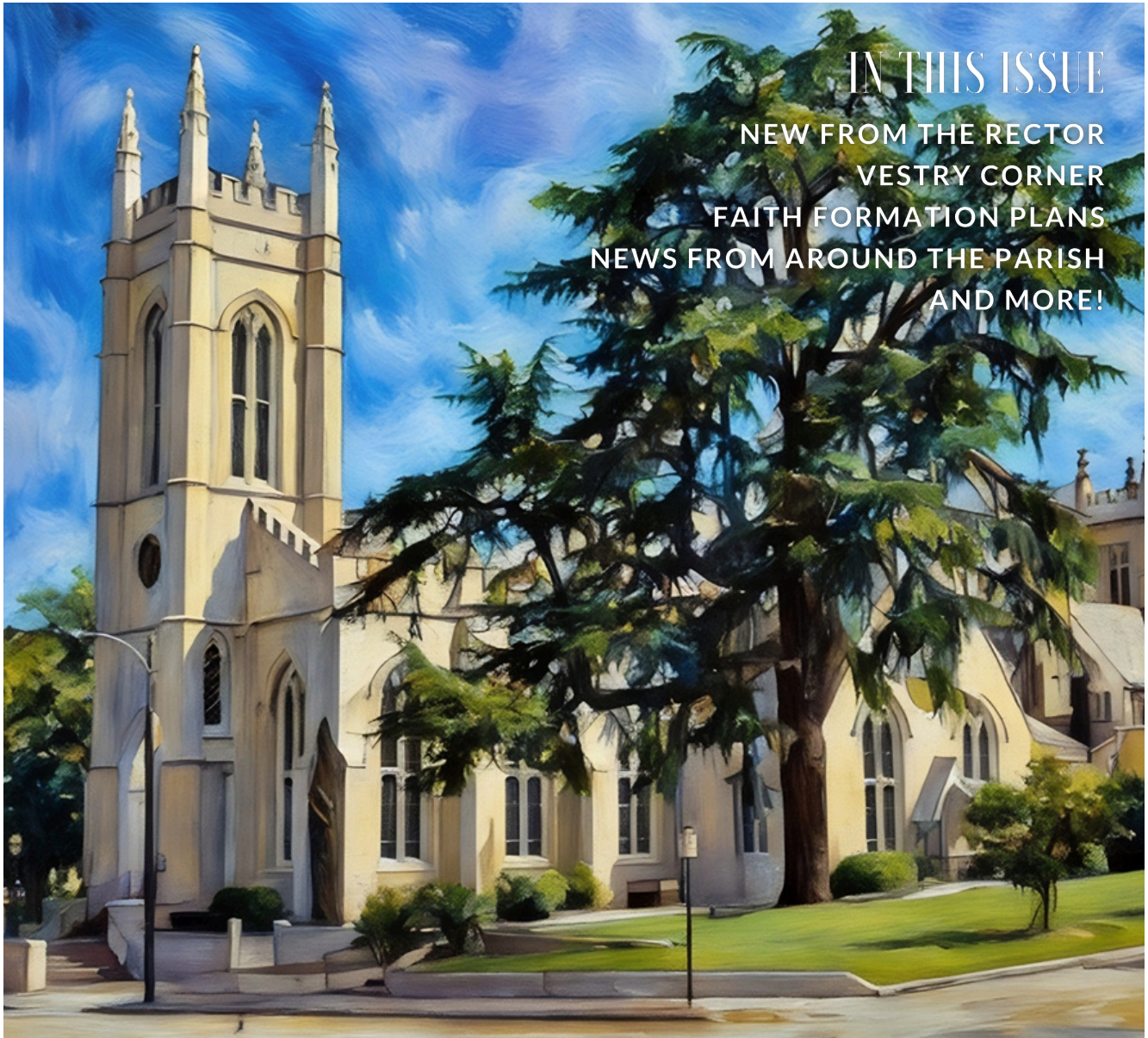


ST. JAMES NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WINTER/SPRING 2025 SPECIAL EDITION

# GRAPEVINE

GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR



IN THIS ISSUE

NEW FROM THE RECTOR  
VESTRY CORNER  
FAITH FORMATION PLANS  
NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH  
AND MORE!

# FAITH FORMATION

# WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS & NOTES

## SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

**RITE I WORSHIP**  
8:00 a.m. | St. James Parish

**FAMILY BREAKFAST**  
8:30-9:10 a.m. | Great Hall

**FAITH FORMATION HOUR**  
9:10-10:00 a.m. | St. James Parish

**RITE II WORSHIP**  
10:15 a.m. | St. James Parish &  
Live Stream



*Reminder* →

## ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 26

Sunday, January 26 | 10:30 a.m. | St. James Parish

Our Annual Meeting is set for January 26th, following a single combined 9:00 a.m. worship service Sunday morning. All ages are invited to attend. During this meeting we will elect a new Vestry slate, and share information regarding plans for 2025, the budget, and what to expect as we move forward together.

## OFFICE HOURS: CLOSURES TO NOTE

The St. James Parish Office will be closed:

- January 20th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## WEEKDAY OPPORTUNITIES

**M** **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

**T** **EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY**  
Tuesdays | 9:00 a.m.  
Registration Required

**TELLING YOUR STORY:  
GUIDED AUTOBIOGRAPHY**  
Tuesdays | 9:00 a.m.  
Registration Required

**W** **YOUTH BIBLE STUDY**  
Wednesdays | 7:00 a.m.  
2018 South 16th Street

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**  
Wednesdays | 11:00 a.m.  
Graham Parlor & Zoom

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

**T** **EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY**  
Thursdays | 6:30 p.m.  
Register for Location

**HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE**  
Thursdays | 5:45 p.m.  
Handbell Room - AKA- the Green Room

**CHOIR PRACTICE**  
Thursdays | 7:00 p.m.  
St. James Choir Room



# From the Rector

"My times are in your hands."  
Psalm 31:15

Dear St James Parish Family,

Happy 2025! The transition to a new year always offers an important moment to reflect on God's faithfulness and blessings - to think with fondness of all we accomplished last year and to look with hope and enthusiasm for our life together in the year to come.

