

WELCOME TO ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St. James Episcopal Church. St. James is an inclusive community that encourages the exploration of faith, no matter how old or young you may be. We are a community of committed Christians seeking to follow Jesus in a meaningful way. No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, there is a place for you here at St. James Parish.

We invite you to attend our worship services, join our faith formation classes, and participate in our fellowship opportunities, outreach projects, and Bible studies. We offer a variety of services; and in the summer, we even offer services at Mt. Lebanon Chapel located in Airlie Gardens. We welcome and respect everyone for for who they are and we feel blessed to be able to get to know you.

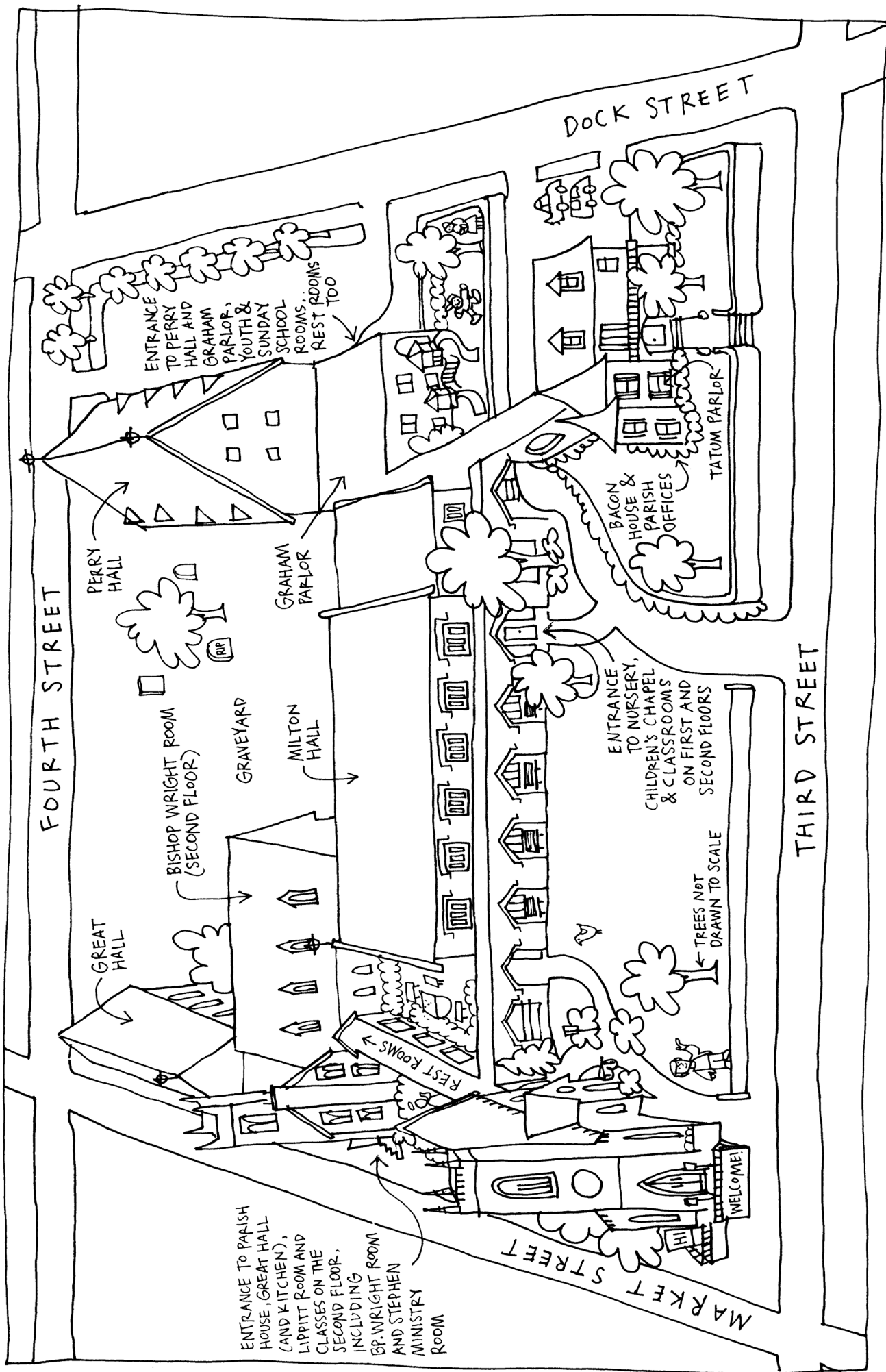
If you are looking for a church home that values you and whatever level of participation you may choose, we hope you will consider St. James. Our clergy, staff, vestry, and many ministry leaders in the congregation each serve the Wilmington community through their work at St. James and beyond. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, and wherever you may be on your journey of Faith, you are welcome at St. James.



