# GRAPEVINE

GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR



STJAMESP.ORG AUGUST 2024



He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

Dear Parish Family,

How can I make a difference? Where can I help? What resources can I offer when there is so much demonstrated need? Will any of it really matter?

Perhaps like me, you find yourself pondering such questions from time to time. With so much going on in the world, the nation and the community, our sense of personal agency to make a meaningful impact can easily feel diminished or even empty.

It's too much! I can't fix it!

How wonderful, then, that we have been given some beautiful and gentle reminders of the big picture in our Gospel readings this season.

More than once we have been shown nameless and seemingly unimportant human beings who - through Christ - have been a part of something miraculous. Several weeks ago we read about the woman who had been ill for years and years. Her demonstrated faith - in simply touching Jesus' cloak, brought about her healing. This weekend we are introduced to a nameless boy in a huge crowd, who happens to have a seemingly insignificant amount of food (two fish and five loaves). Again, Jesus takes something small and works wonders - so much so that thousands are satisfied.

Yes, there is so much need in our broken world. We aren't expected to fix everything. I do believe, though, that Christ calls upon us to bring the best of what we have, and the faithfulness of who we are - to him. In that offering he will do his wondrous work - one person and one day at a time.

Where to begin? I've always appreciated the simple phrase "Do the right thing." I believe that is the spirit offered by the prophet Micah. We begin to bring our gifts to God's handiwork by being just with our words and actions, offering kindness in every situation, and maintaining humility in all that we do.

Thank you for all the ways you demonstrate Christ's love. You can be sure it does indeed make a difference.

Blessings,

tilup+

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

### Vestry Corner

Here at the coast, August is the time when we get to relish in the full heat of the summer. It's also the time we try to take advantage of any last-minute summer fun gatherings with friends and family before the seasons change. Take time to pause, reflect, and appreciate. We are officially entering the second half of the year. We have many things to be thankful for, and our community is the heartbeat of our Parish. Thank you for all you do.

St. James Parish downtown will be buzzing with children's laughter during Vacation Bible School August 5 - 8. Any last-minute volunteers are always welcome. We love involving all generations in Vacation Bible School. Our children will strengthen their relationship with Jesus, and we hope you will come and meet a few new faces in our Parish.

Recently Perry Hall received a new Air Conditioning unit, as the last one was over 20 years old. We are thankful to keep our beautiful building up and running during these hot months.

The Vestry has our annual summer retreat August 9-10th. We will spend time in fellowship, and also discuss the future needs and growth of our church. The Tricentennial is also a large focus as we plan for a long celebration leading up to November 2029. Please speak up if you would like to be involved.

Many families around New Hanover County will start school back in mid-August. And we are proud to report your donation of over 60 book bags went to the Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry to help send their children back with all the essentials. Thank you. Keep an eye out for school buses as they will make their August debut soon.

Save the date for September 8th as we will all gather again downtown. This year, Welcome Sunday will be a wonderful celebration for all ages and generations of our Parish family.

We have opened up the registration for the Parish Family Retreat at Camp Trinity, it will take place September 27-29th. Last year was a wonderful weekend filled with all ages, we hope you can join us here in 2024. Check out more details within the Grapevine.

Blessings to all for a healthy and safe summer.

Alex Murchison - Senior Warden Rachel Colonna - Junior Warden

### SERVICE SCHEDULE

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 9:00 a.m. Ministry Fair
- 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II & Blessing of the Backpacks



#### SAVE THE DATE: WELCOME SUNDAY

Sunday, September 8 | St. James Parish

Make plans to be in town on Sunday, September 8th. Our Parish family will be reuniting downtown for Welcome Sunday. This special morning together will include a ministry fair, a time for fellowship, and the Blessing of the Backpacks.

What is the Blessing of the Backpacks? Students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks, school bags, or lunch boxes to worship. The 10:15 a.m. service on Welcome Sunday will include a special blessing lifting up children and students of all ages, dedicating them to God's glory as we begin a new school year.

