

SUNDAY SERVICES OUTSIDE ONLY - LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
WEEK OF OCTOBER 25, 2020

THE REV. CHERYL BRAINARD



WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM LEARNING?

At St. James, we offer faith discussion Thursdays and right now we are reading together *The Way of Love* by Scott Gunn as a springboard for our conversation. The book follows the same pattern presented by Bishop Curry a few years ago, which you can see in the graphic below – a pattern that has charged the Episcopal Church to be a leader in Christian Formation. The Episcopal Church? A leader in Christian Formation? I remember in the 90s when I first began leading Bible Study, I had to turn to the Methodists, Presbyterians, and even the Baptists to find material to use simply because there was very little available that wasn't EfM level. This is not the case today as there has been a renewal of spiritual growth in our church.

In the *Way of Love*, there are seven elements to help us practice a Jesus-centered life. It begins with "Turn." After recognizing that something is not quite right, we make a conscious decision to turn toward God and away from our self-centered ways. Yet, as often occurs, after making a decision to go in a different direction, we get stuck because we never take the next step into the "spoke" of the wheel, which is to "Learn." This is where being part of a small group can help by supporting one another along the journey of faith.

This week, our topic was to "Learn," and one of the

questions raised was, "What keeps you from learning?" There was a variety of responses but with some dominant themes. I was struck by how often it came up that people feel bad because they don't know the Bible so they don't attend for fear someone will ask them something they should know. I get it – that scares me too.

I know for myself (back in the day), I was afraid to learn (attend a Bible Study) because I was afraid God would make me a missionary and send me to Africa. Or worse – that I may become like "one of those" fanatics or even worse, God may make me sell all that I have. Although I haven't been asked to sell all I have or become a missionary to Africa, I'll let you decide if I am "one of those." However, fear of the unknown is a huge reason why many keep the church, the Bible, and I dare say, God, at arms-length. Often, we want God near when we need a hand, but just not too close. Thankfully, someone personally invited me to a Bible Study, which began my road to freedom – and here we are. So I will do the same. I am personally inviting you to attend one of our small group studies or morning prayer. No knowledge needed and all excuses accepted, but we hope you will join in. I need to learn what you have to share.



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

ST. JAMES UPDATES

DOWNTOWN SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

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

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Bill Bivins, Stuart Egerton, Terry Turner

CONDOLENCES TO:

Jane Rippy on the death of her mother-in-law,
Miriam Rippy

GIVING ONLINE

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

SAVE THE DATE: MEN'S DAY IN THE COUNTRY

Saturday, November 7 | 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Pleasant Oaks Plantation

The men of St. James Parish are invited to Pleasant Oaks Plantation located at 3048 River Road SE, Winnabow, NC for a day of fellowship, fun, and dinner. Drop-in as you're able! We're excited to see you. Every gentleman is invited to bring one guest to join! There will be games, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, pig roast, bonfire, fellowship, and worship. This is an opportunity for all men (21 years and above) of St. James Parish to come together in a safe way outdoors at Pleasant Oaks (3048 River Rd SE, Winnabow, NC 28479).

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/>

PEOPLE COMPUTERS JESUS BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday | 7:30 a.m. | Zoom

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! Now starting at 8:45 a.m.

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

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.

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.

QUIET REFLECTION- NOVEMBER EDITION

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

Quiet Reflection at Lebanon Chapel will be offered on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 7:30 - 8:30 AM. We had glorious time on Oct. 3. The birds and piano music that accompanied the silence were beautiful. You are welcome to join us for as much, or as little, of this hour as you can. You may sit in a pew, or on a garden bench, or enjoy a meditative walk around the Chapel. Our time together will be in silence. Questions-please email Lindamurchison65@gmail.com.

ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT

by Rachel Pace

How can I find a moment of spiritual growth? Being part of the St James faith community has provided so many times when I was touched spiritually. Most of those moments were in small communities of faith.

St. James Parish is blessed to have many of these small communities within our larger congregation. And I have been fortunate to be part of several of them.

The one that has had the longest impact for me is EfM – Education for Ministry. Some half jokingly and half seriously call it Exploring Faith Matters. This community supports each other in our faith journeys as well as in our spiritual lives. We help each other become more aware of God’s miracles and His love in our lives.

Every person in the EfM community that I have been with has helped me grow spiritually. I hope that I have brought moments of spiritual growth for them as well. Even now in this time of pandemic and zoom meetings EfM members are still providing moments of spiritual grace for each other.

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.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: THE PATH

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2020 | 11:00 a.m. | Zoom or in the Great Hall (masks required for in-person gathering)

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.

A THOUGHT FROM SACRED GROUND

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” - James Baldwin, From Lesson Six of Sacred Ground

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the November 3rd e-blast is Friday, October 30th.

THURSDAY FAITH DISCUSSIONS

Thursday, October 29, 2020 | 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.
- **Renewal Works for Me-** RenewalWorks for Me is a personal guide for your spiritual journey. It begins with a brief “The Spiritual Life Inventory.” Each week, we’ll discuss where we are on our journey for spiritual growth.

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.

FLOWER GUILD RETURNS

The Flower Guild is excited to resume their ministry starting November 1st. 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).

FAITH AT FIVE SERMON OCTOBER 11, 2020

by Will Hinshaw

Looking back to Psalm 139, we are reminded of God's understanding and loving outlook towards humanity. God shows us that he knows us better than we know ourselves. The Psalm says "before a word is on my tongue, you know it completely." Often we forget how easy it can be to talk to God. It can be as easy as simply acknowledging that He knows what struggles we might be facing. Acknowledging that God sees our difficulties can help us feel less alone. We should never feel alone in our struggles as we know that the Creator is always knowing our thoughts and will guide us to a better place as we listen to Him. I know personally that I feel a sense of comfort knowing that there is always someone who understands my thoughts. It is also important to look to God in the ways he might be speaking to us. If you are looking for advice on the right thing to say to that person, God could give us answers in many ways. God could speak through another person or through experiences. Maybe the clearest way God speaks to us is through Scripture. Scripture is God's revelation of Himself to humanity. It is how we come to understand His character and our place in God's Kingdom. When God speaks to us through any of these things, it may not always be the answer for which we were hoping.

