

# *A Letter from St. James*

*Mill Creek Hundred*

*May 2012*

## *RECTOR's RAMBLINGS . . . New Life in the Spirit and the Word*

The month of April was jam-packed with events around old St. James' - Palm Sunday; the Holy Week services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday; the Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Dog Lunch; Easter Morning Services of the Resurrection; a meeting of the Tercentennial Committee; and the Annual Parish Meeting. Add to this list the regularly occurring gatherings of the Bazaar Workshop, Shawl Ministry, Vestry, Property Committee, and Financial Advisory Committee, and the weekly efforts of the members of the Altar Guild and the Flower Guild, and the ongoing work of our dedicated volunteer gardeners to improve our grounds - well, you can see that much is happening and being attended to by your fellow parishioners.

As we look ahead, just over one year from now we will begin to mark our Tercentennial - the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of this parish. There will be a number of events and observances for us to appreciate and enjoy, and hopefully to share with many of our friends and neighbors. What we must stand ready to offer, in addition to our unique history and church building is, in the words of the Apostle Peter, our "*defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting of the hope that is in you.*" [1Peter 3:15] In other words, we must be ready to share our Christian faith and hope. Why do we come to this church, or any church for that matter? Beyond the social gatherings and friendships, what is the experience of God that we find in our worship and ministries?

All of this is an important part of telling our story, which is a part of the God's larger story of Creation, Covenant, Salvation, Prophecy, Redemption and Sanctification. It is about the faithfulness of Abraham and Sarah, the fearlessness of Moses, the bravery of King David, the humbleness of Mary and Joseph, the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ, the tenacity of Paul, the generosity of Lydia, and so many more.

To help prepare ourselves, I am inviting parishioners of all ages to join me this summer in reading the entire Bible - from cover to cover. The Diocese of Delaware has issued the 90 Day Bible Challenge, a guided way to read the Bible beginning with Genesis on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and completing the Book of Revelation on Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. More specific information will be available before Pentecost Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, or you can go to [www.biblein90days.org](http://www.biblein90days.org) for an overview of the program.

*- Blessings and Peace, Fr. Jim Bimbi*



We are laying the groundwork to serve more (and to serve more effectively!) families in need and congregations! We gathered input from graduate families, volunteers, Pastors, board members and staff to determine the focus areas for organizational growth. The responses were overwhelmingly similar. The four target areas are:

- **Expand Housing Options for Families;**
- **Education and Advocacy for Family Homelessness;**
- **Career-Oriented Support; and**
- **Grow the Network Capacity to Serve More Families.**

As part of our Family Promise® network, our volunteers are critical to success. **So, we are asking our volunteers who have interest & expertise to help refine these goals and turn them into action.** We are so excited for this phase in our network's development and hope you are too!

**In the upcoming months, each committee will meet and develop an action plan. Please contact Carolyn Gordon, Executive Director, expressing your interest in one of the target areas by Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012.** Reach Carolyn at: 998-2222 [carolyn.gordon@familypromisede.org](mailto:carolyn.gordon@familypromisede.org)

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Family Promise ministry!

With purpose,  
Carolyn

## **Service of Appreciation and Thanksgiving for the Ministry of the Cathedral Church of Saint John, will be held 10:30 am, Saturday, May 19**

A Service of Appreciation and Thanksgiving for the Ministry of the Cathedral Church of Saint John, will be held 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Most Rev. Frank Griswold will be the preacher. RSVP is requested for the reception. Please RSVP by May 10<sup>th</sup> to [cyndebimbi@dioceseofdelaware.net](mailto:cyndebimbi@dioceseofdelaware.net) or 302-656-5441, ext. 106. The event program will be as follows:

10:30 – Greeting & Concert by the Cathedral Choir School

11:00 – Holy Eucharist

12:20 – Reception in the Great Hall

# Apply for License Plate tags for **The Episcopal Diocese of Delaware**



- Easy application process
- \$15 per plate - One-time charge only
- One plate per vehicle

Be among the first to apply! Applications for this license plate can be obtained from your church office, the diocesan website—[www.dioceseofdelaware.net](http://www.dioceseofdelaware.net), Cynde Bimbi, 302-656-5441, ext. 106, or [cyndebimbi@dioceseofdelaware.net](mailto:cyndebimbi@dioceseofdelaware.net).

