



The Chapel Bell

January, 2012

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. James',

January brings us a bright New Year and the extraordinary season of Epiphany! On January 1st, we share our wishes for a successful, fulfilling year, and in the season that begins on January 6th, we embrace the hope and the promise of a stronger, deeper faith.

After years of economic hardship, the world is athirst for a brighter, happier time. I was not at all surprised to learn that Krista Tippett, the host of the NPR radio show "On Being," recently sponsored a conference at Emory University called "Pursuing Happiness." Four thousand people attended. She invited the wisest of the wise from four different faith traditions to serve as panelists: His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Jonathan Sachs, the Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, Dr. Seyyed Nasr, Professor of Islamic Studies at George Washington University, and the Most Rev. Katharine Schorri, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. At the beginning of the New Year and Epiphany—after a number of funerals and many illnesses these past few months at St. James'—we in Parkton are certainly looking for good news to brighten our horizons. And the conference on "Pursuing Happiness" is one of the most enlightening and hopeful discussions about our quest that I've heard in a long time. I've included a few insights (with some editing) from the four panelists that I found especially helpful (you can hear the entire Podcast online):

The Dalai Lama: When I see tragedy, I try to look at it from a different angle. Even with tragedy, we can find something positive. When we face a problem, it's important to analyze the situation and see that it can be overcome. Eventually "we're not to worry," instead, "we're to make effort."

Rabbi Sachs: In spite of all that we undergo, we look for something more in life. In Genesis, Jacob said something important for all of us to grasp. When wrestling all night with God, he insisted: "I will not let you go until you bless me." When we suffer, we struggle. But when we struggle with God, it's important for us to keep struggling until we find the blessing.

Bishop Schorri: Some of us simply look to an afterlife for happiness, but happiness is possible even in our lives now. God created us to be happy, but sometimes we need God to show us the way. When we find this direction, God's blessing can be found in the simple things of life.

Dr. Nasr: In the Arabic language, beauty, virtue, and goodness are all one word. In Islamic spirituality, there is a deep nexus between beauty (virtue) and happiness. When we practice one, we find that the other virtues fall into place.

Rabbi Sachs: There is a Hasidic saying that is important for us to remember: "Someone else's material needs are my spiritual duties." Practicing this kind of spiritual duty leads to happiness.

What the panelists are telling us is that happiness is a matter of perception, effort, and spiritual practice. And faith is what makes all this possible. You and I were created by God to be happy, but we need God's guidance to recognize the gift. Epiphany celebrates God's perfect revelation of himself in Christ. It is a season that summons us to embrace God's gift and to find the blessing. May we find healing, wisdom, direction, and an inner peace this Epiphany.

Happy New Year everyone! Happy Epiphany!
God's Peace, Elizabeth

Parish News and Events

Prayers in the Basket

A basket with prayer requests forms can be found in the church foyer and the Parish Hall. These prayer requests will be included in the Morning Prayer Services, Monday through Thursday and in the prayers for the following Sundays. Daily prayers are offered by individuals. If you would care to join in this ministry please sign the "Prayer Ministry" sheet next to the prayer baskets or contact Vicky Kowalewski at 410-357-5012



In Case of Snow

Weather alerts can be found on the website www.stjamesparkton.org and can be heard on WBAL radio.

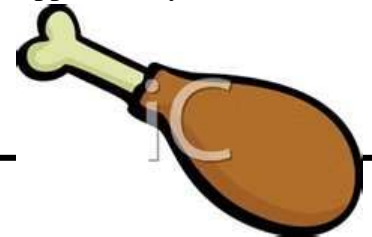
People attending the 8 a.m. service will be notified by phone as well as the 2 other ways.



Mortgage Meal

Come join us on a cold, winter's night for some warm comfort food and a good time. The menu will be ham, oven-fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, and other family favorites. It will be a wonderful way to unwind on a Friday evening with friends and family. Date: Friday, January 20th, 2012 beginning at 5:30. BYOB.

Hosted by the Philipp, Greeley and Wallis families.

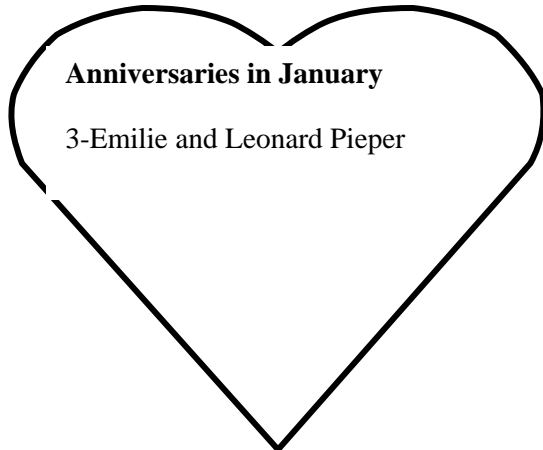


Birthdays in January

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|-------------------|----------------------|
| 3- Adam Smith | 17- Jackson Tillman |
| William Kralec | 20- Judith Pickering |
| 8- Phil Jeffery | 25- Barbara Moffett |
| 9- Beverly Braine | 31- Chris Walters |
| 12- Austin Walker | |
| 14- Sue Wallis | |
| 16- David Swartz | |

Anniversaries in January

- 3- Emilie and Leonard Pieper





Finance Committee Report

By Jeff Smith, Finance Committee Chair & Vestry 2014

In December, when everyone is stressed because there is a lot to do, the finance committee undertook the task of drafting a budget. Sounds stressful, but it was not! The stewardship campaign did not meet its pledge total of 55, but it exceeded prior years in both number of pledges and money. The budget was drafted and approved.

