

ST. JAMES NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRAPEVINE

GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR



HOLY BAPTISM

IN THIS ISSUE

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

VESTRY CORNER

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

RETURNING TO MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

AND MORE!

HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

SUMMER SERVICE TIMES

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

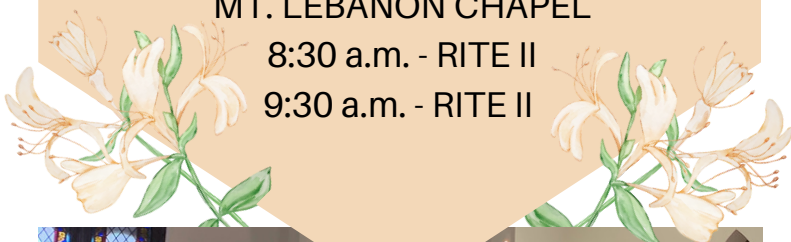
8:00 a.m. - RITE I

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

MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

8:30 a.m. - RITE II

9:30 a.m. - RITE II



BLESSING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



NEWCOMER LUNCH AND CAMPUS TOUR



EPISCOPOSSE WOMEN'S GROUP

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

HOLY EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAYS | 12:10 p.m.

Celebrating Holy Communion

SAVE THE DATE: PARISH PICNIC

June 4 | 4:00-6:00 PM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

Save the date! We're hosting a Parish Picnic at Mt. Lebanon Chapel on June 4! The grill is ready, a bouncy house is in the works, and the bluegrass band is picking songs. Make plans to join us for a time of fellowship, music, food, and fun. Help us know how many burgers and dogs to pack by RSVPing online or by calling the parish office!

We'll bring dessert! You're invited to bring a side dish. To help make sure we have a good variety, please refer to the last initial & dish list below.

- A-H: Bring a fruit or veggie-based dish.
- I-P: Bring a starch-based dish.
- Q-Z: Bring a Kid-friendly favorite.

Don't forget to pack your picnic blankets, a spare chair, sunscreen, and bug spray!





From the Rector

Dear Parish Family,

On June 1st, we mark together the second anniversary of my first day as Rector of St. James. In many ways these two years have passed by so quickly. At the same time, I am deeply proud and grateful for all that God has called us to accomplish together, and I remain thrilled and excited for my role in our shared ministry. We have so many, many blessings to celebrate.

Anniversaries offer a good opportunity for reflection and inspiration. With that in mind, I want to share with you an important decision I spoke of in the pulpit this past Sunday. If you were not present, I encourage you to watch my sermon. A replay of which is available at stjamesp.org/schedule.

From my very first interactions with the Rector Search Committee in 2020, and in all of the various surveys I read, and in the countless large and small and wonderful conversations I have had with you - members of this parish family - over these past two years, it is abundantly clear to me that St. James rightly places the highest premium on gathering together in worship. The number one priority in the St. James Strategic Plan? Worship!

Martin Luther once wrote this: "At home, in my own house, there's no warmth or vigor in me. But in the church, when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through." These words are inspiring.

With the intent to glorify God first and foremost, and also to honor the incredible value of our worship together, this fall we are going to modify our Sunday worship schedule. I ask that you prayerfully open your hearts and minds to this new timeframe for regularly worshipping together.

Beginning with our Welcome Sunday on September 10th, I am calling for us to bring our 9:00 a.m. and our 11:15 a.m. worshipping communities together. To have our traditional Rite I service at 8:00 a.m., Christian formation from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m., and then one main worship service at 10:15 a.m.

I'm announcing this decision in May, with many weeks to go before the schedule will change. I ask you to support it - and that you share this transition with Jesus as your focus.

The value of **worshipping together** is powerful. Let's see together what this will be like. I want us to try this new schedule firmly until our Annual Parish Meeting on January 8, 2024. Along the way, there will be many opportunities for reflection, thoughts and feedback - all of which I will welcome.

I trust in my heart that this will be an exciting and worthy and valuable endeavor. That it will offer a time to inspire, support, inform, and nurture us as we prepare each week to serve as witnesses in the world. And I firmly believe that God will show us the way.

