



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

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A Letter from St. James

Mill Creek Hundred

May 2011

RAMBLINGS from THE RECTOR . . . **Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

Easter and Christmas are the largest feasts days of the Christian Church. We do a lot in the church to get ready for them. Choirs spend weeks rehearsing music and anthems. The altar and flower guilds prepare the church with special ornaments and decorative displays. And clergy eagerly await leading services in which there are more people in church than on the average Sunday.

It's all very wonderful. It's also a very easy to lose one's perspective as to what is going on. Admittedly, much effort goes into these special Holy Day services, and if one is not careful you can forget what it is that people are coming for. We might enjoy the music, or the flowers, or the perfectly written and delivered sermon, but they are not what those days are about. They are about all of us being drawn together before God in amazement and thanksgiving. God invites you to be here; we are responsible for making you welcome.

What we welcome you to is to know that this God whom we celebrate so lavishly at Christmas and Easter is not a punishing God, a harsh deity who lays down impossibly difficult commands and then just waits for the opportunity to do harsh things to us when we mess up. The gift of Christmas and Easter is that they give us twin portals through which we can view a God who paradoxically is willing to come to us in both the vulnerability of an infant and in the power of Christ resurrected. Neither one delivers a to-do list of morals, but both are about a love that knows no bounds. Neither glimpse we receive of God should give us occasion to be afraid, but leave us standing in wonderment as to why God should be so mindful of us that God is willing to risk losing everything in order to gain our safe entrance into eternal life.

So, rather than being proud for putting on or attending such great services, they are times for us to show a little humility. I've been blessed to visit two churches in the Holy Land of Israel that are practical reminders of this. The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem contains the traditional birthplace of Jesus. The Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem lays claim to the tomb in which Jesus was buried following his crucifixion and from which he was resurrected. To enter the church in Bethlehem or the tomb in Jerusalem, the average adult has to bend down, for the entrances are only about four feet in height. You cannot stroll in with your head held high. You must, if you wish to enter, humble yourself by bowing your head and bending the knees to get inside. There is no graceful way to maneuver through those entrances. When you take the effort, however, to show up and actually do it, God's grace abounds as you enter into those most holy of places for Christians.

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



May 8, 2011

Mother's Day

Guess who's turning 60!
We're having a party May 22
after the 10:15 service. Your
fellowship would be appreciated.



We're not always so good at humility. Boasting is often more to our liking. But can we in anyway make a personal boast of the fact that God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten son to the end that all who believe in him shall not perish, but have eternal life? Is there any manner in which we so deserve to be honored that God is merely given the opportunity to bestow on us something we are totally incapable of giving ourselves? The answer to both questions is "no." When we come before the presence of God we have no occasion to boast or to claim any honor. It is time to bow the head and bend the knees.

And yet, we can joyful shout our Easter "Alleluias", for Christ is indeed raised from the dead so that we might receive forgiveness for our sins. It has been the witness of Holy Scripture and believers that on that morning almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ was raised to new life, and as St. Paul wrote, we too, then, have been raised. It is a life where we are to seek the things that are above, that is, the things that transcend and also can transform us and the world in which we live.

Jesus once said of his followers that they are to be the salt of the earth; that they are to season and bring out the hidden flavor of what it means to be alive in God. Christians aren't called to be dull and predictable; rather they are to bring spice to their relationships and their communities; to challenge those who perpetuate injustices; to speak up for those who are marginalized; to in everything and in every way live with a boldness that proclaims that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection through Jesus Christ.

And we have more than two chances a year to do so, for the highlight of the Christian life is not what we do on two days out of the year, but how we live every day of our lives. God has not only freed Jesus from the tomb, God has freed us as well; freed us to live without fear of death or condemnation for our sins.

And so it is with all humility, and grateful hearts, that we proclaim for all the world to hear: **Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

Blessings and Peace,
Fr. Jim Bimbi

On Sunday, May 1st we welcome our new organist/Director of Music, Mr. Jackson Borges. He is a very talented and experienced musician who will bring a well-rounded background in organ music and vocals to the worship life of our congregation. He has been working with our choir on Wednesday evenings. We look forward to having him with us.