We also invite teachers, aides, principals, administrators, secretaries, cafeteria workers, librarians, janitors, and bus drivers...come to church to be blessed, affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work!

### THE STAFF PAGE

### CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF IOHN SULLIVAN

Thursday, August 1, 2024
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | City Club | RSVP
On Thursday, August 1st, all are
warmly invited to attend as we
celebrate the ministry of John Sullivan.
Join us from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the City Club
in historic downtown Wilmington as we set aside some
time to thank John for his years of kind service to our
parish family. He has been an invaluable member of our
staff. We will all miss both his talent and his good heart.
Please make plans to enjoy this 2-hour drop-in-style event
featuring drinks and hors d'oeuvres. If you would like to
attend this special event, please use the link online or call
the Parish Office (910.763.1628) to RSVP.

### WELCOMING TABER STOCKSTILLTORNES TO THE TEAM

St. James has the opportunity to introduce a supplementary role to support all of the wonderful work being done around our Children's Programs. It is with this in mind that we

would like to joyfully welcome Taber Stockstill-Tornes as our Interim Children's Ministries Coordinator. Taber has been a member of St. James since early 2021 and felt at home right away. She grew up in Oklahoma and was very active in youth groups at a Lutheran church. In college, she was a youth director for high schoolers. After college, she moved to Chicago for love. It all worked out because she and Kevin have been married for 5 years and have a 2.5-year-old son named Howie. She has worked in nonprofits, childcare, as a doula, and as a virtual assistant since graduating from the University of Oklahoma. She is looking forward to being a part of the youth at St. James! We very much look forward to her work with the children of our parish family. Taber can be reached at *childrensministries@stjamesp.org*.

#### **CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Our parish staff is in a time of growth and transition. As such, we have two roles currently open for applications. We anticipate additional opportunities to be added as we move forward together. With this in mind, we invite you to share the job descriptions with those whom you feel might be a good candidate.

- ASSOCIATE RECTOR We are seeking an
   Associate Rector who will collaborate with and
   support the broad ministries of three full-time
   clergy (including this position) as well as staff
   and lay leaders. The Associate Rector will share
   in liturgical leadership, pastoral care and
   teaching of the parish.
- DIRECTOR OF STEWARDSHIP St. James
   Parish is looking for a Director of Stewardship to
   support the mission, vision and ministries of St.
   James Episcopal Church through the
   professional administration of the church's
   development and stewardship ministries. Faithbased philanthropic experience is a plus.
   Understanding and utilizing language which honors and encourages financial giving as a spiritual practice will be essential.

Interested Candidates should send a resume and cover letter to The Rev. Phillip Craig at phillip@stjamesp.org.

#### **BEHIND THE SCENES**

- Director of Finance, Maria Hollopeter finance@stjamesp.org
- Director of Facilities, Wes Clewis wes@stjamesp.org
- Director of Communications, Erin Becker communications@stjamesp.org
- Parish Coordinator, Bill McKenzie coordinator@stjamesp.org
- Parish Bookkeeper, Rhonda Thomas bookkeeper@stjamesp.org
- Parish Registrar registrar@stjamesp.org

#### **CONTACTS TO KNOW**

- Rector, The Rev. Phillip Craig, Jr phillip@stjamesp.org
- Associate Rector, The Rev. Gray Hodsdon gray@stjamesp.org
- Director of Operations & Administration: MaryPaul Beall admin@stjamesp.org
- Deacon Kitty Davis kitty@stjamesp.org
- Director of St. James Day School, Ansley Trask director.dayschool@stjamesp.org
- Youth Ministries Coordinator, Cookie Cantwell cookie@stjamesp.org

### HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

#### **SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES**

#### **DOWNTOWN CAMPUS**

8:00 a.m. - RITE I 10:15 a.m. - RITE II & Livestream

MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

**Through September 1, 2024** 

8:30 a.m. - RITE II 9:30 a.m. - RITE II

#### **WEEKDAY OPPORTUNITIES**

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### WEEKDAY 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 | Returns in August 2018 South 16th Street

