
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
September 23, 2023**



My former Bishop wrote extensively about the church and the future. He had a heart and passion for where the church was moving and what the future might hold. He often spoke about the church's beginnings: people of faith meeting in homes and small gatherings to support one another in their lives and in their faith. The Bishop of years ago thought that the future of the church might just be the return to its beginnings. People of faith meeting in small gatherings to uphold one another.

We live in a world where often success can be measured in terms of numbers: the bigger the better! We count numbers of people in attendance, monies in the collection plate, and the quantity of programs that are offered. We count success by these numerical standards.

From my vantage point, I believe that the church may be about a different gauge. This past week, our parish grieved the loss of one of our own, and last Friday we celebrated the life of Dave Edwards. The church, more specifically our parish, Saint James, was at its best. In spite of the sadness of the circumstances, the character of the parish was on display. So many of you held the family in prayer. Others of you offered to participate in the service or prepared the church for worship. Your expressions of care and support – these are what this community who follows Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is about.

I believe that when we gauge how well we are doing in proclaiming the Gospel, the Good News, these are the measures. If in any given day we can live our faith, if we can raise one person's spirits, if we can bring the power of the divine into awareness, then I believe that we are successful.

I am thankful for last Friday, where we could gather and celebrate Dave's life. He most certainly made this world a better place. We are a small but vital community. Due to our numbers, we know one another – not simply as a name but as the unique person God created into being. In celebration of Dave's life, our prayer and hope are that we continue to live as a faithful community, caring for one another, supporting one another's faith, and ever working to build God's kingdom here on earth.

Small parishes may be the vision of the future, a place where we can gather, be known and be welcomed as God's own, forever. Thank you, Dave, for bringing such awareness to our lives. Thank you for your witness to your faith and assisting us to more clearly witness to our own.

Faithfully,
Sarah



Music Ministry Notes
from Dr. Michael Larkin, Director of Music Ministry

My St. James Friends,

After being away from the church for five long weeks recovering from my hand and wrist surgery, it is good to be back with you leading the music during our worship. I am very thankful for your thoughts, prayers, and notes that many of you sent my way. I am almost back to 100%. I still have a little discomfort and stiffness, but most importantly, now I have complete feeling in all the fingers on my left hand.

As our Creation Season continues, I hope that you will find that the music – be it hymns, choir anthems, or organ music – helps to accentuate the themes for each Sunday. Much thought and prayer go into the selection of music for each Sunday based on the themes for that particular day.

I close with two gentle reminders. First, we will always welcome new choir members. We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. before the service. If you have any questions, please let me know. Secondly, never hesitate to offer any suggestions regarding our music ministry. I am always most willing to listen.

Blessings,
Dr. Michael Larkin

THE 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
SEASON OF CREATION II – SKY SUNDAY

Today is “Sky” Sunday at St. James, the second Sunday of the Season of Creation. We will hear Scriptures read from the Old and New Testaments and are reminded that “the skies/heavens declare the glory of God” and that the skies also announce that the work of the Creator is everywhere ... even today. However, in Mark’s version, he details the passion of Jesus and the anguish of the (blackened) sky in sympathy. Today, we need to be alert to a suffering sky that has been polluted by our greed, and we need to remember that Christ and this sky suffered together that noon on Calvary. The prayers and hymns today will also be magnificently centered around the skies and the heavens. The Parish Choir will sing a beautiful anthem, “Let the Whole Creation Cry,” by Dr. Michael Larkin.

ALSO THIS SUNDAY



LITURGIES for SKY SUNDAY –

*Old Testament: Jeremiah 4:23-28; Epistle: Ephesians 1:9-10, 23;
Psalms: 19:1-6; Gospel: Mark 15:33-39.*



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.

LAY MINISTERS –

Worship Leader	Dawn Martinez
Readers	Marti LaRue; John Grim
Acolyte	Tom Reilly
Greeter	Marsali Hansen
Usher	Carol Hall
Altar Guild	Andi Bender
Counters	Tom Reilly; Tom Hall



ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER – Pray for the Diocese of Central Florida (The Episcopal Church).

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for the Church of Sts. Andrew and Matthew, Wilmington, The Rev. Patrick T. Burke, Rector; The Rev. Canon Lloyd S. Casson, Rector Emeritus, and Douglas E. Krantz, Rabbi-in-Residence.

