



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

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A Letter from St. James

Mill Creek Hundred

March 2011

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS . . . The Season of Reconciliation

The season of Lent begins on March 9th, (Ash Wednesday), and it is often seen as a dreary time for Christians. The colors used in worship are more muted and the prayers and the music are often more somber. It is a most profound season, however, as it places before us God's love for humanity in the call and hope of reconciliation. Reconciliation of the individual and the world to God is the theme of this year's Wednesday noon program of the Mill Creek Ministerium. I recent wrote to the pastors of the churches involved and shared some of my thoughts on this matter:

God, through Christ, has sought reconciliation with all of humanity. That reconciliation, or the restoration of God's intentions for humanity, must move individual believers to return to God whether this is mediated by the Church or through personal repentance and/or conversion. That is the starting point of reconciliation, for it is not for the individual alone but for the greater purposes of God. (The resurrection of Jesus from the dead was not for the sole glorification of Christ, but so that resurrection life might come to all peoples through the flesh of the One who was crucified and raised.)

Just as with Christ, the reconciliation/restoration of an individual does not occur within an isolated state where it will do no greater good, but is to become an efficacious channel for greater and greater conversion. If this restoration with God is to mean anything we must begin to bring Christ into our closest relationships with family and friends, and moving out from there to our communities, our nation, and to the greater concerns of the world.

The Wednesday program will be hosted this year by St. Mark's Methodist Church beginning at 12pm on March 16th, and continuing through April 13th. The 30-minute service will be followed by a soup luncheon. The sermon topics for this 5-week series are: Restoring the Individual, Restoring the Family, Restoring the Community, Restoring the Nation, and Restoring the World. I hope that many of you can join with Christians of some of our neighboring churches for this time of fellowship and prayer.

-- Fr. Jim Bimbi

Rector: The Rev. James M. Bimbi
Senior Warden: Valerie Bragg
Junior Warden: Bruce Vrana

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Website: stjamesmillcreek.org

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Monday – Thursday Closed Friday

Service Times

Sunday

8 AM Holy Eucharist

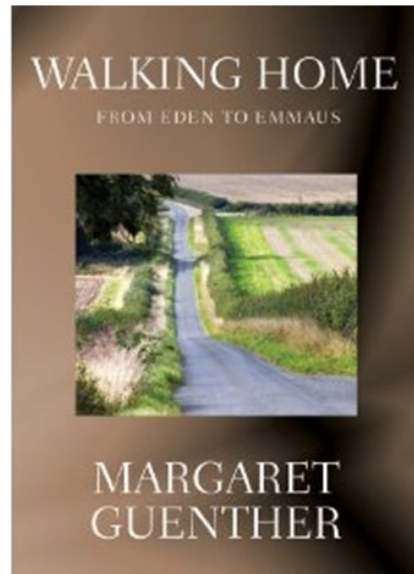
9AM Sunday Morning Academy for all ages

10:15 AM Family Choral Eucharist

Wednesday

10:00 AM Eucharist & Healing Service

6:15 PM Evening Prayer Service



This year's Lenten Book Study will use the newly published book "*Walking Home: From Eden to Emmaus*" by Margaret Guenther. The study will be offered on Thursdays beginning on March 17th and continuing through Maundy Thursday, April 21st. A daytime session of the book study will meet at 11:00am in the Lounge. An evening session will include begin at 6:00pm with a soup supper followed by the book study. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish House to indicate both the number expected for the morning and evening sessions, as well as giving those attending in the evening session the opportunity to provide soup for one of the nights.

Fr. Bimbi has a limited number of books available for ten dollars a copy (the book retails for \$16.00),

or it is available online from a variety of sources including Church Publishing, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Borders.

Margaret Guenther is one of the Episcopal Church's most popular authors. In this new book she retells the "walking stories" of Scripture and unpacks the truths they reveal about spiritual life: Jesus walks everywhere with his disciples -- always arriving, departing, on the way somewhere else. Adam and Eve walked out of the garden, Lot and his daughters walked out of Sodom, Abraham and Isaac walked to Mt. Moriah, the Israelites walked for forty years to the promised land, the Prodigal Son walked home barefoot, the disciples walked to Emmaus.

The spiritual life is oftentimes about putting one foot in front of another, always on the way, never home, until crossing another new threshold. However, the point of all our walking -- whether tedious or joyous, rambling or goal-oriented -- is getting home, as this splendid author illustrates in this reflective new work.

