

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
FAITH FORMATION
RISE AGAINST HUNGER
NEIGHBORS IN GIVING
NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH
AND MORE!

WELCOME SUNDAY 2022



From the Rector

*For where two or three are gathered
in my name, I am there among them.
Matthew 18:20*

Dear Parish Family,

This past Wednesday evening we embarked on a five-week program endeavor, with the hopes of welcoming and gathering parishioners of all ages. At the front of the evening was children’s choir practice (look for their Sunday anthem in early November). The latter part of the evening was both adult choir practice and my offering of a group book study. The wonderful heart of this evening was a shared meal in the Great Hall. The food was delicious, the room was full and the conversation was terrific. On Sunday, we saw the amazing return of the tradition of breakfast in the Great Hall. Again, there was a tremendous and enthusiastic turnout. Both events were a beautiful reminder of how much we gain as a community when we are simply together to share a meal.

Back to the Wednesday book study - Brian Stevenson is a public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated, and the condemned. His book *Just Mercy* is a compelling account of his perspectives. Early in his book, Stevenson fondly recalls his relationship with his grandmother, who always pulled him in for long hugs and reminded him to “stay close.” That experience informed the compassion he brought to his personal and professional life, and led him in his narrative to emphasize the critical value of “proximity.” He argues that there is no way for any of us to fully understand the value and dignity of other human beings without a willingness to come close and be in their presence.

Among the many learnings from our COVID experience, we now see more fully and can be grateful for the gift of “proximity” in our parish life together. I don’t for a minute take that for granted when we gather for worship on a Sunday morning, and importantly have Eucharist together. After all, in doing so we are recalling and modeling a particular moment in time, when Jesus gathered his closest of friends, and shared a meal with them.

Blessings for the year to come.

Phillip+

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



Vestry Corner

"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." -Matthew 6:9-13

Greetings to all as we see the hot days of summer turn gradually to the crisp, cooler days of September. With the weather change also comes a bittersweet change in our church as we say farewell to summer Sunday mornings at Mount Lebanon Chapel and join together again at the downtown campus for worship and formation. We hope each of you enjoyed the celebration of this reunification at the September 11th Welcome Sunday and took advantage of the start of Christian formation season on September 18th. There are formation offerings for every age and interest, so we look forward to seeing you on Sundays at 3rd & Market!

For the September Vestry Meeting, the vestry and clergy gathered at the Harrelson Center. We got a brief history of the center and tour from Harrelson Center's Community Outreach Coordinator, Christy Aley. It was impressive for us to learn of all the organizations that operated out of the center designed to empower 19 non-profits and facilitate cooperation between them. Most of you are aware of Help Hub which St. James helped found and which we support each year both in volunteers and financial needs, but having a chance to learn about all the others inspired us and gave us food for thought on how to help more.

In this issue's Vestry "Spotlight", we would like to share appreciation for the St. James Finance Committee. This group of 10 meets at least monthly and spends hours in discernment of how God is best leading us to utilize the resources so faithfully given by our parishioners. We review financial statements, consider potential decisions that involve money, and do the heavy-lifting each year around crafting a draft budget for Vestry consideration. We specifically want to lift up our amazing Financial Administrator, Maria Hollopeter, and our Parish Treasurer, Mike Brown. These two individuals spend multiple hours each week making sure that every dime trusted to St. James is utilized to His glory as it should be. Thank you, Mike & Maria!!

Finally, a note of recognition and thanks goes out to our dear parishioner, Peg Rorison. While we were enduring the impact of COVID and were unable to gather together downtown for worship (among many other hardships), the real & critical need for Livestream filming and broadcast of our services came to the foreground. Peg stepped forward and made a very generous gift to the church which enabled the installation of our state-of-the-art technology that has made it possible for many to worship with others on Sunday mornings. The camera installed is very high-resolution and the sound feed is directly from our professional microphones, so it is very easy to hear everything clearly. If you have not had a chance to experience one of our live feed services, we encourage you to do so if you ever find yourself unable to physically join us for worship for any reason. From all of us at St. James, thank you, Peg!!

