

SUNDAY SERVICES OUTSIDE ONLY - LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 8, 2020

THE REV. CHRIS HAMBY



THE MOST

Twenty years ago a small series started on The History Channel called “The Most.” Each episode would highlight a topic, such as “The Most isolated place on Earth” or “The Most devastating war in history” or “The Most influential sixth-century figure of western Europe.” You get the idea. If The History Channel ever brought back “The Most”, I am sure many topics would find themselves in the year 2020.

Thinking about everything that has happened though has made me ask “What are the most important things in my own life?” If we actually did a self-assessment where would our faith rank? The Most important things in our life should be given the most importance. The disciples dropped everything as they knew the most important thing in their life was Christ. Early Christians risked their lives under Roman persecution to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. The English Civil War of the 1640s was fought, in part, over religious freedoms. For those in years past their faith was incredibly important. The riches and trappings of Earthly life are fun and wonderful, but what does it all mean in the end?

This year has completely reinforced to me that our faith needs to be our priority. What happens when the material world around us is dismantled? All we have left is our interactions with others and our relationship with God.

A deep examination of our relationships and ourselves can be trying and at the same time affirming. Some of us might close ourselves off while others want nothing more than to be in community again. Both are understandable reactions. Perhaps our lessened relationship with the material world demonstrates God will always be with us. Grace and mercy still abound.

How do we make 2020 something different? Something away from frayed politics, daily non-normative interactions subdued with masks, constant challenges to our comfort zone, and legitimate worries about those who are struggling in multiple capacities? And instead, turn 2020 into the year when we had the most personal renewal, connection, and deepening of our relationship with Christ. Make 2020 the time we place our love of God front and center in everything we do more than ever before. Where we look at Third and Market and see the bricks laid by the thousands who came before and tell the world, “My love of Christ, my faith in God, my family, and my community of faith are The Most important in my life.” Ultimately, our relationship with our families, Christ, and community of faith, for me, is what matters the most. I sometimes forget those need to be front and center and everything else is not the most important, not even close.



ST. JAMES UPDATES

DOWNTOWN SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:
www.stjamesp.org/

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Stuart Egerton, Dana Peckworth, Terry Turner

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jean and Billy Smith on the birth of their first great-grandchild, Randall "Tripp" Bernard Stewart III.

DONATE A TURKEY DINNER

Once again this year, we are planning to provide turkey dinners to the families of 30 children from the Brigade Boys and Girls Club. Dinners cost about \$55 per family. Any and all monetary donations are appreciated. Checks can be dropped off at St. James' Church Office during regular business hours, donated online, or may be placed in the collection buckets at Mt. Lebanon Chapel. If you do send a check, please make sure "Turkey Dinner" is referenced on your check so that we may direct your donation appropriately. Questions? Contact George or Suzanne Taylor at 910-256-8682.

FLOWER GUILD RETURNS

The Flower Guild is excited to resume their ministry. Please contact Suzanne in the office at Coordinator@stjamesp.org if you would like to donate flowers in honor of a loved one with their names read and printed in bulletin. Also the Flower Guild will be needing more people to deliver the altar flowers after the service to our parishioners. Please let Jane Martin know if you are able to help deliver. (martinjane@ec.rr.com)

TUESDAY STILL MATTERS

Tuesdays | 8:35 a.m. | Zoom

Join us on Tuesdays directly following Morning Prayer for a time of Bible Study and discussion of the Rev. Jay Sidebotham's weekly blog, Monday Matters. Visit our website for more information.

<https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/tuesday-still-matters/>

SAVE THE DATE! SANTA'S COMING TO SJDS!

Saturday, December 12, 2020

Stay tuned for more info!

ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

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

SERVICE TIMES

Our in-person services take place outdoors at Mt. Lebanon Chapel. We are hosting two traditional services in the morning and a new service, Faith at 5, in the evening. During Faith at 5, we explore the different faces of worship together! We encourage everyone to come and share in the experience.

SUNDAY:

8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II

9:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Livestreamed)

5:00 p.m. - Faith at 5 - Holy Eucharist

GIVING ONLINE

To help make it easier to donate and support St. James Parish, you can visit: <https://onrealm.org/StJamesParish/-/give/pledge>

TONIGHT: OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK

Sunday, November 8, 2020 | 6:00 -7:30 p.m. | St. James Parish

All are invited to join our Youth as they participate in our "Out of the Darkness" Walk on Sunday, November 8, 2020 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Our St. James Youth Community (6th - 12th Grades), Youth Advisors and other registered Walkers will be LIGHTING UP NOVEMBER 8 by placing LUMINARIES around the city block & walking laps around the block that encompasses the St. James Property. The hope is that YOU will get adult sponsors to pay a certain amount per lap that you walk. You will be walking for approximately 80 minutes..... 7 - 10 minutes/lap around the entire block. Your "Sponsors" can pay you for each lap that you walk OR they can donate a certain amount for your entire walk. YOU & YOUR SPONSORS will be helping bring LIGHT into the DARKNESS of depression and suicide. Find out more information on the St. James website.

