



THE PARISH PAPERS

St. James' Episcopal Church, Parkton, Maryland

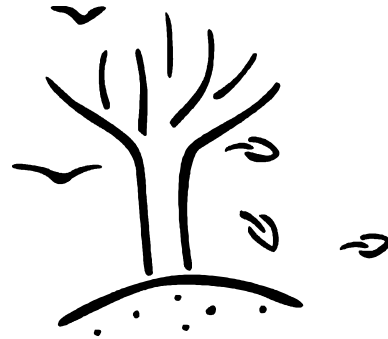


November, 2009

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. James',

*"It is a joy to walk in the bare woods,
The moonlight is not broken by the heavy leaves.
The leaves are down, and touching the soaked earth,
Giving off the odors that partridges love!"*

Robert Bly, Solitude at Night



Inspiration I. We need all the help we can get for the lean, cold, barren month of November. Robert Bly offers us strong, sensual, night-time images—bare woods in the moonlight, leaves touching the soaked earth, odors that partridges love—to inspire us. And for the *days* of November—do you notice the soft glow of light coming into your kitchen windows? It is the same autumnal glow and barren beauty that we see in the paintings of Andrew Wyeth. The artist once said that he particularly liked the “bone structure of the landscape” in fall and winter. I relish that light and landscape when I come up I-83 Sunday mornings. The brown-black outlines of trees and rocks—are suddenly illumined (in good weather) by sunrise over the Parkton hills.

Inspiration II. Our parish celebrates November—light, leaves, landscape, partridges and all—with its special liturgies for the month: All Saints (Nov. 1), Christ the King (Nov. 22), Thanksgiving (Nov. 25), and First Sunday in Advent (Nov. 29). And then we hold the spirited events of Holiday Fest (Nov. 7), the Preschool Italian Night (Nov. 13), and Thanksgiving Dinner (Nov. 22). The Rev. Beverly Braine, our priest in residence, will offer a November discussion of Paul's “Epistle to the Thessalonians” for the Sunday adult forum (Nov. 1, 8, 15). And Stacy Plasse (the Arthurs' daughter and registered nurse) will speak at our noon-day luncheon (Nov. 18) about stress, hypertension and diabetes. We are blessed by the remarkable faith, energy, and expertise of the people at St. James'.

Inspiration III. The children of St. James' Preschool spoke about the “saints” in their lives at our All Saints Day chapel. They showed photographs of people they love and admire and described how these people have touched their lives. It was a reminder to all of us about how we can care for one another in simple ways. As the children learn how to express gratitude, show respect for others, offer forgiveness, and find words of kindness, we do the same (as we keep practicing these old lessons). Our mandate to do this is simple and difficult at the same time. Jesus says: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” We gain immeasurably from our children.

Inspiration IV. Our own landscape is changing. The church roof is under repair; new shingles will replace the old. A team from BGE cut down a number of dead trees (at no expense). Improvements are happening at St. James'! We are blessed by you and all that you do for this beautiful parish. I hope we can celebrate this bond with much hoopla when we have our Ingathering Sunday (Nov. 15). This is the day when we offer our pledges, confirm our commitment to service, and enjoy a fabulous reception—cake, cookies, coffee, and all—so that we can move forward in God's Spirit!

Blessings,
Elizabeth +

HolidayFest

Dottie Arthur

Fundraising & Fellowship

The Holiday Festival is fast approaching on Saturday, November 7, 9 a.m.-3 pm. Juried crafters, handmade gifts and treasures from the talented hands of St. James' Church, the Tea Room featuring a gourmet breakfast and sandwiches. This is an event not to be missed!