I remain honored to serve as your Rector, and I look forward to many conversations with you in the seasons to come.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phillip+". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Vestry Corner

"If there's something I have learned through growing up in the love of Christ, it's that you never know the impact you may have on other people." -Web (Youth Sunday)

"Jesus loved others so well, which shows us how important it is to love in our day-to-day lives too. Jesus loved the sinners, the unclean and everyone in between, setting the example for us to follow his lead." -Peyton (Youth Sunday)

"As I look out in this congregation, I see so many people who have impacted my life in a way they may never know. And some people who I exchange kind glances with on Sundays. One thing St. James has always done is make me feel at home." -Will (Youth Sunday)

What a gift our Youth gave us this past Mother's Day for **Youth Sunday**. This extra special service was filled with youth leading worship, sharing reflections during the sermon, leading prayers, reading, and participating in special musical offerings. We celebrated the graduating Seniors and are so grateful for the impact they have had during their time as youth at St. James. Please join us in praying for these upcoming graduates as they head to college, careers and more.

Just as our youth reminded us of our mission statement, "To welcome all to grow in love of God and neighbor", we heard about the great work of the **Evangelism Commission** in furthering this mission during Randy Inge's visit to our May Vestry meeting. At the end of April, they held a highly successful Newcomer meal and tour which included sharing our campus with over 20 newcomers. Some highlights of the afternoon included placemats colored by the children of St. James, a delicious meal surrounded by lovely table arrangements and the opportunity for connection and conversation. A huge thanks to the Evangelism Commission and all Parishioners for helping visitors feel welcomed and get connected. This gift of welcome is especially important as we joyfully enter our summer season with services both downtown and at Mt. Lebanon Chapel!

A couple important campus updates, the Buildings and Grounds committee and Wes are actively working on moving forward with building repairs involving the Great Hall Kitchen. This work includes repairing the interior walls and ceilings, exterior walls and windows. This is scheduled to be completed over the summer. Additionally, the steps that enter the side of the Parish House off Market Street are closed. For safety reasons, these steps may ONLY be used to exit the building in the event of an emergency. The repair for the steps is a large undertaking, including consulting with Engineers and Architects to determine the next '**BEST STEPS**'. ☺






We are looking forward to seeing you at the Parish wide picnic at Mt. Lebanon Chapel on June 4th from 4-6pm! If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please don't hesitate to reach out!

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



Trinity Sunday

June 4, 2023 | Celebrating Trinity Center

70 Schools participating in Sound to Sea	 TRINITY CENTER BY THE NUMBERS 2023	485 Overnight campers registered
390 Sound to Sea day campers registered	 58 Acres of property	
 210 Conference groups registered	 45 Employees	
1 Cat and favorite Bishop	\$45,000 Scholarship funds distributed	37 Years in operation

June 4th is the First Annual Trinity Center Sunday 2023 in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer Trinity Center is the Diocese of East Carolina's island refuge in Salter Path. Come and walk our beaches or stand and watch the sunset on our sound-side pier, and perhaps catch a glimpse of the snowy white egret or majestic blue heron. Trinity Center has three primary focal points: Trinity Conference and Retreat Center, Camp Trinity, and Sound to Sea Environmental Education Program. We love hosting churches and groups from the Diocese of East Carolina, and we hope you can come see us for time on the island. Whether you are coming to our camp, environmental program, retreat house or conference center, our caring and professional staff is waiting to help you plan and implement your experience. Please come and visit with us soon and often! You can also support our mission by donating to our Annual Fund via scanning the QR code above, which will take you to our PayPal. All donations go directly to supporting the mission and work of Trinity Center to provide a space of welcome for all to experience God's creation through work, study, and play on the beautiful North Carolina coast.

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. Check back to see what books we are reading!

June Book Review by Kay Dougherty

(A summary of five different reviews, available upon request)

Poverty, by America

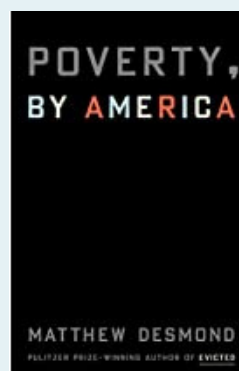
by Matthew Desmond

Over the past decade or two, it has become fashionable to attribute major social ills to underlying "systemic" and "structural" causes. The search for these systemic and structural factors has much to recommend in its attention to context and history, but it pushes to the side a crucial element: personal agency. If we can explain away so many problems as a result of larger forces - whether capitalism or racism or globalization or technology or countless others - where does that leave individual accountability? In the book, *Poverty, by America*, sociologist Matthew Desmond, stands in opposition to this prevailing trend as he argues that ending poverty will require change, not only at the policy level, but at the individual level too. All of us, he urges, "must become poverty abolitionists, refusing to live as unwitting enemies of the poor." He encourages all of us to conduct an "audit" of our lives, personalizing poverty by examining all the ways we are connected to the problem - and to the solution.

