

A Letter from St. James

Mill Creek Hundred

February 2012

RECTOR's RAMBLINGS . . . Gathering for Food, Fun, and Reflection

On the last Sunday of January it has become a tradition at St. James Mill Creek to hold a Soup and Bread Luncheon following the morning services. I'm not certain how or when this tradition began. Some say it's because there are no football games of any consequence played on that day (I totally ignore the Pro Bowl because it's played for show, not sport). Others just find it an enjoyable, and tasty, thing to do in mid-winter. Whatever the reason, this year's event was well attended and the soups were fantastic! From the clam chowder to the minestrone to the red and green chilies, I tried to sample as many as my appetite would permit. And admittedly, I may have exceeded my limit, but I would have to say that I was in good company. There is something heartwarming about gathering for no other stated purpose than to enjoy oneself. As the preacher so succinctly puts it in the Old Testament writing called Ecclesiastes: "I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil." [chapter 3, verses 12-13]

For me, the gathering in our Parish House for the Soup and Bread Luncheon was a wonderful complement to a gathering that took place in the same space the day before. On the last Saturday in January, persons from twelve Episcopal churches in our diocese came together to become better informed and to enter into a dialogue around the Delaware law that permits a same-gender couple to enter into a legal Civil Union. Over fifty people attended and entered into a thoughtful and respectful discussion that was an affirming witness to God's love and the faith to which we have been called. At issue was not the law itself, but how our churches respond to those couples who are a part of our congregations and who desire the Church and its clergy to solemnize and bless their unions. Under the current pastoral guidelines of our Bishop, this ministry may be offered on a local congregational basis if it is embraced by the leadership of the parish. The main topic of the day was to discuss what this means and how such discussions and decisions might be made by a parish vestry.

What made these two late January events so powerful for me was that while they were vastly different, I could clearly sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in each. Sometimes we gather merely to find enjoyment in food and fellowship, and other times we delve into the nitty-gritty of figuring out where God might be leading us and how we are called to minister to each other in the Name of Jesus Christ. Both are the signs of a thriving and lively faith and both hold within them gifts far greater than we might possibly imagine.

- Fr. Jim Bimbi

Celebrate with us...Two Years of Promises kept!
Save the Date for Family Promise of Northern New Castle County's
Annual Luncheon and Silent Auction!

Join us on Saturday, February 25th, 2012

11am-2pm at

Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Community Hall

1502 W. 13th Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19806

Park in lot at W. 13th & Rodney Streets and enter the blue doors at 1506 W. 13th Street

Tickets are \$20 and are on sale through February 13th, 2012. You can purchase them by emailing Family Promise at events@familypromisede.org, through our website www.familypromisede.org, or mailing a check to 2104 St. James Church Road Wilmington, DE 19808.



Don't forget the FLEA MARKET!

This year it will be held on March 24th.

We thank Carolyn Eldridge and Dave Perry for heading up this fundraiser for us. As you find things in good condition that you no longer use, remember the flea market. However **NO COMPUTERS**.

We are unable to sell old computers, so please give them to a charity that can use them or recycle them at the DSWA station at 1101 Lambsons Lane, New Castle.

Items can be brought in and stored in the Flea Market area downstairs in the Parish House. Talk to Carolyn and Dave and see how you can help. We'll need volunteers to set-up, price, set-up for vendors, sell, and take-down. Something for everyone! It's an event that helps put the Fun in Fundraising!

Have a lot and want a table? Once again, tables are \$25. See Carolyn or Dave to reserve your spot (or call the office and we'll pass the word).

BAKED GOODS NEEDED - SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH

The Bazaar Ladies will again be manning the Bake Table at the Flea Market. Your donations of cakes, pies, cookies, breads, muffins or homemade candies will be greatly appreciated.

Please bring your homemade items to the Parish House on

Friday, March 23rd, 5-7pm, or Saturday, March 24th, 7am-1pm.

THANK YOU!

The Flea Market is a major fund raiser for St. James. Be sure to come out and support it.

SEE YOU MARCH 24th!

2012 Coat Drive for Clothing Bank of Delaware - Friendship House



Carol Leach (shown here loading coats in the van) arranged for us to collect gently used coats, hats, gloves and scarves for Friendship House's Clothing Bank. We filled over 35 large trash bags with coats (some had 12 or more coats in them). Families from Developing Minds PreSchool - which operates on our premises - joined in the effort. Thanks to all who contributed - we filled the van! A lot of people will be warmer this winter with warm clothing and the glow of knowing someone cares.



