A Letter from St. James Mill Creek Hundred

RECTOR's RAMBLINGS. . . Resurrection & the Ministry of the Parish

It will be a busy month around here. Kicking off the month on April 1st will be our observance of Palm/Passion Sunday. This will lead into the events of Holy Week that include services on Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. As always, on Holy Saturday we also will host a neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt in our churchyard followed by a free hot dog lunch in the Parish House.

All of this, of course, leads up to Easter Day, more formally known as The Day of Our Lord's Resurrection. This is the highlight of our worship life and devotion, for without the Resurrection there would be no hope in our call to be followers of Jesus Christ. The celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas has come to occupy the energy and attention of many people whether they believe in God or not. Easter, however, remains a more religious holy-day (notwithstanding the secular focus on the 'Easter Bunny' and the more recent and politically correct 'Spring Bunny').

If God had not acted to raise Jesus to new life from the darkness of the tomb, Jesus would have been just another interesting person in history. We might be inspired by his teachings, but we would not give our life to him nor engage in ministry in his name. Just as the Resurrection leads us to look beyond the constraints of this life, it also leads us to act beyond our own self interests as we seek and serve Christ in all persons. It is in serving others, not ourselves that God's love is made manifest to the world. It is only in letting our faith be seen and known that we can truly be called Christians in name **and** in deed.

While the ministry of many of those who worship here is done away from the confines of St. James' Church, it is through this congregation that we are strengthened by our common prayer and fellowship. With that in mind, there will be two important meetings to round out our April activities. One is on Tuesday, April 17th, when our Tercentennial Planning Committee meets to continue formulating the celebration of the 300 years of ministry and witness of our church. If you have not been a part of this committee it is not too late to get involved. The second important meeting occurs on Sunday, April 22^{md}, when we gather for the Annual Parish Meeting and election of the Vestry. On that day there will be one service at 9:00am followed by a brunch and meeting starting at 10:15am.

Mark your calendars now, and come be a part of the life of God and the ministry of this congregation of St. James'.

-- Blessings and Peace, Fr. Jim Bimbi

For the latest news of the parish go to

<www.stjamesmillcreek.org>



or aim your smartphone at this box:



St. James' FOOD CLOSET

Donations to the food closet will be accepted at any time. Here are some of the most popular items that are always in short supply: Tuna, cereal, individually wrapped toilet paper rolls, pasta sauce, canned meats, jelly, small containers of fruit with easy-open tops, Chef Boyardee pasta with zip-top can

lids, crackers, cookies, easy-open soups, peanut butter and jelly. Individually wrapped toilet paper, soap, shampoo and other hygiene items are also needed. We do not have a call for baby food or diapers so those items have been donated to another food closet. This Saint James ministry is truly appreciated by the people that need it. Thanks to all who contribute as well as to those who keep it organized.



Office Hours reduced due to Budget Shortfall

In recent years the Vestry has struggled with the issue of how to manage the financial health of the parish in the face of repeated annual deficits. While our year-end deficits have generally been smaller than what had been projected, we are at the point where we can no longer afford to dip into our savings account to make up the difference.

Acting on the recommendation of the Financial Advisory Committee, on March 12th the Vestry voted to reduce by 40% the paid hours of the administrative assistant position in order to help close the budget gap of the current year. This action was taken with regret, and is no reflection on the job that Genia Thomas has performed for the parish. Genia has agreed to stay on in this position, and will be working with Fr. Bimbi to determine how best to manage the business and work flow of the office.

Beginning in April, the new office hours/days will be <u>9:00am to 2:00pm on Tuesdays</u>. <u>Wednesdays and Thursdays</u>. While the office will officially be closed on Mondays and Fridays, Fr. Bimbi will be around the office on Mondays as his schedule allows. Messages may always be left on the answering machine at 994-1584, and will be retrieved as quickly as possible. HOLY WEEK



Walk with our Lord through Holy Week with these special services and then join us on Easter as we celebrate the Resurrection

PALM SUNDAY – April 1 Liturgy of the Palms 8AM & 10:15 AM
MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 5 7:30 PM
Foot Washing, The Lord's Supper, Stripping of the Altar
GOOD FRIDAY April 6
Ecumenical Service NOON - "7 Last Words of Christ from the Cross"
Good Friday Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross 7:30PM
HOLY SATURDAY – April 7 - 9AM Prayer Service
EASTER – April 8 CHORAL FESTIVAL EUCHARIST – 8AM & 10:15 AM

Family Promise Annual Luncheon and Auction Thank you!