ST. JAMES PARISH ORIENTATION

We host a three-week orientation program for newcomers, as well as members who just want to learn more about the history and community of St. James and all that the parish has to offer. Each session includes discussion in small group settings where attendees can get to know each other. Childcare is provided with advance registration. For more information visit <https://www.stjamesp.org/im-new/>

1. History and Architecture of St. James: A brief history of the church from 1729 until today and a walking tour of the sanctuary.
2. The Spirituality & Ministries of St. James: Learn what makes St. James a unique community of faith and learn how to deepen your faith through various ministries and programs.
3. Journeys of Faith: The clergy will share their journeys of faith, followed by a celebration with heavy hors d'oeuvres and wine.



ST. JAMES PARISH BUILDINGS AND PARKING AREAS

St. James Parish occupies a full city block in downtown Wilmington, surrounded by Market St., 3rd Street, Dock Street, and 4th Street.

Parking is available through the week and on Sundays on Market, 3rd, Dock and 4th Streets, adjacent to the church. Although the street parking is free, please note that on weekdays, parking on Market, 3rd and 4th Streets (other than the block of 4th Street behind the church property) is restricted to 2 hours, after which parking fines may be imposed by the City of Wilmington. For now, there are no time restrictions for Dock and 4th Streets adjacent to the church property.

On the St. James property itself, there are approximately 12 parking spaces in a small parking area at the corner of 4th and Dock Streets, adjacent to Perry Hall. On Sundays, you may also park

in the parking area surrounding First Citizens Bank, at the corner of 4th and Market Streets, across Market Street from the church. Please do not park in the staff parking lot located on parish property near the corner of 3rd and Dock Streets, to the side of the Bacon House in which the church offices are located, as we need to reserve these spaces for staff and clergy.

The Church Building of St. James, where Sunday worship services take place, is located at the corner of Market and 3rd Streets. You may enter through the front door, facing 3rd Street; or you may enter through the door of the transept which faces the open church grounds. At each door, service bulletins are available.

The Chapel at St. James is located inside the church building, to the left of the main altar. Weekday services of Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist are scheduled throughout the week.

The Great Hall is located in the **Parish House** building to the rear of the church; the entrance is located up the steps at the end of the covered walkway between the Parish House and the church. The Great Hall is located to the left and rear of this entrance door.

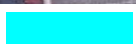


Adult Christian Formation rooms are located near the Great Hall on the 1st and 2nd floors of the Parish House building. These rooms include the **Lippitt Room** on the 1st floor, the **Bishop Wright Room** and two other meeting rooms on the 2nd floor at the top of the stairway in the Parish House.

Children's Christian Formation rooms are located on the 1st and 2nd floors in the **Bridgers Building**, the building adjacent to the longer, cloistered (covered) walkway facing the church grounds. You may enter this area through a doorway near the middle of the long cloister, or through the entrance to the Parish House (follow the corridor to the right after you enter the Parish House).

Youth Christian Formation and Activities Rooms are located within **Perry Hall**, the structure closest to 4th and Dock Streets (adjacent to the small parking area). You may enter these rooms from a porch near the parking area, or from the other buildings through hallways. Located in this building is **Lee Hall**, a large all-purpose hall which functions as a gym and which is often used for other large parish functions.

