

ST. JAMES NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRAPEVINE

GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR



IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE RECTOR- THE REV. C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR.

VESTRY CORNER

PASTORAL CARE

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

AND MORE!

PARISH PICNIC

HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

SUMMER SERVICE TIMES

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

8:00 a.m. - RITE I

10:30 a.m. - RITE II & Livestream

MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

8:30 a.m. - RITE II

9:30 a.m. - 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 | 8:00 a.m.

2018 South 16th Street

HOLY EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAYS | 12:10 p.m.

Celebrating Holy Communion



PARISH PICNIC



HOSPITALITY AT HOME



SERVING AT GLORY RIDGE

GET READY TO REGISTER!

2023 PARISH RETREAT

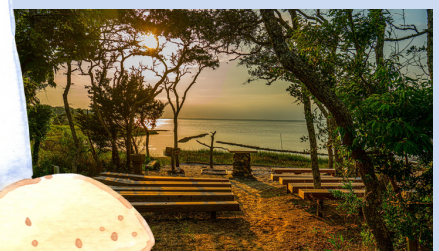
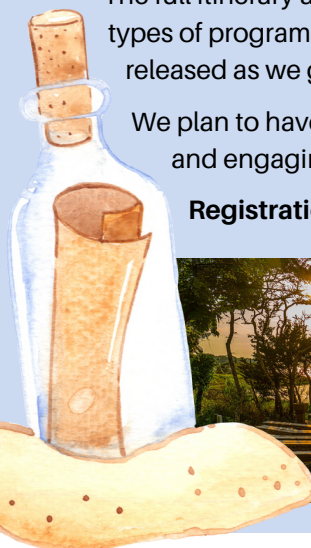
The 2023 Parish Retreat will be here before we know it. Make plans to join the St. James Parish family at the Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores September 29-October 1.

What does the cost include? Lodging for 2 nights and all meals from dinner Friday, September 29th through breakfast Sunday, October 1. Plan for 4:00 PM check-in on the 29th and 11:30 a.m. check out on the 1st of October.

The full itinerary and details on what types of programming to expect will be released as we get closer to the retreat!

We plan to have spiritually driven, fun and engaging offerings for all ages.

Registration opens on July 11th!





From the Rector

*"Where two or more of us are gathered,
O Lord, there you have promised to be.
And here we are. And so, here are you."
Every Moment Holy, pg. 112*

Dear Parish Family,

Happy summer! To be sure, the rhythms of our community are different during this season. With our worship taking place across two campuses, and so many families spending important time away, we don't have a regular weekly opportunity to be together. That will come on Sunday, September 10th! Until then, members of our parish family continue to gather and create community in Christ's name for wonderful and diverse reasons.

Our annual parish picnic at Mount Lebanon Chapel (June 4th) was a wonderful success. Some 225+ of our family came together for great food and fellowship, live bluegrass music and the ever-popular bouncy house. A special word of thanks to our Parish Life Commission leadership (Porter Young, Virginia Pierce and Web Cowden) for their extraordinary efforts in facilitating this terrific event. If you weren't able to attend this year, we'll do it again on Sunday, June 2, 2024!

In June our youth represented St. James so magnificently in the Madison County community at Glory Ridge. This was the 23rd year of sending young people and adults on this mission experience. There they spent a full week engaged in the physical work of solving immediate and critical home-related needs for local residents. The demonstrated legacy of leadership and service from St. James to Glory Ridge is now modeled by other churches across the southeast. Although many adults from our parish family have remained committed to this endeavor for these two decades, special thanks to Cookie and Richard Cantwell for stewarding our relationship with Glory Ridge and the sustainable and life-changing experiences it affords our young people.

Our Men on Mission (MoM) have been deeply engaged this summer in support of our local partner organization A Safe Place. In particular, MoM members have been present at the new Safe Place location in Castle Hayne, offering construction and grounds work to prepare and update the facility for incoming guests. As you will see elsewhere in this Grapevine, MoM was recognized on June 27th with a Community Impact award of thanksgiving by A Safe Place. Thanks to Brian McMerty and the MoM leadership team for great work deepening our relationship with A Safe Place.

Our 2023 St. James Parish Family Retreat will take place at Trinity Center (Pine Knoll Shores, NC) on Friday, September 29 - Sunday, October 1st, 2023. We are anticipating lots of creative activities and events for all ages over the weekend, and you are warmly invited to attend! Please look for our special announcement regarding the Parish Retreat, and come with us in September!

Our Gospel readings this summer are all about Jesus sending his followers out - in much smaller groups - to do his work, to seek and serve him in all persons. What a good message for all of us, to remember our call to do Christ's work, and to remember that wherever we go, and whatever we do in his name, he will be with us.

Again, happy summer everyone.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phillip+".

The Rev. C. Phillip Craig, Jr.
phillip@stjamesp.org

Vestry Corner

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." -1 Peter 4:10

We continue to be amazed by the generosity of our parishioners with their resources and talents. Their love for our community, coupled with a strong desire to leave it better than they found it, is impressive.