In the hustle and bustle of New Year's resolutions and plans, let's remember with intention that our lives are not defined by the ticking of the clock, nor are they solely shaped by our own efforts or ambitions. True, our culture loves immediate results and constant motion. Scripture invites us to slow down, though, and remember that God is the one who holds the seasons of our lives in His hands.

As we reflect on the past year, all of us have experienced joy and triumph, while we have also faced struggles, pain, or even loss. There is some measure of peace in knowing that God was with us through it all, and He will continue to be present with us in the days to come.

We have good and important work to do together in 2025. With that in mind, may I include once again the compelling words of American author, theologian, educator and civil rights leader Howard Thurman (1899 - 1981).

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.

*From "The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations" by Howard Thurman*

I am excited to be with you into this new year, trusting that God's purposes will unfold in our lives and in our beloved parish, and remembering that all of our times rest gracefully in His loving hands.

Blessings,

# Vestry corner

## *A Season of New Beginnings*

Dear Parishioners,

As we step into the promising year of 2025, we are filled with joy and gratitude to have so many of our beloved family and friends by our side. Reflecting on the past month, December was truly a time of warmth and celebration as we gathered together for beautiful Christmas services. We extend our thanks to all those who worked tirelessly throughout the season to make our Church Parish shine with hospitality, love, and the spirit of community. Your dedication and hard work did not go unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful for the care you've given to our shared space.

As we turn the page to the new year, January brings with it a busy yet exciting time for our Parish. The Vestry will be engaged in several important rounds of business, including confirming the total amount of pledges received for 2025. These meetings will allow us to craft a balanced budget that supports our goals and ministry in the year ahead. Once the budget is finalized, we will present it to the congregation during our Annual Meeting. Additionally, we will be voting on the new Vestry class to join us in leadership. Please make a note on your calendar for Sunday, January 26th, as we come together to hold this important gathering. We encourage all members of the Parish to attend, participate, and be part of the decisions that will guide us forward.

The start of a new year is traditionally a time for self-reflection, renewal, and personal growth. In the spirit of this tradition, the Vestry has decided to dedicate time to collective reflection. Later this month, the Vestry will come together with the Foundation Committee for an evening workshop focused on sharing ideas, visions, and aspirations for the future of Parish. During this quiet, thoughtful session, we hope to engage in meaningful reflection that will help us identify new and effective ways to improve our Parish, ensuring that it remains a place of welcome, spiritual nourishment, and support for all who enter.

We look forward to a year of growth, connection, and new beginnings. We pray 2025 will be a year of blessings, deepening faith, and continued service to one another in our community.

Sincerely,

Alex Murchison, Sr. Warden  
Rachel Colonna, Jr. Warden



# Vestry Candidates - Slate Class 2025-2027



## KAREN CLARK

My husband Scott, daughter Sarah and I moved here 28 years ago. We fell in love with Wilmington, the beach, downtown, and St James Parish. We took it as a good omen that our previous church, which we had called home for 12 years—the church where I had been received, Scott had been confirmed, and Sarah had been baptized was also St James. At St. James Church, Goshen, I celebrated in the community of the ECW. I served on the vestry and the Search Committee where we called the church's first female rector. And it is there that I took EfM. For our new adventure in Wilmington, we put our faith in God that our prayers were being heard; and our journey guided us to the Transept of St. James Parish. It is here that Sarah was confirmed, was Chaplain at Happening and where we celebrated her wedding. I consider myself to have been blessed when Jane Rippey and Rachel Pace asked if I would help them in their joyful and snack-filled First Grade Sunday School class. They let me help them for 7 years. What a gift! I have served as an Adult Formation facilitator for several years prior to being asked to co-mentor and continue to mentor EfM groups for 7 1/2 years. I enjoy meeting new people, gardening, traveling, painting, finding beach glass, and (if you didn't know) cooking. In continuing my faith journey and ministry I embrace my calling to EfM, ECW, The Racial and Justice Committee and the Parish Shop. I am so very humbled, prayerful, and joyful to be asked to be a voice on the vestry, to serve Phillip and in doing so, serve this community of faith. Thank you for your confidence in that voice.



## SUSAN INGLE

St. James has been my church home since my husband and I moved to Wilmington from Hickory, NC, in 2003. While at the Church of the Ascension in Hickory I served on the altar guild, as a member of the vestry and as senior warden. When we moved to Wilmington, I joined the St James altar guild. In 2005 I was asked to chair the altar guild and have served in that capacity ever since. I have been active with the Spiritual Growth Committee and assisted with the project of placing Bibles in every sanctuary pew. I regularly participate in weekday morning prayer and on Monday mornings provide a brief overview of the scripture readings for the week. I also write the lesson commentaries that appear in our Sunday bulletin. I have been a part of many of the Wednesday morning Bible studies, as a leader and a participant. I had the honor of being a member of the search committee that recommended calling Phillip Craig to be St. James' rector. My husband Paul died in 2010. I have two children, Gene, who is married to Sherri and lives in Wilmington, and Ashley, who lives on Johns Island, SC and is married to Jon.