May Birthdays

- 1st Stephen Huhn
- 3rd Roxanne Swift
Kathleen Joynt
Kathy Larson
- 4th Melissa Idell
Tyler Short
- 5th Sherry Cernos
- 6th Bob Carrow
Shannon McGee
Nathan Sandlhauser
- 9th Dick Prettyman
- 10th Becky Perry
- 11th Savannah Clark
- 12th Johathon Packard
- 13th Debbie Meadow
Cynthia McCauley
- 14th Shawn Healey
- 15th Hannah Cormier
Melina Boudway
- 16th John Taylor
- 17th Al Luker
Ted Prettyman
Dustin Short
- 18th Christopher Rose
- 19th Seth Malusa
Josh Perry
- 20th Peter Tuhy
- 21st John Clark
- 22nd Fr. Jim Bimbi
- 23rd Eileen Marvel
- 24th Loretta Perry
Dorianne Short
Lois Kelley

- 25th Alice Bimbi
- 28th Marie Strickland
Shirley Sommer
Grace White
- 30th Jeffrey Loveland
Alexander Winward
Faye Hart
- 31st Ariana Udinski

Happy Birthday To All

May Anniversaries

- 2nd Shirley & Karl Alexander
- 10th Elinor Knodel & Peter Tuhy
Diane & Richard Aichele
- 16th Ann & Jim Healey
- 23rd Millie & Jerry Spencer
- 29th Eufemia Campagna & Mark Boudway



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.

My Mother's Garden

A mother is a gardener,
Planting the seeds
Of faith, truth and love
That develop into the fairest flowers
Of character, virtue and happiness
In the lives of her children.

—J. Harold Gwynne



Who Is Graduating in 2011??

We would like to publish photos and information about our graduating high school and college seniors in the June newsletter. Please give information about your graduates to the office as soon as possible. We would like to know the school they are graduating from and any known future plans as well as any other information they would like to share with their parish family.

Photos can be digital or we can scan photos and return the original to you. Please either email or drop information off to the office no later than May 20th. We would like to celebrate our graduates achievements with the parish family.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF A BLESSED LIFE!

Please join us in celebrating Jim's 60th Birthday!

Sunday, May 22nd, 2011

St. James Church Hall

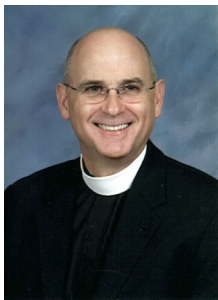
2106 St. James Church Road

11:30 a.m.

*Light lunch and refreshments
will be served*

Please do not bring gifts other than yourself,
as it is your fellowship that brings Jim most enjoyment.

Plan to join us following the 10:15 service.



Church Directory

UPDATE

- A new parish directory is being prepared. We need current
- information on all members. If you have had a change of
- address, new phone number, or new e-mail address, please
- notify the church office. Also, if you are new to St. James, or

know of someone new, please contact the office to ensure that we have your correct information. You can contact the office by phone (302-994-1584) or email (office@stjamesmillcreek.comcastbiz.net. June 30, 2011 is the deadline for providing your information. Thank you.

that he can minister to them. The other part, like being a good shepherd, includes being vigilant, welcoming new-comers, and occasionally calling someone you haven't seen in church in a while and saying, "Hey, we miss you, is everything ok?" A woman once commented to me that she visited lots of different churches in her diocese and she was shocked when she visited one church in particular. Someone approached her and said 'Hi, I don't believe we have met, why don't you sit with me and I will help you with the prayer book and hymnal.' No one had noticed her or tried to include her at any of the other churches. By being watchful and working together, we can make the flock stronger.

My parents' church in Virginia, which is similar in size to our church, maybe a little smaller, began a ministry that they call 'Good Shepherds'. It started out as a small group of people, 'Good Shepherds', who divided up their church family into small 'flocks'. Each had a group of members or 'flock' they watched over. When a shepherd noticed that one of the 'sheep' in their 'flock' were out for a couple of weeks, they called them to see how they were doing. This ministry eventually grew to include providing rides for people to and from church, rides for people who needed help getting to the doctor or to the store, and meals to families going through tough times. It has been a really nice way for their church to minister to each other and take care of their 'flock.' I thought it would be nice to do something similar here, starting out small, to really let people know we really do care about them, they do make a difference, and are missed when they are not here.



If **you** feel called to do this as a ministry and would like to discuss/learn more about forming a group of 'Good Shepherds', please contact Valerie Bragg by phone at 998-7329 or via email at sassycheme@verizon.net.

