



THE PARISH PAPERS

St. James' Episcopal Church Parkton, Maryland



February, 2009

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. James',

The season of Epiphany brings us extraordinary new beginnings:

January Beginnings for our Country: As I write this letter, Barack and Michelle Obama are walking together down Pennsylvania Avenue. The 44th President of the United States is the first African-American to hold this office. The crowds from the sidelines, the balconies and rooftops cheer wildly. Who is not moved by this historic moment? Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa, sends his congratulations to the new president and expresses the desire we all share--that the president may bring hope and new possibilities to our country and to the nations of the world. No matter whom we voted for or what our politics, this inauguration represents a new day in the life of our country.

February Beginnings for our Parish: St. James' experiences new connections and energy in our life together. The newly formed men's group meets in prayer and fellowship and plans to organize Springfest this year. The newly formed Spiritual Life Committee plans a retreat and a parish quiet day for March and May. The High School young people plan a lock-in for the spring. The MS Sunday School bakes cookies and makes hot chocolate for the Anglican hospital (Ali Ahli) in the Gaza Strip. The Preschool, along with the Parish, promotes a new drive, *Happy Feet*, (slightly used shoes) for the people of Paul's Place and New Life Community. The Social Outreach Committee continues to bring bags of groceries to the Food Bank. The Finance Committee organizes a number of fabulous meals for the parish to help settle our mortgage. A volunteer offers to hold a nursery for our Sunday services; another takes care of our vestments. Our spirit is strong and we are especially grateful to our newcomers who are taking on leadership roles.

February Beginnings for our Liturgy:
We will gather Sunday, Feb 1 for the celebration of Candlemas - a Eucharist with candles - to celebrate Jesus' presentation in the temple. It is a Sunday set aside in Epiphany to tell the story of the prophet Simeon who proclaimed Jesus as Savior. The choir will chant for us Simeon's song,
The Nunc dimittis.

The Nunc dimittis
Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

May our faith and life together deepen throughout Epiphany so that we have the strength to face the struggles we experience at home and in the public square. May we celebrate the life given us and share the love and peace of Christ to those in need.

Blessings,

Elizabeth +

Pledge from Your Heart

The time has come to make a commitment to our future if you have not done so to date. In order for us to formulate our budget, we need your pledge by Feb 15. At this point, with the pledges that have been received, St. James' will no longer be able to function as we have in the past. This means that we could have to make cuts, including eliminating pay raises, janitorial services, programs and more.

We have 37 families (out of 83) who have pledged to support our mission and vision with a total of \$63,000. The actual amount needed is \$100,000 to maintain what we have and keep our heads above water. Our total proposed expenditure is \$151,342. The rest of the monies, hopefully, will come from rental income, fundraisers, gifts and the open plate. Let's all give from our hearts to thank the Lord for all we have been given.

Methods of Payments:

There are several alternatives when it comes to making your pledge payment. Have you considered...

...envelopes (weekly and/or monthly)?

...automatic Monthly Withdrawals from your bank account to church?*

...automatic Withdrawals from your paycheck to church?*

*Please contact the treasurer, Chuck Schomann, through the church office if you are interested in setting up an automatic withdrawal.

Upcoming Dates:

Finance Meeting:
Monday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m.

Mardi Gras/Shrove
Tuesday Celebration:
Feb. 24, 5:30 -7 p.m.

St. James' Preschool

Ingrid Carr, Director

Students Have *Happy Feet* *Preschool Welcomes Two New Families*



We were all ready to come back to school after the start of the new year, to see our friends and to resume our learning. The preschool is happy to welcome two new families to our school. Both children have joined the 5-day Pre-K class. On January 20 the Preschool began the community outreach program called *Happy Feet*. We will be collecting new and gently used shoes for children, women and men. The students in the Pre-K class will be doing many mathematical activities (sorting and charting, etc.) with the shoes before they are donated to organizations in need. The collection box will be in the hall in the Education Wing. Shoe donations from parishioners are welcome. Thank you for your continued support.