## STEVE COGGINS

Steve Coggins and his wife, Louise, have been members of St. James since moving to Wilmington in 2002. Steve served on the Vestry from 2015 through 2018 (Jr. Warden in 2017 and Sr. Warden in 2018), is a former member and President of the St. James Parish Foundation board, Lay Reader, and Usher. He has been involved in parish educational, spiritual and Sunday School programs, outreach, and youth activities. He enjoys Men on Mission, serving at Good Shepherd Ministries and daily SJP Morning Prayer online. Prior to moving here, Steve lived in Raleigh for 25 years, where he was active at Christ Church in numerous ways, including serving on the Vestry during extensive renovations and a capital campaign, and as Every Member Canvas Chair. Steve has practiced law since 1978, was the NC Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, has served on the board of numerous charitable non-profits, and is currently the Co-Chair of the first statewide capital campaign for the N.C. Aquariums Society.



## DAVID LEE

I moved to Wilmington with my family in 2000 and began my faith journey at a young age in the Baptist Church. After meeting Anne Tyson Grainger while we were in college, we would attend services at Saint James when we were both home. We were married at Mount Lebanon Chapel and after the birth of our daughter, we decided to move back to Wilmington at the end of 2017. Both of our children Walker(7) and Grainger(4) were baptized at Saint James and attended the Day School. Saint James has been such an important part of my personal faith journey and our family, so I decided to be confirmed in 2021. After taking the Praying Shapes Believing class with Chris Hamby, I knew that the Episcopal Church was where I was called to continue my walk with Christ. I find great strength and comfort with the community that Saint James provides. I am currently involved with ushering, Men on a Mission service opportunities, and enjoy cooking Sunday breakfast with our young dads crew. I look forward to being more involved with Saint James through the Vestry and am excited to see this amazing Church continue to grow and fill the faith needs of our community.

# PARKING AT ST. JAMES



## PARKING LOTS AT & NEAR ST. JAMES

- 1. PERRY HALL LOT - HANDICAP PARKING AVAILABLE**
- 2. BACON HOUSE LOT - HANDICAP PARKING AVAILABLE**
- 3. FRONT CIRCLE - HANDICAP PARKING AVAILABLE**
- 4. FIRST CITIZENS BANK LOT - SUNDAYS ONLY**
- 5. HOGUE HILL, LLP BUILDING - SUNDAYS ONLY**
- 6. WELLS INSURANCE BUILDING - SUNDAYS ONLY**
- 7. FIRST BANK - SUNDAYS ONLY**

**STREET PARKING**  
is available along 3rd, 4th, Dock, and Market Streets.  
Metered parking along Market Street is free on Sundays & Holidays.

## ST. JAMES PARISH BUILDINGS AND PARKING AREAS

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.

During the week, the Bacon House lot is reserved for clergy & staff. Please park in the Perry Hall lot.

# Faith Formation at St. James

## WINTER & SPRING FAITH FORMATION

Every Sunday, we gather together for worship with the below schedule

- 8:00 AM - Rite I Holy Eucharist
- 8:30 AM - Family Breakfast
- 9:10 AM - Faith Formation & Sunday School Hour
- 10:15 AM - Rite II Holy Eucharist - Children's Chapel (during service)

At 9:10 a.m. on Sunday Mornings, we invite parishioners to join us in our Faith Formation & Sunday School Classes. We will continue to offer Adult, Youth, and Children's options with the below schedule:

- **Life In Community**, in the Great Hall
- **Disciples' Class**, in the Lippitt Room
- **Bible Talk**, in the Stephen Ministry Room
- **Youth (6th-12th Grades)**, meet in classrooms on the Youth Hall ( the lower level of Perry Hall)
- **Children (Pre-K - 5th Grades)**, meet in the Sunday School Wing on the second floor of Milton Hall

### JANUARY

- 5: Second Sunday after Christmas
- 12: First Sunday after the Epiphany
- 19: Second Sunday after the Epiphany
- 26: Third Sunday after the Epiphany (No Classes)  
Annual Meeting

### FEBRUARY

- 2: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
- 9: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
- 16: Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
- 23: Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

### MARCH

- 2: Last Sunday after the Epiphany
- 9: First Sunday in Lent
- 16: Second Sunday in Lent
- 23: Third Sunday in Lent
- 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent

### APRIL

- 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent
- 13: Palm Sunday (No Classes)
- 20: Easter Day (No Classes)
- 27: Second Sunday of Easter

### MAY

- 4: Third Sunday of Easter & Youth Sunday

## Want to Learn More About Formation?

Contact us!



**Adult Formation**  
The St. James Clergy  
[clergy@stjamesp.org](mailto:clergy@stjamesp.org)



**Children's Formation**  
Taber Stockstill-Tornes  
[childrensministries@stjamesp.org](mailto:childrensministries@stjamesp.org)



**Youth Formation**  
Cookie Cantwell  
[cookie@stjamesp.org](mailto:cookie@stjamesp.org)

# LIFE IN COMMUNITY

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Sundays | 9:10 a.m. | The Great Hall

This winter, we begin with a return to the combined Adult Faith Formation program. We continue our exploration of what it means to be in Christian Community. We invite you to be a part of the journey as we discover the strength that comes from true community with God, and each other. Until Lent, we will gather together in the Great Hall for Life in Community: Joint Sessions so we can learn and grow together. In the season of Lent, we will offer two concurrent classes the Disciples' Class and Bible Talk.

### JANUARY

#### 5: Epiphany

Speaker: *The Rev. Jay Sidebotham*

Description: Explore the messages the church conveys during the season between Christmas and Lent. Learn about the history of the season, how it came to be, and ways it can help us grow as followers of Jesus.

