

A Letter from St. James

Mill Creek Hundred

January 2012

Rector's Ramblings. . .Beginning the New Year



As we enter a new year it is customary to look backwards to see where the past year has taken us. It is always an interesting exercise in remembering and reflecting upon the people and events that we have shared, and how they have shaped and colored our lives. Hopefully, we can continue to draw strength and enjoyment for those things that lifted our spirits and fed our souls. Of those things that were troubling to us or brought us pain – well, we can hope, with the help of God, to do all in our power to leave them behind.

The start of a new year is also a time for looking ahead. I have never been much of a prognosticator, but I am an eternal optimist. I have staked my life on the reality of a loving God, and I continue to maintain my belief in the overall goodness of humanity. While we humans are awfully effective in hurting one another, and destruction of lives and property are still within our power, I resist the temptation to shed my belief that God's ways will prevail. The world has suffered much at the hands of men and women who are gripped by evil; conversely, it has stood up and overcome such sufferings through the courage and actions of those who have been motivated by that which is good. What is difficult, however, is having the patience to endure the waiting.

This is true for all things that affect our lives or that we care deeply about. For those who are out of work or underemployed, the wait for a new job opportunity can weigh heavily upon their emotional and financial well-being. For anyone beginning this new year with continuing challenges to their health there is the uncertainty of what lies ahead or when conditions might improve for them. What all of us must ask ourselves is how we can offer our love and support in ways that are most helpful and respectful to those involved.

Of course, waiting is not limited just to situations that are unpleasant. It can be just as difficult to have patience for those things that are good. Young people are always in a state of waiting: waiting to begin the next level of education or training; waiting to begin a career or to gain some independence; waiting to find a home or to start a family. We also need to find ways to offer our support to them as they take on more and more responsibility for themselves and the community.

The new year has just begun, but our calling as the people of God is an uninterrupted stream of thanksgiving and hopefulness. May it carry us all to many blessings this year and beyond.

Fr. Jim Bimbi



Friendship House - Coat Drive

A Winter coat Drive will be held from Sunday January 15 thru Sunday January 22. Gently used men, women and children's Winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves are needed. Please bag all your donations and leave inside parish hall on left side of foyer and mark bags "Friendship House"

As the weather turns colder it's a great time to check those closets and drawers and donate those coats, hats, gloves and scarves that you no longer use.

A van from Friendship House will be picking up donations Monday January 23.

If you have any questions please call Carole Leach 999-0007

From the Food Closet Group

Thanks so much for your generous monthly contributions – they are greatly appreciated!

We have some homeless folks coming in for food. Please keep this in mind by donating various canned items with pull tops such as Chef Boyardee meatball/spaghetti, some tuna, Vienna sausage, chicken sticks, small cans of fruit, etc. Soups are good during the winter months. Peanut butter is always needed and is a good source of protein. Plain pasta sauce can be used in various ways so that's another good food closet item. The dry pasta/rice does not seem to be moving off the shelves, so at the present time we don't need those items. Instant oatmeal packages are also good for those that can only heat water, if even that.



PLEASE check the expiration dates on any food items you donate because we cannot put expired or very close to expiration dated food on our shelves. Those items will be discarded. We don't want any clients getting sick from our donated food or to cause a liability for St. James Church.

We plan to have a committee meeting in Jan/Feb so look for our notice – we would love to have a few more volunteers. The job consists of checking the closet shelves and stocking items that are donated. We work on a rotating weekly basis. Many hands make work light, and it doesn't take much time.

Thanks again for being so generous with your food closet donations!

Barbara Anzilotti, Lynne Bake, Barb Gove, Faye Hart, Lois Kelley, Pat Minor, John Nuss



Thank you to all who have returned their pledge cards with support for St. James' ministries for the coming year. If you haven't pledged yet, please return your card as soon as possible so that your vestry can finalize a budget for 2012. Lost your card or didn't get one? Call the office at 994-1584 and Genia will see that you get one.

