

SUNDAY SERVICES OUTSIDE ONLY - LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

THE REV. PIERCE KLEMMT



A CHANGE OF SEASONS

Churches across the land in the month of September after Labor Day are beehives of activity, usually. Now we are pondering how best to move forward. Wondering if there will even be a beehive to zip in and out of to exercise our gifts in ministry and to make good on our mission statement “To welcome all to grow in love of God and neighbor.” Instead of gathering to witness in worship, fellowship, education and outreach, we have been separated and locked down.

Mt. Lebanon Chapel is an island of hope as we return to in-person worship. We will be masked and physically distanced. As such, we share one thing with the Queen of England: waving is our most intimate contact with each other. Needless to say, this puts strains on a faith tradition that is uniquely incarnational. But when the air clears and we have all been vaccinated, our return to St. James is going to look like the airstrips and docks waiting for the loved ones from overseas combat being reunited with their families. Something to look forward to.

In the meantime, we have a host of missional initiatives set forth by our recently completed Strategic Plan and Ministry Leadership Reorganization. Both have been distributed online. I urge you to view these reports, which may be found on www.stjamesp.org, and contact the chair or leader to offer your participation. Not only is this good

for your soul, it will be your contribution to the Rector Search process. Not everybody will be able to interview candidates, but remember, candidates have their eye on us as I speak. If they see the beehive of activity of parishioners signing up in droves to offer their gifts, you will broaden the pool of applicants and we will have our pick of the litter.

Your calling to minister at St. James will be best cultivated by identifying your greatest strengths and your greatest need. Jesus calls us to follow him, which is accomplished with the melding of our strengths and our needs. So take some time to claim your calling here at St James. Start writing with your life of service what, in time, could be recorded as the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to you and your faithful life. “To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.”

An advertisement for St. James Parish. The background is a photograph of the Mt. Lebanon Chapel, a white building with a steeple and arched windows, surrounded by trees. The text is overlaid on the image in white and yellow. At the top, it says "ST. JAMES PARISH". Below that, in large white letters, "SUNDAY SERVICE IS BACK AT MT. LEBANON CHAPEL". Underneath, "STARTING SEPTEMBER 13TH". Then, the service times: "8:30 a.m. - H.E. Rite II", "9:30 a.m. - H.E. Rite II", and "5:00 p.m. - Faith at 5". At the bottom, it says "You can livestream our 9:30 a.m. service on the St. James Facebook Page and website." There are small photos of people sitting on the steps of the chapel.

ST. JAMES UPDATES

DOWNTOWN SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

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

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Norman Chambliss, Bob Godley, Don Jaeckel, Jocelyn Lynch, Fred Osann

CONDOLENCES:

Anne and Tim Dols on the death of their son,
Christopher

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Lydia and Joey Hines on the birth of their granddaughter, Lillian Foy Dodd
Margy and Mark Wyatt on the birth of their granddaughter, Elizabeth (Libby) Wyatt Best

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>



MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES

Monday-Friday | 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. | Zoom

Our Weekday Morning Prayer continues! Join us on weekday mornings at 8:00 am for Morning Prayer on our Zoom. You can now find copies of the readings and the link to the Zoom Meeting on our website.

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! Now starting at 8:45a.m.

QUIET REFLECTION AT LEBANON CHAPEL

Please note that the invitation for Quiet Reflection at Lebanon Chapel, scheduled for the first Saturday of October will be cancelled until further notice.

A RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Today, September 13, 2020, marks our return to in-person worship and introduces livestreaming to our digital platforms. We are so excited to begin this process of opening our physical doors once more! We expect there will be a few bumps along the road but we know the St. James family will get through it together.

NEW SERVICE TIMES

Our in-person services will take place outdoors at Mt. Lebanon Chapel. We'll be hosting two traditional services in the morning and a new service, Faith at 5, in the evening. During Faith at 5, we'll 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

YOUTH GATHERING

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

All 6th - 12th graders are encouraged to gather at Lebanon after the "Faith at Five" Worship Service. If you cannot come to this worship experience, 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

WHAT IS FAITH AT 5?