Throughout the book Desmond presents various factors that contribute to economic inequality in the U.S., including housing segregation, predatory lending, the decline of unions, and tax policies that favor the wealthy. But what he adds to the discussion of poverty is the assertion that affluent Americans benefit from corporate and government policies that keep people poor. If that's the case, he asks, "Why then would those Americans who profit from the status quo even want to approach poverty as a problem that needs solving." Desmond answers. "In a broader sense, we are all being immiserated by poverty. It's there in the morning paper, on our commute to work, in our public parks, dragging us down, making even those quite secure in their money feel diminished and depressed. It's there in that residue of shame and malaise coating our insular lives."

One review went so far as to say, "Desmond is well aware that his righteousness about our shared responsibility for poverty will cause discomfort, but his purpose is to draw our attention to what is plainly in front of us."

FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RACIAL UNITY



IN OUR PRAYERS:

Betsy Bede, Randy Coupland,
Alex Efird, Randall Geehring,
Daryn Liu, Bob McArtor,
Fred Osann, Sheila Osann,
Bob Uzzell, Bob Workmon

BREAD BREAKERS HOSPITALITY

AT HOME: JUNE EVENT

June 11 | 4:00-6:00 PM | Lees & Blairs Host

The St. James Bread Breakers' are hosting Hospitality at Home in June! The Lee & Blair Families have teamed up to host this great event. Please bring whatever appetizer, side or dessert you would like to go with the entrees. We will have juice boxes, water, and some beer and wine.

Who are the Bread Breakers? For those who are new to St. James, the Bread Breakers began as a group of families with young children. With this group, you'll find a little chaos and a lot of laughter. Come join the fun. **You don't need to have kids to be a part of the community! All are welcome.**



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 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 communications@stjamesp.org.

HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

QUIET REFLECTION IN JUNE

Saturday, June 3 | 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.

EPISCOPOSSE WOMEN'S GATHERING

Tuesday, June 20 | 7:00 PM | The Gray Home

Ladies (21+) are invited to join us as we gather in June! 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. We'll also be taking time to celebrate a couple of the growing families in our community! If you have questions about this group or would like to RSVP to Erin Becker for directions, please reach out to Erin at communications@stjamesp.org.

NEWCOMER CELEBRATION

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.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM): CONSIDER JOINING US THIS FALL

We're making plans to gather a new group for Education for Ministry this fall. If you are interested in deepening your faith through the study of the Bible, history, and theology, this is the class for you! Education for Ministry is a 4-year program that is provided through the School of Theology in Sewanee. Enjoy the benefits of a formal curriculum surrounded by friends. This class invites lively discussions, contemplative prayer, and offers the chance to connect with other Christians in a loving and welcoming environment. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Karen Clark at clark11@gmail.com.

PARISH HOURS

Please note that the St. James Parish office will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observation of Memorial Day.

Summer Office Hours begin May 30th!

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. M-Th & 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. F

GET INVOLVED

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: REVIVAL TEAM

As we've shared in previous publications, our East Carolina Episcopal revival with Presiding Bishop Curry is scheduled for October 21, 2023! We are excited to be able to share in this special event with our Diocesan community. In the time leading up to the Revival, the diocese is putting out a call to serve! We are looking for volunteers to assist with:

- **Promotions Team** - Helping spread the word!
- **Prayer Team** - Gathering prayer resources.
- **Ministry Fair Team** - Organizing the "festival environment" for ministries to share resources as part of the Revival.
- **Local Arrangements Team** - Assisting with hospitality logistics.
- **Liturgy Team** - Oversees all creative, technical, and practical aspects of the worship experience and other main stage presentations.
- **Follow-up Team** - Planning to continue the momentum after the Revival!

