

THE CHAPEL OF
ST. JAMES THE FISHERMAN

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Spring 2016

Last night, an early spring storm of snow and sleet, hail and rain, and wind—lots of wind—blew in from the north. As I (Tracey) listened to it pound against our new house on an urban bluff above Lake Erie, I wondered if Mother Nature is trying to send a warning to our city. If you've been following the national news, you know that Cleveland is preparing to host what promises to be a tumultuous and stormy Republican National Convention.

At present, our host committee is frantically raising money; our airport is under construction; real estate developers are rushing to build new hotels and restaurants; city dwellers are renting their homes to those who can't find rooms in the inn; city officials are trying to figure how to secure the convention zone; streets and highways are filled with orange construction cones; downtown businesses are making contingency plans; event planners are scouting sites for parties; the media are setting up outposts; and advocacy groups are planning protest demonstrations.

As for me, I'm trying to figure out how to make the cathedral a welcoming place for everybody, what to preach on the eve of the convention, and how to get to work as I will have to cross through the security zone. Like the rest of the country, I'm also wondering who will emerge as the nominees for president. Fortunately, as the convention delegates complete their work (assuming they finish on time), I will leave for Wellfleet with some interesting stories to tell, look for our new chapel sign, and join you for what promises to be a restful and rejuvenating summer season. Frankly, I can't wait!

For years my (Danielle's) family was accustomed to the back and forth dance between winter and spring that characterizes life in the Midwest and Northeast. Now, coming up on our first full year in Alabama, we are experiencing a season of warmth, flowering plants, and some pretty impressive pollen! Like the cathedral in Cleveland, our parish in Birmingham has enjoyed a year of worship, fellowship, and giving. We've participated in benevolent ministries with community partners who feed, shelter, and educate the most vulnerable among us. We have also begun to deal with serious issues affecting our local neighborhoods, like predatory lending and human trafficking.

We are both amazed at the challenges that face our nation and the world—and at the energy, generosity, and most important, hope that people of faith bring to these challenges. It is no different in Wellfleet, where a community of the faithful likewise gathers to offer the fruits of a year in worship, fellowship, and giving.

In the summer of 2016, we will celebrate and reflect on all that has happened from October through May. We will remember those we love and see no longer. We will enjoy the gift of God's creation, the blessing of Sabbath, the joy of community, and the abundance of food and drink. And as we do, we will not forget that the needs of the Cape resonate in so many ways with the needs of the places we come from.

The Chapel of St. James the Fisherman maintains its tradition of offering fifty percent of its annual giving to area non-profits who bring their own energy, generosity, and hope twelve months out of the year to a place we care so much about. We invite you to join with us this Spring in making a gift to sustain the ministry of The Chapel and its witness to the goodness of God and the good work being done among God's people in Wellfleet.

Gratefully, your Priests-in-Charge,

The Very Rev. Tracey Lind

The Rev. Danielle Thompson