-Steve Thomas (Senior Warden) & Leslie Jarrett (Junior Warden)

HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

8:00 a - RITE I

9:00 a - RITE II

10:10 a - Faith Formation

11:15 a - RITE II

LIVESTREAM

9:00 &

11:15 a

- 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 | 7:00 a.m.
2018 South 16th Street

HOLY EUCHARIST
WEDNESDAYS | 12:10 p.m.
Celebrating Holy Communion

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
FELLOWSHIP DINNER**
WEDNESDAYS | 6:00 PM

JUST MERCY
WEDNESDAYS | 7:00 p.m.
LIPPITT ROOM

YOUTH GROUP
WEDNESDAYS | 7:00 p.m.
PERRY HALL

CHOIR REHEARSAL
WEDNESDAYS | 7:00 p.m.
CHOIR ROOM



WELCOME SUNDAY 2022

Thoughts from the Clergy

by The Rev. Cheryl Brainard

Do you ever wonder where your prayers go? Does God have a huge computer keeping them all in order with columns for “yes, no, maybe later”? Although it can be amusing to daydream about such or to think of our prayers as portrayed by Hollywood in old movies, such as Evan or Bruce Almighty. Fun as these are to watch, we know that Jesus prayed to God Almighty and left us with good examples regarding how and where to pray.

The “formula” we use most often is our Lord’s Prayer, which is worth a deeper dive and one I hope to offer a study on soon. In Jesus’ prayers, he most often begins with recognition of who God is and a thank you. Regarding where Jesus prayed, he frequently escaped to solitary places such as mountain tops, and of course, we find him praying in the garden before his death. But other times, he simply looked up and spoke, such as before he raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:41-42).

We do not have a record of where Jesus wrote anything, but I still would like to know what he wrote in the sand with his finger upon forgiving the woman caught in adultery (John 8:6). Was that a prayer?

Literally, for the past 25 years, with the earliest from 1997, I have been writing my prayers in journals. Every time we move, the boxes multiply. Unfortunately, most would find them boring. Many pages are filled with complaints about situations, begging for quick answers, and asking forgiveness for the same things over and over. But occasionally, I come across a nugget of where I had agonized over a situation only to see later how God had faithfully been present with me in my distress and had answered, even if not in a perfect “yes, no, or maybe later” fashion.

If you have never tried writing your prayers, I encourage you to do so and let your pen flow. It really is amazing to have a record of transformation and of God’s working in your life even when perhaps you doubted that Presence most. But looking up and simply saying, “Help” works just as well. Give it a try today.

CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER TEAM

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven (James 5:13-15).

Did you know there is a confidential prayer team at St James? These are committed women and men who devote a portion of their day to pray for the many needs of St. James. Whether you are headed to the hospital for surgery, suffering from a long-term illness or having struggles at home, we invite you to not go it alone. Let your St. James family assist you.

To get on the prayer list, please go to our website at stjames.org and simply type “prayer” in the search window. You will be asked a few questions regarding whether this is a public or private request. For some, you may want all the prayers you can get so may choose to list your name on all lists or only your first name. For others, or if your request is of a more sensitive nature, there is a box to check “for clergy and confidential prayer team only.” You choose whichever is best for you.

If you have any questions, or are unsure, or just need to talk, the doors of Phillip, Cheryl and Gray are always open to private consultation. Also, whether you ever make a formal request or not, we are praying for you as members of St James Episcopal Church. Please let us walk with you on this phase of your journey.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can anonymously submit prayer requests through the St. James website! Visit: stjamesp.org/prayer-requests



Faith Formation Opportunities:

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:10 AM

DISCIPLES' CLASS - Meets in the Great Hall

- **October 2, 2022: Who is My Neighbor Part III - The Rev. Fred Clarkson**
 - The Rev. Fred Clarkson, priest-in-charge of La Sagrada Familia Episcopal Church and Spanish-Language Ministry Coordinator for the Diocese of East Carolina, presents on the Reign of God and how it shapes Mission.
- **October 16, 2022: Who is My Neighbor Part IV - Kenneth S. Chestnut, Sr.**
 - Kenneth was born and raised in Wilmington. He graduated from Williston High School and was one of the first Black engineering students at Duke University. After a highly successful engineering career, Kenneth retired in Wilmington and once again became an active member of St. Mark's, serving in a number of roles including as Senior Warden. He is also active in the life of the Diocese. Kenneth will share his story including St. Mark's, the creation of Ocean City, NC - where Blacks could have home ownership, and the summer camp and chapel at Ocean City for Blacks prior to Trinity Center, the first integrated camp and conference center.
- **October 23, 2022: FAITH AND HAPPINESS: Is There a Connection? Part I - Bishop Henry Parsley, retired Bishop of Alabama and member of St. James.**
 - Does God mean for us to be happy? How does faith contribute to happiness? For two Sundays we will look at these questions, drawing on scripture and the writings of Southern author Wendell Berry. The latter focus will be on Berry's Sabbath Poems and his short novel Hannah Coulter. Read the novel if you can, but not essential.
- **October 30, 2022: FAITH AND HAPPINESS : Is There a Connection? Part II Bishop Henry Parsley, retired Bishop of Alabama and member of St. James.**

