



# THE PARISH PAPERS

St. James' Episcopal Church, Parkton, Maryland



February, 2010

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. James',

February—more cold, more gray clouds, more wintry days! There seems to be so much more winter than we need this year!

Still, February brings some bright moments: Ground Hog Day, the Westminster Dog Show, the Oscars, Presidents' Day, Valentine's Day, the St. James' Valentine's Day Dance, Mardi Gras. And yet, as the bright Epiphany season ends in the middle of the month, we might pause to give some thought about the way we should approach the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday taking place, February 17.

Lent has its own brightness, but a brightness that is more quiet and introspective. What happens is that we enter a "wilderness" time of prayer, self-examination, and repentance. We do this not to make ourselves gloomy (the word Lent actually means "spring"), but to discover new dimensions of our spirit—to strip down to essentials, to enter into God's presence, and to ponder how we might live lives that are more caring, patient, forgiving. In one hymn, Jesus says: "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and rest while."

Lent's invitation is to find a "desert place and rest awhile"—an invitation not so easy to accept during tough times when schedules are demanding—even overwhelming. Still, the invitation is meant to be light and not a burden: starting the day with a one-page meditation from "Forward Day by Day"; attending Morning Prayer once a week; writing in a journal about this stage in your life; volunteering for a cause you hold dear; spending time (by phone, letter, or over coffee) with an old friend; taking time for a walking meditation; reading a book of scripture (a Psalm a day; John's Gospel). All of us can benefit by finding a "desert place" this Lenten season reassessing how we go about our lives—even turning ourselves around (repentance) so that we interact with one another in more affirming, creative, loving ways.



One "wilderness" invitation that you might put on your calendar is the Lenten Retreat (for men and women) at the Carmelite Monastery (Saturday, March 13 from 9 am-3 pm). Fr. Bart, a Franciscan monk, will lead us on the topic: "The Path of Compassion." The Carmelite Monastery in Towson is a beautiful one with many quiet places for study and meditation. Bishop Rabb highly recommends the Carmelite site as one of the best places for a retreat in the diocese. Fr. Bart—down-to-earth, witty, and wise--led last year's Vestry retreat and won over everyone's heart. We are fortunate that he can be with us for the day.

It is important for all of us to ponder now how we shall approach Lent this year. There is an extraordinary hymn, based on a French carol (#145) that has these words: "Lent calls to prayer, to trust and dedication; God brings new beauty nigh; reply, reply, reply with love to love most high; reply, reply, reply with love to love most high." How do you and I "reply" to Lent's call to "prayer, trust, and dedication"?

Blessings,  
Elizabeth+

**Pancake Supper: Feb. 16; 5:30-7 pm; Parish Hall; Free-will offering at the door**

## Lenten Retreat 2010

Susan Kaliush



We are pleased to announce that our **Spring Lenten Retreat** will be held again this year at the magnificent and tranquil **Carmelite Monastery**. Join other members of your St. James' family from **9 am-3 pm** on **Saturday, March 13**, as we reflect and meditate in our preparation for the upcoming Easter celebration. Our theme for this year, "The Path of Compassion," will be facilitated by a Franciscan and spiritual advisor for Bishop Rabb, Father Bart. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Parish Hall. More details will follow.

## Stewardship/Finance

Dottie Arthur

### Approved Budget

Thank you again to all who stepped up and made a commitment to St. James' Church. To date, we have 47 pledges. Several more are trickling in as Vestry members make their final calls. Based on our projected income, with pledges to date and budgeted fundraisers, we were able to approve a budget of \$128,000. Several line items were cut or reduced until more funds are available, but it is a doable balanced budget for 2010. (Just pray, we have no unforeseen emergencies.) Pledge Cards are still available in the parish hall. To review the budget visit our Web site, [stjamesparkton.org](http://stjamesparkton.org).