#### **HOLY EUCHARIST**

Wednesdays | 12:10 p.m. Celebrating Holy Communion

#### A SPECIAL GIFT: A NEW BENCH COMMEMORATING THE MINISTRY OF THE REV CHERYL BRAINARD

Earlier this summer, we sent off our beloved friends Cheryl and Don Brainard. We have one more generous gift to share with you to commemorate Cheryl's special impact on our parish family. A private donor and several members of our Mt. Lebanon Chapel Board came together to create a beautiful new bench dedicated to Cheryl's ministry. Thank you to everyone who made this gift possible.



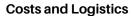


### On the Horizon

#### **2024 PARISH RETREAT: COME TO THE TABLE**

#### Friday, September 27 - Sunday, September 29 | Trinity Center

We welcome our parish family to attend this year's Parish Retreat, where we will reflect in the shared faith and relationship that we bring and receive at the table. As followers of Christ once journeyed long roads to arrive in upper rooms for breaking bread, we too are each on our own spiritual paths. Whether in practices and rituals around the tables of our homes, in the sacred Eucharist at the table of our church, or in ensuring our tables invite the work of justice and peace, we hope to inspire a deeper value of the spiritual place of these tables. Come join us for times of individual, small group and community contemplation of the story of the Road to Emmaus for adults, youth and children alike. We will learn and play as a parish family. Join us as we explore this story in a variety of methods as well as have time for relaxation and respite. All are welcome to be a part of fellowship, food and fun at Trinity Center.



Costs cover Lodging for 2 nights and all meals from dinner Friday, September 27th through breakfast Sunday, September 29th.

Plan for 4:00 PM check-in on the 27th and 11:30 a.m. check-out on the 29th

- Single Occupancy Adult \$266
- Double Occupancy Adult \$226 / person
- Children/Youth (5-17 yrs) \$120 / person
- Young Child (1-4 yrs) \$24 / person

Families registering together will pay a maximum of \$500.

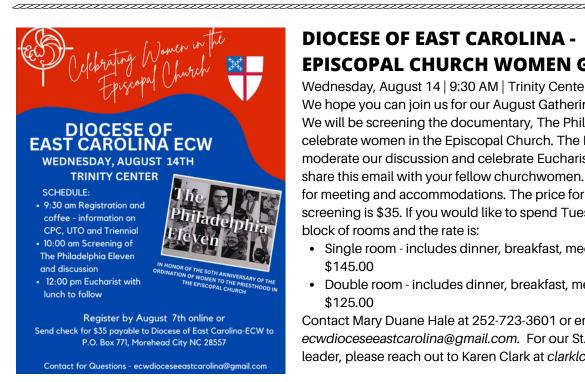
Register now online or call the parish office for assistance.











#### **DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA -EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN GATHERING**

Wednesday, August 14 | 9:30 AM | Trinity Center We hope you can join us for our August Gathering at the Trinity Center. We will be screening the documentary, The Philadelphia Eleven, as we celebrate women in the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Tambria Lee will moderate our discussion and celebrate Eucharist. Please forward and share this email with your fellow churchwomen. You can register online for meeting and accommodations. The price for the meeting, lunch and screening is \$35. If you would like to spend Tuesday night, we have a block of rooms and the rate is:

- Single room includes dinner, breakfast, meeting and lunch
- Double room includes dinner, breakfast, meeting and lunch \$125.00

Contact Mary Duane Hale at 252-723-3601 or email ecwdioceseeastcarolina@gmail.com. For our St. James Parish ECW leader, please reach out to Karen Clark at clarklc11@gmail.com.

### LET'S GET TOGETHER

#### **VIVACE! PARTICIPANT CONCERTS**

The Vivace Music Festival is returning to Wilmington this summer and St. James is once again hosting musicians as they practice. We will also be the host for several free community concerts. All are warmly invited to enjoy music from Vivace's talented participants, and the programs will embrace a great variety of solo and chamber works for piano, violin and cello.