Margaret Guenther's books on the spiritual life have found an appreciative, wide audience. A priest, writer, teacher, and grandmother, Guenther is the former director of the Center for Christian Spirituality at The General Theological Seminary and an associate at St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC. She is much in demand for retreats, conferences, diocesan conventions, and clergy days.



a Birthday!

March Birthdays

- 2nd John Gillespie
Cathy Goldstone
- 3rd Trevor Phillip
- 4th Justin Dunford
Barbara Bowser
Debora Hollstein
- 6th Laura Vrana
- 9th John Fauerbach
Natalie Popham
Doris Stampone
Jenny Vrana
- 10th Ann Healey
Kayleigh Aichele
- 11th Valerie Hall
James McCracken
- 12th Arnold Green
Wesley Loveland
- 15th Frank Hickam
Fran Mayhew
Lisa McGee
Natacha Moscoso
- 16th Ann Merrill
- 17th Alexander Dunford
Sam White
- 20th Sue Strecker
- 21st James White
- 22nd David Seeman
- 24th Britta Bimbi
Georgine Sukeena
- 25th Christine Haywood

Happy Birthday to all!

- 26th Shirley Dukes
Madison Morales
- 27th Alexander DelleDonen
Randy Dill, Jr

March Anniversaries

- 5th Nancy & Dick Prettyman
- 22nd Cindy & John Fauerbach
- 28th Sherry & David Cernos



Happy Anniversary!

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.

Congratulations to Amy and John Taylor on the birth of their daughter Aurora Rose on February 16, 2011. Proud grandmother Gail Coverdale shares this photo with us.



Forgiveness BRACELET

Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, and he tells us to forgive other people, too. Make and wear this craft as a reminder that you are forgiven — and should be forgiving.

What you need:

- Clear plastic bottle (about 16 oz.)
- An adult to help
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Permanent black marker
- Glue or clear tape
- Thin ribbon or yarn
- Small hole punch

What you do:

1. Remove any label from the bottle. Have an adult help you cut the bottle in half, width-wise. At the middle, cut out two identical half-inch-wide strips.
2. Cut out paper the same size as the plastic strips.
3. On the paper, write "Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37, NIV).
4. Place the paper between the two plastic strips.
5. Cut and glue the ribbon or yarn to run along the top and bottom of the verse, framing the words.
6. Punch a hole at each end, through all three layers.
7. Tie the bracelet to your wrist with ribbon or yarn.

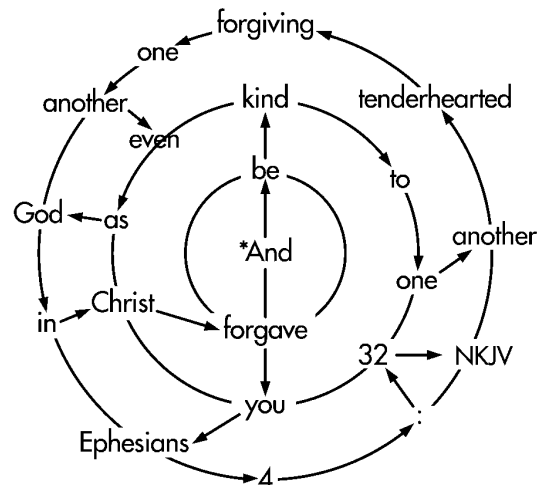


WHY FORGIVE?



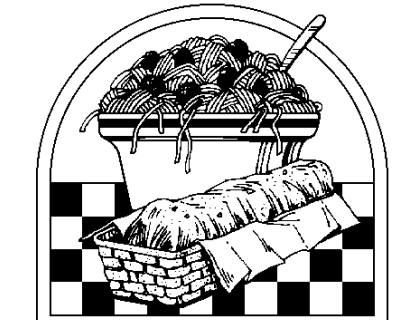
This Bible verse teaches an important lesson about how we should treat others — and why.

Directions: Start with the asterisk in the center circle and follow the arrows. Write the words in order on the blanks below.



"And _____ ,
 _____ , _____
 _____ , _____ ."
 _____ , _____

Answers: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NKJV



SPAGHETTI DINNER

Put this on your calendar!

Saturday, March 19th at 5 PM

St. James will host a delicious spaghetti dinner for only \$8.00—children six and under are free. Jackson Bragg will be our head chef. Bring your family and friends for a delicious meal and great fellowship. You'll get a great meal without having to cook it, eat with your parish family and friend and help raise money to further the ministries of our parish. What could be better!



April 9, 2011
8 AM-2 PM
Bargains!
Food!
Fun!