One of our Outreach partners, A Safe Place (ASP), recently held their annual fundraiser luncheon. Over 80 SJP parishioners attended, learning how ASP works to decrease human trafficking by providing victims, survivors and their children with a safe shelter and resources to break the cycle of violent abuse. Our parishioner Mary Boney Clark is the current president. At the ASP luncheon, our MoM group was recognized with a Community Impact Award for their volunteer assistance. **Congratulations to all involved.**

In May, an anonymous SJP parishioner offered a \$30,000 "matching" pledge for a Habitat for Humanity Unity Build. A Unity Build is where numerous churches band together to build the houses. The vestry approved this challenge at its May meeting. The money to match the pledge has been raised, so we are set to participate. The new houses will be on a Habitat tract in Castle Hayne, projected to start construction in late September-early October. Lots more on the Unity Build will follow in next month's Grapevine.

While it may seem that Church life may slow down a bit in the summer, planning for Fall activities does not. Get ready for an action-packed season. In addition to the Unity Build, we have numerous opportunities for participation. These include Welcome Sunday, the Parish Retreat at Camp Trinity, Rise Against Hunger, a Diocesan Revival with Bishop Curry, and a Jazz and Racial Unity Symposium (a Diocesan event to be held in Perry Hall).

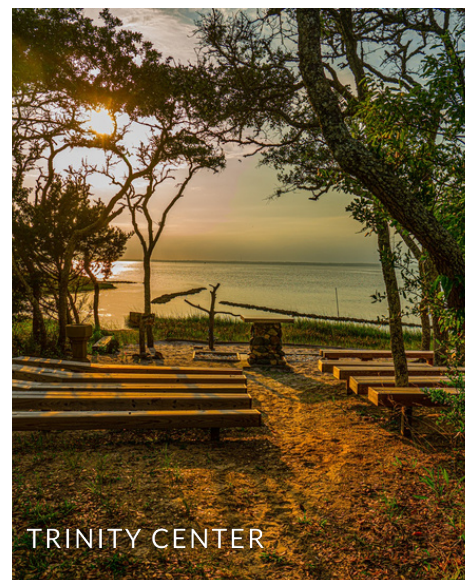
Under the guidance of Wes Clewis, the repairs and painting to the Great Hall kitchen is underway and going well. This project is expected to be completed ahead of schedule and under budget.

In addition to the kitchen work, the Day School classrooms, the Sunday School classrooms, and the Children's Chapel have all been painted.

At Mount Lebanon Chapel, the managing authority handling the traffic control has changed hands. The MLC committee, working alongside Wes, believe the proper operation is now in place. To save expense, a SJP volunteer will handle the interior traffic while communicating with a Deputy Sheriff stationed on Airlie Road.

The mid-year Vestry Retreat will be held August 4th and 5th. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or concerns you'd like to share, please make them known to a member of the Vestry or clergy so they can be discussed at the retreat. Thank you.

-Leslie Jarrett (Senior Warden) & Alex Murchison (Junior Warden)



VBS IS ON THE WAY

Monday, July 31 through
Thursday, August 3, 2023

Get ready to spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this year's St. James Vacation Bible School. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up, it's never "game over." The fun runs from **9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** each day!

VBS 2023 is \$40 per child. Scholarships are available.

Registration is filling up at stjamesp.org/blog/vbs-twist/

Questions? Reach out to Ansley Trask at Christianinformation@stjamesp.org.

WHAT HAPPENS AT VBS?

Here's a quick look at some of our different stations at Vacation Bible School!



LAYING OUT THE BOARD - We'll lay out the game board for the day at VBS with special assembly where we'll share the lessons we've learned, sing and dance to our favorite vacation Bible school songs, and just have fun!



ADVANCE TO BIBLE TIME - Students head to the Bible Room where they'll hear God's word and see how the twists and turns of each story reveal God's love for us! No matter how the dice rolls, God's love stays the same.



MISSION ALERT - Time to visit the science lab where Students help Station Leaders take on a special mission that helps them connect with the day's Bible story. They'll get a little messy with these hands on activities.



GETTING CREATIVE - Playing with colors and paints is next! Students will be powering-up their creativity with crafts designed to build on the story of the day. At the end of the week, we'll be sending them home with their artwork.



FUELING UP - Playing through the day can take some energy! We've got our snack station to help us fuel up with some fun themed nibbles.

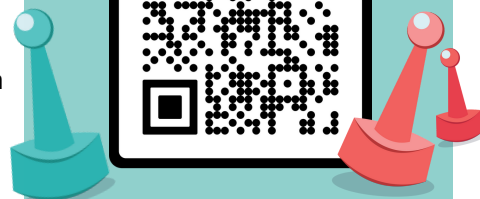


WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!

We're calling on our parish family to help us make this our best Vacation Bible School yet. There lots of ways to get involved! We have opportunities for all ages and abilities. Here are some of the ways **YOU** can be a part of our 2023 VBS:

- Station Leaders
- Group Leaders
- Snacks/Hospitality Team
- Car Line Helpers
- Photographer
- Set Design
- Preparations Team
- Set-up Helpers
- Skit Leaders
- Music & Motions Helpers
- Station & Group Helpers
- Donate Funds or Supplies!