Join us at St. James Parish in the church for concerts on:

- August 5, 7:30pm
- August 7, 7:30pm
- August 9, 1:00pm
- August 10, 1:00pm

You can learn more about the Vivace Music Festival at <u>vivacemusicfoundation.org</u>.

#### CHOIR REHEARSALS

Sundays | 9:15 - 10:05 a.m. | Choir Room

Join us as we prepare for Sunday morning worship. We'll host a quick rehearsal with those who are able to join us in the service. We're always ready for a little extra joy and music.

### BREAD BREAKERS' HOSPITALITY AT HOME: MT. LEBANON EDITION

Sunday, August 18 | 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel
Save the date! The St. James Bread Breakers' are hosting Hospitality
at Home at Mt. Lebanon Chapel! We invite everyone to bring a side
dish and join us at 4:00 p.m. on the designated day to enjoy time
together in a family-friendly atmosphere for a potluck-style dinner.
Kids, Friends, and Guests are welcome! If you'd like an adult beverage
and are of age, please feel free to BYOB.

Get to know other young adults and young families at St. James Parish through the Bread Breakers! The Bread Breakers began as a group of families with young children. With this group, you'll find a little chaos and a lot of laughter. Come join the fun, you don't need to have kids to be a part of the community! All are welcome.

#### REMINDER: LET US KNOW

Life is full of changes! We want to help support you through the bad and the good. If you, or a loved one would like a pastoral care visit or to request prayer, please make sure to reach out to our church office or our clergy. We want to know how we can be there for you. The parish office number is 910-763-1628. Similarly, if you've experienced a job change and have a new preferred email, or maybe you've moved and have a new mailing address, please make sure to let us know. Please reach out to communications@stjamesp.org to update your contact information.

### IN OUR PRAYERS:

Martha Bachman, Wayne Floyd, RV Fulk, Mary Ann Furniss, Shari Gardner, Randy Inge, Martha James, Daniel Korman, Barry Poe, Polly Rust, Norman Southerland



### 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 Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org for more information on how to get connected.

#### 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 we gather for a time of prayer and fellowship. If you would like the zoom link sent to your email each morning, please reach out to Erin at communications@stjamesp.org

#### **HOLY EUCHARIST**

Wednesdays | 12:10 pm.
Join us in the St. James Chapel for a
Noonday Eucharist. Come partake in
Holy Communion each Wednesday
throughout the year.

### "TELLING YOUR STORY" THROUGH GUIDED AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Many people would like to share the stories of their lives, but aren't sure where to start, what to include, or what to leave out. Sorting through our own history can be overwhelming!

Guided Autobiography offers wonderful tools to help people recall, write, and organize their stories. After each class, participants write one story at home. During the next class, participants share just two pages of what they wrote with a small group of about six other people, all committed to confidentiality.

Research shows that writing stories and sharing them with others is very stimulating for the brain. One researcher said that writing and sharing stories is "like chocolate" for the brain.

As stories are shared, class members often discover

- a sense of connection with others.
- new insights that are not available from journaling or writing alone
- new perspectives on life events
- new appreciation of their own lives.

Guided Autobiography was researched and developed by Dr. James Birren (USC). It has been used for more than 45 years as a method to help people in the US and throughout the world recall and share their stories. Guided Autobiography has been offered at UNCW through the Osher Life Long Learning Institute (OLLI) in Wilmington.

Here at St. James, Mary McKnight, a retired Presbyterian pastor, will be offering Guided Autobiography for 7 weeks in the Fall. From experience, she knows that being in a Guided Autobiography group can be a rich and very meaningful experience.

Classes at St. James will be held on 7 Tuesday mornings, from 9:00 - 11:00. The dates are September 10, 17, 24 and October 1, 8, 15, 22.

Space is limited to 12.