Church Offices are located in the **Bacon House** near the corner of Dock and 3rd Streets. You may enter these offices through the front door off the large porch which faces 3rd Street.



 Streetside Parking  Handicap Parking
 Lot Parking

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. JAMES PARISH

St. James Parish was established in 1729 when the North Carolina General Assembly passed an act establishing "New Hanover Precinct", which included a "separate and district parish by the name of St. James." As such, the parish was an official establishment of the Church of England within the New Hanover Precinct in those pre-revolutionary days. Church services were originally held in the courthouse located at the intersection of Front and Market Streets.

The Original Church Building



Erection of the first building was authorized in 1751 on land already set aside for the church. The modest church structure, eventually completed in 1770, was located along Market Street (actually partially extending into Market Street) between 3rd and 4th Streets (near the present Parish House). The building was used until March 1839 when it was demolished.

During the Revolutionary War in 1781, Wilmington was occupied by British soldiers under the command of General Charles Cornwallis. The St. James church building was turned into a stable, perhaps on the assumption that the property was owned by the Crown of England and therefore available as a resource for war needs.

The 1839 Church Building

Bricks from the first building (which had probably been manufactured at the site of the original construction) were used for the construction of the present church building which was completed and consecrated on March 29, 1840.



The new building was designed in "a simple, academic Gothic Revival style" by Thomas U. Walter, a Philadelphia architect who is best known for his design of the Capitol expansion in Washington DC in the 1850s which included the House and Senate wings as well as the Capitol dome. Because the church had no central heating, the pews were enclosed by doors and hinges which were later removed in 1884.

In February 1865, Union forces entered Wilmington near the end of the Civil War. The church building of St. James was seized and church services were halted; pews were removed from the church and it was used as a hospital. In the summer of 1865, the church was returned to the congregation and repairs were completed in time to allow the resumption of services on December 8, 1865. It was not until 1905 that the parish received compensation from the Federal government, in the amount of about \$3,000, for the damages that had been done to the church in 1865.

In 1871, the ceiling of the nave and the roof of the church required major repairs; the repairs included replacing the arched plaster ceiling with a gabled ceiling featuring oak hammer beams. In 1885, the chancel (altar) area of the church was expanded and the south transept was added; the architect was Henry Dudley of New York City. In 1889, the galleries along the sides of the nave were removed, but the rear gallery was maintained and now serves as the choir loft.

In 1891, the lower walls of the nave were wainscoted to match the transept; and in 1892, Silas McBee of Sewanee Tennessee completed carvings for the main altar and reredos of the church.

In 1966 the organ and organ pipes were moved from the chancel area to the balcony. This required alterations to the cancel and allowed the Murchison-Curtis Chapel to be built where the organ pipes had been housed. The Church Tower was determined to be unstable and in 2010 and it was completely restored. The entire interior of the Church was renovated and restored in 2012.

The Bridgers Memorial Building

In 1892, the Bridgers Memorial Building was completed, honoring Robert R. Bridgers, a prominent citizen of Wilmington who had been a member of the North Carolina General Assembly. The Bridgers Building is located behind and to the south side of the church building, containing classrooms. This building replaced a much older building, known as Society Hall of the Women's Working Association, built in 1834. In 1912, a cloister was added linking the Bridgers Building and the church.

The Parish House

In 1923-24, the Parish House was built behind the church, providing a spacious parish hall (the "Great Hall") and classrooms for St. James and featuring a beautiful tower similar in design to the church tower. The Parish House was designed by Hobart Upjohn, a noted New York church architect who designed a number of buildings in North Carolina, including First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington (1927-28). Hobart Upjohn was the grandson of Richard Upjohn, the architect of Trinity Church on Wall Street in New York City (1847) as well as Christ Church on Capitol Square in Raleigh (1848).



In May 1941, months before Pearl Harbor Day, preparations were made in Wilmington to welcome soldiers to local churches. St. James provided space in the Parish House basement so that soldiers could spend Saturday nights in town. The U.S. Army provided cots and blankets. On Sunday mornings, the service men "packed the pews"; and after the service, parishioners hosted them for Sunday dinner.