Visit stjamesp.org/vbs23/ and
SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER



GET TO KNOW US

PHYSICAL DIRECTORY UPDATES

This fall, a new St. James Parish Pictorial Directory is in the works. We've received several requests for an updated physical parish directory. We want to make sure you have the tools you need to connect with your fellow St. James Parish family members. As we get closer to the fall, we'll begin sharing how to sign up for family photos and what that process will look like. If you would like to volunteer to help us organize photography sign ups for this project, please reach out to Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org.



WHAT IS REALM?

ST. JAMES ONLINE DIRECTORY

REALM is our online directory & ministry tool designed for real-time connection. It helps St. James connect with you and you connect with us. REALM allows you to manage your personal information and who is allowed to see it, control your giving, and keep in touch with the groups that matter to you. And yes, it does have an app so you can keep in touch on the go.

If you aren't already connected with REALM and would like to be, please let us know! In order to access the information in REALM, parishioners must be invited by a member of the St. James Staff. This measure is to help ensure we protect your personal information.

In preparation of our directory project, a group of dedicated parishioners will be reaching out to help you make sure your REALM contact information is correct and that the settings are to your preference. We will be looking for a team of volunteers to help us take on the large task of making sure everyone in our parish family is connected with the correct contact information. If you are interested in joining the team, please let us know!

If you have questions about how St. James uses REALM or your REALM account, please reach out to Maria Hollopeter at finance@stjamesp.org or Leah Magruder at leah@stjamesp.org.

GREETER MINISTRY - JOIN US IN WELCOMING NEW FAMILIES!

This summer, we'll be hosting a new round of Greeter Training! This means we're opening up the Greeter Ministry to new recruits. If you know someone (yourself included) who would make an excellent Greeter with their warmth and enthusiasm for the Christian family, please reach out to communications@stjamesp.org.

PARISH MEET & GREET

Sunday, July 9 | 10:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel
Save the date! Following the 9:30 a.m. service on July, 9th we'll gather at Mt. Lebanon Chapel for a time of fellowship focused on getting to know our newcomers. Come ready to welcome and meet some new faces.



HOSPITALITY AT HOME

July is a full month for many in our parish. Our St. James Bread Breakers will be taking the month off from hosting Hospitality at home and plan to make a big return in August! Stay tuned for more details.

EPISCOPOSSE WOMEN'S GROUP

Tuesday, July 11 | 7:00 PM | The Montalto Home

Ladies (21+) are invited to join us as we gather in July! This group meets once a month to discuss Podcasts, books and the day to day challenges of living faith. Join together in prayer, fellowship, and connect with other women. If you have questions about this group or would like to RSVP to Erin Becker for directions, please reach out to communications@stjamesp.org.

SUMMER NEWCOMER MINGLE - THE HARDY PARTY IS COMING!

SAVE THE DATE- August 20th!

One of our favorite summer events is officially on the books! The Summer Newcomer Mingle, aka the Hardy Party is scheduled for Sunday, August 20. We invite you to make plans to join us at the beautiful waterside home of Drs. Marie and Stuart Hardy off of Greenville Loop Road. Directions will be shared with those who RSVP as we draw closer to event day.

Get to know St. James newcomers and "oldcomers," the Vestry and the Clergy at this fun event featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres, plenty of parking and childcare onsite with ADVANCE RESERVATION. Details on how to RSVP will be coming later this month.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

WHAT IS PASTORAL OR CONGREGATIONAL CARE?

Congregational care and pastoral care are basically one and the same. To that effect, what is pastoral care? The official definition pastoral care from the wider Episcopal Church is "the ministry of caring at the heart of the church's life." St. James uses the "congregational care" language to ensure the joys are shared as well as our trials. Pastoral care isn't limited to the work of the clergy, it invites all of us to participate in the care of our parish family. There are many ways to participate in caring for our parish family. They don't have to be big formal things like a MealTrain or an official ministry. A text or phone call can mean the world. Pastoral care is a ministry of presence and we all have that gift to share.

One of the simplest ways to participate in pastoral care is also one of the hardest. It's often easier to offer help than it is to ask for it. An important part of pastoral care is letting us know when you or a loved one is in need. You are a beloved part of our parish family and we want to know how we can support you. Please reach out to Leah Magruder at leah@stjamesp.org if you would like a pastoral visit or call from a member of our clergy specifically.

HELP US CARE FOR YOU BY SHARING YOUR HOSPITAL STAY WITH CLERGY

Privacy policies matter. In recent months, hospital procedures have been adjusted to help protect personal health information. For the purposes of the church, this means that clergy no longer have direct access to a list of Episcopal patients in the hospital.

Although we very much would like to visit you during your hospital stay, our clergy and staff will not know you are there unless we are told. Please call the church office or fill out an online prayer request (pictured to the right) to have clergy or other visitors contact you during your stay or as you recover.