The Bazaar Ladies Are Back!

The Bazaar Ladies are preparing for the 2012 Bazaar. They are busy quilting, sewing, painting and creating new floral arrangements. There will also be some new jewelry pieces this year.

Mark your calendars: **Friday, November 2nd & Saturday, November 3rd**. We are looking forward to another successful bazaar.

Eleanor Bowers and Nancy Patterson will be co-chairs again this year. It is a great group and we welcome newcomers. If you enjoy good fellowship, this is the place to be! Please join us Tuesday mornings 9:00-11:30AM. We end with lunch at a local restaurant. New members are always welcome.

We are in need of the following items:

Corks - not the plastic kind, only those made of cork.

Buttons, Baskets, Artificial Christmas Trees and Greens

All items can be left outside the Bazaar Room at the bottom of the stairs in the Parish House.

Remember to save your Zingo receipts. There is a container in the hall closet of the Parish House marked "Zingo's Receipts".

Thank you for your support.



February 22, 2012

We will hold three services on Ash Wednesday in order that everyone may fit one into their schedule. There will be a service at 7AM for early risers and/or those on their way to work. The service at Noon will be timed so that you will

be able to return to work from your lunch hour. The 7:30 PM service will include the choir. All three services will include the imposition of ashes. Join us at one of these services. Observing Lent and participating in all of the activities surrounding it will make Easter that much more meaningful to you.

Come be a part of our Lenten Study!

Monday mornings or Tuesday evenings

Beginning the 1st week of Lent



“Blessed Is She” -Living Lent with Mary


by Tim Perry

Everyone is happy to see Mary in the crèche at Christmastime, but by the time the Magi head back East after the Feast of the Epiphany, Christians of many traditions are often ready to place Mary to the side too.

Author Timothy Perry presents a Mary who belongs in Lent as much as in Advent, showing what it means to die and live with the crucified and risen Jesus. Drawing primarily from the Gospel of Luke, this book of spiritual reflections reveals a Lenten Mary who teaches us about being disciples. The result is a complex, inviting, strong character – a disciple to be emulated by all Christians, especially during this holy season.

Fr. Jim will lead a five-week book study beginning the week of February 27th. You will have your choice of attending the morning sessions at 10:00am on Mondays, or the evening sessions at 7:00pm on Tuesdays (preceded by a soup supper starting at 6:15pm). Fifteen copies of the book have been ordered (\$10 each) and you can reserve one for yourself by contacting Genia in the church office. They are also available for order online. If you wish to preview the book, you can go to the following web address:

<http://previewbooks.churchpublishing.org/index.cfm?ISBN=9780819222336>



Please join Our Youth in the revelry
at a Shrove Tuesday
Mardi Gras Dinner Party!

Cajun Feast
(with mac & cheese for faint of heart)
Dixieland jazz
And Beads! Beads! Beads!
Tuesday, February 21
At 6:15 PM
(Follows 5:30 Evensong in Church)

\$12 adult ~ \$6 child's plate (9 & under)

Advance ticket purchase necessary!
Call 302-994-1584

All proceeds go to support St. James Church.

Ecumenical Lenten Noontime Worship and Lunch

This Year we take “A Leap of Faith”

Every year during the season of Lent, the churches of the Mill Creek Ministerium hold a series of Wednesday programs beginning at 12 noon. While each week a different church organizes the worship and provides the food for the lunch that follows, one of the churches serves as the host church for the entire 6-week series. The 2012 series will be take place at Limestone Presbyterian Church, and begins on February 29th, which is Leap Year Day. Using that as cue, the overall theme for 2012 is being entitled “A Leap of Faith”, and the recurring Biblical theme of Call, Response, and Prophecy will be highlighted with texts from both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures.

CALL: February 29 – “Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.’”

RESPONSE: March 7– “David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might”

PROPHECY: March 14– “Then the lame shall leap like a deer”

CALL: March 21 — “And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.”

RESPONSE: March 28 – “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy”

PROPHECY: April 4 – “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

Parish Life Ministry



BISHOP'S RECEPTION

THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME TO WELCOME THE NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR AND HIS FAMILY. A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO DONATED FOOD, HELP SET UP, SERVE AND CLEAN UP. THE BISHOP SEEMED TO ENJOY HIS VISIT AND TALKED TO MANY WHO WERE THERE.

THANK YOU
JERRY CLARK-CHAIRPERSON

Comforter Windfall for Family Promise from The Company Store



The Company Store, a subsidiary of Hanover Direct, Inc. out of Weehawken, NJ had a promotion where for every comforter bought in January, they would donate one for a homeless child. Family Promise is the recipient of their generosity.