#### 12: Celebrating the Women in the Church

Speaker: *Featured Panel*

Description: A panel shares their stories as women leaders in the Episcopal Church and offers a glimpse into the history that made it possible for women to join the priesthood. *This class will be followed by a 3:00pm event in the St. James Sanctuary, "ECW Special: The Philadelphia Eleven."*

#### 19: Racial Unity

Speaker: *St. James Racial Unity Committee*

Description: A presentation and discussion on The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and works, exploring how his teachings and legacy continue to inspire Christians today.

#### 26: No Faith Formation - Annual Meeting



### FEBRUARY

#### 2: Sacred Ground

Speaker: *Ginny Woodruff and Steve Thomas*

Description: Ginny Woodruff and Seminarian Stephen Thomas will lead a discussion on the National Church's "Sacred Ground" course, a challenging yet rewarding series on race rooted in faith, hope, and love. Part of The Episcopal Church's Becoming Beloved Community initiative, this course supports racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our lives, ministries, and society.

#### 9: The Harmony of Faith and Music

Speaker: *The Rev. Skip Walker*

Description: Rev. Walker is not only a dedicated priest but also a talented jazz musician and recording artist who explores how music can deepen our faith. He will lead the morning Faith Formation session and deliver the sermon as part of a pulpit exchange with The Rev. Phillip Craig.

#### 16: Honoring Absalom Jones

Speaker: *Kenneth Chesnut*

Description: In this class, we will take time to learn more about and celebrate abolitionist and clergyman Absalom Jones, the first-ordained, African American Episcopal Priest. Jones was once a slave cast out of the church for praying who went on to found the Episcopal church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia. This class will be a precursor to a special annual celebration in the afternoon.

#### 23: Mary McKnight and Guided Autobiography

Speaker: *The Rev. Mary McKnight*

Description: The Reverend Mary McKnight will talk about the power of writing and sharing our stories in small, supportive groups. Telling our story helps build bonds and connections with others, forming a new sense of community. Individual participants often gain a new perspective on their life, offering an opportunity for spiritual growth. In this class, you will get a taste of how Guided Autobiography works, and a preview of the special joint offering with St. Mark's planned for the fall.

Offerings continued on the next page.



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

### MARCH

#### 2: An Introduction to Lent

*Speaker: The Rev. Phillip Craig & The Rev. Gray Hodsdon*

Description: On this last Sunday before Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent, join Phillip and Gray as they explore how these 40 days and nights can be a means to restore broken relationships, turn away from harmful habits and patterns, refocus on our relationship with God and our neighbors, and prepare us to experience joy that awaits us in Easter.

During the season of Lent, we will offer the Disciple's Class and the new Bible Talk class. Please see the following two pages for details. All are welcome to these classes.

No Faith Formation Classes will be offered on Palm Sunday or Easter Day.

## DISCIPLES' CLASS

Sundays | 9:10 a.m. | The Lippitt Room

The Disciple's Class was established some years ago for those who seek to know more about what it means to truly be a disciple of Jesus. This Lent, we invite everyone to join us in the Lippitt Room on Sunday mornings for presentations and discussions centering on "Living in the Community."

### MARCH

#### 9: Concerning Baptism

*Speaker: The Rev. Gray Hodsdon & Steve Thomas*

Description: The Rev. Gray Hodsdon and Seminarian Stephen Thomas will talk about the joy and meaning of baptism in the Episcopal Church as we begin our series on the living and aging well through all stages of life. They will address basic questions such as: What is baptism? Why get baptized, and when? And what are we to do as baptized Christians?

#### 16: Community of Hope

*Speaker: Featured Panel*

Description: In this class, representatives from the Community of Hope International outreach group for lay caregiving will share tips for listening and holding space for God when supporting those in need, as well as their own experiences caring for others.

#### 23: Living Well in the Midst of Grief as a Community

*Speaker: Marion Gittings*

Description: Marion will lead us in reflecting on the value of community as we experience grief and loss, which can come in many forms. She will share her experience with the group, "Living Well in the Midst of Grief," which has brought support, comfort, and valuable resources to many in our St. James' family.

## LIFE IN COMMUNITY

### APRIL

#### 27: Living in Community with Bishop Henry Parsley

*Speaker: The Rev. Bishop Parsley*

Description: Bishop Parsley who helped begin our theme of "Life in Community" in the fall will bring us full circle in a final reflection on community for this year's Faith Formation.

### MAY

#### 4: Special Talk from St. James Youth

*Speaker: SJP Youth*

Description: On Sunday, May 4th we celebrate our young people and conclude our programming year.

On May 11th, we will begin our Summer Worship hours with our return to Mt. Lebanon Chapel on Mother's Day.

### 30: Preparing for Aging

*Speaker: Eldridge Dodson*

Description: Eldridge will facilitate a group discussion of how we as a faith community can help those we love age well. Each of us is getting older so our discussion will address all stages of life.

### APRIL

#### 6: Planning a Celebration of Life

*Speaker: The Rev. Phillip Craig & The Rev. Gray Hodsdon*

Description: Why plan my funeral now? Where do I even begin? Join The Rev. Phillip Craig and The Rev. Gray Hodsdon as they share how to plan your own celebration of life, how making these plans can be a gift to your loved ones, and how it can even be a spiritual exercise for you.

No Faith Formation Classes will be offered on Palm Sunday or Easter Day. We return to the Life in Community combined class offering following the Season of Lent.

On Sunday, May 4th we celebrate our young people and conclude our programming year. May 11th, we will begin our Summer Worship hours with our return to Mt. Lebanon Chapel on Mother's Day.