Sundays | 5:00 p.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

Come join us at Lebanon Chapel, as the youth guide us through this wonderful Sunday evening worship service with Eucharist. All are welcome.....those who are young, and those who are young at heart. We will be enjoying music known to most people, sharing amazing liturgies and praying together as a community of faith. Our worship will begin 5 o'clock so plan to arrive a bit earlier. Please wear your masks. Bring chairs or a blanket for your family to sit on. You may want to bring snacks for your children! To gather safely and to see one another will add joy to this worship experience! Please join us!

RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE:

What we're doing. What we're learning. How God is leading us.

In the gospel for the first Sunday in August, we hear about how Jesus fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. It's a miracle story. It's a story of God's provision. It's a story of God's concern for our most basic physical needs. Some of us might wonder if God still works this way. Or if he's still active in our individual or corporate lives. Some of us feel that we can see God at work around us – especially when we stop to listen, see, and think. Jay Sidebotham likes to call these instances “*God sightings*.” He likes to ask folks both young and old to reflect on what *God sightings* they have had on any given day. Usually, there has been at least one. Your Rector Search Committee is excited to report that, as we look back over our work together, we can identify multiple *God sightings*.

A couple of us were interested in serving on this committee but had travel and other commitments that would have made it impossible to fulfill all our committee obligations. Then the coronavirus came ashore; schedules opened up. We had planned for the first organizational meeting for the week of the initial lockdown. We decided to proceed to meet via Zoom. It worked. We have met every Monday afternoon since – and we've had 100% attendance at all but one meeting when just one member had to miss. Neither that frequency nor that attendance level would have happened under normal circumstances.

We have begun every meeting with a time of scriptural reflection and prayer. Every member has led us at least once. And it never fails that there is something that touches, nourishes, and challenges us. We have so far been able to listen to different points of view without taking disagreement personally; and we have eventually come to be of one mind on every decision we have had to make. That would seem rare in today's world.

We have been led, through extensive networking, to over fifty priests who seem like men and women who are both gifted and committed to spreading the gospel. We have been able to connect by telephone with each one. Nearly forty are interested in entering into a mutual discernment process with us to determine whether they are being called by God to lead our parish. We have seen the Vestry and Strategic Planning Commission complete their work just in time for us to factor it into the search process. We have learned a great deal about our parish through the focus groups and the Holy Cow survey, the results of which were presented to us over a two-and-a-half-hour meeting with a senior research analyst during the third week of July. Some of what we learned was encouraging and reinforced our existing perceptions. Some of what we learned has been surprising. Some have been sobering. All have been helpful.

We have seen God at work in many ways. *God sightings have been real.*

The most recent has been how all the different pieces that have to be in place before we can receive applications from interested priests have begun to come together. We have wondered how we could adequately tell St. James' story to those who don't know us – in what is commonly referred to as our Parish profile. Just over the last week or so, we have realized that so many aspects of who we are have already been expressed – in our Parish website; in our newly adopted Strategic Plan; in the RenewalWorks reports from 2017 and 2013; in all the comments made via the Focus Groups; in what we learned from the survey; in what we as a committee have experienced as part of this wonderful congregation.

As we reviewed all of that, the Parish Profile, which is attached, nearly wrote itself. That was a God sighting for us, for sure. We hope you will feel that we have adequately told our mutual story. Along the way, we have continued our work in other areas, building out our search website, communicating where we are in our process with potential candidates, and finalizing a portfolio of 67 questions and answers that will represent the official posting of the position with the Office of Transitional Ministry, known as the OTM. We are working hard towards that electronic posting on the OTM site being completed by the end of September. At that point, we will be open to receive applications, all of which will come through OTM and then be vetted by the Bishop's office.