Please note that we will never add your name to a prayer list without your permission. You may also use the online prayer form to let us know of any upcoming procedures. It also gives an option to have your request remain confidential or to share with the St. James family.

stjamesp.org/prayer-requests

NEW COMMUNITY OF HOPE TRAINING!

St James Parish is once again opening the door for individuals to acquire the skills to handle different situations in their every day journey and to grow spiritually deeper in their relationship with God through a pastoral care ministry called *The Community of Hope International (COHI)*.



COHI creates communities committed to pastoral care, and equips lay persons to learn to "listen with the ear of their heart"; to be present in a compassionate, listening, non-controlling manner in order to make a difference in the health and well-being of those in need.

We invite you to prayerfully consider if you are being called to share your spiritual gifts within this church and community to take part in the upcoming Community of Hope training class. This particular training will be in partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal Church. You may find the tentative training schedule on our website. Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings, 5:30-7:30 p.m. beginning in September. Contact the Rev. Cheryl Brainard (cheryl@stjamesp.org) for more information.

stjamesp.org/prayer-requests/

Please let us know how we can help pray for you today!

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

* Prayer Request:

☐ I would like my first name read during all services in the Prayers of the People.

☐ My full name may be printed in the Grapevine and other publications.

☐ I would like my request to go to clergy and our confidential prayer group only and not be published.

☐ I would like a member of the clergy to reach out to me.

☐ I would like my request on all lists- published and not.

☐ I consent to sharing the above information in accordance with the [privacy policy](#)

SUBMIT

THE POWER OF THE WRITTEN WORD

PEN PALS & CARE GUILD

Our Care Guild members are frequent writers. In addition to visiting parishioners who are homebound or in care facilities, Care Guild members regularly write to members of our parish family who are in need of connection.

We are always looking for more members of St. James who enjoy writing a good note. Pen Pals write shut-ins, those recovering at home, and those in assisted living to help make these members feel connected even though they may not have been involved in Church activities for a while. As a pen pal, your commitment is to write the same three or four parishioners once a month for the next six months. If you are interested, please contact Beth Souther at bethsoutherfish@gmail.com and she will help you get started.

A THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARE AND SUPPORT

Many thanks to God and our St. James Episcopal Church family- Some of you may know that Bob and I joined St. James in November in 2022, just before Thanksgiving. I was new to the area, we were recently married, and I had a longing for a church home. Bob, in his quiet way, went in search of one for me. We came and never looked back. It was our intention that Bob and I would complete Praying Shapes Believing and that he would be confirmed, and I reaffirmed to the church. On March 27th of 2023, God had other plans. Bob suffered a life-threatening bowel complication that left him gravely ill for a few months. Our new church family embraced us, prayed for us, and cared for us during this time. It is a true blessing and miracle that he is with us today. During this time, I had several falls and ultimately had a hip replacement. Again, we were supported by God and our church family. I wish that we could list and thank every person, every prayer, and act of kindness that we received. There are so many! On April 23rd, 2023, Bob was confirmed, and I reaffirmed to the church. In the end, it is the Body of Christ who has supported and nurtured us. We are forever grateful and blessed by all of you in Christ.

Peace, blessings, and love to you all,
Bob and Nancy Uzzell

"TELLING YOUR STORY" THROUGH GUIDED AUTOBIOGRAPHY RETURNS THIS FALL!

Many adults would like to share the story of their lives, but don't know where or how to begin. The Birren Method of Guided Autobiography offers a series of themes and unique resources to help participants recall, organize, and write their stories, just two pages at a time. After writing two pages at home, participants share one story each week in a small group committed to confidentiality.

Guided Autobiography was researched and developed by Dr. James Birren (USC). It has been used for more than 45 years as a method to help people recall and share their life stories. There are many benefits to those who take a seven week Guided Autobiography class. People who write and share their stories often gain insights about themselves — insights that are not available from journaling or writing stories on their own. Based on James Birren's research, we know that writing and telling stories is very stimulating for the brain. In fact, one researcher said that writing and sharing stories is "like chocolate" for the brain. As stories are shared, class members often discover a sense of connection with others while also gaining new perspectives on themselves and new appreciation of their lives. Sharing life stories with others is an ideal way to find new meaning in life and to put life events into perspective.

This class is for YOU if you want to write your stories, even if you have never thought of yourself as a "real" writer. For most participants, Guided Autobiography is an opportunity to connect with their own stories and identities in a new and meaningful way. Some people will be writing their stories for their own personal benefit. Others may hope that at least some of their stories might be legacy gift to hand down to their family.

Guided Autobiography is offered throughout the country and around the world. It is held at UNCW through the Osher Life Long Learning Institute (OLLI) here Wilmington, where it is very popular and classes are small, making it often hard to get in.

Here at St. James, Mary McKnight, a retired Presbyterian pastor, will be offering Guided Autobiography for 7 weeks in the Fall. She has led many small groups, including writing groups and retreats. From experience, she knows that being in a Guided Autobiography group can be a rich and quite meaningful practice.

