
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
October 14, 2023**



I often say that it isn't the big things but it is the minutiae of life that will take us down. You know how you can plan a vacation, where to go, how to get there, how long you are to be away? When that part is complete, you get this sense of satisfaction, but which shoes to bring, the right toothpaste that you can actually find the cap for, and arranging for the plants to be watered – that part seems to go on and on. Sometimes it seems easier just to stay at home!

Life in the parish, I believe, is very much the same. While the vitality is wonderful, sometimes it seems a lot to keep on our radar. So, here is a brief recap of what lies ahead.

The vestry met last week with the intent of not only assessing where we are but setting goals for the coming year. I was amazed at the thought, creativity and commitment to Saint James! Of course, the vestry members having chosen an area of ministry (worship, outreach, fellowship, etc.), have ideas and goals across the entire life of the parish. Many overlap and that is part of the beauty: one area of ministry naturally flowing into the next. Vestry minutes will be posted so you can learn more about the process.

On November 5 we will celebrate All Saints Day. This is a grand feast day in the church: a time to celebrate the lives of those who have run the race and on whose shoulders we stand. Dawn Martinez has constructed an Ofrenda where you are encouraged to bring in photos of your loved ones to honor on this day.

You are invited, encouraged, urged to join after worship on October 29 to view the film *Coco*. This delightful film is a charming tale teaching us about the Ofrenda and the tradition and truths the practice holds. There will be soup and popcorn. Please join us.

Speaking of standing on the shoulders of those who have come before us, our new piano is a musical instrument to support our congregational and choir singing. The piano that we have today has served us well for many years. The instrument was purchased years ago with memorial funds. These funds honored three beloved parishioners: Bernice Hutt, Frances Wallace and Ken Wade. Each of these individuals were people who loved and supported Saint James. Each loved the music of our church.

Instruments have a life. This piano served us well. Instruments, though, wear out and need to be replaced. The memories of people do not wear out. They abide with us. I cannot think of Bernice without thinking about lemon meringue pie, or Fran without thinking of her walker with streamers and her quick wit, or Ken without his beautiful voice and filling my glass with some peach drink at his daughter's wedding. The memories are sustaining. In that light, the memorial place honoring Bernice, Ken and Fran will be removed from the old piano and placed on the new one. The instrument may be ready for retirement but those blessed people...never. Their faith, love of Christ and dedication to Saint James will abide. *(continued on page 2)*

This week, of course, is The Feast of Saint Francis, or as we know it, the Blessing of the Animals. Having celebrated the earth, the sky, the mountains and humanity, what a fitting culmination of the Creation Season to bless those creatures with whom we share this planet. Plan to bring a chair, your beloved creature or its photo, or simply the picture of an animal that you hold dear. This is a favorite liturgy of mine. Something about those cute pups and kittens and, yes, even Bearded Dragons that just tugs at the heart.

Well, that is probably enough for now. Only so much that we can hold in our hearts and minds at one time!

Faithfully,
Sarah



Music Ministry Notes

from Dr. Michael Larkin, the Director of Music Ministry

This Sunday we will celebrate St. Francis, the patron saint of all creation.

So, who was this St. Francis?

Born in 1182 in the town of Assisi, St. Francis of Assisi was an Italian Catholic friar, deacon, philosopher, mystic, and preacher, and is considered one of the most esteemed religious figures in Christian history.

Interestingly, he was born into a wealthy family and led an early life of adventure, travel, lavish spending, and as a soldier who spent a year as a prisoner of war. As the story goes, one morning in February 1208, he was hearing Mass and the Gospel of the day was the “Commissioning of the Twelve” from the Book of Matthew. Apparently, Francis was suddenly inspired to forsake his former life and devote himself to a life of poverty. He obtained a coarse woolen tunic worn from the poorest peasants, tied it around himself with a knotted rope, and traversed the countryside exhorting people to live a life of penance, brotherly love, and peace.

He soon attracted 11 followers, or friars, who lived a simple life in a deserted hut near Assisi. However, they spent much of their time wandering through the countryside and abroad with their well-received message. In 1209 he wrote his *Regula primitiva* or “Primitive Rule,” a simple set of rules for his increasing number of followers (or “friars”/monks), and the Franciscan monastic order was founded. To this day, Franciscan communities around the world still adhere to the same “Primitive Rule.”