License plate number requests will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

We must receive 200 applications before the State will begin printing license plates.

Here are some answers to potential questions ....

- Everyone should keep the original number plate. That number plate will always be with the vehicle. If you get a Diocese plate and then get rid of the Diocese plate, the number plate will stay with the vehicle.
- New plates come with new stickers (and a new registration card)
- Checks are made payable to: Episcopal Diocese of Delaware (Diocese of Delaware is also fine)
- All number requests must be numerical.
-



**The Opus One Vocal Jazz Ensemble presents *The Great American Songbook*-** an evening of the great songwriters of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century!

Including the music of Gershwin, Porter, Berlin, Arlen, Kern and more...with The Opus One Jazz Trio and friends, plus a special performance of "Rhapsody in Blue" for piano and trumpet! Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup> 2012 7p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church 1108 N. Adams St. Wilmington DE 19801. Tickets \$10, Children under 12 FREE. **A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Friendship House of Wilmington.** Bring that special "Dad" in your life for a Father's Day Weekend Treat!"

**Food Shelf and Sundry Closet** -- Donations may be made any week during the month. The following are in short supply: jelly, tuna, canned meat, fruit in easy-open containers, spaghetti, Chef Boyardee pasta, single rolls of toilet paper. Items with easy-open lids are helpful. Please be sure to check expiration dates. Thank you for your donations to the food closet.



**Sundays**

**May 6 and May 13**

**AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRY**

**Shop the display of jewelry and crafts in the parish hall after both services on May 6 and May 13.**

African Team Ministries is a Christian ministry working as an intermediary between African and American churches that provides funding for orphan and refugee relief missions and evangelism in East Africa. This Mother's Day we are offering a new selection of crafts and jewelry! Your purchase of these items will help provide 100,000 meals of oatmeal and 150,000 servings of a protein soup to people suffering in the drought and famine areas of Kenya.

The support received is sent directly to partnering Bishops to provide school fees, tuition, books, and uniforms. This support ensures that the children receive an education and a measure of stability needed to rebuild their minds. We currently have children registered for sponsorship in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

## **Pentecost, the church's birthday – May 27, 2012**

Pentecost was originally a Jewish harvest festival when the first fruits of crops were given as offerings to God. On the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers. They were filled with power and love, thus empowering them to witness to God's actions in Christ to all who were nearby. Some 3,000 people responded to their claims that Christ was Lord and Savior of mankind. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' first followers on the day of Pentecost is often called the Church's birthday. You can read the entire story in Acts 2. To symbolize the "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3, NRSV) that came upon the people present at Pentecost, liturgical churches display the color red in their worship services on Pentecost Sunday. Many people attending worship wear red on that day. *—newsletternewsletter*

### **St. James Episcopal Church, Mill Creek Hundred Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting April 22, 2012**

After a single worship service at 9:00 a.m., the congregation adjourned to the Parish House for brunch provided by the Vestry and our Annual Meeting.

At 10:50 a.m. the Annual Meeting was called to order followed by an opening prayer. Sr. Warden, Bruce Vrana, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

A motion was made and seconded to have Nancy Patterson take minutes of the meeting.

One person from each table stood and introduced the members sitting at that table. There were 73 church members in attendance.

A motion was made to dispense of the reading of the 2011 Minutes. The Minutes from the 2011 Annual Meeting were approved as written.

Before voting for new Vestry members, the Senior Warden thanked all members of the Vestry for their service with special acknowledgement of the outgoing members: Elinor Knodel, Jennifer Idell and Cindy Fauerbach.

There were no nominations from the floor. This year's nominees for a two-year term are: Ann Kauffman, Robert (Bob) Mecklenburg and Debbie Nuss. Those standing for re-election are: Steve Prescott and Bruce Vrana. Those filling a one-year term are: Sister Barbara Jean (BJ) Brown and Olivia Jessup. The Vestry candidates were elected by acclamation.