Classes at St. James are on **7 Wednesday mornings, from 9:00 - 11:00. Sept 20, 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 and Nov 1.**

Before signing up, please check your calendar to be sure you can commit to the whole 7 week process. The classes and resources build on each other, so this is not a "drop-in" class. To register, please contact the Rev. Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org. The cost is \$45 (scholarships are available) and *Space is limited*.

JUST A TASTE: COOKING UP A BOOK



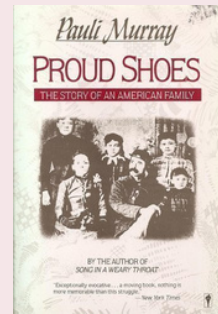
The Episcopal Church Women were so inspired by Sheri Castle's visit that we're taking on the project of creating a new St. James Cookbook featuring your favorite recipe and its "food story." To help us get started, the Rev. Cheryl Brainard would like to invite you to bring your recipe and dish to her home on Tuesday, July 25th at 5:30 p.m. for our Just a Taste: Cooking up a Book event! The Rev. Mary McKnight will lead us through a brief writing tutorial and teach us how to share our own food stories. Come ready to share your dish, recipe, and with a story in mind. Some of the best recipes and stories come from the men cooks in our lives, so we heartily invite men to this event, too. **All are welcome!** Please give the office a call or use the form online to RSVP and let us know how many to expect. Have questions about this event or the Cook Book project? Please reach out to communications@stjamesp.org.

BOOK REVIEW CORNER

Welcome to the Book Corner! Join us as we share some of the books that have been of interest to members of this committee in learning more about race and racial issues in our world. Members share books we hope will inspire you to read and learn as we all work together to share the message of Jesus' love for us and ALL of our neighbors.

July Book Review by Catie Hodsdon

Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family
by The Reverend Doctor Pauli Murray



Proud Shoes, originally published in 1956, is a family memoir of The Reverend Doctor Pauli Murray. Pauli Murray was the first black person to receive a JSD from Yale University and channeled much of her advocacy efforts to civil rights. Thurgood Marshall called her work *States' Laws on Race and Color* the "bible" of the Civil Rights Movement, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg referenced her work as she tackled sex discrimination in her early career. Pauli Murray was also a founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW). And in 1977, Dr. Murray was the first black woman ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. She was added to the names of saints by the church's 77th General Convention in 2012 and we celebrate her saint day on July 1. Her legacy is one of advocacy and reconciliation.

In this memoir, Murray shares the history and genealogy of her maternal grandparents, Robert and Cornelia Fitzgerald, while also offering her own perspective on being raised by these two individuals in Durham, NC. It explores the complex racial and social dynamics that came from merging these two families: her grandfather, a Union soldier in the Civil War and fervent schoolteacher with the Freedmen's Bureau, and her grandmother, the daughter of an enslaved woman and her volatile master in Chapel Hill, teetering the line between these two worlds. She also reflects on and shares her grandparent's experience of how racial identity impacted their life and opportunities. As Patricia Bell-Scott states in the foreword, there are several reasons we should read this work. The first is simply because of who Pauli Murray was and "for what she, nurtured by her family, helped this nation become." The second is that this work offers an example of the healing power of narrative. It is a stark reminder of how important it is to simply sit down with our neighbors and listen. Listening to another's story – their history – is healing, it is part of the work of reconciliation, and it offers a much richer perspective of the world around us. As Bell-Scott suggests, this literary work offers insights into a culture struggling to "find ways to talk about our connections to each other." Understanding our collective history is the necessary work to further explore our connectedness to one another and further a deeper understanding of the Kingdom of God. As Dr. Murray's grandfather entered in his diary in July of 1867, "The past is the key of the present and the mirror of the future, therefore let us adopt as a rule, to judge the future by the history of the past, and having key of past experience, let us open the door to present success and future happiness."

The collect for The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray's Feast Day:

Liberating God, we thank you for the steadfast courage of your servant Pauli Murray, who fought long and well: Unshackle us from the chains of prejudice and fear, that we may show forth the reconciling love and true freedom which you revealed in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For more information on Pauli Murray: <https://www.paulimurraycenter.com/>

HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, July 10 | 5:15 PM |
Graham Parlor

Our Vestry gathers on the second Monday of each month at 5:15 p.m. in the Graham Parlor to discuss the business of the parish and to hear from our parish family. These meetings are open and members of St. James Parish are welcome to attend.

LIVING WELL IN THE MIDST OF GRIEF & LOSS

1st & 3rd Mon. | 5:00 p.m. | Graham Parlor or 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 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.

PLANNING FOR 2023-2024

Over the Summer, we'll be planning for Fall Faith Formation. If you feel called to be a part of our Sunday School Program for 3 yrs. - 5th Grade, as a Teacher or Substitute Teacher, please reach out to Ansley Trask at christianformation@stjamesp.org to let us know! We'd love to have you as part of the planning process.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Stephen Chiavetta,
Randy Coupland,
Daryn Liu,
Rodger Weigold

QUIET REFLECTION IN JULY

Saturday, July 1 | 7:30 - 8:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

If your spirit longs for peace and rest, join us at Mt. Lebanon Chapel for a time of quiet and refreshment from 7:30-8:30 AM. You are welcome to come for as much or as little of the hour as you wish. There will be interludes of quiet piano music during the hour. Some poems and prayers will be provided should you wish to have something to read in the silence, or bring your own reading material.