Thank you to the congregation of St James for your continued generous support of the Family Promise Network. The auction and luncheon is the biggest fund raiser of the year for the program. Eight parishioners enjoyed attending the luncheon on February 25 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington. St James was also very well represented in the items donated for the auction! Thank you to the following contributors: Bruce and Jenny Vrana, Sandy Cornelia, Nancy Patterson, St James bazaar group, Susan Graves Fentzloff, David and Susan Winward, Robert and Kay Meckelnburg, and to Dorianne Short for coordinating the beautiful Italian theme basket and to those parishioners who donated the items. We look forward to your continued support as we provide hospitality to the homeless families in our community.

Susan Winward & Jennifer Idell

Do You Play Bridge?

<u>The National Cathedral Association</u> is sponsoring a Bridge Luncheon on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at the Parish Hall of Christ Church Christiana Hundred. There are tables for duplicate or party bridge; please bring a partner. This is a sanctioned and stratified game directed by Carl DeMartino. Bridge is



at 10AM with a Buffet Lunch at 1 PM. Cost is \$30 per person, lunch included. Proceeds benefit the National Cathedral Association which works to preserve the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The Fall 2011 storm caused exterior and interior damage to the Cathedral and insurance will not cover the cost for repair. All money made from this event goes to support Washington National Cathedral, a place of worship open to all faiths and all people. Call 302-998-3114 or 302-654-8582 with any questions or to register for this event.

The Annual Meeting of St. James Episcopal Church Mill Creek will be held on April 22, 2012 at 10:15a.m. At that time the following nominees for open vestry positions will be presented for your consideration:

2012 Vestry Nominees

To serve for a two-year term:

Ann Kauffman

Ann has been a member of St. James for 59 years. She has served in many committees and in various capacities including: Altar Guild, Clerk of Vestry, Parish House Coordinator, Sunday School teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, and three terms on the Vestry. After 32 years, Ann retired from WSFS as Vice-president of Regional and Branch Operations. She is happy to continue to serve St. James and stand for election to the Vestry.

Robert (Bob) Mecklenburg

Thank you very much for asking me to participate in the vestry, it indeed is an honor. I am a practicing physician who has been in Wilmington since 1962. I practice Endocrinology and occasionally work as ships physician on Russian ice breakers that go to the Antarctica and North Pole. I am the past president of the American College of Nuclear Physicians and a Fellow of the American College of Nuclear Physicians. I am a member of the Explorers Club in New York, The English Speaking Union, the Civil Aviation Medical Association, the FAA medical certification branch, and The Royal Oak society. Over the years, I taught Scuba diving, was a private pilot, and also enjoyed golf. I still collect wine and have my own cellar and my wife and I still do Ball Room dancing at least every week.

I was drawn to St. James because of the warmness of the parishioners when we first attended. Father Bimbi and his wife were very friendly and made my wife and I feel at home immediately. I was also drawn to the style of the church and its character which I greatly admire since I have been in many of them in my 26 years of traveling in the U.K. If elected to the vestry, I would try to do my best up to my ability for the Church and its parishioners. Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity.

Debby Nuss

Historical churches are near and dear to my heart. I was baptized at Old Swedes Church. It was my grand parents' church and the church my father attended as a child. I grew up in New Castle and was a member of The Church of the Nativity. My parents moved to Pike Creek Valley when I was a teenager and that's when I began my relationship with St. James, Millcreek. My dad was a supply priest for the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware so my family followed him to worship wherever he was assigned for the day, week, month or year. I have had the marvelous opportunity to worship in many of Delaware's Episcopal Churches from St. Anne's, Middletown to St. Alban's, North Wilmington.

When I became an adult I wanted to put down my worship roots so I followed my heart and returned to St. James. The longer I am here the more I love this church. St. James is where I find my spiritual direction and support. Serving on the Altar Guild and serving as a Lay Reader are two jobs that are very important to me. I am so grateful to be a part of the life and ministry of this beautiful church.

I have willingly accepted the opportunity to be a candidate for our Vestry. I must admit I will not come to the Vestry with a list of ideas for new initiatives. But I will come ready to nurture and support the many ministries that are already in place that I believe are so important and so meaningful.

