

# *A Letter from St. James*

*Mill Creek Hundred*

*March 2012*

## *RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS . . . What Does Lent Challenge us to Do?*

A little over two month ago on December 26<sup>th</sup>, the day after Christmas, the most frequently asked question was “So, what did you get?” Asked by family members and friends, it was also asked by people who were standing in line waiting to return the gifts they had received just the day before. The Great Post-Christmas swap – taking the gifts you received and trading them in for something else.

As Christians enter into the season of Lent, the Christmas question of “What did you get” is completely turned around. The most familiar of all Lenten questions, is – “So, what are you giving up?”

Quite often the response is something that we can afford to set aside, like chocolate or dessert or the eating of a particular type of food. When we examine these choices, we realize that they are all optional, chosen from among the cornucopia of abundance that surrounds us. In the end, the things we often give up for Lent weren't anything that we really needed for our survival.

And then there's the matter of setting a limit on our newly-chosen discipline – in the case of Lent it is but seven weeks long and then we go back to what we were doing before. Can anything that's merely a temporary adjustment to our lifestyle or eating habits bring about any real change? Do we approach Lent with the thought that the denial of some bodily treat is what it is truly all about? Is not Lent, the season of penitence and self-examination, about something more spiritually and physically deeper? Is it a test of my will power in some game of food choices, or a time to allow God to challenge and strengthen my faith in some real and meaningful way?

I am not demeaning the small choices that anyone might make, but at the same time I am imploring each of us to dare to go deeper. The question to ask ourselves is not what we can give up for a season, but what change in our life we can make right now that will bring us closer to the glory of God for the rest of our lives?

Perhaps that's too big a question to answer immediately or within the next week or so. However, we must never be afraid to wrestle with the big questions. Faith and trust in God is not built upon safe choices, but on bold action, and intention, and risk. *(continued p.2)*

Jesus, after his baptism, was not driven into the wilderness as if it were some sort of post-graduation present. His time in the wilderness was not a rest period. It was the time for him to place his survival into the hands of the Father, to claim his ministry as his own, to realize that having begun the journey of faith there would be no turning back. He was not to return to the carpenter's shop in Nazareth. What he gave up was his old life in order to be a vehicle for bringing new life into the world.

We are called to walk in his steps, not gingerly stepping along carpeted aisles of a church, but steadfastly seeking new pathways in the wilderness. As Christians we bear the name of Christ. Our Lenten journey of forty days will only have meaning if it is truly another step in claiming the faith that God has placed within us.

What is it that we are called to give up for Lent?

Only our fears, ourselves, our all.

- Fr. Jim Bimbi



## Don't forget the FLEA MARKET!

**This year it will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup>.**

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 in 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! ***SIGNUP SHEETS ARE POSTED! SIGN UP RIGHT AWAY*** or call the office and let us know where you can help and we will add you to the signup sheets.

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). *Tell your friends and neighbors!*

## **BAKED GOODS NEEDED - SATURDAY, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>**

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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5-7pm, or Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 24<sup>th</sup>!**



## SMACA

For those children in grades 5 and lower, we have been studying about Mary and Martha. Jesus comes to Mary and Martha's house for a visit. Mary proceeds to sit down to listen to Jesus, while Martha does things around the house to prepare for her guests. Martha gets upset with Mary for not helping with the chores and asks Jesus to tell Mary to help her. Jesus tells her that Mary has chosen wisely. He reminds us to take time out for God.

As part of these studies, the kids created their own TV show, "The Mary and Martha Show". They directed it themselves, and our new music director, Keith Saint John provided theme music. Overall it is highly entertaining. We had a mini showing at the Mardi Gras dinner. However, if you missed it, we are hoping to have another showing sometime in the future. So stay tuned.

