

A Letter from St. James

Mill Creek Hundred

December 2011

Rector's Ramblings. . . The Timelessness of Christmas



This year has contained many moments of personal joy as well as a few challenges to be met with the help of our Lord Jesus Christ. Cynde and I were blessed to have taken several trips, the most memorable one being the surprise birthday trip she arranged for me – a trip that had us begin riding in a car, transferring to a train, boarding an airplane, and finally embarking on a cruise ship around the Caribbean. And I never suspected a thing, for she did not let me look in my luggage, which she had packed with everything from casual wear, to a coat and tie, to my snorkel mask and flippers.

My wonderful wife was also by my side this past year helping to care for my mother, Alice. My mother's declining health, starting on Christmas Day last year, was something we all shared and supported each other through as the year passed by. The final night of her life, when Cynde and I slept by the side of her bed at the Masonic Home, was one of the holiest nights of this past year for us. The following morning, when my mother died a little after 10 o'clock, she was at peace with the world and with God, as we prayed for her soul's quiet departure.

This Christmas will be my sixty-first, although I certainly don't remember anything from the first couple of years of my life. When I think back on all those Christmases and the family celebrations that surrounded them, they took place in a wide variety of settings and in gatherings both large and small. As different as they might have been from one other, each was centered around the same thing: the celebration of the Birth of Christ. The size of the decorated tree, the food consumed, the company that was kept, and the presents that were given and received, were all additions to what was going on in those gatherings. Whether we consciously spoke of it or not, it was about the timeless gift that God offered, and continues to offer, to a world that is in desperate need of knowing it is loved. Every year was a journey to the manger, to be at the bedside of Christ our Lord.

Jesus, we are told, is the Eternal Word, the Son of God, and the Author of our Salvation. There is no one way to tell this story, and I look forward every Christmas to hearing from generations past who have taught us our faith and traditions, and also from our children and youth whose lives are giving voice to a living faith that will carry its own traditions into the future long after I am gone.

Christmas is indeed timeless, the most holy night and day of the year. May God's gift of peace and love be with us all – from one generation to another.

Fr. Jim Bimbi

Advent Study and Challenge – Searching for the Inner Light

Sunday Mornings in December (4th, 11th & 18th) – 9:10am

By Sister BJ Brown

Have you ever thought that everything we have been taught in Church over the years has somehow faded from our minds and hearts?... that listening to one more class or one more sermon sounds more like, “Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah?” Maybe you feel that your spiritual growth has slowed to a crawl or stopped altogether.

In the 40 years I have been a very faithful and active Christian, I admit that many times it feels that I am just going through the motions, without any of my Christian practice making me into the person I believe God intends for me to be. BUT... out of something old can come something new. I have begun to learn a system of spiritual practice that comes from the Jewish piety of the 17th and 18th century in eastern Europe; spiritual practices that bear a deep resemblance to the monastic practices of the western Christian tradition. This way of spiritual discipline is called *Mussar*.

Mussar is a path of practical and contemplative practices and exercises that have evolved over the past thousand years to help an individual soul to pinpoint and then to break through the barriers that surround and obstruct the flow of inner light in our lives. *Mussar* is a treasury of techniques and understandings that offers immensely valuable guidance for the journey of our lives. *Mussar* is simply a system or instruction concerning practices of living our spiritual lives with a heightened awareness of ourselves, our world and our call to draw closer to God.

A new set of tools can always make the workbench a more fun and creative place to work and play. That is what the *Mussar* has become for me... another set of tools to help me revive my desire to become all that I can be for the Kingdom of God. And, of course I must add, “in the name of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Come, join our Sunday morning discussions of *Mussar* on December 4th, 11th, and 18th. We will gather in the Great Hall beginning at 9:10am. It just may be the beginning of something wonderfully new in your life.



GOOD NEWS!!

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. every third Monday! We will not meet in December, but join us on January 16, 2012.- Sue Strecker for the Shawl Ministry

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 prepare 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 SUCCESSFUL BAZAAR!

With your help the Bazaar, Luncheon and Turkey Dinner were a success again this year. We were busy both days. There were many compliments from those who shopped and enjoyed the luncheon and/or dinner. St. James is very fortunate to have so many members who are willing to give of their time and talents to make the Bazaar Weekend a winner each year.

The Bazaar Ladies extend a big “**THANK YOU**” to everyone who helped. Thank you to the bakers who supplied the Bake Shop, crafters who donated hand crafted items, everyone who donated food, cooked turkeys, prepared and served the Luncheon and Turkey Dinner, those who filled in and helped in the shops, raffle table, the volunteers who helped set up and the group that cleaned up. **A very special “Thank You” goes to the young people who were servers at the Turkey Dinner.** We appreciate everything that was done and we thank everyone. We couldn’t do it without you.

