

SUNDAY SERVICES ONLINE ONLY DUE TO COVID-19

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC

WEEK OF MAY 3, 2020

THE REV. CHERYL BRAINARD



FAITH HEALTH: MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT

Since our recent quarantine, the jokes have been non-stop. Everything has been fair game, from home-schooling children to relationships, toilet paper and deciding whether to join AA or WW (*Weight Watchers*) first, once the stay-at-home orders lift. There have even been cartoons of baptizing babies with super-soakers and taking communion through straws. Nothing has been sacred where jokes and cartoons are concerned, and quite frankly, these daily “funnies” have kept me going at times.

Behind every joke is some grain of truth because we all can relate on some level or another. If you notice even the few examples I chose above all deal with either the body, the mind, or the spirit. This is primarily true because this is how God created us, and this is what makes us who we are—body, mind, and spirit.

While some folks believe the church is simply a place to feed the spirit, the words penned by the Apostle Paul remind us that Scripture offers a very holistic approach to healing and wholeness, and one I hope we will take seriously as we reinvent the way we live in community and offer ministry at St James. Paul writes,

“May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this” (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

During this special time, we need our professional medical teams, first responders, and caregivers as never

before, and I can’t tell you how grateful I am for each of them. However, perhaps there are some things we can do to keep ourselves safe and whole as a church—not simply waiting for a crisis to move into action.

Recently, I have been in conversation with churches and hospital administrators who are developing community health programs. Some of you may be familiar with Parish Nursing programs from the past. While this program has evolved over the years, some churches are finding new and creative ways to move forward. Perhaps we too can take a more holistic approach to our welfare by offering health and wellness opportunities at St James. While this is in the planning stages, please pray with me to discern God’s will for our parish as we move forward and be encouraged by the words from Romans.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:1-2).

In the next couple weeks, look for a survey to assess our needs and desires for such a ministry for our community. What would feed your body, your soul or spirit, your mind? What would help you maintain a lifestyle of wholeness? If you would like to be a part of the planning, please reach out to me at cheryl@stjamesp.org as we continue to dream.



ST. JAMES UPDATES

SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:

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/pledge>
Thank you for your support!



HELP HUB FUNDRAISER

With COVID-19, Help Hub is seeing a drastic increase in need. We're hosting the first-ever Great St. James Parking "Lot-ery" to raise funds for the Hub. All funds would be designated for the Help Hub. The prize is a reserved parking spot at the church for the fall.

From Help Hub:

The wind, rain and fury of a hurricane leaves physical and economic destruction in its wake, but we've been there before, we know what to do. The confusion, fear and uncertainty of surviving a viral pandemic is unknown territory. But we do know Wilmingtonians and St. James Parishioners are resilient, resourceful and take care of neighbors in need. Wilmington's tourist industry provides jobs for many, but unfortunately hotels, restaurants and retail stores have had to close and furlough nonessential employees. Even a week of lost income for hourly employees creates a snowball of unwieldy debt. When eviction and utility disconnection restrictions are lifted, but employment not resumed, assistance will be needed to catch up on overdue bills. The Help Hub is gearing up to concentrate recovery resources on these negatively impacted employees. In collaboration with Harrelson Center Partners, other non-profits and government agencies, basic housing, utility and transportation needs will be addressed to avoid bad situations being made worse.

Thank you to many at St. James who have already contributed to the COVID-19 relief fund and played the "Parking Lot-ery" game! If you are able, please donate to COVID-19 reparations on the Harrelson Center website - please click on The Help Hub (financial support for neighbors in need).

SHARE YOUR JOYS WITH US

If you have a praise or a happy picture to share, please send it to Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org! We'd like to share your joyful moments with the community!

ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

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

CELEBRATING YOUTH SUNDAY

Today, we celebrate our Youth. Make sure to visit our website, our Facebook page, or our YouTube to watch this very special service.

A LETTER FROM BISHOP SKIRVING

You can find the most recent letter from Bishop Skirving regarding the anticipated timeline for returning to public worship on our website: <https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/a-letter-from-bishop-skirving-april-24-2020/>

PEOPLE COMPUTERS JESUS BIBLE STUDY

Join us for People Computers Jesus Bible Study (PCJBS). We are "meeting" Wednesday Mornings online. If you're interested in participating, reach out to Cookie at Cookie@stjamesp.org to learn how! This Bible Study is led by our St. James Youth Group!

MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES

Monday-Friday During Quarantine | 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. | Zoom
Our Weekday Morning Prayer continues through quarantine! We'd love to have you join us on weekday mornings at 8:00 am for Morning Prayer on our Zoom! Zoom is a video conferencing tool that allows us to hear and see one another. You can now find copies of the readings and the link to the Zoom Meeting on our website.

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

You're invited to join us on Zoom for a Bible Study! The Episcopal Church is putting together the Good Book Club. As a denomination, we'll be reading through the book of Matthew. You can find a full schedule for the daily readings and the login information for the Zoom sessions on our website: <https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/tuesday-night-bible-study/>. Whether you're up to date on the readings or not, please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays for Bible Study, lead by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham on Zoom!

ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT: SURPRISE

by Steve Coggins

Roused from sleep by the Sunday morning sunrise, I knew I would not be rushing off to church, for all St. James services were cancelled. Making my way downstairs, I poured my morning coffee and booted up my laptop. An email notification of the online Morning Prayer service taking place in the sanctuary popped up. "Why not?", I sighed while tapping the icons to join the service online. Drawn mostly by curiosity, I was not expecting much. I resigned myself to the thought that online church would be better than no church.