FAITH DISCUSSIONS - Meets in the Stephen Ministry Room

- October 2, 2022: Neighbor Series: Introduction -Topic: What is a neighbor?
- October 16, 2022: Gathering with Disciple's Class to participate in, "Who is My Neighbor Part IV"
- October 23, 2022: Neighbor Series: Introduction - Topic: Who are our neighbors?
- October 30, 2022: Neighbors Across Difference -Topic: Neighbors Across Class

BIBLE STUDY: SIGNS IN JOHN - Meets in the Lippitt Room

In his account of Jesus' life, John included 7 miracles, or signs, as evidence that Jesus was and is the Christ, the Son of God. We will examine these signs in the context of Jesus' ministry and will consider their relevance in and for our own lives. Each session will stand alone, focusing on a specific passage from John's Gospel. The format for the class will be lecture/discussion, so bring your Bible and come as often as you like.

- **October 2, 2022: The Seven Signs in John - Part III -Led by Susan Ingle**
 - The reading for the third session is John 6:1-15.
- **October 16, 2022: The Seven Signs in John - Part IV - Led by Susan Ingle**
 - The reading for the fourth session is John 6:16-24.
- **October 23, 2022: Gathering with the Disciple's Class for "FAITH AND HAPPINESS : Is There a Connection? Part I"**

Speaker- Bishop Henry Parsley

- **October 30, 2022: Gathering with the Disciple's Class for "FAITH AND HAPPINESS : Is There a Connection? Part II"**
- Speaker- Bishop Henry Parsley

October 9, 2022:
Combined Faith
Formation - This is Us:
St. James Youth
Meets in the Great Hall

JUBI-LATTE ROUNDTABLE - Meets in Cookie's Office

On Sunday Mornings, our 6th-12th graders are invited to join us in Cookie's Office for the Jubi-Latte Roundtable, with coffee and conversation.

FAITH ADVENTURERS - 2nd Floor Milton Hall

(4th and 5th graders): Grab a cozy seat and get ready to get lost in Narnia. This fall, we will set out to uncover the themes in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

FAITH BUILDERS - 2nd Floor Milton Hall

(2nd and 3rd graders): Building Faith Brick by Brick. We will explore the Bible in an imaginative way using our minds, hands and LEGOS!

FAITH FOUNDATIONS- 2nd Floor Milton Hall

(K5 & 1st Graders): Building a foundation in faith invites learning about God using the Bible as our road map. Explore, create and marvel at God's big love for us!

FAITH THROUGH WONDER- 2nd Floor Milton Hall

(3s & 4s): Explore God's love for us. We will engage in stories, create crafts and enjoy time together exploring all the wonder in God's creations.

STEWARDSHIP 2023

The 2023 Stewardship Campaign is off to a great start! On day one of the pledge drive, we had 100% participation from the Vestry and the Stewardship Committee. We want to continue this momentum and encourage each and every St. James member to invest in our community. Your pledge will help continue the exciting growth in membership and ministries, sustain our mission, support our staff and further the traditions that we love. Let us each be "Neighbors in Giving."



ST. JAMES PARISH STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FOR 2023

MY/OUR PLEDGE: After prayerful reflection, and with thanksgiving for my/our many blessings, I/we pledge the following amount to the mission and ministry of St. James Parish:

Total Pledge for 2023:

\$ _____

To be paid (circle one):

Monthly Quarterly One-time

I/we realize that in the event of a financial problem in 2023, we can confidentially adjust our pledge by calling the financial administrator in the Parish office.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street / Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

MEET THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



ALLEN TRASK, III

Co-Chair



LIZZIE HARTMAN

Co-Chair



BRAM COLONNA

Member



KRISTINE MONALTO

Member



JENNA PORTER

MEMBER

VESTRY LIAISONS

Kay Dougherty
Al Marr

ADVISORS

Bill Clark
Ryal Tayloe, Sr.

On the Horizon

SUNDAY SCHOOL FUN

We are so thankful for the wonderful lessons shared with our children on Sunday mornings. If you have questions about our curriculum or would like to join our Sunday School Teacher's Team, please reach out to Ansley Trask at christianformation@stjamesp.org.



MEN ON A MISSION: BEACH BOIL

November 13, 2022 | 3:30 - 6:00 PM | Wrightsville Beach
All men of St. James and their male guests ages 21+ are invited to join the St. James Men on a Mission at the Wrightsville Beach home of Alex and Anne Murchison (301 S Lumina Ave, W) Sunday, November 6th from 3:30-6:00 p.m. This event will be catered by Cape Fear Boil Company and will feature another specialty brew made by the MoM Brew Crew! More information to follow. Come ready for fun, fellowship, and great food and drink! Registration is \$35 per person.