Five of the approximately 170 affiliates across the nation were selected to benefit from this campaign and Family Promise of Northern New Castle County was one of those selected. On Thursday, January 19th a tractor trailer pulled into our parking lot and unloaded three pallets of comforters. Family Promise

volunteers moved them over to the day center next door. The 200 comforters received will be shared with other shelters in the area. That our affiliate was selected speaks well of all of the volunteers who work to make the program a success as well as of the leaders.



Please remove any decorations you may want to keep from the cemetery prior to February 20, 2012. We will be preparing the ground for its spring maintenance and no decorations will be kept. Thank you for helping us to keep our cemetery in good condition.

ST. JAMES MILL CREEK REPORT OF VESTRY MEETING January 9, 2012

PRESENT: Father James Bimbi, Bruce Vrana, Cindy Fauerbach, Elinor Knodel, Carolyn Joynt, and Gail Zimmerman

ABSENT: Kathy Kwiatkowski, Jennifer Idell, Steve Prescott, and Marsha Cauthen

TREASURER'S REPORT:

. The 2011 year-end accounting:

2011 Income:	\$230,278.47
2011 Expenses:	\$239,156.82
2011 Deficit:	(\$8,878.35)

FINANCIAL:

2012 Budget: The projected deficit for 2012 is \$20,000. The next FAC meeting will explore ways to lower this by about \$10,000 in spending. The Vestry noted their concern and that they will continue to work with the FAC to reduce the deficit. The proposed 2012 Budget (Projected Income: \$223,522; Projected Expenses: \$246,859; was approved. The Vestry approved a resolution designating a portion of Fr. Bimbi's 2012 compensation as his clergy housing allowance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A: Thank-you notes: The Acting Clerk will write thank-you notes to the following: the Parish Life Committee for the warm and welcoming January 8th reception celebrating the Bishop's visit, installation of our new Director of Music, and St. James choir. Notes will also be sent to Family Promise Coordinators for their continued leadership and extraordinary dedication to this valuable program, especially during our Hosting week December 18-25. B: A meeting focusing on ways to reach out to parishioners who are unable to attend regular services will be held and more information will be provided at the next Vestry meeting.

RECTOR'S REPORT:

2012 Diocesan Convention: St. James' delegates for the convention to be held February 10-11 in Dover are: Elinor Knodel (Continuing Delegate), Valerie Bragg (Delegate), Gail Zimmerman (Alternate), and Carolyn Joynt (Alternate). Valerie Bragg is a nominee to serve for a three year term on Diocesan Council.

Flower Guild: Cathy Goldstone is retiring as Co-Chair of the Flower Guild. She provided a detailed listing of the many projects the Guild offers. Cathy's dedication and hard work is appreciated and will be missed.

Family Promise:

Father Jim shared feedback sent from the Family Promise Congregational Coordinator to Jennifer Idell and Susan Winward: "...You guys did something magical this time! They [the families] raved about the nice rooms, good food and FRIENDLY volunteers! Here's a quote from one of the evaluations: Please express to each of the hosts our deepest thanks for the Christmas gifts and their kindness along with their time away from their families to bring our family joy."

The annual Family Promise fundraiser luncheon/silent auction is scheduled for Saturday, February 25th at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$20 and the deadline for auction items and/or reservations is February 13th. More information will follow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship: Cindy Fauerbach reported that the Choir is excited to work with Keith St. John and welcome anyone who is interested in joining them to see what it's all about.

Property: Cindy Fauerbach will meet with Fred White and/or Kathy Kwiatkowski re: flooring by the doorway to the Sacristy and by the organ.

Parish Life: The Soup and Bread Luncheon is scheduled for January 29th. **Tercentennial:** Elinor Knodel reported that Fran Mayhew and Mary Prescott shared ideas with parish members and Bishop Wright and Bishop Wright shared some good suggestions for our upcoming celebration of St. James' 300th anniversary.

Mission/Outreach/Family Promise: Gail Zimmerman reported the Food Closet ministry is growing and their next meeting is January 15th. As noted earlier, Gail noted more positive experiences from our hosting of families during the holiday Family Promise week. She expressed thanks again to the coordinators for their outstanding work. January 15th and 22nd we will collect "gently used" and/or new coats, hats, and gloves for Friendship House.