Another Beautiful Christmas at St James



Larry & Cathy Goldstone, Pat Minor & Paul & Sue Hafner as they “greened” the church for Christmas. Missing from the photo is David Winward.



Greens and wreaths are hung and poinsettias in place as the church is prepared for the celebration of Christ's birth.

Our thanks to all who helped to make Christmas 2011 so special: Flower Guild, Altar Guild, acolytes, lay readers, ushers, choir, George Bayley our interim organist and especially Fr. Jim who celebrated all three Christmas Eve services and one on Christmas Day. Special thanks to our youth who led the 8PM service – it was wonderful!

Thanks also to our sexton Borden Adams for his extra duty in preparing the church for us and cleaning up afterward. Thanks to all who attended the services, enriching the worship by your presence.



Happy New Year Ladies,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Workshop will start January 10, 2012 at 9:00AM.

The first few weeks will be spent cleaning and organizing the Bazaar Room. As you know we are running out of space so it is time to decide what items we want and what we don't want. If you are unable to come in January that is fine. Maybe you will be able to join us for lunch.

Our Start-Up Meeting will be Tuesday, February 7th. Bring your ideas and any samples you may have.

A Mr. Robert Austin donated an assortment of wooden shapes to be painted. There are several different Santas, a Nativity Scene, snowmen and animal shapes. He has been making them for St. Marks and had leftovers this year. He has even offered to make some others for us.

That is all for now. Looking forward to seeing everyone. – *Nancy Patterson & Eleanor Bowers*



The ladies of the shawl knitting ministry would like to open our meetings to anyone who knits or crochets any items for a church related project. For example, hats for soldiers, afghans or maybe something for the bazaar sales – anything that is for a St. James mission. So don't knit alone. Join us in the lounge at 1:00 P.M. on January 16, 2012. – *Sue Strecker for the Shawl Ministry*

Meet our new Director of Music



We welcome our new Director of Music Keith St. John who, along with our choir will be commissioned on January 8th at the 10:15 service.

Keith St. John comes to St. James Millcreek with over 40 years of church music experience in a variety of church settings. He studied organ with Arthur H. Brandenburg from NYU for seven years while still a teenager. Dr. Brandenburg studied organ with Charles Widor in Paris and was a master of the organ music of J.S. Bach. Keith's first Director of Music church position was at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lewes, DE which began while he was still in High School. He continued as the parish musician for all four years of college while attending the University of Delaware, where he minored in music while also majoring in Medical Technology. His choral training has been with Dr. Michael Larkin, present Director of Music at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Wilmington and Director of New Ark Chorale, along with various music workshops that include such clinicians as David Willcocks and John Rutter. For the past ten years prior to coming to St. James, he was the senior organist at Faith Presbyterian Church on Marsh Road in Wilmington.

Keith is a full time clinical microbiologist (graduating from Thomas Jefferson University) that has worked in the hospital as an infection preventionist for over 25 years. He is currently employed by Wolters Kluwer Health as the Director of Clinical Epidemiology supporting hospital software designed to prevent infections and improve patient outcomes. He lives in North Star near Hockessin with his wife Susan, two step-sons, Ken and Andrew, and his step-daughter and husband, Dana and Eduardo Garcia. Keith and Susan are looking forward to becoming grandparents for the first time this coming July.



We thank George Bayley and his wife Libby for all they have done for us while we were between music directors. George was a Godsend providing us with music and directing the choir. Libby lent her beautiful voice to the choir. Together with our wonderful choir they enriched our music this fall and enriched our worship.

ST. JAMES CHURCH MILL CREEK VESTRY MEETING MINUTES December 12, 2011

PRESENT: Fr. James Bimbi; Bruce Vrana; Cindy Fauerbach; Elinor Knodel; Kathy Kwiatkowski; Carolyn Joynt; Gail Zimmerman; Jennifer Idell; Steve Prescott; Marsha Cauthen

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry of St. James Church Mill Creek was called to order at 7:20 pm by Senior Warden, Bruce Vrana. Fr. Jim led the Vestry in an opening prayer.