The Parish House welcomed the first Head Start program for children in the 1960's and housed the Elderhaus Day Program in the 1980's.

For a period of approximately 10 years, beginning in the 1980s, St. James provided a shelter for homeless people in the basement of the Parish House. The shelter and related ministries were maintained at the parish until they became part of the Good Shepherd Center in Wilmington. St. James has continued to support the ministry of the Good Shepherd Center since that transition, most recently providing major support for the construction of affordable permanent housing, for previously homeless persons, located at Greenfield Lake in Wilmington.

Milton Hall

In 1955-56, Milton Hall (containing classrooms and an assembly hall) was built, designed by Charles H. Boney of the Leslie N. Boney firm in Wilmington, and located adjacent to and connected to the south side of the Bridgers Memorial Building. Cloisters were also added linking Milton Hall with other structures on the church grounds. The cloister design was inspired by the famous cloisters at Salisbury Cathedral in England. Milton Hall was named for the Rev. Dr. William H. Milton, a much-respected rector of St. James from 1909 to 1936 who also was a prominent member of the National Council of the Episcopal Church.

The Bacon House

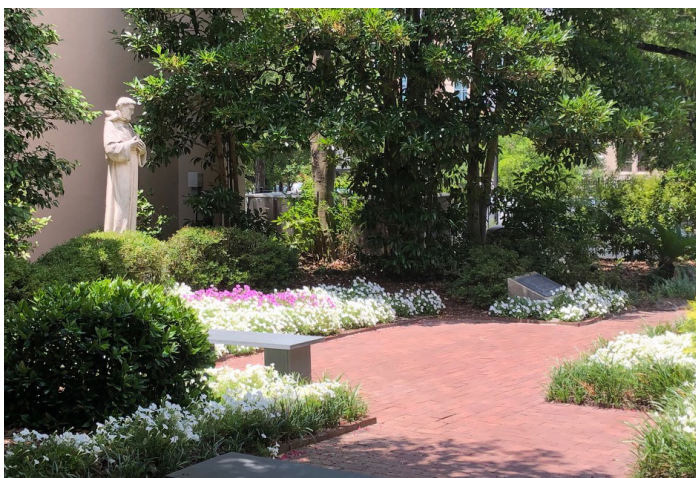
In 1955, the former Donald MacRae House at the corner of Dock and 3rd Streets was acquired by the parish. This house, originally built in 1901, was designed by the renowned architect Henry Bacon, best known for designing the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. This house was completely renovated in 2011, renamed and dedicated to the memory of Ann Moore Bacon, whose sons had made a generous gift for the renovation. The Bacon House now houses the parish offices.



Perry Hall

In the late 1990s, St. James Parish acquired the property located at the corner of Dock and 4th Streets which had been previously owned and utilized by the Wilmington Fire Department. With this acquisition, the parish then owned an entire city block bounded by 3rd, Market, 4th and Dock Streets. A new, multipurpose hall was built on the site and dedicated on Palm Sunday 2000. The structure was named in memory of Marie and Albert Perry, whose children had made a generous gift for the new building.

The Graveyard and Gardens



The parish grounds also include a graveyard, going back to the earliest days of the parish. In 1964, a cloister garden was donated by Rachel Cameron Camp as a children's garden, located adjacent to Milton Hall and the entrance to the Parish House. And in 1984, the St. Francis Memorial Garden was dedicated, located between the church and the Parish House, providing a sacred area where parishioners' ashes are buried. The garden was given by Mrs. William M. Shaw in memory of her husband. The two large trees in the "front yard" of St. James are cedrus deodara (Himalayan cedar) trees which were planted in 1850 by parishioner Elizabeth Cassidey.

Mt. Lebanon Chapel

Another important parish structure, Mt. Lebanon Chapel, is located several miles from the downtown church grounds, off Oleander Drive on Airlie Rd., adjacent to Airlie Gardens and close to Wrightsville Sound. Mt. Lebanon Chapel is a simple, rustic chapel, open to the wooded area surrounding it. It was originally built in 1835 to serve parishioners and others vacationing at the beach who could not otherwise complete the several-hour trip into town and back in order to attend church. The chapel was named by the original owner of the land on which it is situated.