As some of you may know, my mom is an avid runner and loves to exercise. She ran the Boston Marathon in 2011 and 2012. She was planning to run it again with her best friend in 2013. Months and months of preparation had gone into this race. She would spend her early hours exercising and going on long runs with her group, all while getting back in time for Davis and me to have breakfast on the table. This race meant so much to her because of all the work and time that she had put into it. Unfortunately, several weeks before the race she suffered an injury that prevented her from competing. She was very upset, not only because she couldn't participate in this prestigious race but because she also lost money on things like her hotel room and airplane ticket. She was sad and disappointed. During the marathon, we were met with the devastating news that there had been a bomber in Boston. My mom learned a lot through this experience. She learned that sometimes even though she might not want what is happening, she will trust that God is all knowing and will look out for her best interests. It takes a lot of maturity and humility to get over the fact that we are not in control.

Before Covid-19 hit us, many of us probably felt like we had a sense of control over our lives. During this time, we have learned that God can take that feeling away so quickly. Despite that, we can gain some sense of security by remembering that God is always with us. We can choose to embrace *THY* will be done, not *MY* will be done! This week's Gospel reiterates God's never ending love for us and how God provides for our every need. Matthew 6:25 states that we should never be worried about our provision from our Lord. It is said that God supplies for the birds without their asking. God created us in His own image and we are worth so much more to Him. We shouldn't be worried for a single second about what may happen next. Instead of worrying, I think what God wants us to do is to TRUST HIM. To me, trust is an active process. It is remembering God's will is before my will. It isn't something that we can just think about, we have to take actions towards it. That action can be PRAYER. That action can also be listening to the ever present Holy Spirit helping us make the right decisions throughout the day. One even more simple thing we can do is stop and think about how much God loves us.

During quarantine one of the biggest things facing us is loneliness. That is understandable since we are created to need each other in relationships and community. Many people are feeling like the days are starting to become the same, with the same old routine. When we have our extra commitments taken out of our lives, we begin to see what is essential. We may even question... what is essential in my personal faith? There are different answers for all of us. Some of us may find through community and gathering, and others might find it through solidarity and peace and peace in the Lord's Presence. While pondering this topic, I thought about how everything extra in my life isn't as important as I thought it was. Sure, it is great to have activities, like soccer for me, to keep our mind on and goals to keep us focused but are those things essential for us to carry out God's plan in our lives? The answer is NO. The thing about these outside activities is that they can either be used as a vessel for God's Message or as a distraction from Him. The difference is how closely we are connected in our relationship with God. So what does God really require of us to be servants to him? What are the "essentials" to a relationship with Him? The answer to that can be found in Scripture. Micah 6:8 states that the Lord requires a few simple but not so simple things for us.

The passage says,

“He has shown you, O Mortal, what is good

And what does the Lord require of you?

To ACT JUSTLY and to LOVE MERCY

And to WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD.”

The reason I say simple but not so simple is because these things are harder to carry out than they seem. This Scripture is meaningful to me because it gives me a great outline to live by. In our culture there is a lot of importance put on achievements and successes. In these few lines in Micah we are shown that those things are not essential. I think God could allow this pandemic to help people see what is essential. I also think God is giving us a little shove to remind us that God is in control and that the control we thought we had is really in God’s Hands. Being out of control may seem worrisome at times but the Gospel has shown us that worrying does no use. God has promised to provide for all the things that we need. It is easy to find yourself in the midst of a dull and routine life right now. Our country is having struggles. You may feel lonely. But what has been said is these readings can help you. Use this time to foster a relationship between you and God. In this chaotic time in our country and maybe even in your life, think about Psalm 139. No matter where you may be, Psalm 139 says, “Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”

AMEN

AN UPDATE FROM ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL

SJDS began the school year on August 24, with 67 beautiful children and 14 amazing teachers. We now have 74 children enrolled! The sounds of children learning, exploring and discovering creates joy throughout the campus. We are following the recommendations of the Task Force on Safe Re-opening of the Day School, and as such, each grade level is operating as a contained “unit.” Many thanks to our parents for entrusting us with their children, and to the awesome St. James Parish Staff for supporting the school. If you happen to see one of these teachers, please give her an elbow bump!

Toddler Class:	Two Year Old Classes:	Three Year Old Classes:	Four Year Old Classes:	Yoga:
Joni Buckner	Jan Bridgers	Joyce Cason	Emmy Bullard	Marsha Bonner
Stephanie Burney	Stephanie Burney	Shannon Leas	Mitzi Daughtry	
Jordan Hooper	Courtney Easley	Shannon Lockamy		
	J.K. Thomas	Sue Williams		
	Patti Whitley			

ST. JAMES PARISH

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NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH

MONDAY- FRIDAY, OCT. 26-30

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

TUESDAY STILL MATTERS
7:30 AM | Zoom

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

PRAYERS OF LAMENT AND REPENTENCE
9:00 AM | Wilmington City Hall Steps

PCJ BIBLE STUDY

8:45 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, OCTOBER 29

THE WAY OF LOVE

7:00 PM | Zoom | Thursday Faith Discussions

RENEWAL WORKS FOR ME

7:00 PM | Zoom | Thursday Faith Discussions

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - ALL SAINTS' DAY

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.