Spring Cleaning? Bring those gently used household items you no longer need and donate them to the Flea Market (you can bring them in now and take them to the flea market area downstairs). **Have a lot?** You can rent your own space for \$25—see Carol Harrold or the church office. **Like to Shop for Bargains?** Plan to come shop on the 9th and find treasures! **Want to have fun and help St. James?** Sign up to help. During the two weeks prior to the flea market, we'll have some industrious folds, sorting and pricing our treasures. The night before, we will be setting up the hall, greeting vendors and helping them set-up. The day of, we'll sell baked goods (which you wonderful cooks have donated) as well as our treasures. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Parish House—or call the office and let us know who you will help.

Please join in the revelry
at our
Shrove Tuesday

Mardi Gras Dinner Party!

Shrimp Feast, King Cake,
Dixieland jazz music,
And Beads! Beads! Beads!

Tuesday, March 8

At 6:00 PM

(Follows 5:30 Evensong in Church)

St. James Episcopal Church - Parish Hall
2106 St. James Church Road

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

Advance ticket purchase necessary!
Call 302-994-1584

offer is contingent upon a criminal background check. The candidate will attend the May 2011 session of "Safe Church Training."

- g. Vestry Greeter: Vestry greeters for March are Pam Smith for 8 a.m. and Tom for 10:15 p.m. Elinor asked a question about how we as a Parish follow-up with people that attend services and/or express an interest in membership. Fr. Jim stated that he calls people to arrange a home visit. If someone fills-out one of the cards from the pews and if he/she includes an email address, Fr. Jim adds the address to the e-Epistle mailings.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. **Rector's Report:** To prepare for the Annual Meeting, Fr. Jim asked committee chairmen to prepare their reports and submit them to Genia by February 28th. The Shrove Tuesday dinner on March 9th will support the youth mission trip. St. James will host a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 19th at 6 p.m. March 19th
2. **Other:** Elinor and Cindy attend the mid-winter Vestry Meeting led by Fr. Mark Sullivan. They have the handouts if anyone is interested in reading them. Valerie had an inquiry from a parishioner regarding the omission of the Vestry minutes from the February Church newsletter. Marsha stated that she did not submit the minutes from the January Vestry meeting to Genia in time for inclusion in the February newsletter.

There being no further business, the Vestry meeting was concluded at 8:25 pm with the Order for Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marsha G. Cauthen
Clerk of the Vestry

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN

Why should we Observe Lent?

We observe Lent because it causes us to **STOP**. Lent says "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says "stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it causes us to **LOOK**. Look inward for honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it causes us to **LISTEN**. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Holy Spirit.

Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful in our journey through the days of Lent.

Newsletternewsletter, March 2004

- c. Family Promise: Jennifer Idell reminded the Vestry of the Family Promise Silent Auction and Luncheon to be held on February 26, 2011, at Westminster Presbyterian Church. She is collecting items for the baskets. St. James' next hosting week is March 27, 2011.
- d. Mission: Carolyn Mansk reported that St. James will not offer the Mother's Day African Jewelry this year. Cindy Fauerbach reported that there was a positive response to the request for donations for the Salvation Army cold weather request.
- e. Parish Life:
 - i. Diocesan Convention: Convention will be held on February 25-26 in Dover.
 - ii. St. James Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10th. To prepare for the Annual Meeting, committee chairmen must prepare their reports and submit them to Genia by February 28th. The Annual Report document will be available to parishioners at the Shrove Tuesday dinner. The Vestry will host a breakfast for the congregation after the single church service. A mini-meeting will be held after the church service on March 6th to develop a presentation for the Annual Meeting.
 - iii. Vestry Terms and Re-elections: Valerie and Tom are ineligible for re-election to the Vestry. Carolyn and Pam declined to serve additional terms. Someone will check with Gail Coverdale to determine if she wants to serve an additional term. Continuing Vestry members are Cindy, Jennifer, Elinor, Steve, and Bruce. The outgoing Vestry members will meet after church on February 27th to develop a list of potential Vestry candidates.
 - iv. Parish Life Chairperson: Due to Jackson Bragg's work schedule, he is stepping down as the Chairperson. Valerie will talk to different parishioners about assuming responsibility for some of the Chairperson's tasks. Sam White volunteered to get supplies.
- f. Worship: Cindy reported the Choir Director/Organist Search Team will conduct second interviews with two potential candidates on Wednesday, February 16th. Both candidates will work with the Adult Choir. The Search Team hopes to have a decision and to make an offer to a candidate by the end of the week. Fr. Jim reminded the Vestry that the candidate must successfully pass a background check. St. James will submit the request for the background check through the Diocese a cost of \$175.00. Fr. Jim stated that any written offer to a candidate must include language stating that the