AGENDA: Approved as presented

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Approved with corrections

TREASURER'S REPORT: Steve Prescott presented the Treasurer's Report for November 2011 prepared by Sam White (see attached). Overall revenues are down as of the end of November. At this time, the projected year-end deficit is approximately \$15,000.00.

2011 Income YTD:	\$205,329.81
2011 Expense YTD:	\$225,348.36
2011 YTD <i>Deficit</i> :	<i>(\$20,018.55)</i>

FINANCIAL:

- A. **2012 Budget:** Steve presented the proposed 2012 budget prepared by the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) with input from the Property Committee. Steve reviewed the budget with the Vestry and he responded to questions. As of today's date, we have received 63 pledges for 2012 with revenue of \$117,000.00. The FAC will reconvene in January 2012 when the 2012 pledging campaign is complete so that it may finalize the new budget and re-examine the deficit.
- B. **Diocesan Acceptance:** The Vestry discussed St. James' 2012 contribution to the Diocese. Cindy Fauerbach suggested that next year, the Vestry should review the budget on a quarterly basis to assess our financial position as to whether we could increase our contribution. The Vestry voted to pledge \$14,000.00 to the Diocese for 2012, with a quarterly review of our budget to see whether we could increase our contribution.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **Thank-you Notes:** The Clerk will write thank-you notes to the following: Steve and the FAC for their work on the 2012 budget, and George and Libby for their work with the choir and the church music.
- B. **Unfinished Business:** Elinor Knodel asked the Vestry about various ministries that St. James supported in the past and the status. It was suggested that a list of current ministries and contact person(s) be prepared.

RECTOR'S REPORT:

- A. **2012 Diocesan Convention:** Fr. Jim reviewed the list of St. James' delegates for the 2012 Diocesan Convention: Elinor Knodel (Continuing Delegate), Valerie Bragg (Delegate), Gail Zimmerman (Alternate), and Carolyn Joynt (Alternate).
- B. **Worship:** Fr. Jim reported that there will be three services on Christmas Eve – 4, 8 and 11 pm. The Youth will lead the 8 pm service. The new organist starts on January 1, 2012. The Bishop's visit is January 8, 2012. The Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated on Friday, January 6, 2012, with a potluck dinner at 6 pm and a service at 7:30 pm.
- C. **Delaware Civil Unions Act:** Fr. Jim reported other Episcopal Clergy in New Castle County are planning to gather for dialogue and education regarding Delaware's Civil Union Act that goes into effect on January 1, 2012. Because St. James is centrally located, St. James was asked to open our facility for this meeting which will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2012.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **Property:** Kathy Kwiatkowski reported that the Property Committee will obtain estimates for repairs and improvements to the restrooms in the Parish House. Property is considering replacing the carpet in the Parish House meeting room.

B. **Mission & Outreach:** Jennifer Idell reported that St. James' next Family Promise hosting week begins on December 18, 2011. The Family Promise coordinators met with Fr. Jim. For the upcoming hosting week, we will try to use the Sunday School room for Family Promise guests. The St. James' coordinators are collecting Christmas gifts for the families. They are planning to have a Christmas tree and they are planning more activities for the families. Fr. Jim reported that the Food Pantry has been very busy. The Bazaar and Craft Ladies donated \$360.00 to the Food Pantry. The Basketball Officials that meet in our Parish Hall are collecting food for our Pantry.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT: Bruce received a letter from Delaware Hospice thanking St. James for the use of its facility and providing a donation to St. James. Bruce circulated the Vestry Greeter Schedule for January – Bruce has 8 am service and Cindy has 10:15 am.