ST. JAMES ORIENTATION FOR NEWCOMERS - SJON

Tuesdays, 5:30 - 7:00 PM | October 25, November 1, & November 8
St. James Orientation for Newcomers, "SJON," beginning Tuesday, October 25, 2022. This three-part series provides a comprehensive look at our church.

- Session 1 - Learn your way around the St. James campus and listen to the history of the Church
- Session 2 - Get acquainted with programs and ministries you may want to join
- Session 3- Meet the Clergy and hear their stories

Contact communications@stjamesp.org to register.

ST. JAMES SPEAKER SERIES: THIS FALL

The St. James Speaker Series is thrilled to announce our fall line-up for guest speakers at St. James Parish.

November 3 | 7:00 PM | The Rev. Becca Stevens- St. James Episcopal Church in downtown Wilmington is thrilled to announce our speaker for our Fall Edition of the St. James Speaker Series. November 3, 2022, The Rev. Becca Stevens, founder of Thistle Farms, will be presenting "Leading with love: Creating a smooth path over rocky ground."

Becca Stevens is a speaker, social entrepreneur, author, priest, founder of tennon-profit justice enterprises, and President of Thistle Farms. She has been featured on PBS NewsHour, The Today Show, CNN, ABC World News, named a CNN Hero, and White House Champion of Change holds five honorary doctorates, and raised over \$65M in funding for justice initiatives. Drawn from 25 years of leadership in mission-driven work, Becca leads important conversations across the country with an inspiring message that love is the strongest force for change in the world.

December 6 | 7:00 PM | Author David Zahl

December 6, 2022, David Zahl, Author of *Low Anthropology* and *Seculosity: How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics, and Romance Became Our New Religion and What to Do About It*, will be presenting "How Realistic Expectations Lead to Grace for Others—and Ourselves."

In *Low Anthropology*, Zahl explores how our ideas about human nature influence our expectations in friendship, work, marriage, and politics. We all go through life with an "anthropology"—an idea about what humans are like, our potentials and our limitations. A high anthropology—thinking optimistically about human nature—can breed perfectionism, anxiety, burnout, loneliness, and resentment. Meanwhile, Zahl invites readers into a biblically rooted and life-giving low anthropology, which fosters hope, deep connection with others, lasting love, vulnerability, compassion, and happiness.

Food, Fellowship & Outreach

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 4 | 5:30-6:15 PM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

We hope you'll come join us on the Feast of St. Francis, October 4, for this year's Blessing of the Animals. We'll gather at Mt. Lebanon Chapel. This outdoor service focuses on God's gift of animals, the natural world, and our responsibilities as stewards of God's creation. Please be sure all pets are leashed or properly contained.



October 14 | 5:00 PM |
St. Mary's Burgaw

Can't make it on Tuesday, October 4th? The Rev. Cheryl Brainard will be at St. Mary's for their Blessing of the Animals. The St. James family is warmly invited to join! St. Mary's is located at 506 McNeil Street in Burgaw.

EPISCOPOSSE WOMEN'S GROUP

October 18 | Details to Come

Ladies (21+) are invited to join us as we discuss the Don't Mom Alone podcast, join together in prayer, and connect with other women! Contact Leslie Jarrett (Leslie.H.Jarrett@gmail.com) if you have any questions!

FAMILY BREAKFAST RETURNS

Beginning Sunday, October 2 | 8:30-9:30 AM | Great Hall

We are so excited to be bringing back a favorite St. James Parish tradition, Sunday morning Family Breakfast at church! As we prepare for this wonderful ministry, we are looking for some Team Leaders to help us take on this wonderful ministry.

Anyone can be a Team Leader!

Team Leaders are responsible for recruiting enough people to fill out their team. A team typically needs 4-6 adults to make it happen. Kids are welcome and are great at helping set the tables and collect dirty dishes as well as some sous-chef-style cooking!

What's for breakfast?

Typically, we serve simple breakfast staples like scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, biscuits, fruit, cinnamon rolls, etc. Teams arrive at 7:30 a.m and are asked to supply whatever food they want to serve. We average 50-75 meals per Sunday!

We hope to have enough teams so that each only rotates through 3-4 times per year.

If you are interested in being a Team Leader, or simply joining a team, please reach out to Web Cowden at web.cowden@mirimichigreen.com

WEDNESDAYS AT ST. JAMES

Fall Faith Formation is here! We invite you all to save your Wednesday nights for dinner and fellowship through October 26th. Here's a look at all the wonderful events happening on Wednesdays.