Education: Carolyn Joynt reported that the senior high mission members enjoyed sharing their experiences with Bishop Wright.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT:

Aa meeting was held to discuss the continued use of the rectory as the New Castle County Family Promise Day Center and to share ideas on how to continue this valuable ministry. The date for the annual meeting was set for April 22nd. As in previous years, there will be one church service at 9:00 a.m. followed by a brunch and meeting in the Parish Hall.

FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.

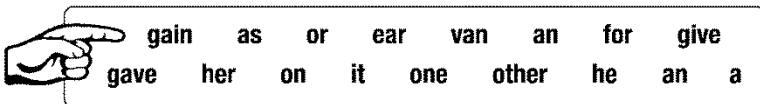


FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

• • • • D I R E C T I O N S • • • •

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



B _ _ _ w _ _ h each
 ot _ _ _ d _ _ _ give
 _ _ _ e an _ _ _ if _ _ _ y
 of you h _ _ _ grie _ _ _ ce
 a _ _ _ st some _ _ _ .
 For _ _ _ as t _ _ L _ _ d
 for _ _ _ you."

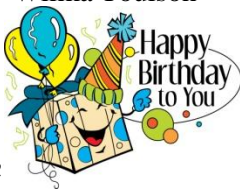
COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV

February Birthdays

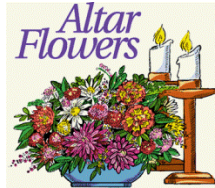


1 st	Maddie Burns
2 nd	Joan Jennings
5 th	Robin Brennan
6 th	Elinor Tuhy
8 th	Carolyn Mansk
9 th	Helen Balchan
	Paul Pomeroy IV
11 th	Dan Remedio
13 th	Edward Loveland
	Kyle Morales
14 th	Larry Goldstone
	Allyson Heinold
	Arthur Loveless
	Amy Taylor
16 th	Charles Kalenkoski
	Aurora Taylor
17 th	Debbie Dunford
	Amy Haywood
	Gail Zimmerman
18 th	Evelyn Kyritsis
	Wendy Manthorpe
19 th	Kandice Dill
	William White
21 st	David Cernos, Jr.
22 nd	Barbara McKee
23 rd	Jason Rose
	Shannon Dill
	Liz Lichtenstein
24 th	Stephanie Adams
27 th	David Metcalfe, Jr.
28 th	Angelo Moscoso
	Bill Perry
	Thomas McCauley
29 th	Wilma Toulson



February Anniversaries

5 th	Allison & Lee Jessup
6 th	Barb & Wayne McKee
19 th	Barbara & John Bowser



Don't forget to sign up for Altar Flowers and the Sanctuary Candle!

It's a great way to remember loved ones or commemorate an important event or person in your life.

There's a sign-up sheet in the parish hall or call Genia in the office at (302) 994-1584. Memorials are not carried over from year to year unless you call and reschedule. The Sanctuary Candle is \$10 a week and is scheduled every Sunday including Easter. The Altar Flowers are \$46 a week except during Lent when we use dried altar arrangements and the cost is \$23. This year the Sundays in Lent are (February 26 – March 25th). For Easter and Christmas we have separate memorials and envelopes are available for your participation in those.

This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones and glorify God by beautifying his house and our house of worship.



Many stories about the origin of Valentine's Day have come down through the centuries. There's no definitive story, but most revolve around the imprisonment of Valentinus (St. Valentine) for his disregard of Roman laws.

In 1667, the first recorded Valentine card was printed. Today, people will give their sweethearts countless millions of cards and acres of heart-shaped boxes filled with candy. But why wait for Valentine's Day to share love with others? Remember Jesus' words in John 13:34 (NRSV): "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."



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

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 36
Wilmington, DE

Rector: The Rev. James M. Bimbi
Senior Warden: Bruce Vrana
Junior Warden: Cindy Fauerbach

Office Contacts

Phone: 302-994-1584 / Fax: 302-994-3778

Email: office@stjamesmillcreek.comcastbiz.net

Website: stjamesmillcreek.org

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Monday – Thursday Closed Friday

Service Times

Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

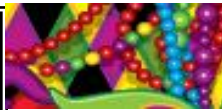
9:00 AM Christian Education for all ages

10:15 AM Family Choral Eucharist

Wednesday

10:00 AM Eucharist & Healing Service

6:15 PM Evening Prayer Service



Shrove Tuesday – Feb 21
Evensong in Church 5:30PM
Cajun Feast - 6:15 PM



7 AM
NOON
7:30 PM



Lenten Book Study

Monday Mornings at 10AM

Tuesday evenings with Soup Supper at 6:15
and Book Study at 7 PM