A Child's Perspective

A group of second-graders was quizzed about what ingredients their mothers are made of. One child said, "God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world, and one dab of mean."

To the question "What does your mom do in her spare time?" one youngster said, "Mothers don't do spare time."

When the children were asked "Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?" one child replied, "God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me."

Church Treasurer Needed: Limestone Presbyterian Church

Limestone Presbyterian Church is seeking a Treasurer to begin part-time employment June 1. Resumes should be submitted to Roberta Bell, Chair of the Human Resources Committee, at RMB64R@aol.com by **May 9**. Details are available on the church web site: www.limestonepresbyterian.org/ChurchTreasurer.htm

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE AND THANK YOU FOR ST. JAMES



This time last year (March 2010) marks the startup of the Family Promise Network of New Castle County as well as St. James' maiden voyage for hosting guests in our church. What a quick year it has been and with so many milestones!

St. James went on to host one week in July, October and December, serving a total of 9 families. Our efforts have been overwhelmingly supportive with approximately 30-40 volunteers working together for each week's set-up, meals, overnighting, food /supply shopping and take-down. For the past two years, St. James, in conjunction with the Opus One Vocal Jazz Ensemble, held a Christmas Concert, both times benefiting Family Promise. Last but not least, St. James also went into agreement with Family Promise to use the Rectory as the "hub" for their daily business, outreach and families' personal activities. As the "Day Center" our Rectory now serves to provide a viable mailing address for the families as well as a school bus pick up stop for the children. Families also use the extensive resources available to them by computers as well as counseling from the Executive Director or other counselors working out of or in connection with the Day Center. To make it "home," families are offered shower/bathing facilities as well as a permanent locker space to store valuables while they are hosted through the various churches during their time in the program.

Participation in the Family Promise program has grown from an initial 11 hosting and 3 supporting churches to 13 hosting and 5 supporting churches. At present, the average length of stay in the program has been 90 days. Family Promise also successfully completed its first annual Silent Auction and Luncheon, raising over \$16,000!!

This month Family Promise welcomed a new Executive Director, Merrie Bailey, who is also a member of its Board of Directors. Merrie will be serving in an interim position until a new Executive Director is chosen. If you or anyone you know are interested in the position, please feel free to check it out on their website at www.familypromisede.org.



With one year under our belt, our coordinators and numerous volunteers now have the various duties down to a science. This past hosting week ran very smoothly with every detail attended too! We served 3 families all of whom had very young children. The families were very appreciative of the excellent cooks who provided excellent meals: bar-b-q chicken, mac & cheese, pizza, pulled pork, baked beans, applesauce, baked rigatoni, beef stroganoff, carrots, tacos, lasagna, rolls, and salad; deserts: cakes, cookies, ice cream,



Vestry Housekeeping Matters: Parish House keys are needed for Steve, Gail, and Carolyn. Someone will contact the outgoing Vestry members to obtain their keys. We discussed the Vestry monthly meeting schedule. Cindy circulated the Vestry Greeter Sign-up form for the Sunday morning services.

Rector's Report: Fr. Jim reported that he met with Marsha and Borden prior to tonight's Vestry meeting to discuss the maintenance of the cemetery. Borden will submit estimates for performing some of the work. Fr. Jim will meet with Borden and Fred White on April 12th to discuss some property needs. The repair work by Terminix should start this summer.

Other Business: Cindy suggested Saturday, June 11th, for the day-long Vestry retreat. She circulated a letter from the Diocese for Vestry members to read and to bring comments and ideas to discuss at our May 9th Vestry meeting.

There being no further business, the Vestry meeting was concluded at 9:25 pm with the Order for Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marsha G. Cauthen
Clerk of the Vestry



Would YOU like to be a Good Shepherd?

A big part of parish life is taking care of one another.

Everyone wants to feel included, that they make a difference, and that they are missed when they are not here.

Jesus spoke of this idea of a common life together as similar to the relationship of sheep to their shepherd. If one of the sheep gets lost or hurt, the shepherd goes after it to see that it is okay and bring it back to rest of the flock.

Using this image for our church, at one time or another all of us have been sheep and sometimes we have even experienced being a shepherd. Without a shepherd, the flock is vulnerable, unprotected, and will gradually dwindle.