- **5:45 - 6:15 PM:** Children's Choir Practice - Children's Chapel
- **6:00 - 7:00 PM:** Parish Dinner - Great Hall
- **7:00 - 8:00 PM:** Just Mercy Book Study - Lippitt Room
- **7:00 - 8:00 PM:** Youth Group - Perry Hall
- **7:00 - 8:30 PM:** Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Please contact Mr. John at music@stjamesp.org if you have any questions!

Session One (Fall of 2022):

- October 5
- October 12
- October 19
- October 26

Presentation: November 6 / All Saints Sunday

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

From 6:00-7:00 PM, dinner will be hosted in the Great Hall. A donation of \$5 per person is requested to help support this wonderful family ministry.

JUST MERCY: BOOK STUDY

At 7:00 PM, join us in the Bishop Wright Room as we take on topics of justice and race with our study of Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*. Led by the Rev. Phillip Craig.

YOUTH GROUP

Our 6th-12th Graders are invited to join us following dinner for a time of fellowship in service. Youth will be joining Hughes, Cookie and Jane for "Clean Up Fun and Conversation" in the Kitchen

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Following dinner, the St. James Choir will meet to rehearse for Sunday morning worship. If you are interested in learning more about joining the St. James Choir, please reach out to music@stjamesp.org.

Coming Up at St. James

HOSPITALITY AT HOME

October 16 | 4:00 - 6:00 pm. | The Kirby Home

The Bread Breakers invite all members of the Bread Breakers to bring a dish and join us at 4:00 p.m. to enjoy time together in a family-friendly atmosphere for a potluck-style dinner. Kids, Friends, and Guests are welcomed!



IN OUR PRAYERS:

Bill Atkinson, David Blackwell,
Rick Coombs, Anne Dols,
Tim Dols, Wilson Hardy,
Janet Jones,
Carter McGraw,
Roger Powell

QUIET REFLECTION

November 5, 2022 | 7:30-8:30 a.m. |
Mt. Lebanon Chapel

We invite you to join us on the first Saturday of each month, the next one being November 5, for an hour of quiet reflection at Mt. Lebanon Chapel from 7:30-8:30 AM. Come enjoy the peace and stillness. Walk the Labyrinth. Rest in the presence of God. All are welcome.

LIVING WELL IN THE MIDST OF GRIEF & LOSS

1st & 3rd Mondays | 5:00 p.m. | Graham Parlor
or on 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 Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org

ALL SAINTS DAY EUCHARIST

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 | 12:10 PM | St. James Chapel

Join us in the church chapel for a special Eucharist on All Saints Day. Keep an eye on our calendar, we will be offering Eucharist on holy days through-out the church year in addition to our regular Wednesday Noon-day offering.

UPCOMING CONCERTS TALLIS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Sunday, October 30, 2022 | 4:00-5:30 PM | St. James Parish

All are invited to join us for a special presentation by the Tallis Chamber Orchestra. The Tallis Chamber Orchestra is a community orchestra in the coastal city of Wilmington, North Carolina. Founded in 2005, we've dedicated ourselves to providing free concerts, supporting local charities, and encouraging music education in the area. All of our musicians donate their time and talent.

WILMINGTON VOICES

Saturday, November 12, 2022 | 1:00-3:00 PM | St. James Parish

All are invited to join us for a special presentation by Wilmington Voices. Wilmington Voices is one of New Hanover County's premiere professional vocal ensembles. Performing classical, renaissance, sacred, secular, Broadway, and popular music, we bring musical excellence to our local community and beyond. Our approach is one of collaboration and oneness with minimal conducting and maximum communication through interpretation and body language. Several members of our parish family perform or have performed with this group, including John Sullivan and Sara Westermarck.

Meeting the St. James Choir

We see and hear the St. James Choir each week, and we might know the faces. With this Grapevine issue we continue to introduce the members of the choir, beginning with those who have served longest, and who share what it's like to lift our praises to the glory of God and in service to St. James Parish by means of a very special ministry.



KAREN BATSON- I remember singing in my church choir, when I was twelve (and beyond) with my brothers and really enjoying it. We were not formally trained-just looked forward to being with our friends...Methodists appreciate good hymns as much as Episcopalians do! Two people inspired me to sing with the St.James Choir. Charlise Harris was such a lovely lady who glowed with love and gentleness. Once she casually said I should participate. I felt inadequate. Then at a gathering at Bob and Ann Cook's home, we played a singing game and he suggested I join the choir. Who could say no to Bob or Ann? I joined the choir in the summer of 1999; only Carol, Billie, and Jim have sung longer. We have been fortunate to be led by the best over the years. Today we have some superb talent in our choir. I feel lucky to be part of the experience and true joy every Sunday morning.