Steve Prescott

Mary, Ian and I have been members of St. James' Church since 1999 when we moved from Bucks County, PA. In looking for a new church we worshiped at a number of Episcopal churches in the Wilmington/Newark area. After our first visit to St. James we knew we had found our spiritual home. I am currently serving as an Usher and have done volunteer work over the years with the Property Committee, Turkey Dinner, Flea Market, Bazaar, Easter Egg Hunt and the Church Picnic. I have been a Vestry member the past two years and would look forward for the opportunity to serve on the Vestry for another term. In June 2010, Father Jim asked me to help re-establish and chair the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC). The mission of the FAC is to provide financial guidance and oversight to the Vestry in matters related to the Operating Budget, Endowments and other financial matters. The past two years the FAC has developed the St. James Operating Budget and currently is initiating a capital campaign targeted at helping St. James sustain the church infrastructure and prepare for its upcoming 300th birthday.

Bruce Vrana

Bruce and his family (Jenny, Robert, Laura) have attended St. James since 1988. Sr. Warden for the past year, he has served four-year stints on the Vestry twice previously, including 6 years as Senior Warden. Bruce and Jenny are currently ushers. He has also worked on the turkey dinner for many years, as a Sunday School teacher, education chair, and on the music director search committee (three times). He is an engineering consultant at DuPont, where he has worked for 32 years, after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania.

To fill a one-year term:

Sister Barbara Jean (BJ) Brown

I have been an Episcopal "Religious" for over 38 years, first in a very traditional women's community and now in a Fellowship that I and Sister Julian began in 2002. Our Fellowship is very diverse, being open to men and women, and those who are married, single or in committed partnership. Our primary work, as Religious, is either doing works of pastoral care, spiritual direction, or some form of Christian Education.

I have been an educator since my early days in the convent. I have either taught in Sunday Schools or have had the privilege to direct Youth or Adult programs. For many of these years I have done this ministry as a traveling preacher and teacher, which is something that I continue to enjoy. This past August I began as the Director of the Interfaith Resource Center, located in North Wilmington, but serving all denominations and faiths in the Delmarva Peninsula. Each of these ways of doing this ministry has been very rewarding and has given me a tremendous amount of respect for congregations who recognize the vital place education plays in the health of a congregation.

Olivia Jessup

I'm Olivia Jessup, I'm seventeen years old, and I am a junior at Saint Mark's High school. I have been a parishioner at Saint James Church for seventeen years. I was the last baby baptized by Father Archer before he retired. I have been an acolyte for eight years, and have been a part of SMACA for twelve years. I am currently a part of the high school youth group. I enjoy reading, and love to go to the beach with my friends and family. I look forward to serving on the vestry.

To Serve as the Clerk of the Vestry--Nancy Patterson

Nancy was confirmed at St. James when she was 14 and has been a member ever since. She has taught Sunday School, served on the Altar Guild and was a member of the St. James Guild. Nancy is currently co-chairperson of the Bazaar, chairperson of the Funeral Luncheon Committee and a member of the Tercentennial Committee. Her late husband, William Patterson, Jr., was a member of St. James his entire life. Nancy is retired from the State of Delaware. She has two sons, Shawn & William, III, and five grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with family and friends and doing volunteer work, especially her work at St. James.

ST. JAMES MILL CREEK VESTRY MEETING MINUTES March 12, 2012

PRESENT: Father James Bimbi, Bruce Vrana, Cindy Fauerbach, Jennifer Idell, Carolyn Joynt, Elinor Knodel, Kathy Kwiatkowski, and Steve Prescott.

ABSENT: Gail Zimmerman

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry of St. James Church Mill Creek was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Senior Warden, Bruce Vrana. Fr. Jim led the Vestry in an opening prayer. Cindy Fauerbach served as Acting Clerk of the Vestry.

AGENDA: Approved as presented

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Approved

TREASURER'S REPORT and BUDGET: Steve Prescott reported that Sam White is finalizing the 2011 Treasurer's Report for the Annual Meeting and that there were no unexpected expenses for January or February.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A: **Thank-you notes:** Bruce and Cindy will write thank-you notes to Marsha Cauthen for her service to St. James as the Clerk of Vestry and member of the Vestry. B: **Vestry Election Committee:** The election committee (Jennifer Idell, Elinor Knodel, Cindy Fauerbach, and Bruce Vrana) reported receiving several positive responses from those who have been asked to run for one of the six open Vestry positions: three for a two-year term, two for a one-year term, and the clerk of Vestry. The slate is being finalized and information about the candidates will be in the April newsletter and posted at church at least two weeks before the annual meeting on April 22nd. C: **Civil Unions:** Bishop Wright's policy states that he will support the ministry of blessing the union of same gender couples in congregations where an educational process has been carried out, where there is substantial agreement among congregational leaders for this ministry, and where the congregation has developed a policy to guide this pastoral practice. The Vestry continued their discussion on the ministry of blessing same gender couples and discernment on a path forward to share information and have a dialogue with the congregation.