Other stuff on the radar screen...we have been playing the 13th Apostle game. The premise is that you are the 13th Apostle. You have to answer trivia questions, kind of like Trivial Pursuit, to collect all twelve Apostles along with bread and wine and get to the Last Supper. We have lots of fun while getting to learn a lot about Jesus and His Apostles.

Closer to Easter, we will be baking resurrection rolls. Take a marshmallow (Christ's body) and roll it in melted butter (oil for anointing). Then take the buttered mallow and roll it in cinnamon and sugar (burial spices). All that gets encased in a crescent roll (the tomb) and baked. Then...Surprise!!...Jesus is no longer in the tomb, almost like magic and very delicious. This is a very tactile way for kids to experience the wonder of Easter and Jesus' resurrection.

In between all those activities, we are sure to watch a movie or two and work on some neat crafts. Once it gets warmer, the kids are going to go on an adventure over to the church yard to learn more about our church's history.

We have some really exciting things planned for grades 5 and younger. Who says Sunday School has to be boring? No way!! And as always, all are welcome, kids, grandkids, nephews, nieces, friends, the more the merrier; we meet 9 - 10 AM in the Parish Hall.

SMACA Superintendent  
Val Bragg

## KNITTED CAPS FOR SOLDIERS

We are continuing this project. If you knit and would like to knit some **all wool** caps for soldiers to wear under their helmets, please contact Sandy Cornelia (239-0846) for a pattern. Last year we were able to donate over 40 caps to the Stockings for Soldiers Project which sends needed items to soldiers in war zones. Thank you to all who participated last year.

# Students Today Leaders Forever

([www.stlf.com](http://www.stlf.com))



On Friday evening, February 24<sup>th</sup>, we hosted 40-plus high school students and their chaperones who were on a community service bus trip that started in Clinton NY, with stops in Williamsport PA, Baltimore MD, Wilmington DE, and Philadelphia PA. This was a sponsored trip of ***Students Today Leaders Forever*** that is based out of Minnesota. While in Wilmington they worked on the Formal Dress Project that was started in our Parish House by Tracey Burns. After cooking their own dinner in the kitchen, and enjoying an evening of fun and music, they slept overnight in sleeping bags on the floor of the Great Hall. They were up early, cleaned the hall, kitchen, and bathrooms, and left shortly after 8:00am on Saturday morning.

Thanks to Tracey for bringing this group to our attention, and thanks also to Gail Zimmerman and Cindy Fauerbach for donating salad and desserts for the group's Friday night dinner.

## **Sunday Morning Adult Ed Class**

During Lent, Sister BJ will be leading a Sunday morning class on "Mussar Practice". This is a continuation of what she presented during Advent, and so will facilitate discussion of the practical application of a Jewish spirituality tool that leads toward personal holiness. It is a program of learning how to put God back in the center of our lives while we seek to strengthen our human character traits. It's a perfect Lenten discipline that hopefully will become a perpetual spiritual practice far beyond the 40 days.

**CALLING ALL COMMITTEE HEADS!!** Reports for each committee are due to Genia in the office by March 15<sup>th</sup>. All reports will be compiled into a booklet for the annual meeting.

## **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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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"

*Fr. Jim will preach and Carole Leach is organizing the luncheon that will be provided by St. James.*

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."



**FEED THE  
HUNGRY**

### **St. James' FOOD CLOSET**

Items can be donated to the food closet at any time. Here are some of the most popular items that are always in short supply:

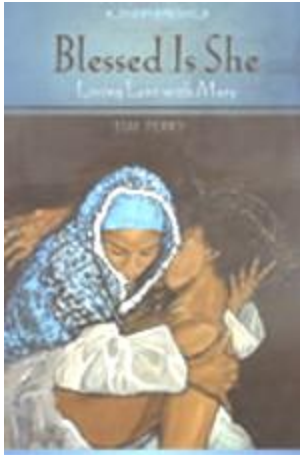
Tuna, cereal, individually wrapped toilet paper rolls, pasta sauce, canned meats, jelly, small containers of fruit with easy-open tops, Chef Boyardee pasta with zip-top can lids, crackers, cookies, easy-open soups, peanut butter and jelly. Any gifts will be greatly appreciated as the shelves have been greatly depleted in February and the cupboard is almost bare.