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 especially Patti, Penny, & David Edwards, Carmen Scott, Diane Geist, Fr. Reuben, Lindsey, Kira, Cindy, Dave. Pray for those who have died.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Nicholas Azwol; Emma Warrington.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS (continued)

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the Spendio Family. Please remember to pray for David during the service on Sunday and keep him 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.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, & OPPORTUNITIES



BIBLE STUDY – Join us every Wednesday in the Lounge. **NOTE OF TIME CHANGE: Next Wednesday, Sept. 27th, we will begin at 9:30am.** See the new Schedule on page 5 under “Meeting.”



VESTRY MEETING – This Sunday, September 24th will be the next Vestry meeting in the Lounge after the 10am worship service. It will be a working “interest” Meeting. If you are interested in serving on the Vestry or if you would like to learn more about what our Vestry is about, please join us this Sunday after the worship service.



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED ONCE A MONTH!! If you enjoy sharing coffee, a snack, 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. Come early – it takes about 15 minutes to set up and 15-20 to clean up. If you’re interested, please add your name on the sign-up sheet on the Board in the foyer! Pick a month that you (and a friend) would like to be Hosts for Coffee Hour!

YOUTH EVENTS AT ST. JAMES

We have one last event planned just for the kids 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.

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!

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>

MEETING

BIBLE STUDY

September 13th – December 27th, 2023

As Christian people we set ourselves on a lifelong course of increasingly learning about our God and God's purpose for our lives. We know many of the stories and we know about God's plan of salvation. Truly, this is a life-long task.

As we "read, mark and inwardly digest" the words of scripture, we know that God continues to speak to us each and every day. Because God continues to reveal God's self, we turn our hearts to be open and responsive to what God is saying. Throughout history, Christians have engaged in the practice of reading and studying scripture. Beginning on Wednesday, September 13th, you are invited to join in a study of scripture with others seeking to know God. Each Wednesday we will gather at **10:00 am** * in the Lounge to consider the words of the Gospel for the coming Sunday. While we will be meeting in person, if you would like to join us by Zoom, please let the office know.

I hope that you will join us.

Sarah

*** Note Time Change for Wednesday, Sept. 27th – Bible Study will begin at 9:30am!**

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 2023 SCHEDULE

~~September 13 – Earth Sunday – John 1: 1-14~~
~~September 20 – Sky Sunday – Mark 15:33-39~~
September 27 – Mountain Sunday – Mark 16: 14-18

October 4 – Humanity Sunday – Mark 10: 41-45
October 11 – Saint Francis – Matthew 11:25-30
October 18 – Matthew 22:15-22
October 25 – Matthew 22:34-46

November 1 – All Saints – Matthew 5: 1-12
November 8 – Matthew 25: 1-13
November 15 – Matthew 25: 14-30
November 22 – **No class**
November 29 – Mark:13:24-37

December 6 – Mark 1:1-8
December 13 – John 1: 6-8, 19-28
December 20 – **No class**
December 27 – **No class**

Then on to 2024!

UPCOMING EVENTS and OBSERVANCES

ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS – We will be celebrating All Saints and All Souls this year on Sunday, October 29th. Last year, and thanks to Dawn Martinez who set up a memorial for us to commemorate all our faithfully departed saints (see picture below).

We will be doing this again this year. If you would like to include a picture of your loved ones on the display, **please start bringing in your pictures (no larger than 4”x6”)** to Dawn Martinez, **or you may drop them off in the office, no later than October 18th. (Your pictures will be returned to you.)**



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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.

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.

CALENDAR – SEPTEMBER 24 – OCTOBER 4

<p><u>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24</u> <u>CREATION 2 – SKY SUNDAY</u> Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship Service (w/ choir) 10:00 am Vestry Meeting (Lounge) after service (with refreshments) <u>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27</u> Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00 am</p>	<p><u>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1</u> <u>CREATION 3 – MOUNTAIN SUNDAY</u> Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship Service (w/ choir) 10:00 am Healing Service (Chapel) after service <u>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4</u> Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00 am</p>
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<p><u>SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS</u></p> 	<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>3 – Savannah Temme 10 – Gracelynn Ruggieri 11 – Anna Kelley 11 – AJ Luckey 18 – Nancy Walls 21 – Alex DeMaio 22 – Dave Mahoney 26 – Nicholas Azwol 28 – Emma Warrington</p>
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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious and however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at.”

- Stephen Hawking



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

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.*