The Disbursing Treasurer, Sam White, presented the Financial Report. Sam called attention to pages 12-13 of the Annual Report which represents an analysis of Revenues and Expenses for St. James as a whole. Sam explained that there were several expenditures that contributed to this year's \$58,000 deficit: Repairs to the central pier under the main floor of the church (\$4,900), Concrete work (\$20,000), Repairs to Parish House steps (\$2,600), and refinishing the Parish

House floor (\$6,000). Also, investment losses were \$20,000 in 2011. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Report as written.

## **The Year In Review**

**Youth Mission Trip to Nada, KY:** Fr. Jim gave a brief talk about the success of the Nada, KY trip. Nine youth and 3 adults went on the trip. Fr. Jim credited Cynde Bimbi for organizing the trip. They held Vacation Bible School each day, painted the inside of one building and stained the outside of another. Most important was the time they spent visiting with neighbors and especially time spent with the youth. It was a marvelous event.

**Termite Damage:** The repairs to the church were completed in July and August. Terminix has paid \$18,990 to date. They will reimburse St. James an additional \$2,568 for hidden damages. It is unknown at this time when that payment will be made. Jack Parker was thanked for all his help with the project and the Property Committee was also thanked for their help.

**Family Promise:** Jennifer Idell thanked everyone who has helped with Family Promise. She said that the Christmas season was a turning point for the program. At that time the families had separate rooms. This gave them more privacy. Everyone still had their meals together. The families were very appreciative of the new sleeping arrangements. There is still a need for overnight hosts. All other areas have enough help at this time.

**New Music Director:** Keith St. John, our new music director, was welcomed. The Music Committee was thanked for their work

**Food Pantry:** The closet has had shelves installed so it is easier to organize all of the items. We now have a committee responsible for the Food Pantry. They are doing a good job organizing the items and checking expiration dates. We are also providing more non-food items. There continues to be a need in the community for the Food Pantry.

**Good Shepherd:** This is a new ministry and it is still being organized. They will provide notes, phone calls, visits to shut-ins and those who we have not seen or heard from in awhile. Fr. Jim thanked everyone who has been helping with the organizing of this ministry.

**Tercentennial:** Our tercentennial celebration is rapidly approaching. Several activities are being planned. The celebration will begin in July 2013 and end in June 2014. The committee will provide information about the activities as soon as dates and times are finalized. There is a need for volunteers. Anyone interested is invited to attend the meetings.

**Budget:** The Vestry approved a budget with a deficit of \$23,000. Additional pledges reduced the deficit by \$11,500. It is not too late to make a pledge. Additional cuts were made. Approved, with sorrow, the Administrative Assistance's hours were reduced. That will save \$6,700. St. James will also be reducing the use of Supply Clergy, saving approximately \$1,400. We will have Lay Readers do services when Fr. Jim is away. The Financial Advisory Committee was thanked for their assistance with the budget cuts.

## **Committee Reports**

Committee Chairpersons submitted written reports which may be found in the Annual Meeting Booklet.

**Property:** Fred White said the Property Committee doesn't always notice everything that needs to be done. They appreciate it when members bring problem areas to their attention. He also asked that if anyone has any special talents please let the committee know. At this time there is a need for someone capable of making minor plumbing repairs. Volunteering to help with minor repairs is another way of cutting costs.

**Financial Advisory:** Steve Prescott thanked all members for their help. He announced that a new Copier Contract had been negotiated at a savings of \$1,300 for St. James.

There was no Unfinished Business.

### **New Business**

**Tercentennial Capital Campaign:** From time to time there is a need for a Capital Campaign. A letter from the Vestry will be sent out to explain our financial situation. This will be a 5 year plan with a \$100,000 target. Steve Prescott said they are exploring options with the Diocese. Some projects to be considered are: 2<sup>nd</sup> Story Windows, Church Carpeting, Repair Church Wall around cemetery, and Refresh Women's Restroom.

**Rector's Report:** Fr. Jim noted that this August will mark his 10th year as Rector of St. James and that by canon law he could continue to serve another 11 years. He thanked everyone for their prayers and support during his mother's final illness.

In addition to his written report Fr. Jim spoke about his **Four Part Proposal** made at the 2010 Annual Meeting. **The Prayer Ministry** is not fully developed at this time. **The Financial Advisory Committee** worked with Sam White to develop the 2012 Operating Budget and continues to provide assistance to the Vestry. **Spiritual Leadership** is still being developed. **To Discern and Claim a Godly Vision** is still hanging out there. There are glimpses of it in all of our ministries.

