

**Retreat St. James' Hammondspport**

**Saturday September 23. 2023**

**9 am to 2 pm**

Where is God calling St. James Church?

1. Introductions: Virginia Tyler Smith(facilitator), Father Craig, Jim Grillo, Leah Nichiporuk, Wayne Grimes, Richard Little, Karen Derr, Marilyn Dowdle, Joan Rogerson, Donna Noteware. Absent: Gregg Learned, Terry Channing
2. Orientation: Why here? What do we hope to achieve?
3. Morning prayer.
4. Exercise one: Share a gift of what St. James means to you.
5. Exercise two: Map the neighborhood- two groups to draw a map of the parish.
  - a. Where do you see God present and active? b. Where is it harder to see God? c. How might St. James build on where God is apparent.
6. Exercise Three: Source of Transformation—identifying the aspects of St. James where God reliably and consistently shows up.
7. Lunch 12:00 to 12:30
8. Exercise four: Who is connected to St. James? And how are they connected?
9. Integrating the calendar with God's Transformative work:
  - a. St. Francis Day (bless animals)
  - b. Halloween (candy bars)
  - c. All Saints & necrology (read names)
  - d. Veteran's Day (opportunity)
  - e. Advent liturgical (opportunity)
  - f. Advent community-( cookie walk, little league)
  - g. Christmas Eve( service)
  - h. Epiphany(opportunity)
  - i. Mardi Gras(opportunity)
  - j. Ash Wednesday (service and luncheon)
  - k. Lent(opportunity)
  - l. Holy Week(opportunity)
  - m. Memorial Day(Patriotic music)
  - n. Fire parade
  - o. Baccaulaureate (service and ice cream)
  - p. St. James Day (7/25) opportunity)

q. Pentecost Sunday( wear red)

10. Exercise five: Bible Study (Jesus stills the waves, Mark 4:35-41)

**Jesus Stills a Storm: On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him "Teacher, do you not care that we are**

**perishing?" And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Be silent! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"**

**Discussion: How do we still the storms in our community and in our hearts in order to show the calming love of Jesus?**

- 1. Exercise seven: Where do you hear God speaking to you in the light of our discussion today?**
- 2. Exercise eight: Hopes, wishes, dreams for St. James Church**
- 3. Closing prayer, gratitude, and blessing**

**All of the posters of the Vestry's drawings, suggestions, and ideas would be saved and posted in the undercroft to share with the congregation.**

**Respectively submitted, Donna Noteware, clerk**