### Upcoming Events

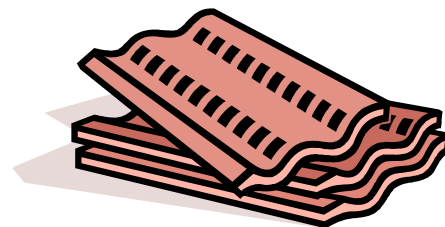
Feb 14 – Dedication of Memorials for the Education Wing  
Feb.16 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
March TBD – Fish & Chips Mortgage Meal  
May 15 – SpringFest "A Country Fair"

## Building & Grounds

Jack Arthur

### Shingle Bundles For Sale

Our 50 year roof has been replaced and not too soon. The roof leaked with every rain and snowstorm but not now. December was a good testimony of the roofing job – no leaks. Now you can help us repay the loan by purchasing a "bundle" or two for \$125.00 per bundle. These can be given as a memorial or in thanksgiving. Just mark the memo line "roofing shingles." Please place your roofing shingle donation in the collection plate or mail it to the church office.



## Mortgage Meal

**Fish and Chips**  
Coming this March in the Parish Hall.  
Tell your friends! Free-will offering.



## Weekly Lenten Forums

Everything You Wanted to Know about Anglicanism but Were Afraid to Ask..

Two chances to attend Lenten forums: The same topics will be covered in each session.

Wednesdays, 7 pm:	Sundays, 11:45 am:
Feb. 24	Feb. 28
March 3	March 7
March 10	March 14
March 17	March 21

## Valentine's Dance

Saturday, Feb. 13  
Parish Hall  
7 p.m.



Dance to the classic rock sounds of Aethellis, enjoy light fare and fellowship. \$30 per couple. RSVP to Chris and Sharon Tillman, 410-357-5011.

## New Vestry Members Needed

On Sunday, April 25 we will be electing new vestry members to serve a three year term. Be part of our mission and vision by serving the people of your church. It is a rewarding experience, helping the church grow, giving to those in need of assistance or support, spreading the "Good News" through special programs and events, growing through our educational programs, and much more.

You are eligible to run for Vestry if you are baptized and are an active, pledging member of St. James' Church for two years - thus, a member in good standing within our parish. Each Vestry member attends a meeting the third Monday of each month, acts as chair or liaison to one committee, and assists the clergy and officers in management, program development and oversight of St. James' Church.



We hope by February 15, to have a group of members who are willing to run for this election and help us with our mission and vision. Again, it is a wonderful opportunity and a rewarding experience to be part of our church's vestry. Let a member of the Vestry search committee, Dottie Arthur, Steve Fox and Beth Kilgore, know if you are willing to have your name on the ballot.

## February Birthdays

4 Bryce Kralec  
11 Kimberly Fox  
13 Tim Pickering  
22 Henry Rosendale  
24 Craig Moffett



## February Anniversaries

18 The Rev. Beverly and Dr. Hayden Braine

## Ash Wednesday Service: Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.

Social Outreach

Ann Herring

### Ongoing Effects of Haiti Earthquake

As the news begins to shift away from the problems in Haiti, please remember the earthquake they suffered will have far reaching effects for years to come. The Rev. Tracy Bruce and husband Stephen Davenport (St. John's Church, Glyndon) have a mission with Holy Trinity Music School (Haiti) and are collecting musical instruments for them. For the next few weeks, St. James' will happily accept any such instruments and deliver them to St. John's. If you would still like to make a monetary donation for Haitian Relief, make checks payable to St. James' with ERD-Haiti on the Memo line and place in the envelope marked Episcopal Relief and Development found in the pews or in the collection plate.

Visit the Diocese of Maryland disaster response Web page for the latest news and information on Haiti and the ongoing relief efforts. [www.ang-md.org](http://www.ang-md.org).

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### Newsletter Deadline

Sharon Tillman

To receive a link to the newsletter on the St. James' Web site, send Sharon Tillman your e-mail address. If you are no longer attending St. James' but want to get the monthly newsletter, please send us a donation to cover the costs of mailing or request to receive the online notification. Many churches do this to help with mailing expenses. Please send your request to [stillman@ang-md.org](mailto:stillman@ang-md.org).