Before signing up, please check your calendar to be sure you can commit to the whole 7-week process. The classes and resources build on each other, offering new tools each class, so this is not a "drop-in" class.

Register on the St. James Website: https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/story/

Having trouble registering? Contact Erin Becker at communications@stjamesp.org

The suggested donation is \$45 (scholarships are available).

### Coming this Fall

#### **EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY**

Do you have questions about your faith? Most people do and find it challenging where to start to discern answers. Education for Ministry was developed by the School of Theology in Sewanee Tennessee to provide a way for people to work through those questions. This four-year course of study provides the framework for groups to connect faith to their daily lives through reading and discussion resulting in developing a balanced theology of spiritual maturity.

EfM invites participants into small mentored groups that provide the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as Christian Faith is deepened. The EfM seminar provides a curriculum that develops theologically informed, reflective and articulate laity who have discerned God's call.

As an EfM participant, you will learn how to articulate your faith, and how to shape your faith into action. Your EfM experiences will lead you to become involved in ministries in our community where you can make a difference. I would be glad to speak with you to learn more about EfM. We hope you will want to join us! Our group meets on Thursday evenings at 6:30 -8:15 pm from the end of Sept.- through May. Call or email Karen Clark (group mentor) (clarklc11@gmail.com) 910 232 2427 I would love to talk to you! We have a few open spots in our Thursday evening class.





### SERVING WITH ST. JAMES

#### THANK YOU FROM 2SHARE FURNITURE

2Share would like to thank the parishioners of St. James Church for their support. Through your furniture donations and financial support and volunteer help, you are giving people hope and dignity in their lives by providing them with their basic needs. Your help goes directly to where it is most needed in our community. In the second quarter of this year, with the help of St. James we have made 74 home deliveries to 176 citizens, 102 of which were children. Since November 2018, 2Share has delivered to 900 households representing over 3,000 people (2,000 of which are children). We are grateful for your support. Blessings to all.

#### **JOIN ST. MARTHA'S GUILD**

St. Martha's Guild provides care to St. James parishioners by delivering meals to the sick, and the bereaved. St. Martha's Guild also coordinates our parish's funeral receptions. This guild is comprised of teams headed by monthly team leaders. We work closely with the clergy and the church office for updates on parish needs. Please consider becoming a part of this rewarding ministry. Contact communications@stjamesp.org.

## ST. JAMES MEN ON A MISSION: SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER & SGT. ASHLEY VETERANS CENTER

In 2024, The St. James Men on a Mission will continue to serve dinner at Good Shepherd on the first and third Tuesdays of the month (4:30-7:00 pm), as well as at the Sgt Ashley Center (5:00-7:00 pm) for homeless veterans on the fourth Thursday of each month. If you are interested in signing up to serve with this special group of guys, please reach out to Brian McMerty at bmcmerty@arris.partners.

This month we'll serve on August 6, 20, & 22

#### **CARE GUILD**

The Care Guild does just what the name implies! They provide extra care for our parish family. Care Guild Members visit parishioners who are homebound or in care facilities. The Pen Pals send notes of encouragement. If you know of someone who needs care or you would like to participate in this vital ministry, please contact Erin Becker at *communications@stjamesp.org*.

#### EFWM BACKPACK DRIVE

A huge thank you to everyone who had a part in this year's Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry Backpack Drive. The EFWM expects to provide over 400 students with backpacks later this summer. The St. James Parish family has filled over 60 backpacks for Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Thank you for your kind generosity.



### 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

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER MEETING

Monday, August 26 | 7:00 PM | Zoom

Mark your calendars! St. James Children's Ministries (3yr-5th grade) Sunday School Teachers will be having a meeting on Monday, August 26th. Even if you have never volunteered before, we'd love to have you join our Children's Ministries Program. Whether it's been a few years or you just finished another great program year with us, all are encouraged to attend our Sunday School Teacher Meeting! We want this to be a fun year, and need your help to make it happen. Please email Taber Stockstill-Tornes at *childrensministries* @stjamesp.org for more information or if you have any questions about our Sunday School Children's Program.







#### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

August 5th - 8th | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
VBS returns August 5th - 8th. Make plans to join us as we celebrate the Good News at VBS: Start the Party!

Register online at: stjamesp.org/vbs24/



#### Want to get involved?

As we begin to dive into planning for another wonderful VBS, we're calling on our parish family to help us make it happen. There lots of ways to get involved! We have opportunities for all ages and abilities. Here are some of the ways YOU can be a part of our 2024 VBS:

- Station Leaders
- Group Leaders
- Snacks/Hospitality Team
- Car Line Helpers
- Photographer
- Set Design & Preparations Team
- Set-up Helpers
- Music & Motions Helpers
- Station & Group Helpers
- Lunch Providers & Servers for Volunteer families.
- Donate Funds or Supplies!

To volunteer now, please email Ansley Trask at *director.dayschool* @stjamesp.org.

### ST. JAMES YOUTH

#### **GIVING THANKS FOR GLORY RIDGE**

by Maggie G.

During my mission trip to Glory Ridge, I was able to witness and be a part of a community, that although experiencing profound hardship, is a resilient and strong community. Being able to meet locals, hear stories of their lives, and see the joy and passion through the midst of chaos changed my perspective on hardship.

I had the opportunity to work at the animal shelter throughout the week. Working at the animal shelter ignited my passion to volunteer and serve others. Although I did not have a traditional worksite with a constant resident to help, I was able to provide service to the few workers who worked at the animal shelter. In the past weeks, roughly 7 out of 9 staff members quit their jobs and the animal shelter was in desperate need of service. Being able to see the residents of Madison County come together to help the animal shelter from falling under taught me the true meaning of community service, gratitude and the power of compassion shown every day.

Not only did my worksite throughout the week show me the true meaning of compassion, I also saw it through the bonding of the Wilmington and Alabama friends. Being able to connect with the Alabama kids was one of the most rewarding experiences of my week. Regardless if we became friends through shared interests, or chance encounters, or our assigned job sites, each new friendship gave me even more joy throughout my week at Glory Ridge. I am a commonly shy person in new crowds but these friendships taught me the importance of an open mind and putting myself out there even when it is uncomfortable to do so.

I hope to continue to go every year, becoming more fulfilled in the silence and peace of the Ridge. I will work to help more residents of Madison and Walnut, one day, finally winning the golden plunger, glorifying God (even more!) and making work worship!

















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### ST. JAMES PARISH



EST. 1729

Rector The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

Associate Rector The Reverend Joseph "Gray" Hodsdon
Director of Operations & Administration MaryPaul Beall
Parish Coordinator Bill McKenzie | Finance Administrator Maria Hollopeter

Director of Youth Ministries Cookie Cantwell | Interim Children's Ministries Coordinator Taber Stockstill-Tornes

Day School Director & Children's Ministries Coordinator Ansley Trask

Communications Director Erin Becker | Registrar Marybeth Tallman

Director of Facilities **Wes Clewis** | Sexton **LaToya Lettley-Bryant**Part-time Sexton **Teresa Lettley** | Part-time Sexton **Norman Southerland** 

#### VESTRY

Senior Warden Alex Murchison
Junior Warden Rachel Colonna

Treasurer Mike Brown | Clerk Diane MacAskill
Class 2024: Rachel Colonna | Web Cowden | Alex Murchison | Barbara Whitesides
Class 2025: Dean Gornto | David Joyner | Erin Trask | Brandon Candler Tully
Class 2026: Tom Dodson | Todd Hinshaw | Billie Holland | Mary Lyons Rouse

#### **Contact Us**

25 S. Third Street I Wilmington, NC 28401 | Office: 910-763-1628 Visit us online: www.stjamesp.org | Facebook: facebook.com/stjamesp | Instagram: @StJamesParish