COLEMAN BURGESS- Having grown up in Wilmington, I was fortunate to return in 1986 after 8 years at U NC-CH and open my private dental practice. After numerous unsuccessful attempts to find a new church home, St. James asked me to play clarinet for a service in 2006. It was a beautiful service and the choir immediately insisted that I return to not only play but also join the chorus! I have immensely enjoyed getting to know so many new friends and getting to know those from earlier years better. I find our communal worship spiritually sustaining and our liturgy comforting for its reverence and assuring nature. In recent years, the church's move towards increased diversity, dignity, and love for those that are different has impressed me as true Christian values expressed in everyday life. I am very optimistic with our new leadership, that St. James and my faith will continue to thrive and grow. Since April of this year, I have transitioned my practice to a new owner, but continue to love the practice of dentistry one day a week. In addition to the church, I regularly volunteer with the Wilmington Rotary Club, St. Mary's Dental Clinic and as a musician with the Wilmington Symphony, CODA Wind Quintet, and other churches, so there is little chance of boredom with my newfound leisure!



STEVE AND AMY LUCK- As professional musicians, finding a church with a quality music program was important to us. We both sang in the choir at our previous church in New York, and Steve has performed at many churches as a trumpet player. We knew what we were looking for musically and spiritually, and we found it at St. James on Christmas Eve in 2016. We only attended 2 more services before deciding to make St. James our church home. The choir is a friendly and caring community who made us feel welcome immediately. Coincidentally, Amy and John Sullivan attended the same college, but never met until our move to Wilmington. We feel blessed to be members of the St. James choir.

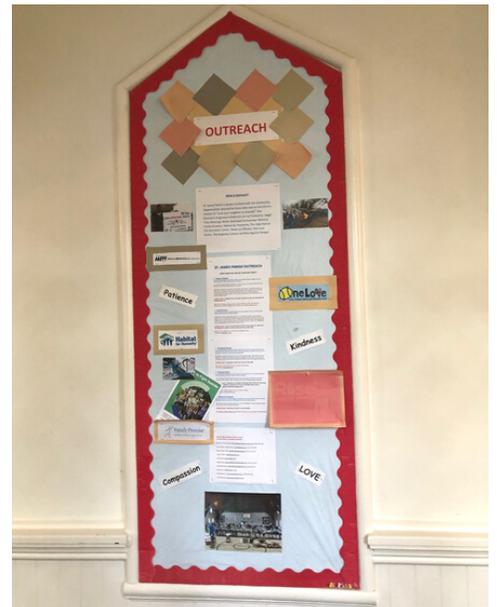
BARBARA SWANN- I started singing in the choir at Church of the Savior Lutheran Church, Paramus, NJ. My Mom was a semiprofessional soprano and always sang in the choir. While attending Paramus High School, I was in shows and had some solos. I performed in the Pirates of Penzance with the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Co., Ridgewood, NJ. I continued to sing in the choir as I was able with my work and school schedules. We moved to Wilmington in 1990. When I set foot in St. James, I knew it was the place for me to worship! For many years, my work schedule kept me from singing in the choir. When Jack & I married, he informed me that he would not go to church if he had to sit alone! Then in 2010, I finally said, Honey, you have lots of friends you can sit with. Can we please just try it? So, I joined the choir. I have so many wonderful moments experiencing God's presence through music and lyrics! We are so very blessed to have John Sullivan as our director! John's faith shines through with his selection, composition, and arrangement of music! Thank you, John!



Outreach & Community

OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT: THE OUTREACH BULLETIN BOARD

Did you know the Outreach team has a bulletin board in the Parish House? As you enter from the cloister, it's there to let you know about upcoming events at St. James, how previous events went; and now there is space to let the church know about our wonderful Wilmington community. If you have a community event or organization you think the church needs to rally behind, please email Taber Stockstill-Tornes at taber.stockstill@gmail.com to have your suggestion featured. Through this bulletin board, we hope to empower each of you to grow your own special ministry of service through sharing opportunities with our parish family. If someone is interested in helping with the event or organization, they would contact you directly for more information about the project you're passionate about supporting.



ST. JAMES MEAL PACKING EVENT 2022 TOGETHER, WE PACKED OVER 50,000 MEALS

Thank you to the 230+ volunteers who supported St. James Outreach's partnership with Rise Against Hunger just a few weeks ago! A large moving truck arrived in our parking lot just before 8:00am on 24 September, and Men on a Mission (plus several women and young folks!) worked to unload about a dozen pallets of dry goods and set-up Perry Hall as volunteers began to arrive. Around 9:00am Don Brainard welcomed everyone and recognized the other churches and community partners who had signed up to volunteer alongside us. Phillip opened with prayer and two Rise Against Hunger staffers told us about their organizational mission, then explained the assembly lines and different roles volunteers would undertake throughout the morning.