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.



## Lap Afghans

If you knit, crochet or quilt and you would like to make a small afghan (40"x40" approx.), we could use your contribution to give to wheelchair patients in nursing homes or for kids at the Ronald McDonald House. The only requirement is that it be washable. Need more info call Sandy (239-0846).



Come be a part of our Lenten Study!

*Monday mornings or Tuesday evenings  
Beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 is leading a five-week book study beginning the week of February 27<sup>th</sup>. You 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). The book is available through Church Publishing or Barnes and Noble.

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

The ***Parish Life Ministry*** will meet in the lounge on March 4<sup>th</sup> following the 10:15 a.m. service. If you are interested in serving on this committee or just finding out what it is all about, please join us in the lounge.



We are updating our website. Check it out and let us know what you think. What you would like to see added and/or changed. Have a smart phone? Check out the QR code to the left. We are also interested in your thoughts on our newsletter. What more would you like to see? How can we make it more interesting for you?



# Mardi Gras 2012

**Our Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras dinner on February 21<sup>st</sup> was a great success!** About 50 people came out for the fun and the meal and we netted \$377 for the parish. Thanks to Sam White for the great food and Jim Burns for organizing the mask making contest.



**ST. JAMES CHURCH MILL CREEK  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
February 13, 2012**

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

**ABSENT:** Carolyn Joynt; Jennifer Idell

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry of St. James Church Mill Creek was called to order at 7:25 pm by Senior Warden, Bruce Vrana. Fr. Jim led the Vestry in an opening prayer.

**AGENDA:** Approved as presented

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Approved

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** No Treasurer's Report presented. Steve will circulate the Treasurer's Report to the Vestry. The Vestry discussed the trusts that St. James has and how some of the interest helped to make-up the 2011 deficit.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. **Thank-you Notes:** The Clerk will write thank-you notes to the following: Cathy Goldstone for her years of service on the Flower Guild and for serving as its Chairperson.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Vestry Elections/Re-elections:** Two Vestry members' terms end this year, Jennifer Idell and Elinor Knodel. They will serve on the Election Committee. While Cindy Fauerbach is eligible for an additional two-year term, she is not seeking re-election. Marsha Cauthen resigned as Clerk of the Vestry and as a Vestry member effective immediately. In summary, there are two (2) outstanding one-year terms; three (3) open two-year terms; two (2) members up for re-election (Bruce Vrana and Steve Prescott); and three (3) continuing Vestry members (Carolyn Joynt, Gail Zimmerman, and Kathy Kwiatkowski). Elections will be held during the Annual Meeting on April 22, 2012. Any member of St. James that is age 16 up may serve as a member of the Vestry.
2. **Civil Unions:** Fr. Jim reported that on January 28, 2012, St. James hosted the Dialogue on Civil Unions attended by Episcopal clergy and parishioners from the area.

**RECTOR'S REPORT:**

- A. Fr. Jim reported that a Tracy Burns, leader of the dress project, is organizing and moving the dresses to the Christiana Hilton for a sale in early March. A group known as Students Today, Leaders Forever (STLF) is coming to Wilmington for one day on February 24, 2012. There is the possibility that the high school students of STLF may help with the dress project. The group would need a place to stay. The Vestry discusses the possibility of allowing the group to stay overnight in the Parish House. Fr. Jim has a copy of the Certificate of Liability Insurance for STLF.