If you are interested in participating as part of the Revival Team, please reach out to Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org.



EPISCOPAL FARM WORKER MINISTRY: ONGOING DRIVE

Deadline July 1, 2023

The Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry needs our help to put food on the plates of families in need! Looking for an easy way to meet a real need at EFWM? Help feed those who come to our food distributions, newly arrived farmworkers, and those who come by in need of food. Visit the EFWM's [Amazon wish list](#) and what you buy will ship directly to the EFWM's door! Visit our website for the link to the wish list and more information about the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry:
stjamesp.org/farmworkerministry/

CFRW: SECOND SATURDAYS

Saturday, June 10, 2023

St. James Outreach invites you to join us for the 2023 Second Saturday Cleanups with Cape Fear River Watch. Our next clean up will be on June 10, 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). Note, that the River Watch doesn't host a July clean up so if you're wanting to participate, the June clean up is the last formal opportunity to do so for a while.

MoM: GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER

Tues., June 6 & 20th 2023, 4:30 PM

Thursday, June 22nd 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)

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 |

THANKING OUR FAITH FORMATION AND SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS

We want to take a moment to recognize all of the wonderful lay leaders who help make Sunday morning Faith Formation possible by leading Sunday School! A very special thank you to:

3's/4's:

Mary Lyons Rouse
Anne Williams

K/1st:

Kelly Georgiou
Catie Blair
Kathryn Barmore
Michelle Gray

2nd/3rd:

Rachel Colonna
Taber Stockstill-Tornes
Anne Tyson Lee
Happy Clark

4th/5th:

Jean Keller
Helen Wells
Jennifer Craig
Elizabeth Murchison

Substitutes:

Erin Trask
Suiter Currin

Disciples' Class:

Bill Bivins
Frances Trask

Faith Discussions:

Catie Hodsdon
Leslie Jarrett

A BAPTISMAL STAND

As we enter a new season of summer worship, a very special gift to the Glory of God was created for Mt. Lebanon Chapel.

Our parish family has been blessed with the opportunity to welcome many new little ones through the Holy Sacrament of Baptism. Frank Gwathmey noted the need for a baptismal stand that would hold the bowl for baptisms at the Chapel. We thank him for his time and thoughtful craftsmanship. Frank has created a beautiful stand to match the altar rails.

Sunday, May 28, 2023 was Pentecost. On that day, the stand was used for the first time at the 9:30 a.m. service as we baptized 3 children and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.



SERVING IN THE SUMMER

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: LEMONADE AT MT. LEBANON

Sundays, May 28 - September 3rd

As we get ready to open Mt. Lebanon Chapel for the summer, 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. Thanks to Rev. Phillip & the MLC Board, we now have a permanent outdoor table available for our use, so no more table set up is needed. If you are interested in providing supplies or serving, please visit our website to sign up!

stjamesp.org/lemonade



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.

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, as a Teacher or Substitute Teacher, please reach out to Ansley Trask at christianinformation@stjamesp.org to let us know! We'd love to have you as part of the planning process.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. JAMES

yo! YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

STARBUCKS HS BIBLE STUDY

Wed. / 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." Stay tuned for the summer schedule. If you're interested in participating reach out to Cookie Cantwell at Cookie@stjamesp.org or Jane Rippy at janerippy@yahoo.com.

TEDDIES & STUFFED ANIMALS FOR CHILDREN IN UKRAINE

They're officially on their way! A great big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the stuffed animal drive this past spring. At Happening this spring, our youth took on a special service project, collecting plushies for children in need. With your help, we were able to send over 300 teddy bears and other plushie friends to children in Ukraine. As of May, the bears are in the air and on their way to the loving arms of their new families. Your donations mean that 300 young children will have a soft stuffed animal to hug. Another shipment will be sent in a few months so more children whose lives are touched by war will have a tangible expression of love. If you would like to learn more about this project, please reach out to Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org.



YOUTH AUCTION RESULTS!

In May, our St. James Youth hosted their annual Silent Auction. This year we saw some amazing generosity through donations and bids and **together we raised over \$19,000 for our Youth's Outreach Ministries.**

These funds will go to building supplies for repairing homes in Madison County as our youth serve at Glory Ridge (June 11-17).