RECTOR'S REPORT:

Lenten Book Study: Father Jim continues leading Monday morning and Tuesday evening study groups focusing on the book *Blessed is She-Living Lent with Mary.* Holy Week is fast approaching. **The Easter Egg Hunt and hot dog lunch** will be held **Saturday, April 7th** for the children of the parish and surrounding community. In late April, Father Jim and Cynde Bimbi will be attending a Renewing the Church conference in the Diocese of Northern California.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship: Cindy Fauerbach reported that the Choir and Director Keith St. John are focusing on music to support the Holy Week Services. The choir welcomes anyone who is interested in joining them to see what it's all about. Choir practices are held in the choir room in the Parish Hall at 7:15 pm on Thursdays and a special rehearsal is scheduled for 1-4 on Saturday, March 31st.

Property: Kathy Kwiatkowski reported the Property committee has been coordinating their needs and "to-do" list with the Finance committee.

Finance: Steve Prescott reviewed several documents that had been compiled by members of the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC), including a breakdown of annual pledges vs. actual contributions, our current budget reflecting the updated projected deficit of \$11,507, and information on a proposed capital campaign. **Motion made/approved:** The Vestry supports FAC to move forward with their development of a capital campaign and that they will "kick-off" the campaign at the annual meeting on April 22nd. **Motion made/approved:** [After much discussion and with a heavy heart] Due to budgetary considerations and projections for the coming year and to get the budget deficit under control, FAC and the Vestry reluctantly approved the reduction of St. James' office staff hours/compensation to reflect a work week of no more than 16 hours. This will take effect April 1st.

Parish Life: Carolyn Joynt reported that Jerry Clark and committee members met March 4^{th} and will be purchasing some new pots and pans for the parish kitchen.

Tercentennial: Elinor Knodel reported the next meeting is scheduled for April 17th. **Mission/Outreach/Family Promise:** Jennifer Idell reported our next week to host Family Promise will be Sunday, March 25-April 1. She is working with Tracey McCracken and the Developing Minds Pre-school to determine the logistics of using classrooms for bedrooms for families or if we will have families use the Great Hall for these accommodations.

Education: Carolyn Joynt reported that the Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras dinner sponsored by the "older youth" was very successful and all monies received are being donated to the parish. The younger children's "Mary and Martha" video and commercials was well received by those present. Many thanks to the youth for serving and special thanks to Moriah Niehaus and Sam White for her culinary skills.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT:

Bruce shared the News Journal article about the Pencader Presbyterian Church that celebrated their 300th anniversary a few years ago and held their final service Sunday, February 19th. This highlighted our need to continue to focus on our finances and make hard decisions when necessary, to keep St. James from suffering the same fate.

There being no further business, the Vestry meeting concluded at 9:40 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia S. Fauerbach Acting Clerk of the Vestry

Plan to attend the April meeting of the Tercentennial Planning Committee on Tuesday, April 17 at 7 PM in the Great Hall.



One Didn't

Three men were tried for crimes against humanity. Two committed crimes. One didn't.

Three men were given government trials. Two were given fair trials. One wasn't.

Three men were whipped and beaten. Two had it coming. One didn't.

Three men were given crosses to carry. Two earned their crosses. One didn't.

Three men were mocked and spit at along the way. Two cursed and spit back. One didn't.

Three men were nailed to crosses. Two deserved it. One didn't.

Three men agonized over their abandonment. Two had reason to be abandoned. One didn't. Three men knew death was coming. Two resisted. One didn't.

One, two, three men died on three crosses. Three days later, two remained in their graves. One didn't. —Author unknown

A Service of Appreciation and Thanksgiving for the Ministry of the





10 Concord Avenue Wilmington, Delaware

Saturday, May 19, 2012 10:30 a.m.



The Most Rev. Frank Griswold (25th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church), preacher

10:30 Greeting & Concert by the Cathedral Choir School 11:00 Holy Eucharist 12:20 Reception in the Great Hall

RSVP IS REQUESTED FOR THE RECEPTION. PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 10TH TO: cyndebimbi@dioceseofdelaware.net Cynde Bimbi - 302-656-5441, ext. 106dioceseofdelaware.net

Resurrection COUNTDOWN Make this interactive craft to use as Easter approaches.