From 9:00am until noon, we worked in stations to build meal kits, each containing soy, dehydrated vegetables, rice, and vitamins. At the next station the kits were weighed for precision and sealed before going on to finally be packaged in boxes of 36. These boxes were loaded back onto the moving truck and will be shipped to destinations such as Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua. There, Rise Against Hunger and its partner organizations will distribute them to locals experiencing hunger and food insecurity.

In total, we made enough kits to package 50,000 meals—all over the course of one Saturday morning! We are so glad this partnership has become an annual fixture at St. James. Thank you to our Youth for originally bringing the partnership to our church, and for continuing to be a major player in volunteer recruitment over the years. It was wonderful to see folks ranging in age from Day School students to nonagenarians working side by side to serve others. We're also grateful for the participation of community partners, including St. Paul's Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian, Spiritual Soul Center, Warner Temple AME Church, Spiritual Educational Outreach Ministries, and New Hanover Regional Medical Center.

This Outreach event made the news! St. James was featured on WECT, WWAY, and WMBF news stations. If you saw any other reporting, please let us know by emailing David Joyner at davidbilljoyner@gmail.com.



CHRISMONS - A CREATIVE MINISTRY



Looking to be a part of a creative ministry? Consider crafting Chrismons! We have several dedicated artists who offer their time to make lovely handmade Chrismons for our parish family.

What is a Chrismon? A Chrismon is an ornament with intention, most typically used during the season of Advent. "Chrismon" is the culmination of two words, Chris(t) and mon(ogram), because Christmas is the birthday of the Christ Child. The Chrismon tree decorations were made to honor Him on His birthday. This custom began in 1957 in a Lutheran church in Virginia. All Chrismons are made of white and gold. The white refers to our Lord's purity; the gold, to His Majesty.

Chrismons may be made with any material, and by any technique such as cross stitch, needlepoint, or gold and white beads, with wire.

Chrismons are made with love and to the glory of God. As a reflection of God's grace, Chrismons are made as a gift and are not meant to be bought or sold. At St. James, Chrismons are given to families to celebrate special moments, like a new family member, baptism, or marriage.

We invite anyone who is interested in learning how to make Chrismons, to contact the church office. We'll be happy to help you get started

NEW SEXTON NEEDED!

St. James is looking for a new Sexton to join our team! If you know someone who would be a great fit, please let us know by reaching out to Florence Ellen Cowden at admin@stjamesp.org.

The Sexton is responsible for the overall cleaning of property owned by St. James Parish. The position is also responsible for opening and closing all buildings daily. The Sexton assists the Facilities Manager in setting up and breaking down all events that take place during and after normal business hours. Sunday work is required each week during normal church services at the downtown campus of St. James. This position works as part of a team.

ANGEL TREE - LEADERS WANTED

St. James is Outreach is looking for a couple of volunteers to spearhead this year's Angel Tree Project. If you're interested in helping organize and co-lead this year's Christmas Angel Tree outreach please contact Rachel Colonna at rcolonna85@gmail.com for more information. Angel Tree will be coming for the Parish in adopt Angels in mid-November.



PARISH SHOP MINISTRY

St. James is Outreach is looking for a couple of volunteers to spearhead this year's Angel Tree Project. If you're interested in helping organize and co-lead this year's Christmas Angel Tree outreach please contact Rachel Colonna at rcolonna85@gmail.com for more information. Angel Tree will be coming for the Parish in adopt Angels in mid-November.

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



Youth Opportunities



STARBUCKS BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays | 7:00 AM

The Starbucks Bible Study is back in action! All St. James High School Youth are invited to join us each Wednesday for our weekly "Check In & BIBLE STUDY". Grab your favorite Starbucks Beverage & a tasty muffin or pastry. Enjoy this mid-week opportunity to talk, share, learn, listen, laugh and explore faith with friends. Questions? Talk to Web, Hughes, Catchie, Mae, Annie, Sophie, Will, Maggie, Robert, Palmer, Cameron, Frank, Henry, Luke, LucyWest, Cecilia, Averette, Jane, Kim, Caroline, Ginny, Marietta, Jennifer, Phillip, Cookie. Hope YOU will JOIN US! If you're interested in participating and have questions, reach out to Cookie at Cookie@stjamesp.org

DISCUSSION & DESSERT

Tuesday, October 4 | 7:00 PM | Cookie's Home

ALL ADULTS who are interested in sharing the JOY of Youth Ministries are invited and encouraged to come to Cookie Cantwell's Home of "DISCUSSION & DESSERT". We will be putting our heads and our hearts together to "dream" about engaging our 6th - 12th Graders more deeply within our Church and within their Faith Development.... and FUN! Please let Cookie know if you will be coming. Cookie@stjamesp.org

THIS IS US - OCTOBER 9

Sunday, October 9 | 10:10 AM

Last spring, our church family began a special series called, "This is Us." This series invites a group of people to share how their faith informs how they approach their profession. On October 9th, we are offering the St. James Youth edition of "This is Us." We are so excited to hear from them and listen to how they live their faith each day.