A special Thank You to the Vestry for preparing the delicious dishes served at this morning's brunch.

### **Focus for 2012 – 2013**

#### **Biblical/Spiritual Development:**

- 90 Day Bible Challenge this summer
- Fall Bible Study Groups – Host an evening group at home & a day group at church
- Nurture the Good Shepherd Ministry
- Strengthen our overall membership and financial picture
- Finalize plans for Tercentennial
- ??? – You never know what might pop-up

#### **Announcements:**

- Delaware License Plates - Show your membership in the Episcopal Church - \$15
- May 19, 2012 – Service of Appreciation & Thanksgiving for the Cathedral at the Cathedral

- June 9, 2012 – Safe Church Training for the Diocese at St. James
- August 2-4 – “A Closer Walk” Youth Event & Beach Camping in Wildwood

Fr. Jim read the Necrology

The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Patterson  
Clerk of the Vestry

## **Free Skin Cancer Screening & Awareness Program – May 23 & 24**

Christiana Care is offering a FREE skin cancer screening and education program at the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center. The screenings will be offered from 5:30-7:45p.m. on Wednesday, May 23, and Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. You must call (302) 623-2273 to register for one of the dates. You are eligible for the Skin Cancer Screening if any of the following apply:

- You have NOT attended a free skin cancer screening before.
- You have never had a skin cancer screening by a physician or dermatologist.
- You do not have health insurance.
- You have a family history of skin cancer, or if you have a sore that won't heal.

The Education session will include information on Self Examination, Risk Factors, and How to Protect yourself and your family.



### **FOR MOMS**

She was there at the beginning  
When the world was new to you -  
She was there to turn to happy times  
Those when, you were hurt or blue.

She was there to listen to your thoughts  
And when you asked, to give advice -  
She was there to tell you, "Those don't match!"  
Or, "Hon, you sure look nice."

She was there with you at nighttime  
To help you say your prayers \_  
She was there to tell you, "It's alright."  
When you had a dream that scares.

She was there at morning time  
To get you up and out of bed -  
She was there when you didn't feel good (or did)  
To say, "You'd best stay home, instead."

She was there when you were hungry  
And when you had those dirty clothes -  
She was there when you needed her  
(How she knew? Only heaven knows.)

She was there at the beginning  
And she'll be there your whole life through -  
She'll be there in your mind and heart  
Just like a mother is supposed to do.

By: Del "Abe" Jones



# He Came and Paid Our Debt

Do you believe and love our sweet “Lamb of God”,  
Who paid fully for our sins?

Can you see...  
The solitary figure in the darkness?  
Him kneeling, face streaked with salty tears and great anguish?  
His hair disheveled – matted with sweat?  
So full of sorrows He sweated great droplets of blood?  
The shadow of the cross in the Garden of Eden and at the hill of Calvary?  
Him alone as Pilate asks: “tell me what sin this man has done?”  
Them all cry: He says He is the Son of God!”

One solitary figure, Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.  
He is our substance of love which is endless – eternal.  
How we need God’s savin’ grace.  
He came to pay our debt.  
He died so that we may live through Him!  
Can you vision the shameful death of Him on the cross?  
Can you see His pierced side?  
His nail torn hands and feet?  
Jesus takes our wrath – our sins  
He came and paid our debt.  
Through sacrificing the “lamb of God” with His blood- His death  
All our sins are dissolved – pardoned!  
Washed away with the blood of the Lamb.  
He who was “pure” is now tainted – the tainted are made “pure”.  
Wounded for our transgressions and by His wounds we are healed!  
Look into the face of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
See the love – compassion He has for us.  
O’ Redeemer of souls, “grant me thy peace!”  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Yes the sacred Lamb of God” was sacrificed for us.  
He came and paid our debt!”

An original poem by Faye Hart  
April 23, 2012



Show your love for your mother, grandmother or aunt this Mother's Day by placing words of appreciation throughout the house for her to find.

## What you need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Crayons
- Tape

**THANKS!**

## What you do:

1. Fold construction paper into fourths.
2. Cut paper along the folds to get four pieces.
3. On each rectangle, write words of appreciation, drawings and so on.
4. Tape the papers throughout the house. For example, a note on the refrigerator or pantry might say, "Thank you for making yummy meals for me." A note on a mirror might say, "You are beautiful inside and out!"