Thanks from Steve Bogucki

I want to thank my family at St. James' Church (that means you!) for the support and encouragement given me over the last several years while more and more of my time was consumed in the care of my father. If ever there was a rock to cling to, St. James' is it.

I have inherited several items that may be useful to members of our community: wheelchair (low mileage), walker, automatic medicine dispenser, and a One-Touch Ultra diabetes test kit (clean, endorsed by B.B. King!). Interested parties should contact me.

— Steve Bogucki [sbogucki2@comcast.net]





Bishop's Visitation

The Rt. Rev. John Rabb, bishop suffragan of Maryland, will visit St. James' Church on **March 1**, the First Sunday in Lent. Please plan to be at St. James' on that day to offer Bishop Rabb a hearty welcome!

Casual Wednesday

Join the Rev. Elizabeth Orens for an informal discussion at the Pioneer Pub over lunch on **Wednesday, Feb. 4, 12:30** p.m. Let's welcome February with good cheer and sandwiches!



Landscape Committee

Heather Wirth

Celebrate the Beauty of St. James' Church

At long last, the landscaping in front of the education wing and the Memorial Garden on the south side of the education wing are now complete! Thanks to a mercifully moist autumn season, the beautiful plantings seem to be well established and will certainly provide us with glorious blooms come spring.

Look closely for the flowers of the Lenten Rose, planted underneath the arched window on the south side of the building. The Lenten Rose often begins to bloom as soon as the snow melts, and will surround a stone remembrance of our dear friend, Nancy Tillman. The flowers of the Lenten Roses will be followed by those of the Robin Hill azaleas and the wonderfully perfumed andromedas. Two serviceberry trees also promise to be covered with delicate white flowers. Along the front porch, a row of boxwoods are already providing the Altar Guild with lovely evergreen branches for Christmas wreaths and arrangements.

The Landscaping Committee would like to thank Emily Pieper for her generous assistance with obtaining suitable plant material. Many thanks also to garden helpers Jackson Tillman and the Pickering team of Lincoln and Alden for their enthusiasm for getting "down and dirty!"

Donations for the gardens were made in loving memory of, or in thanksgiving for: Charles and Mary Schomann, Pauline Gentry Philipp, L. Calvin Laird, Harry Gossling, Olive and John Sommer, Wanda Silbor, John and Flora Arthur Sr., Ruth and James Sands, Carroll Hendrix, Kathleen King, Mike Fogle, Beverly Jack, Eugene Jack, the Greeley family and friends, the Whitaker grandchildren, Friends of Abigail Walters, Beatrice Tracey, Elizabeth Tracey, Frank Tracey, Judith Sommer, and the People of St. James' Church.



February

Happy Valentine's Day to all!



Birthdays

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

Sunday School Strong Through Winter Months



Learning about Christmas symbols (even the candy cane), singing *Silent Night* around the Christmas stable, and portraying the Christmas story during Advent mark the highlights for our youngsters this Christmas season. We remembered Epiphany and the journey of the Wise Men with the Feast of the Kings cake.

In the coming month we will be participating in project *Happy Feet* with the Preschool. Donations of new or gently used shoes of all sizes will be collected. Look for a flyer with more details soon. It would be great if every child could bring a pair of shoes for this worthy cause.

The Youth Class will meet Sunday, February 1, in the Parish Hall , 5:30-6:30 p.m. , to share photos from *Nightwatch* and plan their spring lock-in. Our Youth Class will also be visiting the New Life Center again in February and all are welcome.

Please keep in mind that our Nursery is available for our youngest members. You will find them in the Education Wing directly across from the choir room.

Your Sunday School teachers look forward to seeing lots of smiling faces on Sunday mornings as we go through the winter months.

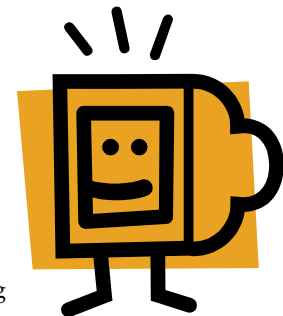


Newsletter Survey

Are you interested in receiving the *Parish Papers* electronically? Do you prefer the paper copy or do you wait until you can read it online at www.stjamesparkton.org? Please contact Sharon Tillman, *Parish Papers* editor, with your preference.