So, we are thankful for all the ways God has been at work around and through this search process. We are all grateful to be a part of this important work. And we will keep our eyes wide open for more God sightings as we move forward.

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.

THANKS FOR THE SNOOPY PROJECT

I have many treasured cartoons that feature Snoopy. My absolute favorite (which I have probably mentioned too often in sermons) features Snoopy writing a book on theology atop his doghouse. The title of his book: Has it ever occurred to you that you might be wrong? I love the cartoon, because each of us can cite daily evidence of ways that we've been wrong. And boy was I wrong. I thought I was intuitive, attentive, clued in. But I had no idea that the Snoopy Project was going on. And I was oh so totally and pleasantly surprised.

Thanks to you all for making me feel so deeply loved as I move on to serve with another St. James for a season. Thank you for the kind cards, emails and gifts. I even got a Snoopy face mask. Thanks for the generous financial offering, for a great send off from Vestry and from the Staff. I feel blessed. Wilmington is still home and I will be showing up in days ahead.

I'm excited to see what God has in store for this congregation. You're in such good hands with the clergy and staff, wardens and vestry and the search committee, all clearly led by the Holy Spirit. For me, for now, as I begin service in a new field, know of my deep gratitude for your extravagant kindnesses, a glimmer of the love that God has for all of us.

- Jay Sidebotham

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT

by Virginia Hardy

"We pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service," Book of Common Prayer, 1979, p. 101.

Among the unexpected but special gifts of social distancing has been the opportunity to participate in morning prayer Monday through Friday of each week. Being able to be with others remotely, reading the Canticles and the Psalms, prayers for healing and prayers of thanksgiving has been a blessing. Sharing these readings daily has made me even more aware of the richness of the Book of Common Prayer.

In the Prayer of General Thanksgiving we are called on first to pray. Then, we are called on to share our gifts, whatever they may be, in whatever way that we can. There are many ways in which members of St. James give of themselves to service in the community. Among them are the prayer groups, hospital visitors, musicians, Care Guild members, Eucharistic Visitors, study groups, Meals on Wheels, Good Shepherd volunteers, Community of Hope International, The Help Hub, leaders in youth ministries and many, many more. We also are blessed with staff members who tirelessly give up themselves to God's service.

In "The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century" Joan Chittister writes "a life fully lived is life lived on two planes: attention to God and attention to the good of the other." So may we live.

MEALS ON WHEELS THANKS

Thank you so much to all of our Meals on Wheels Volunteers. We could not do this without you. We would like to invite everyone to place our next date, November 29, 2020, on your calendar. We'll be reaching out again as we get closer to our date to request your help once more. As always, we'll be looking for drivers, cooks, and packers!

LINK /RE-LINK YOUR HARRIS TEETER VIC CARD:

Help SJDS by linking or re-linking your Harris Teeter VIC card to our school! Each year SJDS gets funding from HT for the number of cards linked, and a portion of proceeds from the sale of HT brand items. The code for SJDS if 5264-the folks at the customer service desk can help you with this! Many thanks!

MT. LEBANON CHAPEL GROUNDS MINISTRY

The Mt. Lebanon Chapel Volunteer Group is busy preparing the grounds for our return to in-person church services. For More information about joining this ministry, please reach out to Tom Hackler at 910-471-5075

ONLINE WORSHIP:

We're so grateful for our church family and are so pleased with your continued participation in our online services!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 275 people watched last Sunday!

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER: 32 people joined for at least one morning this week!

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

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NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 - FRIDAY, SEPT. 18

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

SACRED GROUND: A DISCUSSION OF FAITH
AND RACE
7:00 PM | Zoom

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

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

PCJ BIBLE STUDY

10:00 AM | Zoom | Led by our Youth Group and
with Youth Advisor support

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

RENEWALWORKS FOR ME DISCUSSION
7:00 PM | Zoom | Led by Cheryl Brainard

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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.