HAPPENING #78

October 21-23, 2022 | Trinity Center

Happening is a Christian experience presented by teenagers, for teenagers with the help of clergy and lay adult leadership. It seeks to achieve this purpose by bringing young persons and adults to fuller personal knowledge of and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and to a deeper level of commitment and apostleship.

In the Diocese of East Carolina Happening is open to young people in grades 9-12. After participating as a Candidate in Happening, those young people may then apply to serve on team to lead subsequent Happening weekends.

Young people who serve on team are required to attend a team meeting and arrive the Thursday prior to Friday the event begins.

Happening is scheduled for October 21-23, 2022 at Trinity Center. Registration and Team applications are available now!

VIRGINIA CREEPER RESCHEDULE

With Hurricane Ian on the way, the Virginia Creeper Trail Youth Trip has been postponed.

Please keep an eye out for future communication about this event. We hope to have a date to share soon.

OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD



OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's (AFSP) Wilmington area "Out of the Darkness Community Walk" will take place on *Sunday, November 6*, at 2:45 PM at Wrightsville Beach Park. Our St. James Youth and supporting community will be setting up at Wrightsville Beach Park between 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. to serve lunch to all the people who come.

SJY WINTERPLACE SKI TRIP

Make plans to join us for the Annual St. James Youth Winterplace Ski Trip! Registration is now live. Join us at Winterplace from *February 9-12, 2023*.



THRIVE AT 75 PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISER & CELEBRATION

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in our Thrive at 75 Playground Fundraiser and Celebration. In September, we officially cut the ribbon and opened the new SJDS Playground.

Over \$77,000 has been received to support this project with several pledges still outstanding and the T-Shirt sales underway, we are excited to see the commitment and passion of this community for our students.

We also want to take a moment to thank Helen Wells and the Thrive at 75 Committee who put in many hours behind the scenes to help make this fundraiser a success.

We hope to see you out on the playground!



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Fun and exciting days are upcoming for our church and day school! Did you know that the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi is this Tuesday, October 4th? Because of that, every year around this time, many churches hold a "Blessing of the Animals," and we at St. James are no exception. In fact, we are having not one, but two animal blessings!

On Monday, October 3rd, we invite your children to bring any and all of their stuffed animals to Children's Chapel at 9:00 AM for a "Blessing of the Stuffedies," so that all of their special, stuffed animals can be blessed (along with the kids, too!).

Then, on Tuesday, from 5:30-6:15 PM, we invite you to bring your pets to Mt. Lebanon Chapel for our Blessing of the Animals. Pets of all kinds, shapes, and sizes are welcome, though we ask that they be appropriately leashed and/or contained for their safety (and for ours).

Gray+

BLESSING OF THE STUFFIES

Monday, October 3 | Day School Chapel

Join us for a special chapel on Monday, October 3rd. Your child is encouraged to bring his/her favorite stuff animal for a special blessing. Chapel begins at 9:00 am.

SJDS PARENTS COFFEE

Wednesday, October 12 | Bacon House Lawn

On Wednesday, October 12, after drop-off, please join our clergy, other parents, and me for coffee on the lawn in front of the Bacon House. Amidst the excitement of the new year, it is nice to have an opportunity to meet and visit with other SJDS parents.

SPECIAL EDITION SJDS SHIRTS!

To help us celebrate 75 years of St. James Day School, we'll be selling special edition SJDS t-shirts with art by The Rev. Jay Sidebotham to commemorate the occasion. Funds raised from the t-shirt sales will go to support the Thrive at 75 campaign. Orders are being accepted online or via form until October 3rd.



ST. JAMES PARISH



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EST. 1729

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 | Parish Administrator Florence Ellen Cowden

Parish Coordinator Bill McKenzie | Finance Administrator Maria Hollopeter

Director of Youth Ministries Cookie Cantwell

Day School Director & Children's Ministries Coordinator Ansley Trask

Communications Director Erin Becker | Registrar Marybeth Tallman

Facilities Manager Wes Clewis

VESTRY

Senior Warden Steve Thomas

Junior Warden Leslie Jarrett

Treasurer Mike Brown | Clerk Diane MacAskill

Class 2022: Caroline Cone | Berta Hamilton | Brian McMerty | Steve Thomas

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

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

Contact Us

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