The deadline for the St. James' Church newsletter is the **Thursday following the Vestry Meeting**. *Parish Papers* is published monthly, with the exception of the July/August issue. **March deadline: 2/18/10**

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### 2010 Diocesan Youth Events

**Happening #2, *Jesus Land - Rollercoaster of Faith***: Feb 19 -21, Bishop Claggett Center

**Senior High Super Nightwatch**: March 5-6, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City

**Junior High Nightwatch**: April 10-11, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City

**Province III Youth Retreat**: April 9-11, Bishop Claggett Center

**Convention 2010**: April 30-May 1, Marriott Hunt Valley Inn

**Honduras Mission** trips application available

**Appalachian Mission** trip application available

These are great opportunities to celebrate with our youth, especially the Happening #2. This is a spiritual retreat for youth run by youth. It is an incredible spiritual weekend. For information, costs or to request an application, contact [the Rev. Wes Wubbenhorst](mailto:the.Rev.Wes.Wubbenhorst@ang-md.org), 410-467-1399, [wwubbenhorst@ang-md.org](mailto:wwubbenhorst@ang-md.org).



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### News From the Diocese of Maryland

Find information about the diocese online at [ang-md.org](http://ang-md.org). Sign up at the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland Web site for the **Parish Mailing**, with news and updates on diocesan events and programs.

Visit the St. James' Web site, [stjamesparkton.org](http://stjamesparkton.org), for meeting information, forms and flyers, news and notes about the parish and all we do.

## Coming Soon

Susan Kaliush

An "Ethics" themed After-Easter-Adult-Forum is being planned for April and/or May - exact dates and details to follow.

## Adult Forum:

Dr. John Orens Presenting in February

John will present three lectures on the topic, "Vision, Dissension, and Glory: The Adventure of Anglicanism" during coffee hour February 7, 14, and 21, 11:30 am -12:15 pm in the Education Wing.

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## Community News

### Single Stream Recycling

Single stream recycling arrives in the County on February 1. This means that wherever recycling collection has existed before, residents may place all their acceptable paper and bottles and cans out for collection, mixed together, each week. The range of acceptable recyclables has also significantly expanded. Please see [www.bcrecycles.com](http://www.bcrecycles.com) for further details.



## Baltimore County

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### 1549 Prayer Book Service

The Christian Formation Committee & Worship Committee has endorsed a 1549 Prayer Book Service for our Sunday worship, February 7 at 10:15 a.m. We will hold an Epiphany Service with Holy Eucharist using the rubrics of the 1549 Prayer Book. This means we will make efforts to follow the traditions of that era (Edward VI)--an eastward facing altar, no hymns, a different order of service, no Old Testament lesson, no presentation of gifts. The service itself is close to Rite I, but it shall include the language of the 1549 Prayer Book. Consider wearing some part of a 16<sup>th</sup> century outfit—examples given in bulletin and Parish Hall—for this occasion.

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## Environmental Initiatives Committee

Doug Harbit

### Disappearing Ink

What do red ink, St. James' Church, and climate change have in common? The answer is carbon.

All ink, like just about everything else on earth, is largely made up of carbon. And for the past two years, St. James' budgetary "red ink" has exactly matched the church's carbon footprint as measured by the money needed to pay for the utilities we consume. Climate change, of course, is also the result of our global use on carbon-based fuels that release carbon dioxide and other climate changing gases into the atmosphere. So erasing St. James' carbon footprint will not only make a significant contribution to helping save the environment, it can also help erase the church's "red ink."

The newly forming Environmental Initiatives Committee of St. James' is getting ready to launch a year-long feasibility study for the creation of a renewable energy demonstration center at St. James' Church. The education center would transform how St. James' obtains the energy it needs by using our buildings as a working model for multiple renewable energy systems. By demonstrating how wind, solar, and geothermal technologies can generate power, save money, and change "red ink" into green, our parish has the potential to become a leader in helping reverse climate change in our lifetimes.

Anyone who is interested in joining the committee should contact Elizabeth or Doug Harbit ([dharbit@gmail.com](mailto:dharbit@gmail.com)) to learn more.

Parents who would like their children to learn more about carbon can download National Public Radio's fun 4-part animated tutorial by searching for "NPR CARBON" on the internet, or go directly to Episode 1 at: [www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9943298](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9943298).