
The Weekly Parish Light 2023

St. James Episcopal Church · 2 S Augustine St. · Wilmington DE 19804 · 302-994-2029

From the Rector – The Rev. Sarah Nelson August 4, 2023



How could it already be August?! That whole time thing continues to amaze and astonish me. One afternoon with a headache can seem to last forever, yet the summer ... well, it rushes by. God's time is not our time, scripture tells us. That is most certainly true. We are also told that God's ways are not our ways.

A few weeks ago, I shared a cute little story about a circuit rider and a farmer. The farmer said that the circuit rider had it easy. All that he had to do was think of God. When the task was put before him, though, the farmer could only last a few seconds before his mind wandered. We laugh and are amused at this encounter but it is an experience common to most of us. On Sunday morning during the prayers, it suddenly occurs to you that a crisp chicken salad sandwich would be quite tasty. During your evening prayers, you suddenly remember that the baseball game comes on at 7:00 pm. As you are purchasing school supplies for community children in need, you pick up a pack of pens and a memo pad for yourself, wondering if your own supply of office items is complete. You get the idea ... even with the best of intentions, our human minds wander. I marvel at Saint Paul who prayed without ceasing. How can that be? He didn't stub his toe or see an amazing sunset and pause for a moment? Perhaps a monastic life is what you need to be part of so all you need do is to pray. Praying without ceasing – even praying for only moments – can sometimes seem undoable.

There is a phrase in the prayer of Thomas Merton that reads, "I do not even know if what I am doing is pleasing to you." The rejoinder follows Merton trusting that God will never abandon him or any of God's beloved. I am not sure that this is about some strange competition – I pray more than you – or about some Herculean feat challenging yourself to pray harder. Do you remember the Flagellant Monks who would carry books or even stone tablets and regularly hit themselves in the head to remember to pray? We humans have come up with a whole lot of less-than-satisfactory ways of keeping our minds and, thus by extension, our lives focused and undistracted. Most obviously, these ways have not served us well. So, then, how do we keep our hearts and minds centered on God and God's Will? I sure do wish that I had the answer.

Our earliest ancestors had a starting place: Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, your soul and your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. For me, that translates into not a sorting out and excluding distractions but instead, expanding my focus to see what promise is found in the distractions. Instead of praying for certain people or circumstances, I also include space and time to simply sit quietly and listen to where God is calling me to be. In a difficult situation, is it to pause for a moment and wonder how my actions or thoughts line up with God's grace and God's love and not with my own need to be in control and have my desire fulfilled?

The amazing thing is that our God is a God of grace and love. Merton's answer is ours: I have to believe that in trying to please you, I **am** pleasing you and that you will never abandon me. Indeed, God's time is not our time and God's ways are not our ways, and for that, we are thankful. For God's ways are too great and reach so far beyond our human perspective. *(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

So, yes, it is August. Sometimes time seems to fly by; sometimes each tick of the clock seems an eternity. In each of those moments, though, is the possibility of encountering God's grace and knowing God a bit more clearly, treasuring those instances a bit more dearly, and following the Divine a bit more nearly, each day by each day.

Faithfully,
Sarah



Music Ministry Notes

Dr. Michael Larkin, Director of Music Ministry

Please keep Dr. Larkin in your thoughts and prayers as he recuperates from hand surgery that he had last week. He will be returning on Sunday, September 10th which will be the Choir's first Sunday back as well.



THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Sunday School is available for all children during the 10:00 am worship service. Sunday School Lessons are planned to match the Lectionary reading for the week. A discussion about the lesson and a craft or activity will follow. The children join their families in church for the Eucharist, or if Miss Tina is singing in the choir, the children will come in during the peace. All children are welcome to attend our class, even if they are not here every week or are just visiting. Please ask a Greeter to direct you to the classroom.

NO CHOIR REHEARSALS UNTIL SEPTEMBER –

The Parish Choir will return on September 10th. Think about joining the Choir in the Fall! We'd love to have you!

HEALING SERVICE – The monthly Healing Service will be held in the Chapel immediately following the 10:00 am worship.

SUNDAY'S LITURGIES –

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm: 99; Gospel: Luke 9:28-36.

LAY MINISTERS –

Worship Leader: Marti LaRue; **Reader**: Mary Hammond; **Acolyte**: Tom Reilly;
Greeter: Marsali Hansen; **Usher**: Mary Hammond; **Altar Guild**: Janice Fischbach;
Counters: Tom Reilly, Dawn Martinez.



PARISH PRAYER LIST – Please see the last page of this newsletter and pray for those in need of our prayers for strength, guidance, or healing. Pray for those who have died.

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER – Pray for Province de L’Eglise Anglicane du Congo.