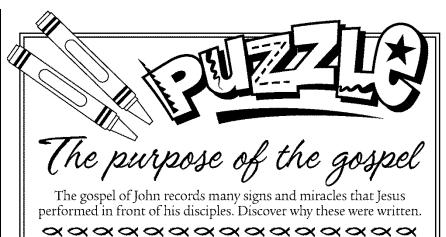
What you need:

- An empty egg carton
- Scissors
- Tissue paper (a dark color)
- Pencil
- Bible
- 12 slips of white paper
- Glue

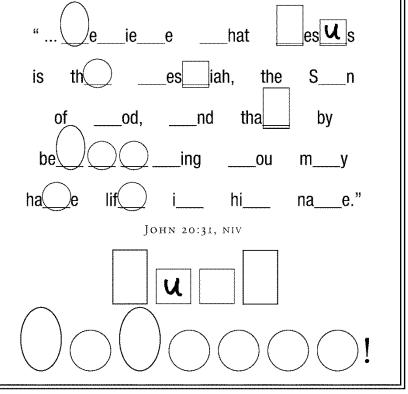




- What you do:1. Cut the lid and side flaps off the egg carton.
- 2. Lay the carton open-side down on tissue paper. Trace and cut out the rectangular shape.
- 3. On the paper slips, write 12 verses from John 12 about Holy Week (including one about Easter).
- 4. Place each slip in an egg cup, in order, starting at the top left and ending (with the Easter verse) at the bottom right.
- 5. Put glue around cups and carton edges. Lay the tissue paper on top.
- 6. Gently mark numbers 1-6 on the tissue paper along the top row and 7-12 along the bottom.
- 7. Before Easter, punch through one cup each day and read the verse.



Directions: Use a Bible to fill in the missing letters of John 20:31. Then write the shape-enclosed letters in the corresponding boxes and circles below, in order of appearance, to discover John's message.



Just Believel

Answers: " ... believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."



Apríl Bírthdays Andy Taylor

- Ariana Niehaus Bill Short
- 3rd Russ Dennis
- Tanner Haywood
- 5th Joan Hontz
- Joan Huhn
- 6th Christine Carrow 7th Darren Cormier
- 7th Darren Cormier Vincent Salerno 8th Shirley Alexand
- ^{8th} Shirley Alexander Bruce Vrana
- 9th Trevor Adams Ruth Griffin
 - Corrine Metcalfe
- 10th Eleanor Bowers
- 11th Keiran Haywood Betty Luker Bruce White
- 12th Emily Malusa
- 13th Sean Joynt Joshua Luff
- 14th Carolyn Eldridge
- 15th Chase Haywood Harry White
- 16th Sam Malusa Haley Short
- 17th Justin McGee Kyle Dennis
- 20th Jane White
- 21st Darren Mooney Julia Pomeroy Jordan Harrold-Mansk
- 22nd Kaitlyn August
- 23rd Dick Cornelia

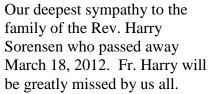
- More Bírthdays
- 26th Sarah Hoppenjans
- Billy Carrow
- 27th Raymond Logue
- 30th Andrew McCracken



Apríl Anníversaríes

- 16th Esther & James Insinga
- 17th Victoria & Arthur Loveless
 - Bonnie & David Metcalfe
- 25th Sue & Dan Strecker
- 30th Roxanne & Jeff Smith







. Impathy

APRIL 22, 2012

Put this on your calendar!

We will have one service at 9AM followed by a brunch hosted by your vestry. The annual meeting will follow. It is a great opportunity to catch up with what is going on and to meet those who attend another service or are new to our parish.



St. James' Episcopal Church 2106 St. James' Church Road Wilmington, DE 19808

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Service Times

Sunday

A Letter from St. James

Apríl 2012

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Education for all ages 10:15 AM Family Choral Eucharist <u>Wednesday</u>

10:00 AM Eucharist & Healing Service 6:15 PM Evening Prayer Service



Maundy Thursday 7:30 PM Good Friday

> **Ecumenical Service – 12 Noon** 7 Last Words of Christ from the Cross

Episcopal Good Friday Liturgy 7:30 PM with veneration of the cross

Holy Saturday Prayer Service 9 AM Easter CHORAL FESTIVAL EUCHARIST – 8 AM & 10:15 AM



Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt & Hot dog Lunch 11 AM -Saturday, April 7 meet in parking lot

A Letter from St. James