YOUTH GATHERING

Sundays | 6:00 p.m. | Meet at Mt. Lebanon Chapel

All 6th - 12th graders are encouraged to gather at Mt. Lebanon Chapel after the "Faith at Five" Worship Service. Please join us at 6:00 pm for a Youth Group Gathering to learn more about how we will be gathering as a "Youth Community" while we are in this phase of Covid - 19. Our goals are to stay safe and to allow God to create an environment where a community of faith, fun, outreach and service can be experienced and shared. Questions? Contact Cookie Cantwell, cookie@stjamesp.org, or call or text 910-264-5910.

ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT: GOD IN NATURE

by Sarah Thomas

Since Covid, I have had the opportunity to expand my photography area and go places in nature I wouldn't have gone to before. Even though I didn't know that much about my camera, I still went out and did the best I could with what I had. While I'm out in nature, the stillness makes everything go away and all that's left is you, the trees, and God. That's my favourite part of being alone in the woods on a cool autumn day, getting to feel God's presence all around me while I walk through the brush. I have the privilege of living near a marshland and the beauty out there cannot be understood unless you've seen it, which is why I take pictures. I want to share God's creations with the world. Even though this time has been tough for all of us, I feel that the times when we are alone are when we are closer to God, we are never truly alone. Whenever I feel down, I just look around at the trees, the water, and the beautiful sunsets all around me and remember that He is always there through his creations.



EDUCATION FOR (LAY) MINISTRY

The Tuesday morning Education for Ministry (EfM) group will begin a new year January, 2021. We meet by Zoom from 9 - 11:30am. We have several openings and friends from any church are welcome. EfM is a 4-year program that has been provided through the School of Theology in Sewanee, TN for over 40 years. It enables participants to explore and deepen their Christian belief through study of the Bible, Christian history, and theology. We examine our own beliefs and reflect on applying scripture to our everyday lives. We work to deepen our faith and to discover how to express it in service to others.

What EfM has meant to our participants:

"one of the most meaningful and exciting activities I have participated in"

" the thoughtfully planned 4 year program was a wonderfully fulfilling part of my life"

" a chance to connect with other Christians in a loving and welcoming environment"

To learn more about EfM and the Tuesday morning program, please contact: Rachel Pace (H) 350-0248 or (M) 612-9777 rppace@hotmail.com.

Visit www.sewanee.edu/EFM

NOVEMBER MEALS ON WHEELS

Dear St. James community, it is Meals on Wheels month. We will be delivering meals on Sunday, November 29th. We will need drivers, cooks, packers, and people to contribute fruit and cookies. This is an important outreach for our community especially this time of the year and during this virus. We are all needed. Please put this on your calendar and contact Missy Pretlow (missypretlow@gmail.com) to volunteer.

PEOPLE COMPUTERS JESUS BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday | 7:30 a.m. | Zoom

Join us for People Computers Jesus Bible Study (PCJSB). 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! Now starting at 7:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: THE PATH

Wednesdays | 11:00 a.m. | Zoom

Join us as we read through *The Path*. We'll walk in the footsteps of faithful men and women who have done their best to follow God's call. *The Path* is the story of the Bible, excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version so that it is clear and easy to read. Follow the path of God's love all the way from the beginning to the end, from Adam's creation to John's revelation.

THURSDAY FAITH DISCUSSIONS

Thursdays | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

Join a small group on Thursday evenings on Zoom! We start communally and break up into small groups. The current offerings available for small groups are:

- **The Way of Love-** This guide explores these words in the context of our life of faith and offers encouragement to begin or deepen spiritual practices to strengthen our journey with Jesus.

Want to start another Faith Discussion group or become a leader for one of our existing Thursday night groups? It could be an actual Bible Study or another type faith discussion like parenting, marriage, or wherever the Spirit moves you. Or if you just have questions, please reach out to Cheryl at Cheryl@stjamesp.org.

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the November 17th e-blast is Friday, November, 13.

ST. JAMES PARISH

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Wilmington, NC 28401

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NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH

MONDAY- FRIDAY, NOV. 9-13

MORNING PRAYER DURING QUARANTINE
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom | Led by Cheryl Brainard

TUESDAY, NOV. 10

TUESDAY STILL MATTERS
7:30 AM | Zoom

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11- VETERANS' DAY

PARISH OFFICE & DAY SCHOOL CLOSED

PCJ BIBLE STUDY
7:30 AM | Zoom | Led by our Youth Group and
with Youth Advisor support

THE PATH BIBLE STUDY
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Zoom & The Lippitt Room

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

THURSDAY, NOV. 12

THE WAY OF LOVE
7:00 PM | Zoom | Thursday Faith Discussions

RENEWAL WORKS FOR ME
7:00 PM | Zoom | Thursday Faith Discussions

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
9:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel & ONLINE | BYOS*

FAITH AT 5 - EXPERIENCE WORSHIP
5:00 PM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel | BYOS*

YOUTH GROUP
6:00 PM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel | BYOS*

***BYOS:** Bring Your Own Supplies- Please bring your own masks, chairs, picnic blankets, etc.

RESTRICTIONS AS OF 10-20-2020: Please know we are limiting indoor gatherings to 25 individuals at this time and unlimited attendance outside provided that social distance protocols are being followed.