With the Finance Committee exploring ways to cut costs, one way is to reduce postage and photocopying. In order to produce the newsletter cost-effectively though, I need e-mail addresses. Using an online resource, Constant Contact, I can produce the *Parish Papers* online and deliver it to your inbox. No additional software is needed for you to view it and it opens in your inbox, even with dial-up. Contact me with any questions or to let me know your newsletter preference.

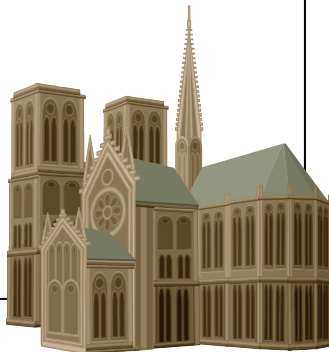
sjtillman.trac@comcast.net or stillman@ang-md.org
410-746-5251 or after 10 a.m. services



Jr. High/Middle School Nightwatch

Travel with youth from across the diocese to the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City on Feb. 28-Mar.1 for a unique spiritual experience.

Sponsored by the Youth Missioner, the Rev. Wes Wubbenhorst, of the Diocese of Maryland. Check the Parish Hall bulletin board for a sign-up sheet or contact the church office to reserve your child's space.



Choir Director/Organist

Dick North

Worship Through Music

Music plays a significant part of our worship together. The choir strives to support our worship service with appropriate music to fit the seasons of the church year and the liturgy of a particular Sunday. We would like to have some additional singers to participate with us in this important endeavor. The choir sings three- and four-part music, and additional voices are welcome in all parts. We are also looking for instrumental players to participate periodically in the prelude, postlude and offertory settings.

New choir music has been ordered and will be incorporated in the upcoming seasons of Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

Please consider your participation. You may direct any questions to me at 410-343-1649.

St. James' Men's Group

Scott Philip

Service, Devotion, Mission

The newly-formed St. James' Men's Group met formally on January 17. The Saturday morning meeting featured Morning Prayer, and a lively discussion on the direction and mission of this new group.

While we are still working out the formal structure of the group, we elected (actually, they graciously volunteered) Scott Philip to be president, and Richard Williams to be vice president. We also set out as our mission to be a service group to the church, in whatever capacity we can.

Our first task will be the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, on February 24. We will be recruiting other men to join us in the fellowship of the kitchen, to flip pancakes and serve sausage to a hungry parish.

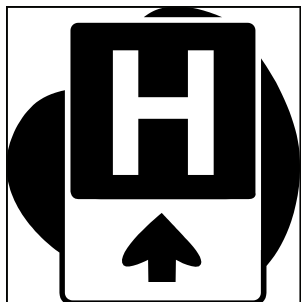
Our other current project is Springfest. Instead of recruiting a new chairperson, we decided to take on the task as a group. We are still looking to the individual chairs of the various segments to help us bring the whole program together, so don't anyone think they're off the hook. This is still the largest single fundraiser for the church, and we need all the help we can get. We set the date for this year's event as May 16.

We will be meeting again on Saturday, February 7, at 9 am. Come join us for good company, some devotional prayer, lively discussion and planning for the coming events. A separate Springfest planning meeting is being scheduled.

-- Submitted by Chris Tillman

Special thanks to everyone who donated to the Middle School class' fundraiser for The Al Ahli Arab (Anglican) Hospital in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, January 25. More than \$170 was raised by the bake sale.

The money will be donated to Bishop Eugene T. Sutton's fund to supply aid to the hospital.



14th Annual St. James'

Springfest

Saturday, May 16

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Live Entertainment

Children's Games & Activities

Silent Auction

Civil War Encampment

Lots of Great Food

Crafters/Flea Market

Plants, Jewelry, Gifts

Wine Tasting

Don't Miss the Early Bird Breakfast

10x12 Vendor Spaces Available 410-357-4473