# BIBLE TALK

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Sundays | 9:10 a.m. | Stephen Ministry Room

This Lent, we begin a new series of “Bible Talk.” Join us as we discuss the readings from our Sunday Lectionary and discover how these passages intersect with our own lives, right now, especially as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. This clergy- and lay-led offering is a great way to get to know God’s word and to share conversations about Scripture in a small setting.

### MARCH

#### 9: The First Sunday in Lent

Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;  
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

#### 16: The Second Sunday in Lent

Readings: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1;  
Luke 13:31-35

#### 23: The Third Sunday in Lent

Readings Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13;  
Luke 13:1-9

#### 30: The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Readings: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21;  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### APRIL

#### April 6, 2025: The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Readings Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

#### Please Note:

No Faith Formation Classes will be offered on Palm Sunday or Easter Day. We return to the Life in Community combined class offering following the Season of Lent.

On Sunday, May 4th we celebrate our young people and conclude our programming year. May 11th, we will begin our Summer Worship hours with our return to Mt. Lebanon Chapel on Mother’s Day.

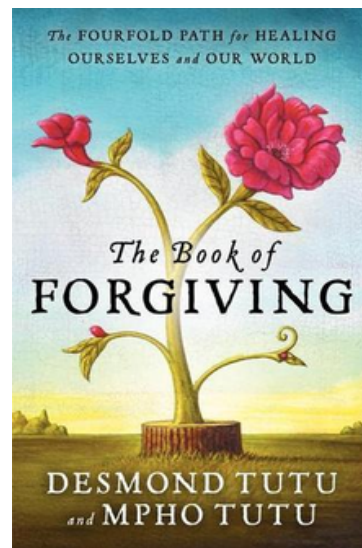
## LENTEN STUDY: FORGIVENESS

Led By Rev. Phillip Craig, Jr. and Rev. Gray Hodsdon

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, join Phillip and Gray for a transformative class on forgiveness inspired by Desmond Tutu’s *The Book of Forgiving*. This series invites you to explore the profound journey of forgiveness and healing in a supportive community.

The classes will be held on five consecutive Wednesdays: March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and 9, 2025. Each session will delve into key themes from the book, offering insights and practical steps for embracing forgiveness in your life. Come and discover the power of letting go and moving forward with grace.

For more information about this offering, please contact [clergy@stjamesp.org](mailto:clergy@stjamesp.org).



This season, take time to pause, reflect, and grow in faith through our enriching retreats at St. James Church. From the joyful light of Epiphany to the quiet reflection of Lent, these gatherings offer a chance to connect with God and others in meaningful ways. Whether it's a morning of inspiration or a few days of sacred silence, there's something for everyone. Don't miss these opportunities to refresh your spirit and deepen your journey.

1

### EPIPHANY MINI RETREAT LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY

January 11 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Lippitt Room

Join us on Saturday, January 11 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Lippitt Room at St. James Church for this mini retreat for a time to reflect and explore Light for the Journey. Epiphany is when we remember the appearance of the bright star to the 3 Magi (wise men) and celebrate the light of Jesus that has come into the world. Through Scripture, poetry, music and prayer, we will spend an unhurried morning together as we consider questions like: Who/What is the light we are following? Who/what gives us light for the journey and hope in the darkness? The mini-retreat will be led by Linda Murchison and Mary McKnight! All are welcome – parishioners, friends, any age. Childcare is available with advanced registration. Childcare is available with advance registration.

**Registration link:** <https://stjamesp.org/epiphany-retreat>

2

### LENTEN MINI RETREAT TURN OUT THE LIGHTS

Saturday, March 15, 2025 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Join us on Saturday, March 15 - 9:00-11:30 a.m. in the Lippitt Room at St. James Church for this mini retreat. The season of Lent is a time for prayer and self-reflection. A time to Turn out the Lights, and wonder about new light that might come in. It is time to create space to reflect on the life and death of Jesus. Through Scripture, poetry and prayer, we will spend an unhurried morning together as we consider what the ancient practices of prayer, fasting and charity might mean for us on our faith journey, in our busy lives, in a world full of uncertainty and change. We will meet in the Lippitt Room.

This mini-retreat will be led by Linda Murchison and Mary McKnight. All are welcome – parishioners, friends, any age. Childcare is available with advance registration.

**Registration link:** <https://stjamesp.org/lentretreat>



3

### A LENTEN QUIET RETREAT

March 17-20, 2025 at Trinity Center

You might be wondering: What is a quiet retreat? Why would I be interested?

Our lives, our communities, our world are noisy. We are bombarded all day long with much that asks for our attention. There is little space to slow down, be quiet, to find rest our spirits. Just as we Holy Spirit, to listen for the still small voice of God. Lent is a season in the church year that invites us to pause, to reflect, to listen and to pray.

This retreat will be an opportunity for this kind of a pause. The time, from after dinner on 3/17 until lunch on 3/20, will be in silence. The quiet will be punctuated with 3 worship services/day (before breakfast, late afternoon, evening). It will be a time to reflect, rest, walk on the beach, sleep, read, pray– whatever you most need.

The retreat is open to women and men. We will be using 1 cluster of 12 rooms at Trinity Center. Everyone has a single room with private bathroom. Retreat cost is \$420 for 3 nights and all meals.

Retreat fee is due by January 31, 2025.

Contact Linda Murchison for Registration Details.