What does God mean when he commands us to honor our fathers and mothers (Exodus 20:12)?

Complete this word search to discover words that mean the same as *honor*.

admire • adore • appreciate • cherish • esteem  
look up to • praise • respect • revere • value

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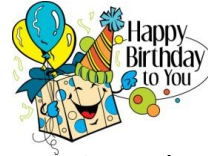


## *May Birthdays*

1<sup>st</sup> Stepehn Huhn  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Roxanne Swift  
 Katie Joynt  
 Kathryn Coverdale  
 4<sup>th</sup> Melissa Idell  
 Tyler Short  
 5<sup>th</sup> Sherry Cernos  
 6<sup>th</sup> Bob Carrow  
 Shannon McGee  
 Nathan Sandlhauser  
 9<sup>th</sup> Dick Prettyman  
 10<sup>th</sup> Becky Perry  
 11<sup>th</sup> Savannah Clark  
 12<sup>th</sup> Jonathon Packard  
 Tabby Galante  
 13<sup>th</sup> Debbie Meadow  
 Cynthia McCauley  
 14<sup>th</sup> Shawn Healey  
 15<sup>th</sup> Hannah Cormier  
 Deacon Herring  
 16<sup>th</sup> John Taylor  
 17<sup>th</sup> Al Luker  
 Ted Prettyman  
 Dustin Short  
 18<sup>th</sup> Christopher Rose  
 19<sup>th</sup> Scott Malusa  
 Kay Meckelnburg  
 20<sup>th</sup> Peter Tuhy  
 21<sup>st</sup> John Clark  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Fr. Jim Bimbi  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Eileen Marvel  
 24<sup>th</sup> Loretta Perry  
 Dorianne Short  
 Lois Kelley  
 28<sup>th</sup> Shirley Sommer

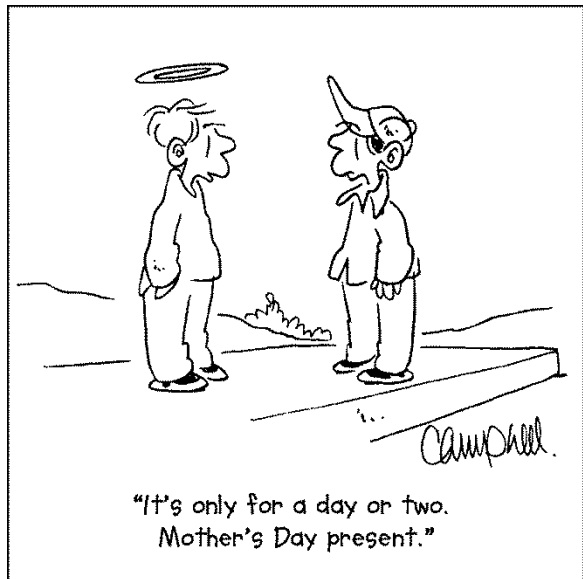
## *More Birthdays*

28<sup>th</sup> Marie Strickland  
 Grace White  
 30<sup>th</sup> Jeffrey Loveland  
 Alexander Winward  
 Faye Hart  
 31<sup>st</sup> Ariana Niehaus



## *May Anniversaries*

2<sup>nd</sup> Shirley & Karl Alexander  
 10<sup>th</sup> Elinor Knodel & Peter Tuhy  
 Diane & Richard Aichele  
 16<sup>th</sup> Ann & Jim Healey  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Millie & Jerry Spencer





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

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Wilmington, DE

Rector: The Rev. James M. Bimbi  
Senior Warden: Bruce Vrana  
Junior Warden: Carolyn Joynt

Office Contacts

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

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Tuesday – Thursday  
Closed Monday and 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



Pentecost

**May 27<sup>th</sup>**

**May 13<sup>th</sup>**

MEMORIAL  
DAY



**May 28<sup>th</sup>**

For the latest news of the parish go to  
<[www.stjamesmillcreek.org](http://www.stjamesmillcreek.org)>  
or aim your smartphone at this box:



*A Letter from St. James*