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# The Weekly Parish Light

January 25, 2025

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

## From the Rector – The Rev. Sarah Nelson



Most of us have seen the commercial about News Years resolutions and less than three weeks later, quitters' day. If you are anything like me, you begin the year with that age old custom of making resolutions or promises to yourself how this year will be different. About how this year you will be faithful to your life of prayer, or you will finally lose those ten pounds, or how you will walk ten thousand steps every day. I typically begin a new book to record my resolutions and my progress. The new year feels like a fresh beginning filled with hope. This year I will do it!

Now three weeks into the new year, how are you doing?

In my life already there have been highs and lows. Days where I have been able to follow through and days where I have fallen miserably short. The question of course is not how we have been faithful to those goals or how we have fallen short. The question of course is what we do with this. The temptation is always to slowly or quickly forget about those goals, to put it off until next year, to stop holding this as a standard. To simply forget all about these resolutions. After all we were okay before January 1st so we should be just fine if we return to our old ways.

The alternative though is to look at those resolutions. to modify them, if necessary, but not to abandon them. Perhaps we wonder why we chose those particular goals. Perhaps we wonder why we missed the mark! Perhaps we wonder what kept us faithful to them. We must remember to always be gentle to ourselves. But also, to hold on and one step at a time move towards those resolutions.

The model is obvious. Our God in love calls us into the full stature of Christ; to be all we were created to be. We strive; we are successful. We fail. But God always always keeps on calling. Our God forgives, lifts us up, dusts us off and sets us back on our course.

Such is the model for how we are called to live our lives. We are called to as our Methodist sisters and brothers say, To move towards those resolutions perfection: perfection in Christ. When we fall short, we turn to God asking for forgiveness, for strength, for perseverance. When we are successful, we give all glory to God.

If you have made and kept your resolutions congratulations, keep it up. If you have fallen short, be gracious to yourself, Set your mind and heart and soul to a new day, a new beginning. For as the hymn tells us, indeed in you "God I'd working Gods purpose out"

Faithfully,

Sarah

**SUNDAY'S LITURGIES** – **Old Testament:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 **Psalm:** *Psalm 19*

**New Testament:** *1 Corinthians 12:12-31a* **Gospel:** *Luke 4:14-21*

**LAY MINISTERS** –

**Director of Music Ministry:** Dr. Michael Larkin

**Worship Leader:** Dawn Martinez

**Old Testament Reader:** Tom Hutt

**New Testament Reader:** Tom Hutt

**Acolyte:** Tom Reilly

**Greeter:** Penny Geist

**Usher:** Carol Hall

**Altar Guild:** Andi Bender

**Counters:** Tom Reilly



**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.

*In Our Thoro  
Prayer List*

**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 *Jack Gilbreth, Linda White, Jessica Absher, Butch & Betty VanHekle, Ike Hammond, Lindsay Hammond, Marti LaRue, Sandy Grim, George Fischbach, Jim Bender, Ann, Carmen Scott, Diane Geist, Lindsey, Kira, Preston, Cindy, Dave, Joyce Beattie, Dean, Dutch, Chris, Jeannie Trotto.*

- Pray for those who have died.

Anyone wishing to have someone **placed on or taken off the prayer list** may email [Stjamesnew@verizon.net](mailto:Stjamesnew@verizon.net) or call the church office at 302-994-2029.

***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



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY** – You are invited to join in a study of scripture with others seeking to know God. Each Wednesday we will gather at 10:00 a.m. 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



**VESTRY MEETINGS:** Vestry meetings are scheduled on the following dates:



**WORSHIP MEETING:** The Worship meetings are usually scheduled on the fourth Sunday of the month.



**HEALING SERVICES** are generally held on the first Sunday of each month in the Chapel immediately following the 10am worship service. They have been scheduled on the following dates: December 1<sup>st</sup>.

2	Eric Purdy	17	Arianna Hinds
3	Bryanna Madden	21	Georgina Martinez
3	Carol Hall	22	Nazeef Bush
7	Christina Pastore	22	Andi Bender
9	Amy Holcomb	24	Dawn Martinez
12	Kamari Castro	25	Denise Jarrell
16	Jack Malloy	29	Charolotte Ruggieri
17	Stumpy Moore	31	Tom Hall

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available if you would like to use them.

**PLEDGE CARDS** received will be linked to your envelope, if you desire to use the envelopes.

### ***A & D CHALLENGE GRANT***

The Work has been completed on our new roof, however our work has just begun, as part of our A&D Loan terms we have requested a Challenge Grant in the amount of \$5,000. This mean if we raise \$5,000 The A&D Committee will Match it! If you would like to contribute, please make sure you put a note on your check or offertory envelope that lets us know that it should go towards the Challenge Grant. Also, be on the look out for other Fundraising activities! If you have any fundraiser ideas please contact Tina!



## **OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

To submit exciting details about achievements about your Young Person, please email information (and if you desire, a picture) to: [stjamesnew@verizon.net](mailto:stjamesnew@verizon.net) 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**

**Altar Flowers:** After Easter, 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: St. James Church. 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.

**Memorial Garden Bricks-** Tina will be placing an order for Bricks in the memorial garden, If you would like to purchase one please let tina know ASAP The order will be placed at the end of the month. The cost is \$100.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

***Know – God Love – People***  
***Nurture – One Another Serve – The Community***

**Rector: The Rev. Sarah Nelson**  
**Services: Sunday – 10:00 a.m.**  
**E-mail: [stjamesnew@verizon.net](mailto:stjamesnew@verizon.net)**

## **ST. JAMES VESTRY**

**Sr. Warden:** George McDowell  
**Jr. Warden:** Tina Geist

**Christian Education Chair:** Tina Geist  
**Finance:** George McDowell/Tina Geist  
**Outreach Chairs:** Dawn Martinez and Janice Fischbach  
**Pastoral Care Chairs:** Dawn Martinez and Marti LaRue  
**Property Chairs:** Tom Reilly and Andi Bender

**Hospitality/Fellowship Chairs:** Marti LaRue and Carol Hall

**Worship Chairs:** John Grim and Dawn Martinez

**Recording Secretary:** Marti LaRue

**Clerk of the Vestry:** Janice Fischbach



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.<sup>9</sup>



**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](mailto:stjamesnew@verizon.net) ) or call the church office ( 302-994-2029 ). **(Recently added are BOLDED)**

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

**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 may be healed. Grant them trust and love that their prayers may be answered and that they may be relieved from their suffering. Amen.*

**Rev. 03/28/24**