Most importantly for our purposes, Francis apparently developed a special relationship with animals becoming their patron saint, and now is considered the patron saint of all creation. He also developed a special interest in the natural environment. He died October 3, 1226 and was canonized Pope Gregory IX on July 16, 1228.

This Sunday, our hymns reflect on his life and his mission to love and care for all creation. In my meditation, I will examine how our beloved pets can teach us important things about our relationship with each other, the world around us, and, most importantly, our relationship with God, the Creator.

I hope to see you tomorrow.

Blessings,
Dr. Michael Larkin

**ST. FRANCIS DAY
THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

We worship this Sunday with all the creatures we love. We join the Psalmists and rejoice with all living things. We sing with all the birds and animals that make our lives richer because of their presence.

Animals refer too all the living creatures people bring to worship, whether they be animals, dogs, or birds, reptiles and fish, domesticated or wild. Where people are not able to bring an animal, they may wish to bring a picture of an animal they love or an endangered species in the wild.

ALSO THIS SUNDAY



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SUNDAY –

Old Testament: Genesis 1:12-18, 21-25, 31; Epistle: Revelation 5:11-14;

Psalm: 148; Gospel: Matthew 6:25-26.



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 –

Organist	Michael Larkin
Worship Leader	Dawn Martinez
Readers	Lisa Bowe; John Grim
Acolyte	Tom Reilly
Greeter	Carol McDowell
Usher	Marti LaRue
Altar Guild	Janice Fischbach
Counters	Tom Reilly; Dawn Martinez



ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER – Pray for The Anglican Church of Kenya.

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for Immanuel Episcopal Church on the Green, New Castle. The Rev. Christopher P. Keene, Rector.

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, especially Nancy Clapp, Jack Gracie, and Leon Slocomb.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Tina Geist and Ken Davis.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the VanDerryt family. Please remember to pray for Jacqueline, Scott, and Autumn 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.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, & OPPORTUNITIES



BIBLE STUDY – Join us every Wednesday at 10:00am in the Lounge. *See the new Schedule on page 5 under “Meeting.”*



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 contact Carol Hall or Marti LaRue or see them on Sunday! Pick a month that you (and a friend) would like to be Hosts for Coffee Hour!

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 respectful 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 10:00am 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

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

The **Hospitality Team** would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join us for a screening of the movie *Coco* immediately following worship on **Sunday, October 29th**. We will also be providing Soup and other refreshments!

Coco provides us with a strong reminder that despite death, family history can transcend the years and continue to shape our families for generations to come.

Join us on the 29th to have a bowl of hot soup/crackers/beverages as we watch *Coco*! Bring a Friend, too! It'll be a fun afternoon!

ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS – We will be celebrating All Saints and All Souls this year on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5th**. Last year, Dawn Martinez set up an Ofrenda – 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 bring in copies* of your loved ones' pictures (no larger than 4"x6") and give them to Dawn Martinez no later than Saturday morning, November 4th.** (*If you submit an original picture, a copy will be made and your original will be returned to you.)



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

October 6, 2023 – Issue 1

There are so many invisible ties that bind us one to the other. As we all know, sharing burdens makes them lighter and it is no fun having a party all by yourself. In that light, beginning in the October 6th issue of the **Parish Light**, we began a new section entitled *Our Young People*. In this section, we will highlight some of what our young people are doing.

<p>Nazeef Bush, a freshman at William Penn High School, is trying a new thing. Nazeef is running Cross Country for his school.</p>	<p>Go, Nazeef and Nazir! Saint James is very proud of both of you!</p>	<p>Nazir Washington, also a freshman at William Penn, is playing on the school football team.</p>
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 <p>We are so proud of you, Penny!</p>	<p>Our own Penny Geist, a naturalist in the making, was recently interviewed by <u>Delaware Wild Lands</u> for their Fall newsletter. Penny has a keen interest in the natural world and often works with her father on various projects.</p>
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I hope that you will share things about young people you know. This will also give each of us something to talk about when we encounter these members of our church.

To submit details about your Young Person, please email information (and if you desire, a picture) to: martilarue828@gmail.com. Please know that by sending us a picture, you will be authorizing and agreeing to having your youth's picture appear in our newsletter.