MORNING PRAYER ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Tuesday, July 4 | 8:00 AM | Zoom

Come join us a special edition of Morning Prayer! We gather at 8:00 a.m. for a time of prayer, scripture, and music selected with our country (and Daily Office lectionary) in mind! Want to learn more about our Morning Prayer offering? Email Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org.

JAZZ & RACE SYMPOSIUM

Presented by: the Diocesan Racial Healing Commission

Where: St. James Parish

When: September 16 | 1:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Musician & Speakers:

Skip Walker & Dr. Catherine Meeks

Who is invited: EPISCOPALIANS, JAZZ ENTHUSIASTS, & WIDER COMMUNITY

Registration: stjamesp.org/jazz

Jazz and Racial Healing intersect in many ways. Join us as we listen to Jazz and learn more about its history from Skip Walker. Dr. Catherine Meeks will share from her extensive involvement in Racial Healing in the larger Church and beyond.

Please Save the Date!!!

Watch for Hospitality Opportunities



MEALS ON WHEELS



Sunday, July 30, 2023, 7:30 AM

St. James is once again responsible for the delivery of Meals on Wheels on Sunday, July 30th and we need volunteers! Anyone willing to drive a route or bring cookies or grapes is greatly appreciated. We are responsible for preparing, packaging, and delivering meals to approximately 180 grateful Meals on Wheels recipients, who are elderly or disabled shut-ins, many of whom have little to no social interaction or hot meals other than Meals on Wheels. These clients would often go hungry without this ministry. Your active participation in this vital program 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 30th. If you are interested in cooking or providing supplies, please reach out so we can send the recipe for the meal. For those planning to bring supplies or food items, please know donations need to be in Perry Hall no later than Thursday, July 27th!

If you are willing and able to participate, please contact Nancy Burgess at nlbplus21@gmail.com.

SUMMER ACOLYTES

The summer is here and it's time to refresh the acolyte schedule. We're inviting all of our trained acolytes to sign up to serve at the 10:30 a.m. service downtown! If you need the link to the Sign-up Genius, please email communications@stjamesp.org. We would love to keep the rotation full all summer long but we need your help to make it happen. For those young people would like to join the acolyte ministry, please reach out to The Rev. Gray Hodsdon at gray@stjamesp.org to learn more about the training program tentatively planned for August 27th!

SERVING IN THE SUMMER

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE:

LEMONADE AT MT. LEBANON

Sundays, May 28 - September 3rd

Mt. Lebanon Chapel is open for the summer and you're invited to share in the ministry of cookies and lemonade! Each Sunday while we worship at Mt. Lebanon Chapel, we're looking for parishioners to sign up to provide and serve lemonade and cookies following the 9:30 a.m. service. If you are interested in providing supplies or serving, please visit our website to sign up! stjamesp.org/lemonade.

VIVACE OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers Needed! The Vivace Music Festival is returning to Wilmington this summer and St. James is looking for volunteers who will act as greeters for Vivace Festival participants who will be utilizing spaces at St. James from **August 1 through August 13**. Job Description? Sit at a greeting table to direct participants to various spaces in our parish buildings that are being used for practice rooms and masterclasses. (Easy peasy)

There will be a schedule where volunteers can sign up for an hour or two throughout these two weeks. (Classical music enthusiasts are particularly encouraged to sign-up!)

For questions or to sign-up, please contact John Sullivan at music@stjamesp.org or by calling 910-763-1628.

CAPE FEAR RIVER WATCH:

SECOND SATURDAY CLEAN UPS

Saturday, August 12, 2023

St. James Outreach invites you to join us for the 2023 Second Saturday Cleanups with Cape Fear River Watch. The CFRW takes the month of July off for the clean ups so the next clean up will be on August 12, 2023 at 9:00 am. A location will be shared closer to the date. You can sign up on CFRW's website or contact parishioner David Joyner for more information (davidbilljoyner@gmail.com).

Service Opportunities

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

- Lectors/Readers
- Altar Guild
- Sunday School Teacher
- Acolytes/Crucifers
- Ushers
- Office Volunteer Ministry
- Greeters
- Wedding Guild
- Parish Shop
- PenPals
- Chalice/LEM
- St. James Choir

OUTREACH

OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT: EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY

The Episcopal Farmworker Ministry (EFWM) is a joint endeavor of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern North Carolina and North Carolina established in 1982. Their main offices are located in Dunn, NC and the majority of those they serve live in Duplin, Harnett, Johnston, Lenoir, and Sampson counties. Their work supports agricultural workers (farmworkers, meat processing plant workers, and workers from nurseries, packing houses, or livestock farms) as well immigrant families in Eastern North Carolina through coordination of direct services, leadership programs, community education programs, and advocacy support. Their mission is to respond to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of farmworkers and support opportunities for them to become self-directive. This work stems from the understanding that despite the essential role farmworkers serve in our local communities and economy, they are often subjected to substandard housing, pesticide exposure, dangerous work, inadequate pay, intimidation, and language/educational barriers.