These funds will go to our neighbors at the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry through gifts for children of migrant farmworkers at Christmas & Easter.

These funds will support the efforts of our young people as they minister to those in need in Quito, Ecuador (July 13-21).

These funds will go to small local outreach projects throughout the year.

These funds will make a DIFFERENCE!

Thank you for believing in our young people and their ministry. We could not serve the way we do without the support of our parish family!

GLORY RIDGE MISSION NEEDS

In the coming weeks, our young people will be traveling to Glory Ridge to help serve families in need in Madison County. To help them stock up for their trip, we're inviting the parish to donate the following items:

- Diapers
- Individually packaged chips
- Ziplock Bags (no snack size)
- One Ply Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Coffee (Reg & Decaf)
- Granola Bars
- Canned Goods
- Gatorade

Please bring donations to the Bacon House prior to June 8th. Questions? Contact Cookie at cookie@stjamesp.org.

CELEBRATING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth Sunday 2023 - May 14



A YOUTH SUNDAY SERMON

by Payton Sumrell

Good morning everyone. I would like to start off by introducing myself. My name is Peyton Sumrell and I am a senior at Laney High School and I will be attending Auburn University in the fall to study business. I know I probably do not look too familiar to most of you this morning because I typically attend church at Port City Community on Sundays. There I teach the kindergarten Sunday school class each week but have attended St. James youth group over the course of the last school year.

Youth Sundays are not a foreign concept to me because before St. James I was a part of another episcopal church youth group in Wilmington where I fell in love with things like the Trinity Center, Sunday night get-togethers, and of course the community of people my age and those who advise over them. Now being a senior myself it is surreal and an honor to be alongside Will and Web this morning.

If you have ever had the pleasure of being a part of a youth group I would like for you to think about how that group made you feel. From bible studies to retreats, and even fun activities there is always so much love for each other being shared. Excitement is in the air and friends new and old share lots of laughs, stories, and even meals. Sometimes those feelings can also show themselves through tiredness at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings, Sundays at Happening, and at 9:00 a.m. in the pew but you always know that you are welcome, loved, and taken care of just the same since you are surrounded by your church family.

When reflecting on what to say this morning, those same feelings I thought of when I looked back on youth events reminded me so much of Jesus and his disciples. Jesus loved others so well, which shows us how important it should be to love in our day-to-day lives too.

Jesus loved the sinners, the unclean, and everyone in between setting the example for us to follow his lead. A question to ponder among yourself is this... in what ways have I loved and ways I did not love today?

John 14:15-21 reads *"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."*

What a wonderful message Jesus was teaching to his disciples. If you have loved today you show that you are one who Jesus loves too. He lives in our hearts all the time even when we feel distant or frustrated with Him. With the love that Jesus has shown us so well we should use his love when speaking and acting with others. It's just that simple. We don't need to have this extravagant act or huge moment where we can show that we displayed the love we have for the Lord and those around us. We need little moments sprinkled throughout the day and for lots of people to make God's love truly have an impact.

During the course of this week and hopefully beyond, I hope you remember these few things. Jesus talked to His friends a lot about how we should identify ourselves. He said it wouldn't be what we said we believed or all the good we hoped to do someday. He said we would identify ourselves simply by how we loved people. It's tempting to think there is more to it, but there's not. Love isn't something we fall into; love is someone we become. No one expects us to love them flawlessly, but we can love them fearlessly, furiously, and unreasonably.

I just finished reading a book titled *Everybody Always* written by Bob Goff. I highly recommend everyone read it but one thing he said about love is what I want to leave you with.

"You'll be able to spot people who are becoming love because they want to build kingdoms, not castles. They fill their lives with people who don't look like them or act like them or even believe the same things as them. They treat them with love and respect and are more eager to learn from them than presume they have something to teach."

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, His 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.

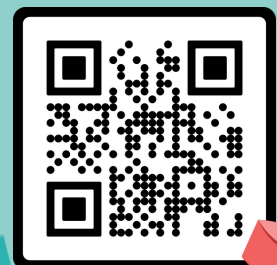


WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!

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
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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 Choir Master **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

25 S. Third Street | Wilmington, NC 28401 | Office: 910-763-1628

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