JOB WELL DONE!

AND THE WINNERS ARE

Silent Auction:

Framed Cross Stitch Picture stitched by Jack Parker – Debbie Nuss

Quilt Raffle:

Quilted Snowman Wall Hanging – **Janyce Colmery**

Raffle Table Items:

Crocheted Afghan – **Barbara Perry**

Framed Lord’s Prayer Cross Stitch – **Carley Bond**

Porcelain Nativity Set – **Diane Rupard**

Quilted Tote Bag – **Linda Sheesley**

Door Prizes:

Santa Figurine – **Donald Donovan**

St. James Cookbook – **Sue Rawheiser**

Congratulations to this year’s winners! Thank you for your participation and support.

GETTING READY FOR THE 2012 BAZAAR

The Bazaar Ladies are already planning for next year’s Bazaar. We are in need of the following items: **Corks**, not the plastic kind, only those made of cork; **Baskets, Artificial Christmas Trees and Greens** that you no longer need. All donations can be left outside the Bazaar Room at the bottom of the stairs in the parish house.

Don’t Forget to Save Your Zingo Tapes

Please remember to save your Zingo tapes and leave them in the container in the foyer closet of the parish house. This past year we received over \$600 for tapes we submitted. This helps with Bazaar costs. **Keep bringing in those tapes! Thank you!**

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

ALL BAKERS:

Thanks for all the goodies. We sold everything. Our tables looked great on Friday and Saturday mornings. They looked even better at the end of Saturday around 3:00 PM when everything was sold. Please keep us in mind for next year. Without your delicious homemade items we wouldn't be successful. Have a good year!

THANKS AGAIN,
SHIRLEY ALEXANDER & CAROLYN ELDRIDGE



Put it on your calendar!

Get ready to dust off your soup or bread recipes!

Sunday, January 29, 2012 will be our **annual Soup and Bread Luncheon** following the 10:15 worship service!

Thank you for your generosity!

We received the information on our Adopt-A-Family too late to include in last month's newsletter and the deadline for giving was November 20th. Thank you all for your VERY GENEROUS donations to our Needy Family -- We raised \$2,265!!!! I thank God for the kindness in your hearts, and for the Christmas Joy you have given to this truly deserving family. May you have a blessed Christmas! Here is the profile of the family we adopted: St. James' has adopted a Grandmother and six grandchildren who are living at or below poverty level. The parent is in prison. The ages of the children are 13 (male), 11 (female), 8 (male), 7 (female), 6 (female) and 2 (male). The Grandmother works a full time job, but with expenses like diapers, school supplies, uniforms, clothing and food, they barely get by. The grandmother is physically and mentally tired, but is committed to her family. She moved from her one bedroom residence to a larger rental home for the kids, but this has drastically stretched her finances. As you can easily see, your giving will make a huge difference for this family this Christmas.



Our family of seven was given \$1,265 in certificates. Because there is a scarcity of sponsors this year, we were assigned two additional families. Each family was given \$500 in Wal-Mart certificates.

The first family has been homeless for about the past 6 months. Their income is a little more than \$6,000 annually. The mother will be starting a new job when the children are enrolled in daycare. The children are two sons (1 yr and 9 yrs), and two daughters (4 yrs and 14 yrs).

The second family is living at or below the poverty level. The mother was a victim of domestic violence by her husband. She works part time. The youngest child has autism and attends a Delaware Autism Program. The mother struggles to pay the household bills and to supply enough food for her family. The children are three sons (3, 7 and 9 yrs) and a daughter (6 yrs).

Lynne Baker for the Mission/Outreach Committee



FEED THE HUNGRY

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

GIVE YOURSELF A TREAT THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

OPUS ONE- 6TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

If on a winter's night...

An evening of Holiday favorites, old and new

Music by Craig Hella Johnson, John Rutter, Michele Hynson

And many more...with special guests The Opus One Jazz Trio

World Premiere of local composer, Cheryl Hampson's arrangement of "Largo" from "L'

Inverno" by Antonio Vivaldi for Jazz Choir

7p.m. Sunday, 11 December 2011

St. James Episcopal Church, Millcreek 2106 St James Church Road Wilmington DE

Admission: \$12 general/ \$10 seniors & students/ \$5 children under 12: Reservation

Recommended by calling 302-384-8537 or opusonejazz@yahoo.com

A portion of the concerts proceed will benefit Family Promise of Northern Delaware. Visit www.opusonejazz.com for more information. Tickets are available through the church office. If paying by check, make the check payable to "Opus One".



"KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" Display of approximately 100 crèches from around the world. Sunday, December 18, 2011 from 9AM – 4 PM. Church of the Ascension, 3717 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, DE. Tea and angel cookies for all, gifts for the little ones.

SAVIOR ORNAMENT

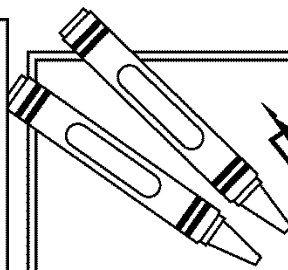
This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.



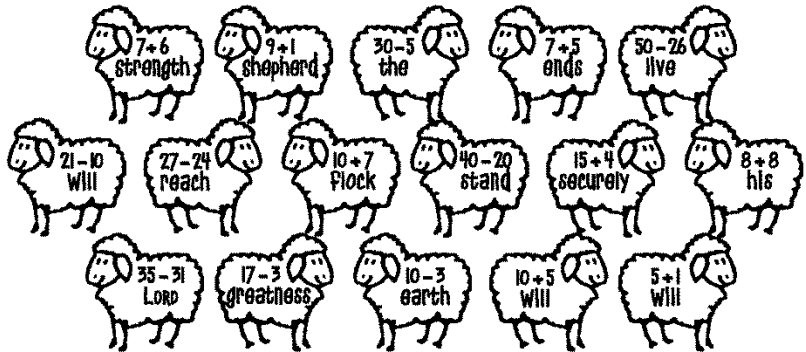
PUZZLE



A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He 15 and 20 his 10 17

in the 13 of the 4 And they 11 24

19, for then 16 14 6

3 to the 12 of 25 7."

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

December Birthdays

- 1st Sherrie Bond
 2nd Perrie Carrow
 3rd Cynde Bimbi
 Carole Leach
 5th Kathy Jackson
 Paul Haefner
 6th Daniel Bowser
 Joyce Luff
 Zach Patterson
 7th Edna Haywood
 8th Hayden Fauerbach
 Ryan White
 10th Elaine Atz
 11th Ann Kauffman
 Richard Taylor
 Jeff Swift
 12th Robin Taylor
 13th David Niehaus
 Marion Phillips
 14th Andrew Dennis
 Kurt Lichtenstein, Jr.
 Jeremy Ruff, Jr.
 15th Bryce Malusa
 16th Ginny Dennis
 Stephanie Moyer
 17th Bryan Adams
 18th Allison Jessup
 20th Lauren Deibert
 21st Melissa DelleDonne
 22nd Hollie Gonca
 Esther Insinga
 23rd Nikki Moscose
 25th Mary Hage
 Sue Haefner
 Susan Winward
 27th George Bayley
 28th Tracey McCracken
 Derrick Hale
 29th Shawn Patterson



December Anniversaries

- 10th Evelyn and John Kyritsis
 15th Elaine and Joe Atz
 31st Sam and Fred White



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.

FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK

We are looking for new twin bed comforters to keep our guests warm this winter when they stay with us – our building can get chilly. We have 4 but will need 14. If you can help, they can be dropped off at the church office.

Since our next week to serve as hosts is the week before Christmas (12/18-25) we would like to have a gingerbread house kit for each family – a total of four.

If you have any questions about how you can help, contact one of our coordinators, Jennifer Idell or Susan Winward.



Christmas Flower Memorials

Christmas is the perfect time to remember our loved ones and/or give thanks for a special event or person in our lives.

We are decorating God's house to celebrate his birth! An envelope is enclosed with this newsletter for your use. Please either put it in the offering plate as it is passed or mail it to the office so that it is received by Monday, December 19th so that it can be included in the listing for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins.

**Join us Christmas Eve at 4PM, 8PM or 11PM
 and/or come on Christmas Day at 9AM as we
 celebrate the birth of our Savior!**

*A Letter from St. James
December 2011*



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

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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

Email: office@stjamesmillcreek.comcastbiz.net

Website: stjamesmillcreek.org

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Monday – Thursday Closed Friday

Service Times

Sunday

8:00 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

OPUS ONE Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 11th

7 PM (see page 5)



Christmas Eve
SERVICES

Christmas Eve

4PM Early Family
Service with Crèche

8PM Traditional
Service with Youth
Leadership

11 PM Traditional Service with Choir &
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25
One Service at 9AM