Judge Joshua G. Wright, for whom Wrightsville Beach is named, chose the name "Mt. Lebanon" because of the many cedar trees which reminded the Wright family of the fabled cedars of Lebanon from Old Testament history.

The property on which Mt. Lebanon Chapel is situated was later donated to the parish in 1875. Over the many years since then, the chapel has been maintained by St. James Parish, with several major renovations; and today the chapel offers a welcome location for summer chapel services, weddings, and other special events.

Temple of Our Fathers



Throughout the years since its founding in 1729, St. James has been blessed with loyal parishioners and dedicated clergy who have led the parish through difficult as well as prosperous times, always remembering that the church must serve not only its members, but those within the community of Wilmington and beyond.

The history of St. James Parish is well documented in a fine book by noted local historian, Susan Taylor Block, who is a member of our parish. Copies of *Temple of Our Fathers* (published by ARTSPEAKS in 2004), may be purchased at our parish gift shop.

A dedicated archivist at St. James Parish, the late Leora Hiatt McEachern, has also written a *History of St. James Parish, 1729 – 1979*, completed in 1985 with the assistance of Bill Reaves, containing many interesting details of the history of the parish and its rectors.

Extensive historical information about St. James is also contained in *Wilmington, North Carolina: An Architectural and Historical Portrait*, Tony P. Wrenn and William Edmund Barrett (Univ. of Virginia Press, 1984; see pp. 78 - 82).

We would also like to acknowledge the work of the late Edward F. Turberg (1939 – 2018), a beloved parishioner and noted architectural historian, who reviewed and edited this brief history and who generously gave of his time to conduct tours of St. James for parishioners, visitors, and newcomers.

BECOMING A MEMBER OF ST. JAMES PARISH

Membership at St. James, as with any other Episcopal parish, is governed by Canonical requirements of the Episcopal Church. It begins with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, it continues with confirmation or reception by a bishop of the Episcopal Church, and it is maintained through a continuing commitment to the mission and ministries of the local parish.

Baptism:

Membership in the Episcopal Church begins with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. If you have not been baptized, please speak to the clergy at St. James to arrange for Baptism. If you were baptized in another Christian denomination, please speak to the Parish Registrar to arrange to record your Baptism in the parish register of St. James.

Communicants in Good Standing:

Members of St. James who have received Holy communion at least three times during the preceding year are considered to be "communicants". Communicants "in good standing" are faithful in corporate worship, and in working, praying, and giving of financial and other resources for the spread of Kingdom of God.

Transfer from Another Episcopal Parish:

Members of the Episcopal Church are customarily recorded in the parish register of the church at which they regularly worship. If you are transferring to St. James from another parish please speak to the Parish Coordinator to arrange for a certificate of membership from your prior parish to be sent to St. James. When the certificate or "letter", as it is often called, is received at St. James, your membership will be recorded in the parish register at St. James. If a certificate is not available from your prior parish, the clergy may approve appropriate registration in the parish register.

Confirmation:

Adults and youth who have been baptized at St. James or in another Christian Church, but have not been confirmed, are expected to be confirmed during the annual visit of the Bishop to St. James or at a confirmation service within the Diocese of East Carolina. Those who have been confirmed in a Roman Catholic, Lutheran, or Orthodox Church and who wish to make a commitment to the Episcopal Church may be "received" by the Bishop at a confirmation service. Confirmation classes for adults are offered periodically at St. James by the clergy. Confirmation classes for youth are offered each year as a Sunday School Class. Please speak to the Parish Coordinator about arranging for confirmation or reception by the Bishop.

Newcomers and New Members:

Newcomers and new members at St. James are invited and encouraged to attend the Welcome to St. James classes which include three weekly sessions on Tuesday evenings in the fall.