Mardi Gras Dinner Party to support Youth Mission Trip *Youth Need Your Support*

On *Shrove Tuesday*, March 8th, the St. James High School Youth Group will host a Mardi Gras Dinner Party. They hope to provide a fun evening and good food for all, but are also counting on this as a major fundraiser for their mission trip to Kentucky in June. The evening will include games, Dixieland Jazz, lots of beads and a fabulous shrimp fest. The dinner/party will begin at 6:00p.m., following the 5:30 Evensong (to be held in the church). We are asking that you purchase advance tickets. Tickets can be purchased through the church office or after each Sunday service.

The mission trip is scheduled for June 19th through June 24th in the Appalachia Mountains of Kentucky. The group will be staying in a church mission house and will be responsible for cooking their meals and housekeeping. The project that has been assigned to our group is staining a house and deck. In addition, the youth will also interact and spend time with several of the children in the area. They plan to provide a 4-day, Day Camp with several social and learning activities offered. If funds are available, the youth will end the week by hosting a community barbecue.

The expenses that will be incurred for this mission trip are for: transportation, lodging, food, paint/project supplies, materials for the day camp and the community barbecue.

If you would like to donate to the mission trip, you can write a check to St. James Church Youth Mission Fund.

Celebrate a year of promises kept!!

St James supports Family Promise 1st Annual Silent Auction and Luncheon!

Once again the congregation of St James has come together to support the homeless in our community. We would like to thank the following parishioners for their generous donations John and Debbie Nuss (Starbucks Basket), Robert and Katharine Meckelnburg (Italian Wine Basket), Kathy Kwiatkowski (Gardening Basket) Cindy Fauerbach (Japanese Basket & Italian Pitcher & Bowl), the St James Bazaar Group for their numerous items, Shawl Ministry Group for several shawls, Faye Hart and Lois Kelley for blankets, Dick and Nancy Prettyman (Horse Box), Fran Mayhew (Gift Certificate Hair Salon) and the following parishioners contributed to the 2 beautiful Italian Gourmet Food Baskets valued at \$100 each. Barbara Anzilotti, Valarie Bragg, Sandy Cornelia, Sue Haefner, Jen Idell, Lois Kelley, Pat Minor, Marion Phillips, Pat Poniecki, Bill and Dorianne Short, Sam White, Susan Winward, Gail Zimmerman. Several of us from St James will be attending the event on Feb26th so look for news next month on how much money the luncheon and auction raised.

Jen Idell and Susan Winward Coordinators



ST. JAMES CHURCH MILL CREEK VESTRY MEETING MINUTES February 15, 2011

PRESENT: Fr. Jim Bimbi; Valerie Bragg, Bruce Vrana; Jennifer Idell; Cindy Fauerbach; Pam Smith; Steve Prescott; Elinor Knodel; Tom Gannett; Carolyn Mansk; Sam White; Marsha Cauthen

ABSENT: Gail Coverdale

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry of St. James Church Mill Creek was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Senior Warden, Valerie Bragg.

AGENDA: Approved as present

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes from the January 10, 2011 Vestry meeting were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Financial Report:** Sam White reported that she closed-out the financial records for the year 2010. Throughout 2010, St. James operated at a deficit. Due to market improvements, the endowments showed an overall increase for the year. Congregational financial support and the improvement in the endowments resulted in a surplus for 2010. Financial gifts and The Vestry voted to accept the 2010 Financial Summary as presented.

2010 Income: \$247,773.23

2010 Expense: \$243,306.61

2010 **Surplus/Deficit:** **\$4,466.62**

2. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Property:** Tom Gannett reported that the Property Committee told Terminix that St. James accepted its repair work estimate. Both parties agreed that if additional unseen damage is discovered during the course of the repairs that the parties will revisit the repair costs. Terminix agreed that it will not leave St. James without an operable fire alarm system, with Terminix paying the cost. All of these terms are being put into writing. In addition to the termite damage repair work to be paid by Terminix, St. James will be responsible to cover the cost of approximately \$6,000 in concrete repair work. There was some discussion regarding when the repair work would be performed, being careful to avoid Easter and weddings.

- b. **Stewardship:** Steve Prescott reported that the FAC will meet in March.