For any questions and to register, please email or call Linda Murchison.  
lindamurchison65@gmail.com, 910-619-0055

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 9:10 a.m. | 2nd Floor of Milton Hall

- **Faith Built Through Wonder (3's and 4's):** Explore God's love for us. We will engage in stories, create crafts and enjoy time together exploring all the wonder in God's creation.
- **Faith Foundations (Kindergarten and 1st grade):** Building a foundation in faith invites learning about God using the Bible as our road map. Explore, create and marvel at God's big love for us!
- **Faith Builders (2nd and 3rd graders):** Building Faith story by story. We will explore the Bible in an imaginative way using our minds, LEGO bricks, and other hands-on activities!
- **Faith Adventurers (4th and 5th graders):** Grab a cozy seat and get ready to get lost in a good book. This fall, we will set out to uncover God at work in the stories around us. This is a Bible study not to be missed!



# YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Sundays | 9:10 a.m. | The Youth Hall

St. James Parish Youth Ministries aims to create a safe and supportive space for 6th through 12th graders, addressing their spiritual, emotional, social, and physical needs. Through programs, worship, outreach, mission experiences, and fun activities, we build deeper connections with each other and with Jesus Christ. Middle School gatherings include confirmation preparation and discussions on current events, while Senior High gatherings focus on Bible study from a youth perspective with adult support. Together, we explore our faith, values, challenges, and what it means to be God's beloved people. Our youth are active locally, regionally, and internationally, making a meaningful impact. A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated adults who invest in and shape our Youth Ministries—your support makes it all possible!

Contact: Cookie at [cookie@stjamesp.org](mailto:cookie@stjamesp.org), Jane Rippey, [janeripppy@yahoo.com](mailto:janeripppy@yahoo.com), Jonathan Graves, [jonathan@stjamesp.org](mailto:jonathan@stjamesp.org)

## CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Our goal for Children's Ministries is to create age-appropriate ways to express faith. Let's support that goal and have a wonderful year in Children's Ministries at St. James!

**Reminder:** We only have 45 minutes and want to use those minutes efficiently. Please walk with the children to drop them in their age-appropriate class and then plan to pick them up promptly at 10:00.

**Contact:** Taber Stockstill- Tornes, [childrensministries@stjamesp.org](mailto:childrensministries@stjamesp.org).



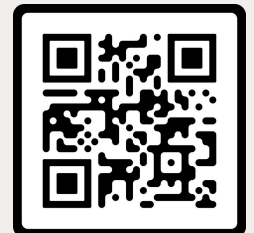
**2025-2026 ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS AROUND THE CORNER!**

### IMPORTANT ENROLLMENT DATES:

- **Monday, January 13:** Current Day School Families
- **Wednesday, January 15:** Active, pledging members of St. James Parish, St. James staff and clergy
- **Friday, January 17:** SJDS Alumni families
- **Tuesday, January 21:** Community at large

Please fill out the Google form if you are interested in enrolling your child in the Day School for the 2025-2026 school year.

This form will be used to send enrollment information to interested families. If you have any questions, please contact Ansley Trask, [director.dayschool@stjamesp.org](mailto:director.dayschool@stjamesp.org).



 **ONLINE FORM**

\*Do not complete the form for currently enrolled students

## ADULT OFFERINGS

### BREAD BREAKERS

Get to know other young adults and young families at St. James Parish through the Bread Breakers! 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. This group has regular monthly meet-ups; kids welcome! Activities vary from dining out, to potlucks, to volunteering at the Good Shepherd Center.

**Contacts:** The Rev. Gray Hodsdon, [gray@stjamesp.org](mailto:gray@stjamesp.org), Rachel Colonna, [rcolonna85@gmail.com](mailto:rcolonna85@gmail.com).



### EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

Episcopal Church Women, ECW, have championed women's rights and the Christian foundation of God and family. They are an affiliate of the Episcopal Church and celebrate that Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Their women's ministry and children's programs feed, educate, and provide community grants around the world. They are a volunteer organization that creates a legacy for Episcopal Church Women to lead future generations with stewardship in Christ.

All women of the church (and others who are interested) are warmly invited to participate in ECW activities.

**Contact:** Karen Clark, [Clarkkc11@gmail.com](mailto:Clarkkc11@gmail.com)

### FOYER GROUPS

The Foyer Groups are getting ready to begin a new season. This January new groups will be announced. All leaders are asked to touch base with their members and plan one or two gatherings this spring. For those who have never been in a Foyer Group, they are small groups of parish members who gather about every six weeks throughout the year. The gatherings can be dinner at a restaurant or in members' homes, brunch after church, a dinner at the beach or whatever the group and host want to plan. It's a wonderful way to get to know parish members in a smaller setting. With our growing church, this is a golden opportunity to socialize and have lots of fun.

**Contacts:** Sheila Osann, [osannshe@aol.com](mailto:osannshe@aol.com), Nina Inge, [ninabet55@gmail.com](mailto:ninabet55@gmail.com), & Andrea Crumpton, [akbrumpton@gmail.com](mailto:akbrumpton@gmail.com)

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

### MEN ON A MISSION

Men on a Mission, affectionately known as "MoM," is a group of St. James men who join forces in a fun way to focus on Service and Fellowship at St. James and throughout our community.



We currently have over 200 members. The purpose of Men on a Mission is to provide the men of our parish an opportunity to get to know each other better and to work together to serve our parish and our community in fun ways. We have Fellowship events at interesting places featuring delicious food and drinks, as well as time to pray together. MoM also organizes and leads various service projects on the St. James downtown campus, Mount Lebanon Chapel, Trinity Center, Glory Ridge and several local not-for-profit sites. There is no cost of joining MoM and no requirements to participate in any of the fellowship and service activities.