If you have questions about any aspect of becoming a member of St. James Parish, please speak to any member of the clergy or staff of St. James. We appreciate your prayerful consideration of becoming a member of St. James, and we look forward to welcoming you into the Community of this historic parish.



PRAYING SHAPES BELIEVING

Praying Shapes Believing is a nine-week course intended for those who are new to the Episcopal Church, Christianity, those seeking confirmation, or those who have been around St. James for generations. Praying Shapes Believing will begin nine weeks prior to Holy Week. Free childcare will be provided during this course upon request. If you have any questions please visit our website and check out the Membership page for the next class dates.

ST. JAMES PARISH MINISTRIES

Get to know the six different Ministry areas of St. James Parish! We have created six unique commissions lead by members of our community to help grow and share all that St. James has to offer. Contact communications@stjamesp.org to get in touch with your preferred ministry!

Don't see a ministry that speaks to you? Reach out to communications@stjamesp.org to learn how to start a new ministry or create a new way to support an existing ministry.

THE ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

www.stjamesp.org/administration

The ministry of St. James Parish would not be possible without the work of our staff and lay leaders! The Administration Commission helps support those behind the scenes tasks that make each service, outreach opportunity, event, and concert possible. You can support our Administrative Ministry by joining:

- Our Fabulous Office Volunteers
- The Communications & Photography Team
- The Proofreading Team

THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMISSION

www.stjamesp.org/congregational-care

The role of Congregational Care is crucial to St James and its vision to build community through ministries that strengthen our faith. St James offers a wide variety of pastoral ministries with both professional and lay leadership. We care about the whole person and walk together during times of joy, sorrow, and transition and bring the good news that nothing can separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus.. You can support our Congregational Care Ministry by joining:

- The Care Guild
- Community of Hope International
- Flower Guild
- The Hospital Visitors Team
- The Prayer Team
- The Card Ministry Team
- St. Martha's Guild
- Support Communities - A.A., Al-Anon, Divorce Support, Marriage Enrichment, etc.

THE FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION

www.stjamesp.org/christian-formation

Christian faith formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. It is an ongoing apprenticeship in Christian life, a lifelong venture that broadens and deepens our faith and knowledge. We call it formation, rather than education because our goal is not just to obtain information, but to be transformed into the image of Christ based on the truth we learn and experience. You can support our Faith Formation Ministry by joining:

- Seasonal Offerings Planning Team
- Our Nursery Team
- Children's Ministries Team
 - Sunday School Teachers
 - Bible Time Readers
 - VBS Team Member
 - Behind the Scenes Rockstar
- Youth Ministries Team
 - Youth Advisors
 - Happening Team
 - Tech Team and Backstage Gurus
 - Driving Team
 - The Glory Ridge Team
- The Adult Faith Formation Team
 - Bible Study Leaders
 - Education for Ministry
 - Evangelism Committee
 - Spiritual Growth Committee



THE OUTREACH COMMISSION

www.stjamesp.org/outreach

St. James Parish is deeply involved with the community. Opportunities abound for those who wish to live Christ's mission to "Love your neighbor as yourself." We want to take a moment to introduce you to our Outreach Commission Lay Leaders and some of our Outreach Partners. Together we can build a stronger community. You can support our Outreach Ministry by joining:

- The Meals on Wheels Ministry
- Episcopal Church Women
- Good Shepherd Ministry
- Rise Against Hunger Team
- The Angel Tree Project
- The Habitat for Humanity Team
- The Episcopal Farmworker Ministry
- The Help Hub Ministry
- Hurricane Relief Coordination Team
- The Parish Shop



THE PARISH LIFE COMMISSION

www.stjamesp.org/fellowship

St. James Episcopal Church is committed to building strong relationships and lasting friendships. One of the ways we do this is through our small groups and Parish Life offerings. We invite you to come and see! You can support our Parish Life Ministry by joining:

- St. Joseph's Guild
- The Bread Breakers
- The Events Committee
- Foyer Groups

THE WORSHIP COMMISSION

<https://www.stjamesp.org/worship>

An important part of our heritage as Episcopalians is that our lives are centered around worship which engages the energies of the entire congregation, rather than a performance by the clergy. Therefore, full and deliberate participation by everyone is encouraged by singing hymns, psalms, and canticles; in reciting prayers together; and by joining together in the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. Central to our worship experience is the Book of Common Prayer, an excellent liturgical resource which contains prayers, psalms, service liturgies, and lectionaries, providing a strong base for Christian faith and worship.