Some examples of the work EFWM does includes:

- An Annual Farmworker Festival
- Monthly gatherings to celebrate and build community
- English as Second Language (ESL) classes
- Disaster relief aid and preparedness classes
- Mental Health Services
- Food Distribution events
- And so much more!



EFWM receives funding from a myriad of sources: churches, individuals, foundations, and corporations. St. James has supported EFWM for many years both financially and with our time and talents. Our annual backpack drive is in full swing, helping to support 1,000 children of farmworkers prepare for school. Please visit the landing page on our website to sign up to supply a backpack or provide a donation so our team can purchase a backpack and supplies on your behalf. And as always, you can lend your support to EFWM through prayer: for the mission of this organization and for the agricultural workers they serve.

For more information on EFWM, please visit their website: <https://episcopalfarmworkerministry.org/>.

EPISCOPAL FARM WORKER MINISTRY: BACKPACK DRIVE

Deadline July 28, 2023

We're calling on our parish family to help the Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry get an early start on their backpack and school supply drive. Deadline for donations is Friday, July 28th at 12:00 p.m. Our goal is to get all of the backpacks delivered to their office in Dunn, NC by July 31st.

This year, we will be putting together an "Angel Tree" style drive. You can select a child to shop for and help make them feel ready for another year of learning. If you are interested in adopting a child to shop for, please complete the form below to let us know and we'll reach out to you when the backpack tags are available and a [list of supplies](#).

When your bag is complete, please bring it to the Bacon House during parish office hours and we'll coordinate delivery to the EFWM. Traveling or too busy to go shopping? Use the general donation link on our website and we'll go shopping for you!

Have questions about this year's drive? Please reach out to Catie Hodson at cmrichardson93@gmail.com or Taber Tornes at taber.stockstill@gmail.com.



EDEN VILLAGE HOME GROUPS

Friday, June 30th was the official grand opening of Eden Village. Eden Village of Wilmington is building a tiny home community for the chronically homeless. It will have 31 tiny homes for those experiencing homelessness, primarily those living in hospitals. Having a home is a key component in long-term health care.



At their grand opening, Eden Village welcomed their first 12 residents who have experienced chronic homelessness. If you'd like to get more involved with Eden Village, consider joining St. James' Home Group. This group of 6-8 individuals will support one of the village's residents. This would include monthly check-ins with the resident either preparing a simple meal together, stopping by for a porch chat, or sending messages of encouragement throughout the month. There may also be work in the month of July to prepare the home for this resident as well. This is an important and unique opportunity to meet our neighbors, so if you are interested in joining this group, please contact Catie Hodsdon at cmrichardson93@gmail.com.



MEN ON A MISSION: A BUSY SUMMER!

The St. James Men on a Mission have taken on some new projects, fulfilled needs in our parish family and continued to serve our neighbors with joy and fellowship! Check out some of their upcoming opportunities to serve and pictures of recent projects.

SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER

Tues., July 4 & 18th 2023, 4:30 PM

Thursday, July 27th 2023, 4:30 PM

The MoM Squad continues to serve meals to the homeless on the first and third Tuesday of each month! The Good Shepherd Center appreciates our efforts and we've added an additional opportunity to serve! Men on a Mission will now serve on the fourth Thursday of each month as well! Please let us know if you can serve. Shifts run from 4:30 PM to about 7 PM. The guys who have already done this found it to be a very simple, yet highly rewarding, experience. If you can stand for 45 minutes, you can do this! Reach out to Brian McMerty to volunteer! (bmcsmerty@arris.partners)

ST. JAMES PARISH BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, August 9 |

10:00-3:00 p.m. | Perry Hall

Save the date! The St. James Men on a Mission are officially on the books to host a Blood Drive on August 9th from 10:00-3:00 p.m. with the American Red Cross. We are inviting our parish family to participate by signing up to donate and/or volunteer. We have several ways to support the drive even if you are not planning to give blood. Visit the St. James website to learn more or to sign up.

MOM RECOGNIZED BY A SAFE PLACE





GLORY RIDGE MISSION EXPERIENCE

THE ACORN

From Jonathan Graves

Every morning at Glory Ridge, we stand shoulder-to-shoulder atop the ridge, praying together before we set out to our respective work sites. At the dawn of the week, I found my mind weaving around the enormous potential that we, as human beings, possess to leave a positive imprint in the world. Cookie, our leader, had asked me to share a few words with the group, and this concept of potentiality continued to stir within my thoughts.

One quiet evening, under the broad shelter of a mighty oak tree, I stumbled upon an acorn. This tiny seed held within it the blueprint to grow into the same vast entity I was leaning against. Furthermore, with the passage of time, this single acorn could spawn the seeds for hundreds of thriving forests.

