
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 11, 2023**



I have so enjoyed the summer with our following – those chosen by God to establish just what is required to live a life of faith. Sometimes when I hear the names of Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Jacob, Sarah, Rebekah, and Leah, I am tempted to think that these pillars were extraordinary people. In some ways, that sort of gets me off the hook. These great patriarchs and matriarchs were divinely chosen. In my mind, they did not have the everyday problems and obstacles that are so part of my life. No wonder they could lead such remarkable lives: God chose these people to live their faith. Me, just a mere mortal, well, how could *I* be expected to even begin to live such a faithful existence? No, I am a mere flawed human being. Their lives are far grander than my own.

Over the summer, though, we have read and learned about these heroes of our common faith. My illusions are dispelled. Abraham and Sarah lived simple lives ... and they lied and cheated, they even denied their marriage and sent off their child to die in the wilderness! Wait a minute ... these are God's chosen? Moses, an orphaned child, a murderer, a man who had difficulty expressing himself, a man denied entrance into the promised land? And you tell me that Moses is the great leader? Each of the people about whom we have heard their stories over the summer – each one was so flawed and made many mistakes along the way? But yet as flawed as they were and as horrendous as some of their choices were, these are the ones chosen by God to bring about God's plan for salvation! I think of the line from the musical piece, "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Why did you pick such a backward place and such a strange time?"

God's ways are not our ways, says the Lord. We frustrate our time attempting to make sense of why God chose these particular people and this time. In God's choice, though, you and I are back on the hook. If God can work through those characters (and I do mean *those characters*), then God can also use and work through you and me. Rather than simply looking up to these larger-than-life figures, you and I are called upon instead and we become such figures in the ongoing narrative of God working God's purpose out. Rather than being *off* the hook, now I am further *on* the hook. You and I are called on every moment to love the Lord our God and our neighbor as ourselves with every ounce of our being. If we allow it, God will use our strengths and our foibles, our gifts and our weaknesses. I find that to be both very difficult news and very good news. Again, I return to the ancient practice of, at day's break and at day's end, prayerfully examining my day. Where have I witnessed the divine today? Where have I sought God? Where have I missed an opportunity to live and to bring awareness to God's presence?

It is you and I, God's imperfect but beloved creatures, through whom God is redeeming this world. It is difficult but indeed joyous news!

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 recently had. He will be returning on Sunday, September 10th, which will be the Choir's first Sunday back as well.

THE 11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 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!

SUNDAY'S LITURGIES –

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalms: 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Gospel: Matthew 14: 22-33

LAY MINISTERS –

Worship Leader: George McDowell; **Reader**: Marti LaRue; **Acolyte**: Tom Reilly; **Greeter**: Carol McDowell; **Usher**: Denise Jarrell; **Altar Guild**: Mary Hammond; **Counters**: Tom Reilly, Marti LaRue.



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 Iglesia Anglicana de Chile.

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for the Episcopal Campus Ministry.

(Continued next page)

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS (Continued from page 2)

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Nalani Luckey, George Fischbach, Jenny Azwol, Christopher Fischbach.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the Scott Family. Please remember to pray for Carmen and Richard 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

STILL WORKING ON BLANKETS FOR CORAL SPRINGS AND EASTER SEALS!

If anyone is interested in helping put the polar fleece lap blankets together as we get them ready for our Christmas gifts to Coral Springs and Easter Seals residents, please **drop by the Lounge this Wednesday at 10:00 am.**



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. **There is an updated list of items we still need 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 is 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 have been meeting to help 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 flying by? We still have a few 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 one last event planned just for you in the fall!

- **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: To date, below is the current list of what we have received. **We hope to fill 35 backpacks and will be collecting until August 20th.** When you are out and about shopping, keep your eyes peeled for sales so we can fill up these backpacks and start our community children off with a bang! (FYI – we’ve heard “through the grapevine” that Wal-Mart is having a great sale on these supplies!)

Have Received

Fruit Snacks	130
Notebook paper	11
Pencils	60
Glue Sticks	33
Pens (Black; Blue)	32
Pink Erasers (not pencil tops)	24
Two-pocket folders	68
Spiral notebooks	5
24-pack crayons	40
Highlighters	8
Post-It Sticky Notes	24 plus 1 large 25-count
Pencil Boxes	5
10-Pack Washable markers	4
Index cards, 3” x 5”	6 plus one pack of 25-count
Composition books	10

Remember to please bring your donations of supplies in to church no later than next Sunday, August 20th. There is a collection box in the fo 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 23rd at 12:00 noon.

Rev. Sarah will bless the backpacks on Sunday, August 27th during the 10:00 am service. They will be delivered to Richey Elementary School first part of following week.

Thanks to Betty VanHekle 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 13
Worship Service 10:00 am

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20
Worship Service 10:00 am
Deadline for turning in school supplies

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16
Polar Fleece Lap Blankets – meet in the Lounge at 10:00 am to continue putting the blankets together.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23
Assembly of Backpacks – Meet in the Lounge at 12:00 noon

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27
Worship Service 10:00 am

	<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>21 – Penny Edwards 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

“Doubt is the ants in the pants of our faith.” – from one of Rev. Sarah’s sermons March 2023



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.*