You can support our Worship Ministry by joining:

- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
- Chalicists
- Decorating Team
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- Ushers
- Lectors
- Linen Guild
- Music Team
- St. James' Choir
- St. James' Children's Choir
- Ushers
- Vergers
- Wedding Guild



ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL

St. James Day School provides a positive learning environment where children can develop in a stimulating and secure setting. We recognize the individuality of children and strive to help them to grow, learn, and build confidence. We provide experiences that foster the children's social and emotional development and expose them to the five developmental areas. St. James Day School is a wonderful place for your child to grow and learn.

The Day School curriculum includes student-directed and teacher-directed activities to allow teachers to observe and foster the children's interests. All learning activities are adapted to be responsive to all children. We use learning centers, group time, math concepts, art, and music to give each student a balanced education that will prepare them for the future.



"St. James Day School has been a wonderful choice for our children. Our two boys have grown so much at SJDS and feel loved and cared for beyond measure. The close-knit community makes for a safe and nurturing learning environment where children are free to be themselves. Words could never truly express our love and appreciation for SJDS teachers and staff."

-Jamie and Mike Brown, Parents of Miller (2) and Corbett (5)



Our school offers a theme-based curriculum tailored to the academic needs of each child. Each theme contains music, plays, art, math, cooking, science experiments, books, and songs. Our teachers offer meaningful, child-centered education that focuses on the children's emerging interests.

Visit the St. James Day School website to learn more: www.stjamesp.org/sjds



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Christian Formation for children endeavors to support and supplement the family's efforts to raise children as followers of Christ. Children's Formation includes Sunday classes as well as seasonal festivals and intergenerational events. Preschool ages 3 to 5 years, and grades K through 5 use a Biblically-sound curriculum enhanced with art and music.

Weekly Sunday School classes take place during the school year beginning after Labor Day and running through Confirmation Sunday in May. During the summer, Christian Formation for our smallest parishioners takes the form of Vacation Bible School and Summer Camps with St. James Day School.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

The mission of St. James Parish Youth Ministries is to create a safe environment where we respond to the spiritual, emotional, psychological, social and physical needs of 6th through 12th graders by providing programs, activities, worship and mission experiences where Jesus Christ will be known and served. Middle school classes include confirmation preparation and current event issues. Senior high classes engage in weekly Bible study from a young person's perspective. As we explore who we are, what we believe, that which we value and the challenges that we face, we will focus on being Beloved Children of God!

Regular Offerings for our Youth include:

- People Computers Jesus Bible Study - aka the Port City Java Bible Study
- Sunday Night Youth Group
- Mission Trips to Glory Ridge
- Fundraising and Community Outreach Activities
- Biking the Virginia Creeper Trail
- Ski Trip

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Adult education classes use diversified formats and generally offer 2 to 3 options each Sunday, September through May. Special study courses include: Bible study groups, inquirers' class, Education for Ministry (a 4-year course meeting once a week from September through May, exploring Old and New Testament scriptures, church history, and theology), book studies, movie discussions, and Lenten Wednesday evening dinner and programs for children and adults. The adult education offerings include presentations by our clergy, parishioners (some of whom are professors at local colleges), and guest speakers. Our Nursery is available for infants through the age of 3.

Outside of Sunday School, there are several opportunities for adults to participate in small groups and times of fellowship. Some great groups for new attendees to consider. Click through some of the options to see what might be a good fit for you.



ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

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ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that
strengthen our faith.

ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

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

25 S. Third Street | Wilmington, NC 28401

Visit Us Online: stjamesp.org

Facebook: facebook.com/stjamesp

Instagram: [@stjamesparish](https://instagram.com/stjamesparish)

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