MISCELLANEOUS


<u>CHURCH EXPENSES</u>	<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>	<u>CORAL SPRINGS NURSING HOME</u>
<p>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!</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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 – OCTOBER 15 – NOVEMBER 5

<p align="center">SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 <i>ST FRANCIS DAY – BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS</i></p> <p>NO Choir Rehearsal Today Worship Service (outside) 10:00 am (weather permitting)</p> <p align="center">WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18 Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00 am</p> <p align="center">SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 <i>21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</i> Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship Service (w/ choir) 10:00 am</p> <p align="center">WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00 am</p> <p align="center"><u>BEFORE SATURDAY, OCT. 28</u> Deadline to turn in your information to Tina if you want to <u>Light A Candle</u> for a loved one on All Saints Day (Nov. 5)</p>	<p align="center">SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship Service (w/ choir) 10:00 am Screening of the Movie <i>Coco</i> – after worship service; soup & refreshments provided</p> <p align="center">WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 Bible Study (Lounge) 10:00 am</p> <p align="center"><u>BY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4</u> Deadline to bring in pictures of your loved ones (copies preferred) no larger than 4”x6” and give them to Dawn.</p> <p align="center">SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 <u>ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS SERVICE</u> Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship Service (w/ choir) 10:00 am Ofrenda memorial displayed to commemorate all our faithfully departed loved ones (saints)</p>
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<p><u>OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS</u></p> 	<p>1 – Dave Edwards *</p> <p>2 – Butch VanHekle</p> <p>3 – Autumn VanDerryt</p> <p>3 – Patty Cannon-Yeatman</p> <p>3 – Sophia Temme</p> <p>4 – George McDowell</p> <p>5 – Jacob Purdy</p> <p>6 – Lisa Foglia (McHale)</p> <p>7 – Betty VanHekle</p> <p>8 – Dorothy Shearer</p>	<p>12 – Astra Penn</p> <p>20 – Tina Geist</p> <p>22 – Ken Davis</p> <p>24 – Annalyssia Castro-Cruz</p> <p>28 – Allen Luckey</p> <p>28 – Amber Price</p> <p>29 – Aubree Rutkowski</p> <p>31 – Jason Rutkowski</p>
	<p>* Happy Heavenly Birthday, Dave!</p>	

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Stay positive – better days are on their way! – *Unknown*



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	The Slocomb Family
Doris Brown	Fred Geist	Melvin	Earlene Smith
Charles Brown	Gerike Family: Adam,	Missy	Dan Sommers
Eleanor Buchanan	Lindsey, & Oliver	Carmen Moore	Kenny Stafford
Crystal Bush	Glenn	Shirley Moore	Dorothy Stephens
Douglas Bush	The Gracie Family	Ann Moses	Steve
David Butters	Brittney Griffin	Jay Muckle	Gavin Stiteler
Fran Pearlman-Butters	Scott Gunn	Randy Murray	Paula Szczuka
Cameryn	Carolyn Halfen	Sara Musselman	The Sztokiewicz Family:
Caroleen	Ike Hammond	Natalie	Joanna, Michael,
Carolyn	Lindsey Hammond	Maren Nelson	Hannah, Charles
KayMaire Castro	Amy & Rick Harra	The Rev. Sarah Nelson	Thomas
Cathy	Major Scott M. Harra	Sue Nelson	Lorayne Titter
Wayne Chapman, Jr.	Nancy Hoffman	Nicholas	Jack Tucker
Chris	Travis Hoffman	Noah	Shon Tucker
Cindy	Holly	Cassandra Norsworthy	Tyler
The Clapp Family	Eileen Hughes	Paula Orty	Jack
Linda Clark	Peter Huiner and Family	Mark Parton	Betty Ann VanHekle
Clint	Kaylee Jackson	Terri Parton	Preston VanHekle III
Bill Cole	Jennifer	Debbie Papa	Mary Wade
Brittany Collins	Jenna & John	Madeline Pepe & Children	Nancy Walls
Christina Conaway	Jeremy	Pat	Valerie Warrington
Presiding Bishop	Jim	The Pease Family	Missy Wieland
Michael Curry	Joan	Maria Perdikis	Andy & Linda Wolf
Daisy	Joe		
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.*