I was surprised.

Surprised by the visual. The camera director over the course of the service focused on different areas within the sanctuary, often from a vantage point I had not before witnessed. I would thus see places that, at first, I did not recognize. The camera would zoom in on details I had not been able to see before, because I had not been able to get close enough. The details of the reredos, the hands of John Sullivan as they moved across the keyboard, the candle holders reflecting the morning light shining through the windows, the Easter sunrise as seen from the tower, all visually revealed the Holy Spirit in a new way.

Surprised by the auditory experience. The vibrating piano notes, the haunting chant, the call of the trumpet, the intonation of the readings, the uplifting singing -- all interrupting the otherwise quiet of the near-empty cavernous sanctuary -- fell on my ears in a way that felt like the Holy Spirit was calling to me.

Surprised by intimacy. A handful of souls I am privileged to know (and whom I miss) take time to bring this experience to me. For them, it must be an intimate shared experience. Yet, while I was not there, and while I was merely peering at my laptop, it nonetheless felt like I was among them.

To quote the C.S. Lewis title, I was surprised by joy.

PARISH STAFF CONTINUE TO WORK

At this time, our parish office remains open to a limited staff. Our staff is continuing to work to make sure our church family is supported during this time. The majority of our team will be working from home. We ask that no non-staff personnel visit the office at this time and if you have a need, please call instead. Our number is: 910-763-1628 or email us at communications@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. In our effort to touch base with members of our church family, we've noticed that some of our information is out of date. Please take a moment to log into your REALM account and make sure your information is accurate. Also, if you would like other members of our community to be able to see your contact information, please make sure to set your privacy to "Public." REALM's "public" refers to just our community at St. James and does not share your information with the internet as a whole. If you do not have a REALM account and would like one, please email Maria at finance@stjamesp.org.

GLORY RIDGE

June 14-20 | Glory Ridge Mission Trip

Taking each day as it comes and understanding that we don't know what the future holds, St. James Youth Ministries is stepping gently into the future and is encouraging people to register for our Glory Ridge 2020 Mission Experience. We hope to send our 6th-12th graders and interested adults to Glory Ridge again this summer. If you are interested in learning more, please visit our website or reach out to Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org.

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. All registration is done through the St. James website, www.stjamesp.org/registration.

SUMMER CAMPS 2020

While we are aware of the possibility that these dates could change, we are still planning for our fabulous SJDS summer camps. Here are 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/

MASK MINISTRY

One of our parishioners is building a mask-making ministry. She is using her sewing skills to make masks as fast as she can! These masks will be donated to the church and others in need. To help grow this ministry, we're inviting others who sew to join in! If you would like to donate to the hospital, please use the requested pattern on the St. James website. If you are less crafty but would like to support this ministry, we are accepting donations of raw materials. Mask crafters will need quality quilting 100% cottons, elastic (1/4 or 3/8 inch), vacuum cleaner bags, etc (for layering). To coordinate a donation, please reach out to cheryl@stjamesp.org.

BREAD BREAKERS

Sunday, May 3 | 8:00 p.m. | Zoom

Mebane Boyd will be with the Bread Breakers this Sunday evening at 8pm. This is your opportunity to connect with each other and to have someone who is an expert in self-care for you, partners, and children. Information to join the call is via our Meetup Group. Need the login link? Email Chris at chris@stjamesp.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Families should be receiving Christian Formation emails on Sunday mornings that include talking points, activities, or a mixture depending on the age of your child. We are continuing to pray for your children and your families. Not being able to meet in person makes all of us sad, but hope that you and your children know that we all miss them and can not wait to see them again soon. If you are not receiving communications and would like to receive them, please let Shannon know at christianformation@stjamesp.org and we will get you added to the list.

NHDC: ACCEPTING DONATIONS

Drop off Unopened, Unexpired donations to 3151 S 17th Street, Wilmington. St. James is proud to be a member of the New Hanover Disaster Coalition. Through the NHDC we work with other partners in the Wilmington Community to provide for others. Our collective efforts make big impacts for many people. Through this partnership we have a system to distribute much needed items to those in the most need. Please consider making a donation of items on our website. If you have any questions please contact The Rev. Chris at chris@stjamesp.org.

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY, MAY 4 - FRIDAY, MAY 8

MORNING PRAYER DURING QUARANTINE
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom | Led by Jay Sidebotham

You can find the Morning Prayer linked on our website around 8:00 a.m. Please let Erin at communications@stjamesp.org know and she will help you get access to the video.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
7:00 PM | Zoom | Led by Jay Sidebotham

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

PCJ BIBLE STUDY
8:45 AM | Zoom | Led by our Youth Group and with Youth Advisor support

SUNDAY, MAY 10

MORNING WORSHIP
8:00 AM | YouTube | Led by _____

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 may be found by searching "St. James Wilmington" on YouTube or on our Facebook page which is found at, www.facebook.com/stjamesp.

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the May 12th e-blast and May 17th Grapevine is Friday, May 8th.

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

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ST. JAMES PARISH

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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 Marybeth Tallman | **Property & Maintenance Manager** Wes Clewis
Sexton Joey Dobson

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

25 S. Third Street | Wilmington, NC 28401

Visit us online: stjamesp.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/stjamesp](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesp)

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