



THE PARISH PAPERS

St. James' Episcopal Church Parkton, Maryland



June 2009

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. James',

Have you ever been in a windstorm where you could barely keep your balance? Do you remember walking into the wind and the rain and giving up on your umbrella because the wind was so strong? I remember walking up Claremont Avenue in New York City where I used to live. The street ran parallel to the Hudson River and during the windy months of the year, I would struggle mightily to walk up that hill. I had to take two steps backward before I could move forward. Such is the wind's extraordinary power.

The Feast of Pentecost is a day set aside to recognize another kind of wind—the powerful wind of the Holy Spirit! In Acts 2:1-11 the Holy Spirit is likened to the “rush of a violent wind.” The lesson tells how the disciples were gathered all in one place, filled with confusion and uncertainty. What were they to do next? Did they have the vision, the inspiration, the courage to continue what their Lord had begun? And suddenly the entire house where they were staying was filled with the heavenly Spirit. That moment changed the course of their lives forever.

The Day of Pentecost (the 50th day after Easter) marks something new, not only in the lives of the disciples, but also in our own, for it marks the birth of the church. The disciples were so transformed that day that they began to speak in different languages—thus the “tongues of fire” that rested on their heads. It was a mighty move of the Spirit that inspired them to bring the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection to all peoples. Needless to say, the crowds that gathered around the disciples were amazed. How could these Galileans be praising God in the languages of Mesopotamia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt and parts of Libya? A radical new spirit was in their midst, just as it is in the midst of our own parish community.

But how does this radical new movement of the Spirit direct us at St. James'? Where will the Holy Spirit lead us in the months and years ahead? What vision, what energy, and faith is it calling us to bring to our church, our Preschool? What commitment, what enthusiasm, what gifts will it inspire us to offer our community? How are we to become more united in the Spirit? How can we see more clearly our mission to one another, to Parkton, and beyond?

For the Feast of Pentecost, St. James' will bring out its red frontal, its red hangings, its red vestments and red flowers to recognize the color of the “tongues of fire.” We shall hear different languages during the reading of Acts, support our new vestry officers and members as they are commissioned, and sing Pentecost hymns with gusto. To further celebrate the day, our very own pastry chef will present a delicious birthday cake for the church during the coffee hour and our noble leader of education will offer red helium balloons (a wind of a different sort) to the children.

Happy Pentecost everyone! I pray that our celebration of this great feast will deepen our awareness of God's presence in our midst, and that the Spirit will guide us more fully into the life and mission of Christ in the days ahead.

Blessings,

Elizabeth +



June Birthdays

4- Alan Greeley
5 -Keri Fox
20- Nicki Smith
23- Jason Kraft
26 -Ken Whitaker
30 -Fred Ferry

June Anniversaries

6-John & Elizabeth Orens
8- Ken & Gloria Whitaker
12- David & Ayda Swartz
18- Jack & Dottie Arthur
19- Chris & Susan Walters
22- Bill & Pam Litsinger
29 -John & Lucy Bents



Finance

If you missed the Springfest, you missed a fun filled day of fellowship, good food, entertainment and activity. The Queen crowned for the year is Reyna Tillman, and the "chili cook-off" went to Jack Arthur. The cake auction was a tremendous success with Richard Williams as our auctioneer. New events are already being discussed for 2010. Our thanks to the Tillmans, the Mens' Group, Youth Group and everyone who pitched in to make it a wonderful and successful event.

A reminder to all to keep your pledges up to date over the summer.

Up-coming dates for your calendars:

June 14 - Parish Picnic/Mortgage Meal at Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center.

August 29 - Yard Sale and Pit Beef (antiques, furniture, house hold items clothing, and etc.) 10' x 10' spaces are \$20 each.

September 12 - Crab feast with entertainment and frivolity.

November 7 - Holiday Festival

Next Finance Meeting is June 8 at 7 p.m.

Calling All Acolytes
Calling all Youth Servers on Altar Guild

Come celebrate the end of the year
with a picnic at the Tillman's

2812 Anderson Road, White Hall

Sunday, June 7 at 6 p.m.

Hamburgers, hotdogs, provided

Swimming pool available

Sign-up on the education BB today

Sign-up to bring:

Salad, appetizers, drinks & desserts!

