



# THE PARISH PAPERS

St. James' Episcopal Church, Parkton, Maryland



Epiphany, 2010

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. James',

I hope all of you enjoyed the celebration of Christmas and the 12 days of feasting and merry-making with family and friends!

After Twelfth Night, comes the Feast of Epiphany (Jan. 6) that we traditionally celebrate the following Sunday. The Epiphany season is known by other names: "Theophany," "Holy Light," and the "King's Feast." These names recognize the heart of the season and reveal what is significant for us as Christians: the divine manifestation of Jesus, Jesus' baptism by John, and the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles.



Consider the Magi—the Zoroastrian astrologers from Persia (Gentiles) who followed the star's light to Bethlehem. As Gentiles, they were among the first to recognize the divinity of Jesus. Their journey is one of the favorite stories of the season (only told in the Gospel of Matthew). Some of us follow the tradition of placing the three wise men in the crèche at Epiphany. (In our own sanctuary they wait patiently in the back of the church until that time.) Some Christians in Europe take chalk and write on the door of their houses the initials of the wise men: C M B—Caspar, Melchoir and Balthasar. The three letters represent the first letters of the phrase, "Christus mansionem benedicat," — "May Christ bless the house." Anyone willing?

Along with Epiphany, we celebrate the New Year - and a new decade - with the return of our children to St. James' Preschool (Jan. 4), a Taize service (Jan. 7), the Men's Group meeting (Jan. 9). On Epiphany Sunday, we will bring out our Epiphany cake at the coffee hour in order to determine St. James' new king or queen among the children (the slice of cake with the jelly bean means winning the crown and a royal surprise). On January 24, all are invited to a celebratory Italian night of spaghetti and meatballs for our mortgage meal. And on January 29, the Parish Life Committee has planned a Family Night with film and pot luck dinner. In the month of February, John, my husband, will be giving three lectures on Anglican identity and vision during our coffee hours.

The ending of Auden's famous poem, *For the Time Being*, is especially meaningful for the Epiphany season. So few poems capture the sacred journey as well as this one.

*He is the Way.*

*Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;*

*You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.*

*He is the Truth.*

*Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;*

*You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.*

*He is the Life.*

*Love Him in the World of the Flesh;*

*And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy.*

All good wishes for a Happy New Year and a bright, promising Epiphany season.

Blessings,  
Elizabeth+

## Newsletter News

Sharon Tillman

Mailing our **newsletter** has become more expensive. We ask that you consider reading it online. If you would like to receive a link to the newsletter on the St. James' Web site, Sharon Tillman needs to receive your e-mail address. If you are no longer attending St. James' but want to get the monthly newsletter, we ask that you send us a donation to cover the costs of sending it out 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.

The deadline for the St. James' Church newsletter is the **Third Thursday of Each Month**. *Parish Papers* is published monthly, with the exception of the July/August issue. **February deadline: 1/15/10**

---

## Stewardship/Finance

Dottie Arthur

### Final Call for Pledges

Thank you to all who have chosen St. James' Church as a way of returning to God a portion of what he has given us. For those who consider St. James' as their church, the vestry will be contacting families who have not returned their pledge cards. If you have misplaced your card, there are more available in the church office. Our next meeting will be Monday, January 11, 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

---

A wonderful way to remember those you love is by buying a **Memorial for our Education Wing**. Charts are available in the Parish Hall for you to choose a possible site. On Feb.14, we will have a dedication of those memorials with plaques. Contact Steve Fox for more information or to reserve your memorial, sandlfox@aol.com.

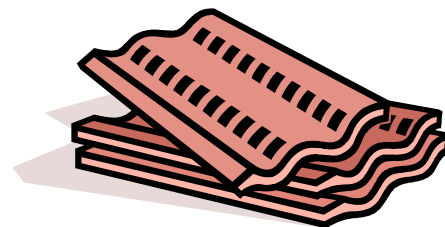
---

## 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

Spaghetti Supper: pasta, salad, desserts  
Sunday, Jan. 24, 5:30-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.  
Tell your friends! Free-will offering.



## January Meetings

Jan. 10, 9 a.m.: Christian Formation  
Jan. 11, 7 p.m.: Finance Committee  
Jan. 18, 7 p.m.: Vestry  
Jan. 26, 7 p.m.: Tuesday Guild

All meetings in the Parish Hall

## 10:15 a.m. Sunday Service Nursery



The St. James' nursery is back in business thanks to two of our youth, Reyna and Emma. They are available to watch young children who are not ready for Godly Play. This is an important ministry for our church to offer.