This is our last big event for the year. Hopefully, it will help us balance our budget for the rest of the year. But most importantly, it is the fellowship the Tuesday Guild has enjoyed working on items for sale and the planning of the event. We welcome you to our regular meetings, the second Tuesday each month 9:30-11:30 a.m. and the fourth Tuesday each month 7-9 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

We still need your help in the following areas:

- *Bake Table goodies needed: please add your treats to the list in the Parish Hall (Barb and Ruth)
- *Raffle tickets to be bought and sold (Lucy)
- *Items needed for the Basket of Cheer: please deliver by Fri., Nov. 6 (Sharon)
- *Hand crafted items to sell at St. James' Table (Beth and Ann)
- *Help decorating and setting up on Friday, Nov. 6 in the morning
- *People to help serve in the Tea Room for 2-3 hour shifts on Saturday (Sue)

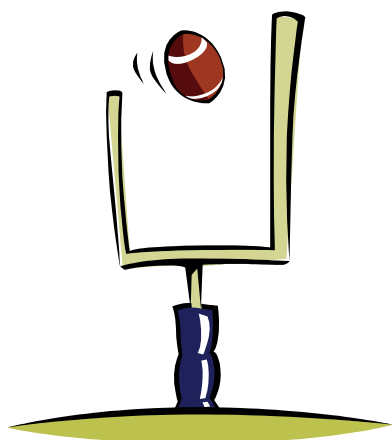
Visit the St. James' Web site and forward the flyer to your online contacts. Admission is \$1 and a non-perishable donation to the Hereford Food Bank. See you at the Festival on November 7!



Stewardship/Finance Committee

Dottie Arthur

November is Stewardship Month



A letter, pledge card and a chart have gone out. The Rev. Charles Cloughen will be speaking on November 8 for our final push for your commitment. Our goal is \$120,000 for 2010. During the month, several people at the 10 a.m. service have spoken about why they chose St. James', how the church has been there for them, what they have learned as a result of giving their time and talent, and the importance of the church for their children. Each of these people spoke from their hearts, expressing joy and thanksgiving to God for all his blessings. On November 15, you will have an opportunity to make your commitment by placing your pledge in the special basket as you enter the church. Thank you for choosing our church as your primary way of returning to God a portion of what he has given you.

**Preschool
Meal**

Italian Night
Friday, Nov. 13, 5:30-8 p.m. in the Parish Hall.
Free-will offering.



Thanksgiving Dinner & Service

The parish Thanksgiving Dinner is Sunday Nov. 22 at 11:30 a.m. The sign-up sheet for this annual potluck feast will be available in the Parish Hall.



The Thanksgiving Eve service is Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 7 p.m.

COATS FOR KIDS



Thanks Everyone! Twenty-eight children will have new coats for the winter!

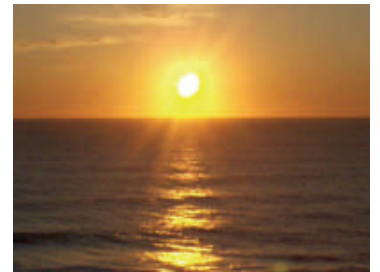
- Martha Canoune

The Horizons Gathering

Beth Kilgore

Developing Goals and a Vision for our Diocese

I was honored to be asked to be St. James' parish representative at Bishop Sutton's newly formed "Horizon's Gathering." The first meeting was held on Saturday, October 3 at the Bishop Claggett Center. It was wonderful to join Reyna Tillman (diocesan youth representative) that day.



At this meeting, 150 people congregated from parishes and ministries across the diocese to discuss the goals and future for the next five years of the diocese. These included lay people, clergy and youth representatives. There were small group discussions on the topics of Growing, Inviting, Serving, Reconciling and Communicating (I participated on the Serving discussion) that brought wonderful ideas to the table.

I will be attending an Area Horizons Gathering on November 12 at St. James' Church in Mt. Airy where more discussion will take place on these five topics. Anyone from the diocese is welcome to attend area meetings so that more voices can be heard. The final meeting at Claggett on February 27 will bring the original 150 back together to create a proposal for Diocesan Council and the Mission Strategy Group of the diocese. All Horizons Gathering materials can be found on the diocese's Web site, www.ang-md.org.

It was a joy hearing Bishops Sutton and Rabb speak and the facilitator, the Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson, canon to the presiding bishop.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve and represent our church.