MoM is a great way for the men to get to know each other better, and a wonderful vehicle for newcomers to become engaged in our parish while having fun with a great group of men! If you would like more information and to get updates about future Men on a Mission service and fellowship ministry opportunities, please contact any of the MoM leaders. We would love to have you join us!

**Contacts:** Brian McMerty, [bmcmetry@arris.partners](mailto:bmcmetry@arris.partners), Web Cowden, [web.cowden@mirinichigreen.com](mailto:web.cowden@mirinichigreen.com), David Brownlow, [dbrownlow@ec.rr.com](mailto:dbrownlow@ec.rr.com), & The Rev. Gray Hodsdon, [gray@stjamesp.org](mailto:gray@stjamesp.org)



# YOUTH HAPPENINGS!

## YOUTH OFFERINGS

### JANUARY

- 5: Guardian Angel Registration Opens: Start the year by registering for the Guardian Angel program, connecting our youth with a supportive faith mentor.
- 5: Youth-Led Epiphany Service at 5 pm at Lebanon Chapel, featuring the Star and The Magi.
- 8, 15, 22, 29: Starbucks Youth Bible Study
- 9: Ski Trip Registration Deadline
- 12: Ski Trip Meeting: Pre-trip meeting at 5 pm in the Youth Room to prepare for the Winterplace adventure.
- 19: No Ignite Youth Group (MLK Weekend): Enjoy the weekend; Ignite resumes next week.
- 26: No Ignite Youth Group

### FEBRUARY

- 2: No Youth Group (Ski Trip): Youth group will not meet as the ski trip wraps up.
- 5, 12, 19, 26 Starbucks Youth Bible Study
- 27 - March 2: Happening #82: A transformative spiritual retreat for high school students.

### MARCH

- 2: Youth Set-Up for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Help prepare for the event in Perry Hall.
- 4: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Enjoy a pancake supper with your church family.
- 5, 12, 19, 26: Starbucks Youth Bible Study
- 9: No Ignite Youth Group
- 16: No Ignite Youth Group
- 30: Youth Shop for Easter Goodies: Join the fun and shop for Easter community outreach.

### APRIL

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Starbucks Youth Bible Study
- 6: Youth Shop for Easter Basket Items: Help select items for baskets for migrant farmworkers.
- 13: Youth Fill Easter Baskets: Assemble baskets to share love and joy.
- 14: Deliver Easter Baskets: Deliver Easter baskets to migrant farmworker families.

### MAY

- 4 - 7: Silent Auction Begins: Participate to support youth programs and bid on great items.
- 11, 25: No Ignite Youth Group

### JUNE

- 8: Pentecost Sunday Worship
- 15: Father's Day Sunday Worship
- 15 - 21: GLORY RIDGE MISSION EXPERIENCE 2025: A week of service, outreach, learning, and fun!



## SKI TRIP MEETING 2025

**Deadline to Register: January 9**

**Sunday, January 12 | 5:00 PM | Youth Room**

All who are planning to go on the January 30 - February 2 Winterplace Ski Trip are encouraged to bring your parents and attend this important informational meeting. During the Ski Trip, we'll travel together to Winterplace and step away from the businesses of the everyday. Join us as we learn more about the amazing God who loves us. Registration online! Scholarships are available. Have questions? Please reach out to Cookie Cantwell at [cookie@stjamesp.org](mailto:cookie@stjamesp.org).

## HAPPENING #82

**February 28-March 2, 2025**

Happening is a transformative Christian experience for high school students (grades 9-12), led by teenagers with support from clergy and adult leaders. Rooted in the Anglican tradition, Happening deepens participants' relationship with Jesus Christ and empowers them to live out their faith in new ways.

Happening 82 will take place at Trinity Center from February 28-March 2, 2025. Don't miss this chance to grow in faith and community! Registration online! Scholarships are available. Have questions? Please reach out to Cookie Cantwell at [cookie@stjamesp.org](mailto:cookie@stjamesp.org).

# Coming Up at St. James

## IN OUR PRAYERS:

Ed Duff, Gary Foulks,  
Patricia Gardner, Eugenia Glover,  
Daniel Korman, Josephine Marling,  
Jane McGann,  
Josephine Quinn



## 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.

## MORNING PRAYER

Mon. -Fri. | 8:00-8:30 a.m. | Zoom

Come join us for the Daily Office of  
Morning Prayer! Each weekday on  
Zoom with gather for a time of prayer  
and fellowship. If you would like a direct  
link sent to your email each morning,  
please email  
[communications@stjamesp.org](mailto:communications@stjamesp.org)

## EPIPHANY SERVICE

Sunday, January 5, 2025 | 5:00 PM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

Come join our St. James Youth as they lead us through a special Epiphany service on the eve of the Epiphany. We'll gather together at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 5th at Mt. Lebanon Chapel to celebrate the arrival of the wise men.

## Guided Autobiography Class

Starting Tuesday, January 28, 2025 (7 Weeks)

Join us for a seven-week journey of self-discovery and storytelling on Tuesdays, 9:00–11:00 a.m., in the Stephen Ministry Room. Guided Autobiography is perfect for anyone looking to write and share personal stories, whether for family, legacy, or personal growth. Each week, you'll explore new themes, use resources to spark memories, and share your two-page stories in a supportive, confidential group. Benefits include a deeper sense of well-being, meaningful connections, and a healthy mental workout. Space is limited, so sign up by January 21st. Suggested donation is \$45, with scholarships available. Contact Mary McKnight at [marym685@mac.com](mailto:marym685@mac.com) for details!

