
The Weekly Parish Light

January 31, 2025

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

From the Rector – The Rev. Sarah Nelson



There is a quotation that I vaguely remember from the bulletins from my childhood dance recitals. I know it is difficult to believe that I ever was engaged in a medium that requires such grace, but my parents were ever the optimists. The quotation had to do with a sapling which bends in the wind and because it bends it does not break.

I am not all together sure what that had to do with a bunch of young flexible kids all dressed up and performing a dance routine that they had spent months learning. I do remember the quotation or at least the jist of it all these years later.

When things in my life do not go as planned, when things seem as though they are falling apart or at least unraveling my tendency is to attempt to make them work. Sort of like an old fashion jigsaw puzzle piece. If we think that it should fit in a particular spot we turn the piece over and over, we mashing it harder and harder, we might even chew an edge to force the piece where we believe it should be. In the end the piece does not fit there because it was never intended to go in that place.

When things in my life do not go according to my plan, I often find myself working harder and harder to make things fit and go as I see it. It doesn't work. When life throws me a curve ball, I have a tendency to become stiff and more rigid. That visual from my dance bulletin reminds me that things that are stiff, rigid, inflexible, well when those curve balls come, they break. The challenge is to remain open and flexible. To be like the sapling which can bend and move in the wind. It bends and does not break.

As I listen to the struggles and challenges in my own life and in the lives of those around me, I am reminded of that sapling. I ask myself how can I remain open to other possibilities? How can I let go of being "right" and entertain that there is alternative? How can I step back and seek where God is calling or leading or nudging?

A challenge to be sure but the elegant, graceful bending of the sapling is life saving and life giving. It is a journey, a journey seeking Gods voice and not my own. It is a course that allows me bend and shift to meet the challenges of life changed but not broken.

Faithfully,

Sarah

SUNDAY'S LITURGIES – **Old Testament:** Malachi 3:1-4 **Psalm:** *Psalm 84*

New Testament: Hebrews 2:14-18 **Gospel:** *Luke 2:22-40*

LAY MINISTERS –

Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Michael Larkin

Worship Leader: John Grim

Old Testament Reader: Marti LaRue

New Testament Reader: Lisa Bowe

Acolyte: Tom Reilly

Greeter: Penny Geist

Usher: Carol Hall

Altar Guild:

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.



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 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 1st.



1	Layla Tjaden	22	Mary Wade
1	Melina Erdman	22	Ryan Washington
1	Sophia Erdman	24	The Rev Sarah Nelson
4	Caleb Nelson	24	James Bush
8	Nazir Washington	24	Ken Stafford
10	Dave Spendio	25	Gaelen Nelson
21	Alberta Regan	28	Cassandra Abrocombie

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STEWARDSHIP

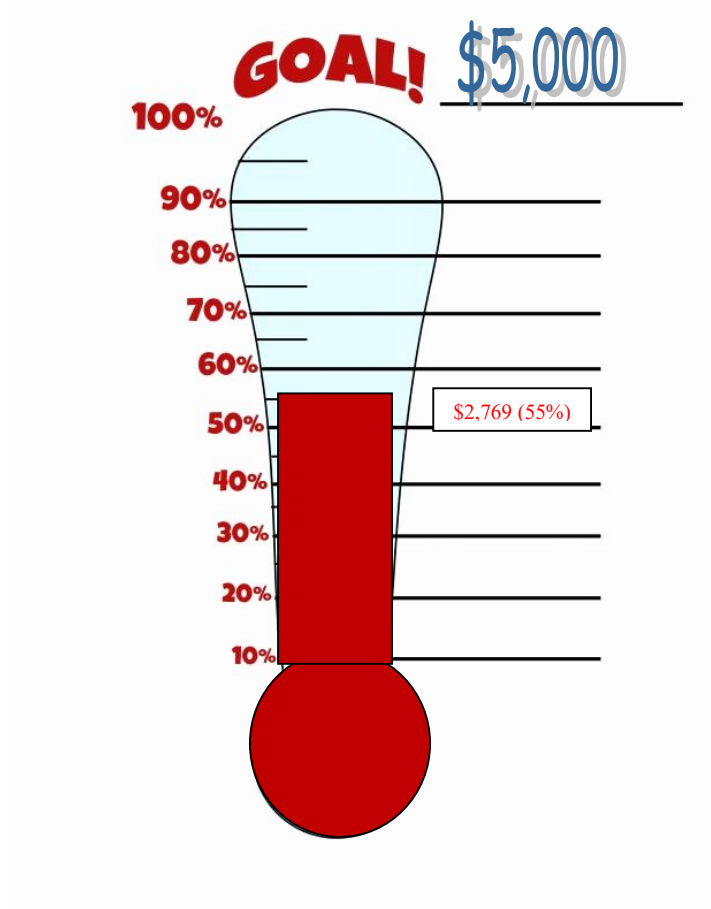
OFFERING ENVELOPES are available if you would like to use them.

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

2025

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 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

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.⁹

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). **(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	Emily Zirkle
Dave Cullen	Joshua John	Reese	Dean, Dutch, & Chris
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