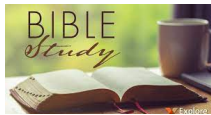
DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for The Episcopal Church in Delaware, The Rt. Rev. Kevin S. Bacon, Bishop, The Rev. Canon Martha G. Kirkpatrick, Canon to the Ordinary, The Mission Support Support Team.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Quinn Luckey, Jason Luckey, Danielle Yeatman, Crystal Bush, Lisa Bush.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the Ruggieri Family. Please remember to pray for Adam, Constance, Emily, Gracie, and Charlotte during the service on Sunday and keep them in your thoughts during the week.

A Prayer for Families: Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray to you to guide and govern us by the Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget you, but remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EVENTS



Cancelled Until Further Notice: We’ll notify you once we are able to resume.



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS WANTED ONCE A MONTH!! If you enjoy sharing coffee and conversation with friends (old and new) after the 10:00 am service, we hope you will consider being a Host for one Sunday a month. If you’re interested, please add your name on the sign-up sheet on the Board in the foyer! Pick a month you (and a friend) would like to be Hosts for Coffee Hour! **Note:** This summer, we can move outside for “Lemonade in the Garden”! Won’t you consider being a Host?

FUNDRAISER EVENT



WILLIAMS SYNDROME ASSOCIATION: Check out the ***Bender Twins’ Team fundraising page!*** Click on the link below for more information and to donate to this wonderful Association on behalf of Samantha and Autumn! (If you are unable to open the link below, copy and paste into your URL.)

<https://events.williams-syndrome.org/team/500609>

SUMMER AT ST. JAMES

“I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY” THEME – Last summer we created a booklet entitled “Just A Closer Walk with Thee.” This summer, our theme is “I Love to Tell the Story.” There are “cards” in the foyer for you to pick up and write a short sentence about how you tell “your story” or how the “story” has been told to you. The goal at the end of the summer is to have all these “stories” compiled and shared! *See next section below for some ideas/suggestions on how we can “tell our story.”*

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY ...

After reading through the following, you will no doubt be motivated to take a card and recall ways in which YOU tell the story or that you have received the story of Jesus from others. Marti LaRue will compile our shared Stories into a booklet for distribution.

School Supplies.

The sales are on! We are collecting school supplies for a back pack distribution in August. The list of needed items is in Sunday’s Bulletin or can be found in this issue of *Parish Light* on page 6. There is a large green container in the hall foyer where you can deposit your contribution. This is a small way that we can **tell the story of Jesus**, by reaching out and supporting others who are in need. Betty VanHekle and Penny Edwards are keeping track of gathered supplies. Thank you.

We’re collecting MORE THAN plastic bottle caps now!

St. James is still collecting plastic bottle caps and are nearing our first goal. The good news is that in addition to the bottle caps, we are also asking for #2, #4, and #5 plastic CONTAINERS! You can find those numbers on the bottom of the containers that are in the small recycling triangle, which are typically detergent bottles, milk jugs, and other household items that are in those kinds of containers. Note that all plastics need to be clean and label-free. This is a way that we **tell the story** by caring for the environment. Put the caps in a plastic zip bag and the containers in a larger bag and place on the table, in the foyer, or give to the Greeter. Thank you.

“Still Life”

If you missed it, you missed an evening of amazing discussion and great, tasty Bistro snacks. The Inspector imparts four sayings necessary for wisdom, not only in Three Pines but in Wilmington, Delaware! The four statements are: “I was wrong,” “I am sorry,” “I don’t know,” and “I need help.” You might imagine these four points in your own life – but definitely plan on coming to Three Pines discussion #2. The second of Louise Penny’s books is entitled “**A Fatal Grace.**” We will plan a Fall date to discuss this next-in-the-series book. If you did not read the first one, don’t worry. Each book stands on its own. Start reading! You won’t want to miss the evening! And yes – we **tell the story** by sharing our own stories and listening and reading those of others!

Memorial Garden Bricks.

Simply seeing the name of another evokes all sorts of memories, experiences, even emotions. Our Memorial Garden and the brick walkway lovingly planned and laid out by Tom Reilly and Kenny Stafford is a pleasant, peaceful place. It is a place for reflection, gratitude, and celebration. If you would like to honor someone or some occasion, or if you would like to pay tribute to someone who has finished this earthly race, you can purchase a brick, which will be laid in the Garden. There is a card on the table in the Narthex (foyer). If you’d like to purchase a brick, simply fill out the necessary information and give the card to the Greeter or place it in the offering plate. The cost is One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per brick. We continue to **tell the story** by remembering those who light our way.

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY (Continued from page 4)

Blankets for the Residents of Coral Springs and the Clients of Easter Seals.

