

## SUNDAY SERVICES SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID-19

# THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC

WEEK OF MARCH 22, 2020

THE REV. PIERCE W. KLEMMT



### LENT AND TRANSITION

Lent, and once again, you might be thinking but nothing much changes. Yet if you open yourself, Lent makes its bid on you to ponder a change of heart, if not a change in practice. You consider a change of heart in Lent, the way a nun considers intercessory prayer; by rolling the beads of a rosary between her fingers, half-in and half-out, of her inward searching soul.

Lent bodes transition. Beginning with the Ash Wednesday invitation for “the whole congregation to be put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the gospel of our Savior, and the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.” (BCP p. 265)

We are a church in transition. Your search committee fingers its way through resumes and sermons, a rosary practice, if you will, searching in the beads of insight for the competence and faithfulness candidates have so prayerfully crafted on resumes. But transition is not always a process direct from A to Z. Most of the time, the church’s leadership establishes strategic outcomes and then works backward, step-by-step, to create the necessary preconditions to accomplish. During a period of transition, leaders start where people are and work forward, step-by-step, through leaving the past behind, getting through the wilderness, and profiting from it, and then emerging with new observations, insights and missional spirit.

When Moses navigated the transition zone of the wilderness, many were tempted to turn back for Egypt because, at least, back there they knew what to expect. Flights of mutiny must have been tempting when the pilgrim community, headed for the Promised Land, had second thoughts causing them to “murmur.” One of the things they must have murmured was, “Do you think Moses has any plan, or do you think he’s making this up as he goes along?” Let me assure everyone, there is no need to turn back or worry about the promise of what is next. Your wardens, vestry and search committee will be guided by your voices in the parish profile and have composed the architecture for a transition and search that is sure to find the pastor God has in store for St. James.

### SCHEDULE CHANGES

Live List Found Online at: <https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/covid-19-updates-and-schedule-changes/>

As of March 16, 2020 the following events have been cancelled/postponed:

- *St. James is suspending ALL parish activities, including Sunday worship until further notice. you can find the letter from our vestry addressing the change on our website at:*

Please note, if you need staff or clergy assistance, please call to the Church Office in the Bacon House for assistance. We are here!



# ST. JAMES UPDATES

**SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR  
THE TIME BEING**

**ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE  
FOUND AT:**

[www.stjamesp.org/covid19](http://www.stjamesp.org/covid19)

## GIVING ONLINE

To help make it easier to donate and support St. James Parish, we'd like to include this QR code that will take you directly to our general donation page or if you prefer, you can visit: <https://onrealm.org/StJamesParish/Give/DDZEPCJGHB>.

Thank you for your support!



## NOTICE: ALL Worship Services Suspended

Fellow Parishioners,

In this ever-changing world, we are now dealing with a very serious virus (COVID-19) that is even more rapidly and somewhat unpredictably evolving. In the past 24-48 hours, the level of nationwide concern has escalated exponentially due to concern over spread. The overall mindset has changed to focus on minimizing the chance the virus has to expose multiple people at once – at large gatherings in particular. Given the seriousness of this concern and the role St. James must play as protector of people and leaders in showing how to display love to others, the Vestry & Clergy have made the very difficult decision to suspend ALL primary worship services (8am, 9am, 11:15am on Sundays), Coffee Hour, and Christian Formation classes effective immediately. For all other activities and meetings, please reach out to your group leader for direction on meeting.

As mentioned above, this decision was not made lightly, but there are two primary reasons this step is necessary. One is the aforementioned need for all large gatherings to take a temporary break in order that the virus has a chance to go inactive. The second and more critical reason is that our services are attended each Sunday by a large number of folks that are the highest risk for COVID-19. We simply must protect them and their health and this is the best way to do so. In discussing this decision, we kept coming back to how we would all feel if someone were to contract the virus and suffer, due to our decision to continue services?

We all deeply and critically value our worship together. We hope and pray that this will be a very short period of separation. We will communicate any updates we hear and would ask you to do likewise. This suspension will remain in effect until health officials and our elected State and Local leaders indicate a return to normal gatherings has been deemed safe. Remember, we remain the Body of Christ together through anything and please continue to talk with one another and pray always. As one Vestry Member, Jane Martin said, "...this does not mean that our ministry stops. There are many ways we can [continue] that beginning with phone call checks, leaving things at doors, etc." We encourage each of you to be creative in ways St. James can be just as active and striving to do God's work during this period. Video worship pieces have already been recorded and will be offered for you to use as you may choose. Share your ideas and love one another! Jane also said, "...can we even imagine the feelings and joy we will have when we are worshipping together again!" Truly, she is correct and we look forward in trust that His will be done.