In December, several roof bundles were donated bringing us closer to paying off the roof. In December, the Clifton family rented and moved into the rectory. There were several unexpected gifts given to the church. Holiday Fest items are still selling. And in December, several members of the congregation volunteered to chair both Spring Fest and Holiday Fest.

In December, the mortgage meal and pit beef schedule is almost complete for the year. We are planning to add some entertainment to the mortgage meals; an auction, a variety show, and more. We are adding a few new fund raising events for later in the year; a Rock-a-thon, a cookie swap, and more. Which brings me back to the budget; we are, with a lot of support from you, making ends meet.

Budget for 2012

INFLOWS		OUTFLOWS	
AA CONTRIBUTIONS	1,800	CHRISTIAN ED	300
BEQUESTS OR WILLED	2,500	CHRISTIAN FORMATION	350
CATERER CONTRIBUTION	5,400	CONVENTION	500
FUNDRAISERS	15,000	DIOCESE ASSESSMENT	12,738
GIFTS	1,500	FACILITIES	3,600
MEMORIAL	1,000	PARISH LIFE	200
PLATE	5,000	INSURANCE	3,300
PLEDGE	85,000	JANITORIAL	2,100
RENT INCOME	6,000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	3,000
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$123,200	ORGANIST	11,600
		RECTOR	65,400
		PAYROLL SERVICES	400
		PRESCHOOL	(4,500)
		SEARCH	500
		MOVING	900
		SECRETARY	7,400
		TAXES	1,500
		TELEPHONE	875
		UTILITIES	12,000
		VISITING CLERGY	500
		HONORARIUMS	500
		WORSHIP	600
		YOUTH GROUP EXPENSES	200
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$123,963

We know your support to the mission and ministries of this parish are shown in many different ways. Please join this worship, fellowship and spirit of St. James', and when you can bring a friend. Happy New Year to all the families of St. James'.



Christian Formation News

Upcoming exciting Forum Events!

Speakers' Forums (11:30 pm – 12:30 pm)

- + **Three Faiths, One God – Two-part forum/interfaith gatherings on January 8 and 15, 2012:**

Excerpts from the DVD entitled Three Faiths, One God will be featured on January 8, followed by a panel discussion on January 15 that will feature three guest panelists – Dr. Heather Rubens (Catholic), Rabbie Jon Konheim, and Earl El-Amin.

Please join us as we welcome our special guests and engage in this important and enlightening topic!

- + **Icon Forum – Bishop Ihloff to speak to us on February 26, 2012:**

Retired Bishop Ihloff has confirmed that he will talk about Icons at our Speaker's Forum hour on February 26. Additionally, he will be offering the sermon at our services that morning. *Note: He will be leading our Lenten Retreat on March 3 at the Carmelite Monastery – look for more details in upcoming newsletters.*

Rector's Forum (9:00 am – 9:45 am)

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam – Four-part series presented by our very own Rev. Orens – January 29, February 5, 12, and 19, 2012: Elizabeth will feature these three religions at her forums.

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Stay tuned for our details of our upcoming events...

March 3 – Centering in the Spirit – In the Wilderness of our Lives Lenten Retreat lead by Bishop Ihloff at Carmelite Monastery

March 11 – From Here to Eternity – A Walk through the Prayer Book presentation by John Orens, PhD

Stay tuned for our **Winter and Spring Speakers' Forums and Events!** More information to come...

- January – Interfaith DVD and Panel Discussion
- February 26 – an Icon presentation by Bishop Ihloff
- Lent – a presentation by John Orens, PhD
- March 3 – Lenten Retreat at Carmelite Monastery



An Event not to be Missed!!

February 4th, 2012 Keri Fox an 8th Grade Student at St. James Academy is having a Chinese-themed fundraising dinner for her leadership project “Half the Sky Foundation”. Each year at St. James Academy the 8th grade class is required to pick a charity and raise money for that charity. Keri chose “Half the Sky Foundation” because she herself is from China, and the program supports less fortunate children in China. “Half the Sky” supports many different smaller funds within the organization such as: Baby Sitters Infant Nurture Program, The Little Sisters Preschool Program, The Big Sisters Program and the Farm Village Program. Please join us for a fun evening, and help support the Children of China.



THANK YOU

A big thank you to those who sponsored our coffee hour during the month of December: the Sunday School parents, Gloria Whitaker, Vicky Kowalewski, the Canounes, Wilhelms, Orens, Jefferys. Please consider signing up for the month of January. Openings: January 15, 22 and 29.

See the pictures on the Parish Bulletin of the Christmas Tree lighting.



Community News



A woven blanket that includes scenes of 13 historic places in and around Hereford is now on sale.

The cotton, washable blanket is 48 inches by 68 inches and costs \$50. Proceeds will benefit the Hereford Volunteer Fire Company, which sold 500 blankets in 1999 to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

"We decided to do another blanket since there are so many new people out here since 1999," said Mark Gardner, a Hereford volunteer who is in charge of the blanket sales. "We changed the blanket a little and switched two places from the original with two new sites."

New sketches are of St. James Episcopal Church in Monkton, 1750, the oldest church in the area, and the Glencoe Post Office, 1927, that was relocated to Oldfields School campus in 1980.

Blankets are available for \$50 at the Hereford Volunteer Fire Company, 510 Monkton Road. Shipping is available for an extra \$8.

For information, call the fire company at 410-887-1934 or Mark Gardner at 443-791-2289.

The bridge on Phoenix Road that spans the Gunpowder Falls and the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail is now open to two-way traffic.

On Nov. 30, Third District County Councilman Todd Huff officially turned on a traffic light that allows one lane of traffic at a time to cross the bridge.

The bridge, built in 1922 and repaired in 1982, was closed on Nov. 19, 2010 after Baltimore City inspectors found corrosion. It is maintained by Baltimore City because it crosses the city-owned watershed.