But it really does take more than *one* shepherd. We all need to share the responsibility of taking care of each other like shepherds take care of their flocks, to keep us together and growing strong in the faith.

Do you know of members of our parish family who are unable to attend church services or special events? Are there people whom you haven't seen in a while? Is your pew-mate MIA (*missing in action*)? Please take the time to reach out. OR, maybe you are one of these people—WE miss you! If you would like someone to visit and/or bring you communion, please call the church office at 994-1584 and let us know.

Part of watching out for each other also includes letting Father Jim know if someone from the congregation has taken ill, been admitted to the hospital, or is shut-in, etc, so



brownies, blueberry/pineapple cobbler, bread pudding, and cupcakes. We have within our congregation awesome cooks and support and the coordinators were thankful also!

St James will host again the week of June 19th. We already have dinners planned for Sunday, Thursday and Friday of that week but if you have not had an opportunity to volunteer by cooking a meal, providing breakfast or lunch food items, helping with laundry,



helping with set-up or take-down of the bedroom partitions, or volunteering as the overnight host, please look for the sign-up sheet in the Parish House or contact one of the coordinators. As always, we would like to have two families per night for dinners and at least two individuals for overnight hosts, so please feel free to team up with a friend or bring one along. Community Service hours can also be had for youth to use on their college resumes.

The coordinators would like to thank everyone who contributed in some way to provide this wonderful hospitality to families in our community.

Serving for Host Week March 27

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Dick Cornelia | Eileen Marvel | |
| Nancy & Dick Prettyman | Mark, Andrew and Melissa Idell | |
| Dave Winward | Valerie Bragg | Sam White |
| Bill Short | Gail Zimmerman | Carole Leach |
| Russell & Ginny Dennis | Larry and Cathy Goldstone | Youth Group |
| Tom and Sharon Gannett | Wayne & Barb McKee | Jerry Clark |
| Cynde Bimbi | Kathy Kwiatkowski | Andy Taylor |
| Dave Perry | Mike Aiken | John Nuss |
| Carol Harrold | Carolyn Mansk | Elinor Knodel |
| Alicia Scalessa | Lois Kelly | Barbara Anzilotti |
| Sandy Cornelia | Pat Minor | Susan Winward |
| Jen Idell | Donnie Scalessa | Marion Phillips |
| Debbie Nuss | Lynne Baker | |

Thanks to you all.

-Jen Idell



**ST. JAMES CHURCH MILL CREEK
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2011**

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

ABSENT: Bruce Vrana

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry of St. James Church Mill Creek was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Junior Warden, Cindy Fauerbach. The meeting opened with the reading, discussion, and reflections on James 2:14-26.

AGENDA: Approved as present

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: A minor corrections was made to the Minutes from the March 14, 2011 Vestry meeting. Then the minutes were approved.

BUSINESS:

Committee Liaisons: With the new Vestry members, Cindy reviewed the work of the various committees. The committee liaisons will be:

- Property:** Kathy Kwiatkowski
- Parish Life:** Carolyn Joynt and Marsha Cauthen
- Mission and Outreach/Family Promise:** Jennifer Idell and Gail Zimmerman
- Stewardship/Finance:** Steve Prescott
- Education:** Carolyn Joynt
- Tercentennial/History:** Elinor Knodel
- Worship:** Cindy Fauerbach

Stewardship/Financial Advisory Committee (FAC): Steve reported that Sam While had been experiencing problems with the financial software and that it appeared to be resolved. Sam will be entering the 2011 financial data for the FAC meeting this coming Wednesday. Members of FAC obtained proposals for a new church printer/copier. Genia sent a letter to Hilyard's as the 60-day notice to terminate the lease on the current equipment. The FAC is reviewing expenditures and revenue as related to the agreement between St. James and the Pre-School. It will continue its analysis and Steve will report their findings at a future meeting.

Family Promise: Jennifer reported that the last hosting week went smoothly. Jennifer, David Perry and other Family Promise volunteers are creating written procedures for hosting week. There was a discussion regarding Family Promise families' use of the Day Center. There was a motion which was seconded that the Vestry will write a letter to the Family Promise Board for clarification on the use of the Day Center without Family Promise staff or volunteer supervision, particularly in the early morning hours and with occasional overnight guests, requesting a written response from the Family Promise Board.