The Peace of Christ to each of you and God's protection on your health,

Steve Thomas

Senior Warden, St. James Parish

## ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

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

## ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

## ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for school year 2020-2021 is OPEN. Anyone interested in visiting and touring the Day School should contact Amy Taylor at [director.dayschool@stjamesp.org](mailto:director.dayschool@stjamesp.org). All registration is done through the St. James website, [www.stjamesp.org/registration](http://www.stjamesp.org/registration). Don't wait to register, classes are filling up quickly!

## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT: APOSTLE TALK**

*by Web Cowden*

Webster's Dictionary defines "apostle" as one who is sent forth. In our case the 12 guys who followed Jesus around. You may think that these guys are the only apostles to roam the Earth. This is a common misconception because I believe that everyone in this room is an apostle. Just by agreeing to come to Happening, you are saying that there is a little part of you that wants to learn a little more about Jesus and that you just might want to follow his word, hopefully. We are all "sent forth" by God to preach his word, just like we have done this weekend.

This whole weekend, we have all participated in the common theme of community and family. We have had meals together, listened to talks, shared our feelings with small groups and really got to know each other. This feeling of community is what I believe being an apostle is all about. We all get to talk about and spread the word of God here at happening and beyond.

So what does it mean to be an apostle? The word "apostle" might scare you. It might seem like you have been obligated to take on this big heavy task of converting everybody you see on the street to Christianity. But in reality, it's not like that at all. Being an apostle can be something as small as helping a stranger or random acts of kindness or volunteering at your church. I feel that acting in a manner and way that Jesus did, is the best way for us as Christians to act as apostles. That is our goal right? To get to heaven? I feel we can do that by following the word of Jesus, and incorporating it into our everyday lives.

Growing up in a very devout Christian family, my mom is always cracking the whip for me to get to church every Sunday morning, even when I didn't feel like it. Totally disregarding my groans of exhaustion, she would sit in my room and make meaningless conversation until I had had enough and got into the shower and began to get ready. This is what being an "apostle" is all about. Doing the "god stuff" even when you don't want to. Getting to church and seeing all my church family would always put me in a better mood and I always felt better about it after the fact. I try to use this feeling for future reference the next time my dad has to come into my room 4+ times in order for me to get to church. You gotta think about how much better you'll feel when you get there.

Another example of this is my involvement with the youth group. Even when I have had a long Sunday afternoon I always find myself in the "youth room" at St. James with Cookie and Jane Rippey at about 5:30. I think about how hard Cookie works at it and I want to be a part of whatever she has planned for us. Again, the theme of community is what drives us as Christians. Getting into that youth room, with all my church family fills my heart with joy. It's a special feeling when you get to be a part of such a close-knit family. We are doing the same thing here at Happening. Many of us have come here not knowing each other, but as the weekend has gone on, we have made bonds with each other that will last longer than you can imagine. When I told my golf coach that I would be missing my match on Friday, I was pleasantly surprised at his response as he said that he was raised Episcopalian and had been to Happening. He talked about how special it was to him and I thought that was really cool. He is a real life example of the long lasting impact that Happening can have on all of us.

So when you leave the Trinity Center on Sunday afternoon, I want you to take what you have learned this weekend and try to make a difference in this world. Help your parents when they need it. Be there for your friends. Bottom line, try to act as the Apostles did with Jesus. Thank you.

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### **SUMMER CAMPS 2020**

We're excited to announce the themes and dates for this year's summer camps!

- Camp week 1: June 1-5: Transportation: Planes, Trains and Automobiles!
- Camp week 2: June 22-26: Let's go on a Safari!
- Camp week 3; July 20-24: Olympics
- Camp week 4: August 10-14: Knights and Princesses

Online registration are OPEN at [www.stjamesp.org/st-james-day-school-summer-camps/](http://www.stjamesp.org/st-james-day-school-summer-camps/).

### **SILENT AUCTION 2020 IS COMING!**

A "Silent Auction" will be held on Sunday, May 3 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm to support these Mission Opportunities. Would YOU consider donating something to this Auction. Entries can be "one-of-a-kind" items, such as jewelry, original works of art, vacation homes, hunting or fishing opportunities. Gift certificates from local restaurants, entertainment opportunities, legal, medical and automotive services, tickets to college or professional sports events, gourmet dinners and cocktail parties are always popular items. Please USE YOUR IMAGINATION and have fun with your ideas. Questions? Contact Cookie Cantwell [cookie@stjamesp.org](mailto:cookie@stjamesp.org).