## Parish Life

Rebecca Kraft & Donna Gribble

### New Clubs Start in January

Parish Life will have our first **Potluck Dinner and a Movie Night** on Friday, Jan. 29 at 6 p.m. If you have any suggestions for a family movie, please see Rebecca or Donna. A sign-up sheet for the dinner will be in the Parish Hall.

We are pleased to finally start our small groups. All are welcome to attend whether you signed up or not.



Our first book for **Book Club** will be *Plain Truth* by Jodi Picoult. We will meet on Monday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please bring a snack to share.



The **Diet Club** will begin on Sunday, Jan. 17. We will weigh in after church. Don't worry, only you will see how much you weigh! Each week everyone will contribute a dollar. At the end of four weeks, whoever has lost the most will win the money.



Our **Knitting Club** will start on Thursday, Jan. 21 at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come whether you have never knitted before or you are an experienced knitter. Yarn and needles will be provided. If you would like, bring your lunch that day.

Please don't forget about Coffee Hour. Sign up with a friend share the cost and the work.

As always, we would love to have you join our group.

### Dates to Remember

January 17 - Diet Club begins  
January 21 - Knitting Club at 11 a.m.  
January 29 - Potluck dinner and a movie at 6 p.m.  
February 1 - Book Club at 7 p.m.

## January Birthdays

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



## January Anniversaries

2 Leonard & Emilie Pieper

## LANDSCAPING

Doug Harbit

### SIXTEEN DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

It is sixteen degrees outside! The mercury has plunged below freezing and is half-way to Fahrenheit zero. Winter's bitter winds have whipped the top of our pond into a frozen crystalline froth. The endless grey days of January are getting longer, which is a sure sign that –

Spring is on the way!

That's right, in a little more than two months spring will officially arrive on March 21. So while the snow is flying, let's warm ourselves with our fondest memories of spring and start planning how to spruce up the St. James' landscape.

Here is an idea to get the ball rolling.

A couple of months ago I accidentally raised my hand when Elizabeth asked for a volunteer to help with the landscaping. I quickly learned that one of our biggest recent challenges has been the increasingly abundant yews and azalea bushes around the sanctuary. The shrubs are now so mature that they are overtaking the windowsills. Replacement shrubs and landscape plantings are costly. So here is an alternative.

Who in the parish has a crowded bed of hosta, fern or other shade-loving perennials that need to be thinned some warm Saturday in April or May? And who in the parish has a spade, a bucket and a free Saturday to spare this spring? If we can match up some over-crowded shade-loving perennials with parish volunteers, we can transform St. James' grounds into verdant gardens of low-maintenance, low-growing foliage.

Ok, I accidentally raised my hand a couple of months ago. Who else wants to volunteer? Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall.



---

### 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:wwubbenhorst@ang-md.org), 410-467-1399, [wwubbenhorst@ang-md.org](mailto:wwubbenhorst@ang-md.org).



---

### 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.

## **GRATITUDE FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS**

Advent and Christmas happened this year because of the many people who volunteered to bring about this time of preparation and celebration. Snow, sleet, and ice (illnesses for some) offered a unique challenge this year, but with determination, we persevered in the spirit of the season. St. James' continues to grow and flourish because of your generosity. Many thanks to all those who helped to make this a special time in our life together:

Our Altar Guild who regularly set up our altar and put in place the Advent wreath, candles, the Christ candle, flowers, poinsettias and crèche.

Our Parish Life committee who provided coffee hours and our Christmas Eve reception.

Our Junior Warden and his team (think ice!). Also, those in charge of snow removal for our parking lot and offered access to the church and Parish Hall.

Our musicians who offered Advent and Christmas music to inspire us. Also, the Godly Play Singers who sang carols for Christmas Eve.

Our acolytes, chalice bearers, readers, greeters and ushers!

Our Worship Committee for its planning of these events--incense and all!

Our treasurer and assistants who have worked hard to tally everything before the year's end.

Our worship coordinator for Preschool who prepared the children for their Christmas service and pageant.

Those who put together Christmas shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse.

Our Middle School students who offered a presentation for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem on St. Nicholas Day.

Our High School students who offered babysitting for parents on two nights in order to donate money to several charities (postponed because of the weather).

Our communications person who lets us know about all events through newsletter and website!

Those who decorated our church and Parish Hall with greens, and those who set up our Christmas tree and decorated it with ornaments.

Our parish administrator and assistants who helped in the office and put together multiple programs.

Our sound people who installed the new sound system in time for our Christmas Eve services.

A warm-hearted thank you for all for your time and talent! And if you have done none of the above, please take a moment to thank those who have worked so hard. Keep in mind there is always room for more volunteers as we move into Epiphany.