## Cataloging the Music Library

Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m., Choir Room

Do you love organization? Are you passionate about music or history? Join us every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in the Choir Room and Music offices for an exciting opportunity to explore, catalog, and bring order to our Music Library! Whether you're a history buff, a music enthusiast, or simply enjoy a good project, there's something here for everyone to uncover and enjoy. Come be a part of this fun and meaningful effort—we'd love to have you! For more information, contact Dr. Bill Weisser at [music.director@stjamesp.org](mailto:music.director@stjamesp.org). See you there!

## REMINDER: LET US KNOW

We want to help support you through the bad and the good. Prayer Requests are one way our parish family supports one another. Going forward, if you would like to be included on the prayer list, please know the request will be included for two Sundays in the Prayers of the People and a full month on Weekday Morning Prayer unless otherwise requested. If you, or a loved one would like a pastoral care visit, communion at home, 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 need to update your contact information, please make sure to let us know. Please reach out to [communications@stjamesp.org](mailto:communications@stjamesp.org) to update your information.

# FEATURED EVENT



## ECW Presents: The Philadelphia Eleven

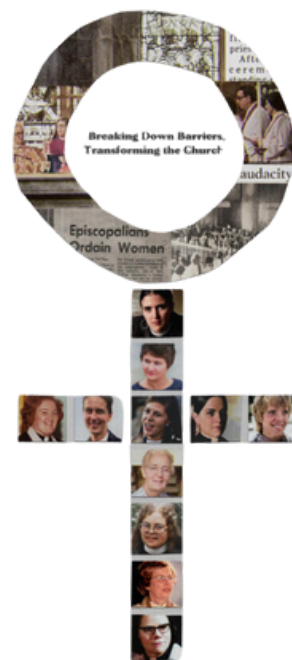
*Sunday, January 12, 2025, 3:00 PM*

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St. James Parish is excited and grateful to present the documentary *The Philadelphia Eleven*. This powerful film highlights a dramatic breakthrough in 1974 when eleven brave women were ordained to the Episcopal priesthood at the Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia. Their actions challenged the Episcopal constitution and canons, which at the time stated that only men were eligible for priesthood.

This historic act of defiance shattered the so-called “Stained Glass Ceiling” and gave hope to Christian women everywhere. These women, known as the Philadelphia Eleven, faced threats to their safety and rejection from the church they loved but remained steadfast in their mission to serve.

Join us on Sunday, January 12, 2025, at 3:00 PM in the St. James Sanctuary for this inspirational event. Following the screening, we will host a panel discussion featuring women priests sharing their own experiences. Special guests Carter Heyward and Marie Moorefield, two of the original eleven, will join us via Zoom. A reception will follow in the Great Hall.

The ECW of St. James hopes this event will embrace and highlight the inspiration these women bring to ministry and serve as a clarion call for inclusivity in the Christian Church community.



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## 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



# MEET OUR STAFF

## ERIN BECKER

Director of Communications

Erin Becker joined St. James Parish in 2019, bringing a creative and business-savvy background to her role as Director of Communications. Initially hired part-time, she transitioned to full-time in 2020 as the parish's communication needs expanded, especially during the onset of the pandemic. Erin has made her mark by bridging the various ministries and the wider community through her expertise in graphic design, social media, and website management. Her efforts, including helping redesign the parish website, have ensured that St. James remains connected, informed, and engaged.

What many might not know about Erin is her rich personal journey of faith and community. In 2021, she was confirmed in the Episcopal Church, a moment she describes as deeply meaningful. Growing up Presbyterian, Erin discovered a new appreciation for communal worship and the shared liturgy of the Episcopal tradition. "I love that no matter where you are in the world, the liturgy connects you to the wider community worshiping God," she says.

Erin's weekly responsibilities encompass a wide range of communications essential to keeping the St. James community connected. She coordinates everything from the electronic and printed Grapevine newsletters to online forms, calendars, and event sign-ups. Erin also manages meal trains, keeps the website updated, and oversees the church's presence on Facebook and Instagram. Her ability to handle numerous channels ensures parishioners and the broader community stay informed and engaged, whether it's through a detailed event announcement or a timely social media update.

One of Erin's proudest contributions to St. James is her work on the parish's communication systems during the pandemic. She played a pivotal role in ensuring livestreamed worship services were accessible on the church's newly redesigned website. This effort allowed St. James to stay spiritually connected even when physical gathering was impossible. Erin also took part in designing outreach campaigns, such as the Day School's Thrive at 75 initiative, which raised funds for much-needed improvements to the school's playground.



Beyond her professional role, Erin enjoys participating in parish events and programs, such as the Way of Love series, which deepened her faith and inspired her confirmation journey. "The Way of Love program helped me understand how communal worship and personal spirituality are deeply interconnected," she reflects.

Currently on maternity leave with her second child, Sam, Erin continues to feel a strong connection to the parish community she serves so faithfully. "St. James has been a spiritual home and a place of growth for me," she shares. From her professional achievements to her personal faith journey, Erin embodies the spirit of connection and community that makes St. James Parish special.

ST. JAMES PARISH



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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**

Interim Director of Music **The Rev. Dr. Bill Weisser**

Parish Coordinator **Bill McKenzie** | Finance Administrator **Maria Holloper**

Director of Youth Ministries **Cookie Cantwell** | Day School Director **Ansley Trask**

Interim Children's Ministries Coordinator **Taber Stockstill-Tornes**

Communications Director **Erin Becker** | Registrar **Marybeth Tallman**

Director of Facilities **Wes Clewis** | Sexton **LaToya Lettley-Bryant**

Part-time Sexton **Teresa Lettley**

## 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 | Wilmington, NC 28401 | Office: 910-763-1628

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