# GET INVOLVED

## FILMING AND SHARING WORSHIP

Ministry is still happening, it just looks a little different. We're working to digitize lessons, Bible studies, and, of course, Sunday mornings! If you would like to participate as a reader or help support our team as they work to keep everyone connected in worship, please reach out to Chris Hamby at [chris@stjamesp.org](mailto:chris@stjamesp.org).

## COMFORTING CALLS

Our Clergy and Community of Hope Members aren't able to visit hospitals or many of the local assisted living facilities in person. They are making it a mission to call members of our church family to make sure they don't feel so alone. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please reach out to Cheryl Brainard at [cheryl@stjamesp.org](mailto:cheryl@stjamesp.org).

## KEEPING CONNECTED

In an effort to continually share our love and support for one another through this time apart, we're encouraging everyone to share pictures, stories, music, etc. that bring you joy. Let's share the everyday blessings. Send what encourages you to Erin Becker at [communications@stjamesp.org](mailto:communications@stjamesp.org) and she will share on our social media.

## SUPPORTING THE TIDES

St. James is embarking on a new outreach initiative and joining forces with The Tides to help pregnant women as they navigate recovery from Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). The Tides works with women recovering from OUD to support them on their journey to become healthy moms having healthy babies. One of the ways The Tides does this is through providing housing for 6-12 months to help new moms get on their feet. St. James has committed to sponsoring one of these apartment units. There are plenty of ways you can help! Please follow the St. James Website to see the full list of needs, to donate, or sign up to participate in this ministry.

After you complete the form, a member of our team will reach out to you to coordinate the donation or arrange a time for you to participate in this ministry. Please note that this campus cannot serve as a dropoff zone for large furniture. Rather, we are well suited for the collection of small wares, such as those relating to supplying the kitchen, restrooms, or decorative items and small TVs.

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## NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### MONDAY, MARCH 23 - FRIDAY, MARCH 27

#### MORNING PRAYER DURING LENT

8:00-8:30 AM | Facebook | Led by Jay Sidebotham

You can find the Morning Prayer linked on our facebook page each morning around 8:00 a.m. Simply go to [www.facebook.com/stjamesp](http://www.facebook.com/stjamesp) and it will pull up our Facebook page. If you do not have a facebook page of your own, you may not be able to view it this way. Please let Erin at [communications@stjamesp.org](mailto:communications@stjamesp.org) know and she will help you get access to the video.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 29

#### MORNING WORSHIP

8:00 AM | YouTube | With a Sermon from Bishop Skirving

Sunday Morning Worship may be found several ways. The easiest will be through our email that will come on Saturday night. Simply click the image link to view the service.

You may also view it on our YouTube Page which is found at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxy1hvtSnsU84I\\_5nnbGUwg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxy1hvtSnsU84I_5nnbGUwg) or on our Facebook page which is found at, [www.facebook.com/stjamesp](http://www.facebook.com/stjamesp).

**EDITORIAL DEADLINES:** The deadline for the March 31st e-blast and April 5th Grapevine is Friday, March 27th.

# ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

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# ST. JAMES PARISH

• ESTABLISHED 1729 •

## STAFF

**Interim Rector** The Rev. Pierce Klemmt  
**Associate Rector** The Rev. Jay Sidebotham | **Assistant Rector** The Rev. Chris Hamby  
**Assistant Rector** The Rev. Cheryl Brainard | **Organist/Choirmaster** John Sullivan  
**Facilities Administrator** Bill McKenzie | **Parish Coordinator** Suzanne Adams  
**Finance Administrator** Maria Hollopeter  
**Youth Minister** Cookie Cantwell | **Children's Ministries** Shannon Lockamy  
**Day School Director** Amy Taylor | **Communications Director** Erin Becker  
**Registrar** Susan Ingle | **Property & Maintenance Manager** Wes Clewis

## VESTRY

**Senior Warden** Steve Thomas | **Junior Warden** Florence Ellen Cowden  
**Treasurer** Mike Brown | **Clerk** Diane MacAskill  
**Class 2020** | Bill Bivins | Florence Ellen Cowden | Stuart Hardy | Ed Whitesides  
**Class 2021** | Watson Barnes | Pem Jenkins | Jane Martin | Jim Spruill  
**Class 2022** | Caroline Cone | Berta Hamilton | Brian McMerty | Steve Thomas

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