Each Christmas, St. James makes polar fleece lap blankets for the Coral Springs and Easter Seals people. These small gifts are enthusiastically received. Thanks to some parishioners who met a few weeks ago and did the cutting! The next step is for “helpers” to tie and wrap the blankets which will then be taken to Coral Springs and Easter Seals. We **tell the story** in following Jesus by caring for others.

UPCOMING KIDS' EVENTS AT ST. JAMES

Oh, my! The summer is here and what are we to do? Long, lazy days in the sun. Sports camps, dance camps, and pre-season workouts. Reading great books and catching up with friends. But then what? *Saint James to the rescue!*

We have two more events planned just for you!

- **This Sunday, August 6th** – 11:30 am – 2:30 pm. An afternoon to finish up summer projects. Lunch and lots of fun!
- **Friday, October 6th and Saturday, October 7th** – National Cathedral Acolyte Festival. Leaving on Friday after school for a mini-lock-in at Immanuel Church on the Hill in Alexandria, Virginia. Saturday traveling to the National Cathedral to participate in the Acolyte Festival with acolytes from across the Nation. This is an awesome experience! \$10.00 cover charge for participation fee.

See?!? We are always thinking of you! If you haven't signed up with Tina (302-419-4655) or Sarah yet, please do so right away. We can't wait to see you and have these adventures with you!

MISCELLANEOUS

<u>CHURCH EXPENSES</u>	<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>	<u>CORAL SPRINGS NURSING HOME</u>
Remember that even when you are away, the church expenses are not. Our pledges are what keeps the church going and the air conditioning running. Your pledge to the ministry of the parish is much appreciated! Thank you!	If you would like to place flowers on the altar in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one, flower forms are available on the table in the church foyer, or you may contact the church office. The cost for flowers is \$30.00. Checks should be made payable to: <u>St. James Church</u> . Please write “Altar Flowers” on the memo line of your check. The check can be placed in the Offering plate or dropped off at the office.	On the First Sunday of the month during our worship service, Rev. Sarah will consecrate the Host that will be distributed to the residents of Coral Springs Nursing Home on every other Monday each month.

OUTREACH

COLLECTION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Each summer our parish collects school supplies for children in our community. At the end of the summer, we pack the supplies in new backpacks, bless them, and distribute so that students can begin the new academic year with supplies that they need to have a successful school year. While not including everything, it is a good beginning. Below is a list of these supplies:

Pencils	Two-pocket folders	Glue sticks
Black or blue pens	Notebook dividers	Pink erasers (not pencil top)
Loose-leaf notebook paper	Pencil boxes	Highlighters
Composition books	24 pack of crayons	Sticky Post-It Notes
Spiral notebooks	10 pack of washable markers	Index cards, 3"x5"
Individually packaged fruit snacks		

Please bring your donations of supplies in to church no later than Sunday, August 13th.

There will be a collection box in the front of the church in which to place your items. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, just earmark that gift and place it in the collection plate.



Anyone who would like to help assemble the backpacks, please mark your calendar to meet in the Lounge on Wednesday, August 16th at 12:00 noon.

Rev. Sarah will bless the backpacks on Sunday, August 20th during the 10:00 am service. They will be delivered to Richey Elementary School on Monday, August 21st.

Thanks to Betty VanHekle and Penny Edwards who will be counting and keeping tabs on our collection!

I am grateful to you for participating in this important ministry.

Thank you,
Sarah

CALENDAR – AUGUST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

Worship Service 10:00 am

Healing Service 11:15 am in Chapel
following worship service

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

Deadline for school supplies donations!

Worship Service 10:00 am

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

Assembling Backpacks 12:00 noon in
the Lounge

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

Worship Service 10:00 am

Blessing of Backpacks during service

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

Delivery of Backpacks to Richey School

	<p><u>AUGUST BIRTHDAYS</u></p> <p>1 – Jack Reilly 1 – Daytona Grace Purdy 6 – Quinn Luckey 9 – Jason Luckey 11 – Danielle Yeatman (Grahe) 11 – Crystal Bush 12 – Lisa Bush 14 – Nalani Luckey 15 – George Fischbach 16 – Jenny Azwol 16 – Joshua Luckey 19 – Christopher Fischbach</p>	<p><u>AUG. BIRTHDAYS</u> <i>(cont'd)</i></p> <p>24 – Tom Reilly 24 – Caroline Luckey 24 – Adrienne Bush 24 – Rosie Sanchez 26 – Sarah Brase-Davis 28 – Marti LaRue 30 – Danika Duffield Dillman</p>
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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Every day may not be good, but there's something good in every day.” – Alice Morse Earle



A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

*Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby
Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell*

Prayer in the Midst of Violence

Lord, in our shock and confusion, we come before you
in our grief and despair in the midst of hate,
in our sense of helplessness in the face of violence,
We lean on you.

