your child(ren), ages 2-6, to the waiting list, please contact Amy Taylor at director.dayschool@stjamesp.org.

FRIENDLY REMINDER TO SET UP YOUR SJDS 2021-2022 VIC CARD LINK

Please link or re-link (you have to re-link your card every year to the Day School). Our school code is 5264. The associate at the Customer Service desk can help you. SJDS receives funds based on the number of linked cards, and a portion of the proceeds on the sale of all HT brand items... an easy fundraiser for us! Ask your friends and family to link their VIC cards, too!

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES

Monday-Friday | 8:00 a.m. | Zoom

Start your day with a little prayer! Join us on Zoom for a time of prayer, fellowship, and music. It's a great way to get to know some of your fellow St. James members! Would you like to have the direct link sent to your in-box each morning? Sign up for our email list by reaching out to Erin at communications@stjamesp.org.

"LIGHT ON THE PATH": A KANUGA GATHERING FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION JUNE 2021

by *Cookie Cantwell*

For many months COVID-19 forced people on unfamiliar pathways & kept many of us apart from one another. It was a time that raised many questions and caused us to ponder and wonder about our lives. Last month eighty-six people gathered in a safe environment at Kanuga Conference Center, in the mountains of North Carolina. These people were given the opportunity to share, to learn and to look towards new possibilities. We gathered in the NC mountains to participate in the Kanuga Christian Formation Gathering 2021. Our focus was "Light on the Path" reflecting on the times, places and people where we see Jesus shine into our lives, our ministries and our world. Time was spent together sharing, learning, resting, and exploring new pathways on which we could travel as we teach, guide and experience the amazing opportunities that await us within our Churches, our Dioceses and our World.

The Rev. Jay Sidebotham (Founder & Director of RenewalWorks) was the Keynote Speaker and The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers (the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Canon for Evangelism), was the Conference Chaplain. The Conference Musician was Dent Davidson (Musician and Chaplain for the House of Bishops). Cookie Cantwell, St James Youth Ministries, and Province IV Youth Ministries Coordinator was the Conference Coordinator and St James Parishioners, Jane Rippy, Virginia Callaway, Charlotte Davis and Richard Cantwell were participants. The Conference Workshop Presenters offered new ideas as we move forward with renewed spirits and resounding hope. Our Worship was transformational and sabbath space provided spiritual and physical opportunities to refresh, renew, revive and rest. Participants returned home guided by the Holy Spirit and focused on renewed hope for the future through worship, music, sabbath, friends and our church communities. As we look forward to the joy and hope of new beginnings at St James, let us remember to always look for "Light on the Path" The LIGHT of JESUS guiding us and leading us into deeper understandings of God's Love and Grace.



NEW EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY PROGRAM YEAR STARTING THIS FALL

This September, the Wednesday evening Education for Ministry (EfM) group at St. James Parish will begin a new program year, and we will have several openings for new members. EfM is a 4-year program which includes in-depth study of the Old Testament (1st year), New Testament (2nd year), Christian history (3rd year), and Christian theology and ethics (4th year). EfM provides an opportunity for prayer, worship, study, and spiritual reflection in a comfortable and supportive group setting. EfM fosters spiritual growth and helps you to shape your faith into action, and to become involved in ministries in your community where you can make a difference. If you would like to know more about EfM at St. James, please contact Bill Bivins (wpbivins@gmail.com) or Karen Clark (clarklc11@gmail.com). They would be glad to talk with you and provide further information about EfM.

FLAT ST. JAMES

Getting ready to travel? Take St. James with you. The Rev. Jay Sidebotham assisted us with creating our Flat St. James! Print out and color your Flat St. James before you hit the road this summer. Take some pictures with him in your favorite travel destinations and share them with us on social media!

LEMONADES AT MT. LEBANON

Each Sunday this summer, we're looking for parishioners to sign up to provide and serve lemonade and individually packaged cookies at Mt. Lebanon Chapel following the 9:30 a.m. service! If you are interested in participating, please sign up on line at stjamesp.org/blog/lemonades-at-mt-lebanon.

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 PARISH

25 S. Third Street
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NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES

MON.- FRI., JULY 19-23

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

SJDS SUMMER CAMP
8:30 AM-12:30 PM | SJDS

MONDAY, JULY 19

FELLOWSHIP AA
7:00 PM | Great Hall

TUESDAY, JULY 20

EDUCATION FOR
MINISTRY
9:00-11:30 AM | Great Hall

MEN'S AL ANON
5:15-7:00 PM | Great Hall

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

SACRED GROUND SESSION 6
7:00 PM | Zoom

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

PCJ BIBLE STUDY
8:30 AM | Zoom | Led by our
Youth Group and with Youth
Advisor support

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

SUNDAY, JULY 25

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I
8:00 AM | St. James Parish

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
8:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel ^{BYOS*}

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
9:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel ^{BYOS*}

ONLINE RITE II LIVE STREAM
9:30 AM | St. James Parish Website
or Facebook

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
10:30 AM | St. James Parish

ECW REORGANIZATION
MEETING
4:00 PM | Great Hall

***BYOS:** Bring Your Own Supplies if you plan to sit outside- Please bring your own chairs, picnic blankets, etc.

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the July 27th e-blast is Friday, July 23rd.