There being no further business, the Vestry meeting was concluded at 9:05 pm with the Order for Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marsha G. Cauthen
Clerk of the Vestry

Implementation of Delaware's Civil Union Act

An Open Dialogue/Conversation Day on Delaware's Civil Union Act will be held from 9:00am to 12 noon on Saturday, January, 28, 2012, at St. James Mill Creek, 2106 St. James Church Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19808. Clergy, vestries and members of any interested congregation are invited to hear the legal aspects of the Act as well as stories from some of the churches in Delaware that have chosen to become a "blessing parish" and what that has meant to the life and ministry of their congregations.

The day is being organized by the rectors of St. Thomas' (Newark), Christ Church (Greenville), and St. James Mill Creek (Wilmington) as a follow-up to the June 2011 conversation offered by the Diocese at Trinity Church after the passage of the Civil Union Act by the Delaware Legislature. While the final agenda is still being formulated, Lisa Goodman, attorney and president of the group Equality Delaware which drafted the civil-union bill, has graciously agreed to be a part of the program. Also to be covered are the new pastoral standards that became effective on January 1, 2012, for services to bless same gender unions. These standards were reviewed by the Standing Committee of the Diocese and issued by Bishop Wright for use by congregations that discern and voluntarily embrace the blessing of civil unions as a part of their congregational ministry.

There is no cost to attend the Dialogue/Conversation on January 28th, although RSVP's are requested to help assure adequate arrangements and set-up. Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 25th, to (302) 994-1584, or send an email to office@stjamesmillcreek.comcastbiz.net.

January Birthdays

1st Sebastian Llaca
Jonathan Llaca
Richard Toplos
2nd Michael Smith
3rd Frances Kershaw
Elizabeth Joynt
4th Nicole Kalenkoski
6th Emily Hoppenjans
7th Irene Garraway
John Kyritsis
8th Ruth Etheridge
Evelyn White
13th Andrew Idell
Catherine Pomeroy
14th Jeremiah Clark
Mary Prescott
John Soviak
Ashey Kalenkoski
Mason Lichtenstein
15th Annmarie Patterson
16th John Sukeena
19th Nancy Prettyman
20th Wayne McKee
JoAnn Koskol
Keith St. John
21st Cory Brennan
22nd Dorothy Loveland
Carmen Moscoso
25th Brenden Haywood
Elinor Knodel
Dolores Soviak
26th David Winward
Kathy Dill
27th Emma DelleDonne
31st Karly Cernos
Steve Prescott
Ian Prescott
Bob Meckelnburg



January Anniversaries

16th Cynde & Fr. Jim Bimbi
18th Kerri & Matthew Fauerbach



If your birthday or anniversary or those of a family member are missing, please call the office and let us know. You are an important part of our parish family.

Our deepest sympathy to Jim Burns and his family on the death of Jim's father on December 26, 2011. Fr. Jim officiated at the funeral on January 4th.

Our sympathy also to Larry & Cathy Goldstone & family on the death of Larry's father in California on December 31, 2011.

Our sympathies also to the Schurter family on the death of Delores Schurter, grandmother of Lou Schurter.

Our prayers are with you all.



SOUP & BREAD LUNCHEON

January 29th following the 10:15 service. Come break bread with

your fellow parishioners!

We have some delicious soups being made and donated as well as great breads! Everyone is invited to stay after the 10:15 service or come back and enjoy this meal and the fellowship of friends!

"May today there be peace within. May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in yourself and others? May you use the gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content with yourself just the way you are. Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us." - Have a blessed New Year!

*A Letter from St. James
January 2012*



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

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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

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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

Coming in January

***Annual Visitation by Bishop Wright
January 8, 2012***

9AM meet in the Great Hall,

10:15 AM he'll preach and celebrate

Director of Music and choir to be commissioned

11:30 Reception for Bishop Wright, Keith St. John and our
St. James choir

Join us!



January 29th
11:30 AM