As I stood before our assembly, holding this small acorn aloft, I narrated this epiphany. I directed the group's attention toward the magnificent oak tree resting at the foot of our hill, a silent yet resilient testament to nature's tenacity. Remarkably, this grand oak, I explained, had its humble beginnings as an acorn, akin to the one in my hand.

It might sound surreal, but under the right conditions - sunlight, soil, water, time - this inconspicuous acorn could transform into a stately oak, a sentinel that would stand for centuries and provide a home to countless forms of life.

This transformation of the acorn into an oak, I shared, was an allegory for our own life's journey. Whether we are young folks discovering our place in the world or adults shouldering multiple responsibilities, each of us is like this acorn, containing within us the capacity for growth and transformation. Here at Glory Ridge, each task we undertake, however small it might seem, is akin to planting an acorn.

Each stroke of the paintbrush, each nail we hammer in, each plank we carefully lay down, helps transform a simple house into a loving home, an animal shelter into a sanctuary, a ramp into a lifeline, a deck into a cherished place of relaxation and peace. These actions might appear minor, much like this acorn, but they contribute towards a larger purpose. They are the seeds from which a vibrant, resilient community emerges.

During the peacefulness of our evening worship, I was struck by a thought: the work we undertake isn't just about the tangible outcomes we produce. It's about our personal growth, too. We're all in a constant state of growth and evolution, similar to the oak that sprouts from an acorn.

With this acorn as our symbol, let us remember to stay grounded, to keep striving, and to remember that every action, no matter how small, is a step towards achieving our full potential.

In my hand, one tiny acorn holds the power to seed 1,000 forests over time. Just one single acorn. So, whenever you feel small or insignificant, recall that within you is a potential that is immense and transformative, enabling you to grow into something beautiful... just like the acorn.

As we ended the day, I invited everyone in the circle to share their thoughts, "What do you hope to contribute or plant this week to watch grow?" And now, through this newsletter, I extend this question to you, the reader. What seed will you plant?



Glory Ridge is a sanctuary - one of those "thin" places where we glimpse the kingdom of God and Jesus, the carpenter who still heals. We live and see His glorious creation for a week and are invited to serve others and each other and Make Work Worship . - Jane Rippy





A Prayer for the Ridge

On this mountain ridge, under Your vast sky,
We stand in awe, surrounded by peaks of Your design,
In every vista, every breath of crisp air, we witness Your artistry.

We remember the rhythm of the rain, a symphony of Your voice,
Each drop a blessing, nurturing the roots of the ancient oak,
Whispering of Your ceaseless love.

In the sunrise, friendships blossom, like wildflowers in mountain stone,
Each shared smile, a thread weaving us into a vibrant community.

We embrace the work ahead, seeing not burdens, but opportunities,
Inspired by the resilience of the mountain oak, we serve, mend, build,
With every action, we carry out Your work.

We sense Your spirit surrounding us, a guiding light amidst these
peaks,
In the beauty of these mountains, the bonds formed, the nurturing rain,
And in the work that awaits, we find our purpose, drawing strength
from the oak.

For all of these blessings, we offer our gratitude,
May our efforts mirror the oak's resilience and reach towards the sky.

Amen.

Glory Ridge. It is an amazing place, a glorious mission field where our teenagers freely participate in all manner of manual labor, hammering, drilling, sawing, lifting, all to make a difference in the lives of the disadvantaged people they serve in Madison County. Disconnected for a week from the electronic environment they normally inhabit, they communicate not with words typed on a screen, but with verbal conversation and they are not shy to voice their appreciation to us for that newfound freedom to engage face to face. The scenery on the ridge is unmatched and each evening as we gather to worship the sun drops behind the clouds setting the sky on fire in stunning shades of red and gold while a thousand fireflies present their nightly light show. God is so very present among us - youth and adults alike - and He makes Himself known in countless ways. Glory Ridge. A magnificent place, a glorious experience.
- Marietta Gwathmey



**YOUTH
OPPORTUNITIES**

TEDDYS FOR UKRAINE UPDATE

We continue to share our thanks to those who participated in our Stuffed Animal Drive for the children of Ukraine! Cookie has been in touch with our contact at a refugee housing center, and there may be future opportunities to send more stuffed animals to the children.



ECUADOR MEETING #3

Thursday, July 6 | 5:30 p.m. | Youth Room

All who are planning to join us for the 2023 Ecuador Mission Experience are invited to join us in the Youth Room on July 6th from 5:30- 7:00 p.m. for a meeting about what to bring, when to be where, and why we make work worship! Have questions about the upcoming trip to Quito, Ecuador? Please reach out to Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org.



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Rector **The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.**

Associate Rector **The Reverend Cheryl Brainard**

Associate Rector **The Reverend Joseph "Gray" Hodsdon**

Organist & Choirmaster **John Sullivan** | Executive Assistant to Clergy **Leah Magruder**

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**

Director of Facilities **Wes Clewis** | Sexton **Norman Sutherland**

VESTRY

Senior Warden **Leslie Jarrett**

Junior Warden **Alex Murchison**

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

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

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

Class 2025: **Dean Gornto** | **David Joyner** | **Erin Trask** | **Brandon Candler Tully**

Contact Us

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