November Birthdays

1 Karen Greeley
2 Emma Tillman
11 Jack Arthur
 Will Somerville
14 Gloria Whitaker
24 Zachary Kralec



November Anniversaries

1 Henry Rosendale & Sharon Devin
12 Wayne & Arlene Townsend
19 Phil & Paula Jeffery
24 Howard & Martha Canoune

Operation Christmas Child

More than 7.7 million children experienced the joy of Christmas in 2008 as Samaritan Purse distributed gift-filled shoe boxes in 100 countries. Your help made this possible. We are counting on your generosity again this year as we ask you to join in the Shoebox Project. Information and packing slips can be found in the Parish Hall. Our collection deadline is **Nov. 22.**



The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Samaritan's Purse is a Christian relief and evangelism organization led by Franklin Graham. Learn more at samaritanpurse.org.

Preschool

Ingrid Carr, Director

Hello from the Preschool

I would like to begin by thanking all the people from the parish of St. James' for their support of our Sally Foster fundraiser. All of your orders have really helped our cause. For those of you that have not picked up your orders, they are in the parish office.

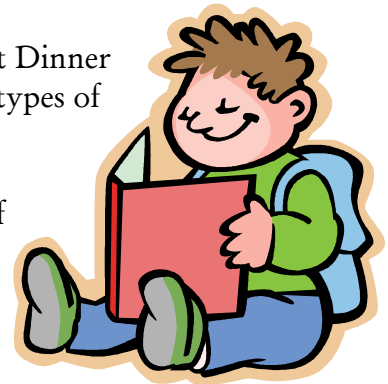
We would also like to thank those that braved the stormy weather to come watch *Silly Goose and Val*. Val Smalkin is very talented and was able to engage most all of the children as well as the parents and grandparents that attended this event.

This week finds the preschool getting ready for our field trip to Swamp Fox Farm. There we will pick pumpkins and celebrate Halloween. The children have been invited to wear their Halloween costumes to ensure a very festive event. We are hoping for a beautiful fall day.

On November 13, the preschool will be sponsoring an Italian Night Dinner in the Parish Hall. There will be many pasta dishes for all different types of appetites. Please see the attached flyer.

St James' Preschool will have an Usborne Book Sale for the week of Nov. 10-13. Please feel free to come in and browse. There will be order forms available if you are interested.

On November 17 Debi Frock from Ghanaian Mothers' Hope, Inc., will be coming in to talk to the preschool children and parents about the preschool life in Ghana. It will be a fun experience for our preschoolers.



How Can You Get Involved?

Please consider joining in the most recent, creative and exciting efforts put together by your Parish Life Committee.

Specialty Groups

We would like to thank everyone who completed surveys for us. Based on your interests, we are starting a few fun groups in our parish — a book club, and three groups focusing on weight loss, walking, and knitting/crocheting. Sign up sheets are still in the Parish Hall. An assigned leader will be in touch with you shortly for a first meeting.

Noon Day Forum

Please plan to attend a Luncheon Forum on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 12 noon. The topic will be “Good Health.” Our speaker for the day, Stacy Plasse BSN, will talk specifically about hypertension, high cholesterol and diabetes. Please bring a bag lunch. Desserts and drinks will be provided. This event is open to all. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors!



January Movie Night

We are planning a potluck/movie night for January. More information to come.

As always, we would love to have your join our committee!

Bishop Claggett Center Event

December 5

Ember Day “*Seasons of the Spirit*”

Saturday 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Meditation Leader: The Rev. Tom Momberg –All Saint’s Church, Frederick

Cost: \$25 with lunch

Ember Days is a centuries-old Christian tradition offering an opportunity for cyclical replenishment. Setting aside days four-times-a-year at each turn of the season for reflection and prayer enables individuals to take or make the time to be refueled and renewed.

Come to the Bishop Claggett Center to be in the presence of God, hear inspiring meditations, and choose to be quiet, walk the labyrinth, read in a comfortable chair, take a walk on the grounds, pray in the silo chapel, or meditatively work in a garden.

News From the Diocese of Maryland

Find information about the diocese online at ang-md.org. Sign up at the 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, for meeting information, forms and flyers, news and notes about the parish and all we do.