For the families of those who have been killed, we pray.
For the shooters – *help* us to pray, Lord.
For the communities that have lost members, their anger, grief, fear,
We pray.

For the churches striving to be your light in darkness
beyond comprehension,
We pray.

Lord of all, gather us up – your creatures, your world –
and bring an end to the violence.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Amen.

*Taken from “Prayer for mass violence” by Grace Claus
written for faithward*

Prayer for Refugees

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness
and brought them to the promised land.
Guide us now so that, following your Son, we may
walk alongside vulnerable refugee families as
they build a new life in the county of your love and mercy. Amen.

ST. JAMES PRAYER LIST – Please use this Prayer List and include the following people in your daily prayers. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month. If you want to keep someone on the list, add, or remove anyone, please email (stjamesnew@verizon.net) or call the church office (302-994-2029).

Abigail	Frank Dean	Carolyn Karney & Family	Mike Pierce
Alan	Diana and Pevan	Juanita Kavanaugh	John Pumphrey and Family
Alethia	Rose DelliGatti	Kathy	The Purdy Family
Alex	Henry Diaz	Melvin Kessler	Reese
Allysa	John DiOrio	Kiara	Neil Reilly
Amy	Ross Donovan	Ritchie Kinlaw	The Rev. Reuben Rodriguez
Andrienne	Deborah Earley	Kira	Aaron Richers
Anna	Vern Earley	Sara Kirk	The Roche Family
Christina Azwol	Dave & Patti Edwards	Susan Kriznuski	Roy
Tony Andres	Penny Edwards	Marti & Ron LaRue	Emily Ruggieri
Sage Andrews	Carol Edwards & Family	The Morris LaRue Family	Henry Saffer
Barbara	Ellie Rose	John Lewis	Sally
Scott Battaglia	Eli	Liam	Daniel Sanchez
Seth Bayless	Eric	Lilly	Gabriela Santiago
Jim Bender	Janice Fischbach	Lois	Mike Scarpetti
Trish Bender Bayless	George Fischbach	Allen Luckey	Scott
Jeff Biscoe	Mary Ellen	Cindy & Dave Mahoney	Carmen Scott
Bobbie Blevins	Kira Fix	Mallory	Richard Scott
Eileen Borders	John & Harriet Flynn	Marie Marcinkowski	The Francis Scott Family
Barry Boulden	John	The Martinez Family	Maria Perdikis
Paula Boulden	Joan Frati	Mary Helen	Mike PierceSeth
Myrle Bowe	Ginny	Jude Matejkovic	Linda Sheesley
Ronald Boyce	Fred Geist	Melvin	Earlene Smith
Doris Brown	Owen Geist	Missy	Dan Sommers
Charles Brown	Gerike Family: Adam, Lindsey, & Oliver	Carmen Moore	Kenny Stafford
Eleanor Buchanan	Glenn	Shirley Moore	Dorothy Stephens
Crystal Bush	Brittney Griffin	Ann Moses	Steve
Douglas Bush	Scott Gunn	Jay Muckle	Gavin Stiteler
David Butters	Carolyn Halfen	Randy Murray	Paula Szczuka
Fran Pearlman-Butters	Ike Hammond	Sara Musselman	The Sztokiewicz Family:
Cameryn	Lindsay Hammond	Natalie	Joanna, Michael, Hannah, Charles
Caroleen	Amy & Rick Harra	The Rev. Sarah Nelson	Thomas
Carolyn	Major Scott M. Harra	Sue Nelson	Lorayne Titter
Cathy	Nancy Hoffman	Nicholas	Jack Tucker
Wayne Chapman, Jr.	Travis Hoffman	Noah	Shon Tucker
KayMaire Castro	Holly	Cassandra Norsworthy	Tyler
Chris	Eileen Hughes	Paula Orty	Jack
Cindy	Peter Huiner and Family	Mark Parton	Betty Ann VanHeckle
Linda Clark	Kaylee Jackson	Terri Parton	Mary Wade
Clint	Jennifer	Debbie Papa	Nancy Walls
Bill Cole	Jenna & John	Madeline Pepe and Children	Valerie Warrington
Brittany Collins	Jeremy	Pat	Missy Wieland
Christina Conaway	Jim	Pat Purdy	Andy & Linda Wolf
Presiding Bishop Michael Curry	Joe	The Pease Family	
Daisy	Joshua John	Maria Perdikis	
Cullen Kate Deal	Sister Julian		

For those serving our country: National Guard: Terron Barnes, Brad Pastore, Christina Pastore;
U.S. Army: Maj. Scott M. Harra. *Give grace, O Lord, to our brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer physically and emotionally, that they may be healed. Grant them trust and love that their prayers may be answered and that they may be relieved from their suffering. Amen.*