**B. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**



- A. **Worship:** Cindy Fauerbach reported that the Flower Guild is being restructured. Cathy Goldstone agreed to serve as the Calendar and Contact Person for the Flower Guild. Cindy reported that the choir is excited to have Keith St. John as our Minister of Music and she encouraged interested parishioners to join the choir.
- B. **Property:** Kathy Kwiatkowski reported there was a water leak inside a closet in the downstairs Choir Room. The leak has been repaired and the mold has been removed. The Property Committee will obtain estimates for repairs and improvements to the restrooms in the Parish House.
- C. **Finance:** Steve Prescott reported that the FAC will meet later this month.
- D. **Parish Life:** Cindy reported that the next meeting will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> after the 10:15 am service.
- E. **Mission & Outreach:** Gail Zimmerman reported that St. James' next hosting week begins March 25<sup>th</sup>. There was some discussion about how our hosting week may be impacted by the Annual Flea Market on March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- F. **Education:** Cindy talked with Carolyn Joynt. The younger people in the Sunday Morning Academy are filming Mary and Martha commercials. The Senior High Youth are selling tickets and serving at the Shrove Tuesday dinner on February 21, 2012.

**SENIOR WARDEN REPORT:** Bruce reminded the Vestry of the upcoming Annual Meeting on April 22, 2012. There will be one service at 9:00 am followed by breakfast and the Annual Meeting. The Vestry will host the breakfast. Bruce asked that Committee Chairperson prepare their reports for the Annual Meeting and that they submit them to the church office by mid-March.

Fr. Jim reported that Family Promise renewed the three-year lease to use the Rectory as its Day Center. Per the terms of the original contract, the monthly payments to St. James increased by \$100 per month. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Jim will attend a meeting about Family Promise with Dick Prettyman, Bruce, two Family Promise board members, and the Executive Director. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss general terms about the Contract.

Fr. Jim will be out of town on February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> to attend a meeting of the North American Committee for St. George's College in Jerusalem.

There being no further business, the Vestry meeting concluded at 9:15 pm with the Order for Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marsha G. Cauthen

Clerk of the Vestry

# FORGIVENESS Game

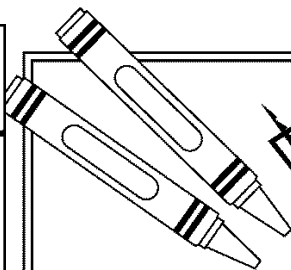
Try this twist on musical chairs.

## 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*.



# PUZZLE

## 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.



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gave her on it one other he an a

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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



## March Birthdays

2	John Gillespie III Cathy Goldstone
3	Trevor Philip
4 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Bowser Justin Dunford Debora Hollstein
6 <sup>th</sup>	Laura Vrana
9 <sup>th</sup>	John Fauerbach Natalie Popham Doris Stampone Jenny Vrana
10 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Healey
	Kayleigh Aichele
11 <sup>th</sup>	Val Hall James McCracken
12 <sup>th</sup>	Arnold Green Wes Loveland
13 <sup>th</sup>	Kathryn Gannett
15 <sup>th</sup>	Frank Hickam Fran Mayhew Lisa McGee Natacha Moscoso
16 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Merrill
17 <sup>th</sup>	Alexander Dunford Sam White
20 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Strecker
21 <sup>st</sup>	James White
22 <sup>nd</sup>	David Seeman
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Carley Bond
24 <sup>th</sup>	Britta Bimbi Georgine Sukeena
25 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Haywood
26 <sup>th</sup>	Shirley Dukes Madison Morales
27 <sup>th</sup>	Alex DelleDonne
29 <sup>th</sup>	Randy Dill, Jr.



## March Anniversaries

5 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy & Dick Prettyman
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Cindy & John Fauerbach
28 <sup>th</sup>	Sherry & David Cernos



## 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 25<sup>th</sup>). 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.



**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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Permit # 36  
Wilmington, DE

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

Office Contacts

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Website: [stjamesmillcreek.org](http://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



**MARCH  
24**

**8AM-3PM**

*Come for bargains, food & fun!!!*

**Lenten Book Study**

**Monday Mornings at 10AM**

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