



THE PARISH PAPERS
St. James' Episcopal Church Parkton, Maryland

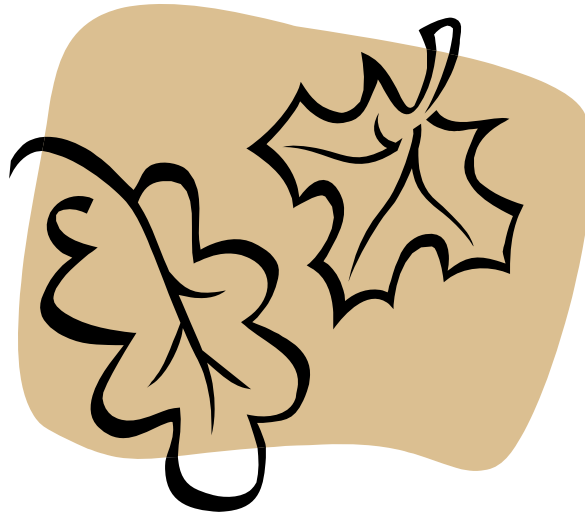


Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. James',
John Updike's simple poem helps us through the desolate month of November. When I look out the front door of St. James' and see the golden fields across the way, I am amazed by "a certain loveliness" in spite of my deep concerns about our economy, the rising costs on essentials, and the chill of the season. Updike's poem comes from *A Child's Calendar*.

The stripped and shapely
Maple grieves
The ghosts of her
Departed leaves.

The ground is hard,
As hard as stone.
The year is old,
The birds are flown.

And yet the world,
In its distress,
Displays a certain
Loveliness--



In this eleventh (*novem*) month—when the year is old—our parish hosts a number of special events: the Holiday Fest, the HS Youth's visit to New Life Community, John Orens' talk to the parish ("The Anglican Social Tradition"), a Thanksgiving dinner, the dedication of the Bob Miller Memorial, the lighting of the outdoor Christmas tree for the Parkton community.

The eleventh month also marks the end of Pentecost—that long season that culminates with Christ the King. We are delighted to hold two baptisms in the next few weeks: one for Barbara Moffett's niece, Jazlynn, and the other for Barbara Dannettel's granddaughter, Grace Elizabeth. And then Advent comes with all of its wonders—a light-filled season to prepare us for the birth of Christ.

All this activity comes from a wonderful energy that is alive and well at St. James'. Rowan Williams speaks of this lively spirit as the "moral heart, the moral energy of the Church." Do we, at times, make mistakes, speak out of turn, act irresponsibly? Of course we do—such behavior happens in all communities, but then, we come together and experience what we are meant to be—a sacramental community that responds to



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Christ's call to live together in a new way. "We see a form of behavior that shows radical forgiveness or extraordinarily courageous hope," the Archbishop says, "and we are able to say, 'Yes, that's it; that's the kind of thing I mean when I think about the Church and what it's for.'"

We see the world around us—not just the natural one—in distress at this time. We are called especially now by the Spirit to be the *ekklesia*—the church—to make a radical difference to those who suffer in this world. We are empowered to do this through scripture and the sacrament. The words from the Welsh hymn with its odd name "Ton-y-Botel" (meaning a "tone [found] in a bottle") inspire us for this spirited work. The second verse goes: "Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, dark as night and deep as death, broke the light of thy salvation, breathed thine own life-giving breath: Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!" When worship, compassion, and mission come together—and it does right here—then we say: "yes, that's it, that's the kind of thing I mean when I think about the Church and what it's for."

Blessings to all,
Elizabeth +

Finding Out Who We Are

Sharon Tillman, editor

On Sunday, October 26, St. James' Church's identity crisis ended. Spearheaded by the Rev. Elizabeth Orens and after much research, it was learned that we were named for Saint James of Jerusalem. To honor our patronal Saint, an icon was commissioned and written by the Rev. Br. Tobias Haller. On the Sunday after the feast day of Saint James (Oct. 23) the icon was installed in the sanctuary. Flanked by the cross, torches and with the thurible wafting incense, Elizabeth and Br. Tobias blessed the icon.



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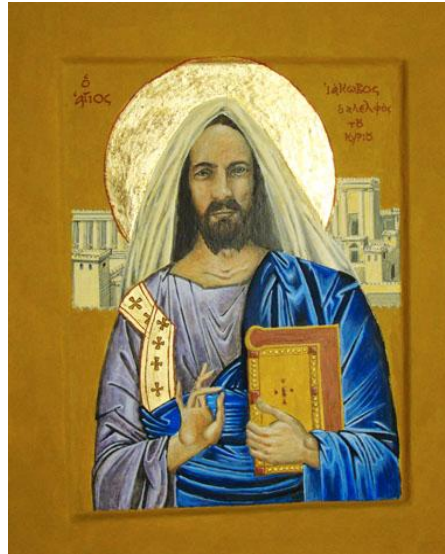
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Who was Saint James of Jerusalem?
Br. Tobias recreated our patron saint not only in egg tempera and gold leaf, but also in words during his sermon. In his blog, *In a Godward Direction* (Oct. 22, 2008), Br. Tobias wrote the following about the icon and the man who would come to represent our parish.

Saint James of Jerusalem

I wrote this icon of Saint James of Jerusalem this past year, for Saint James Church, Parkton Maryland, which is observing this patronal feast on Sunday. The icon will be blessed at that liturgy, and I will have the honor to preach.



James is an interesting character -- called "the Brother of the Lord" in the tradition, and I followed that cue in giving him features that suggest a family resemblance, though not to the blond, blue-eyed variety of Jesus. This is a Jewish James, but also the first Christian Bishop of Jerusalem -- a Jew who became a follower of his brother in more ways than one. It was his audacious conclusion to the Jerusalem Council that made it possible for us Gentiles to join in that ever-expanding family, as Jesus' kin, too.

James also followed his brother in death in Jerusalem, being thrown from the pinnacle of the Temple when he was brought there to call out to the crowds to forsake the new Way. The Temple is dimly visible in the background of the icon.

James of Jerusalem was and is an unlikely hero of the faith. He was among the relatives who came with Mary to restrain Jesus from his crazy ministry; yet he ended his life in testimony to what he later came to understand Jesus to be. May we all, whatever our wrong turns, early or late, find in Jesus our brother and our Lord.

--The Rev. Br. Tobias Haller, BSG

Tobias Stanislas Haller BSG is Vicar of Saint James Episcopal Church Fordham and a life professed member of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory. jintoku@gmail.com Find Br. Tobias online: <http://jintoku.blogspot.com/2008/10/saint-james-of-jerusalem.html>



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St. James' Preschool

Tim Pickering, Preschool Chair

The Pre-School continues to build a successful fall term behind the creative leadership of our new Director Ingrid Carr. We have enjoyed several small victories over nagging issues and want to particularly thank our newest board member, Fred Ferry, for his contributions. Those victories include: a new water cooler and cup dispenser (required by the State licensing board); a renovated sandbox (fresh sand and a new perimeter); new shelving units so we can store teaching materials somewhere other than the classrooms; and automated payroll payments. Soon our new playground climbing dome will arrive!

Our wish list now includes a new CPU for the Director. Ingrid is using a terrible old processor that almost precludes her ability to use the internet. If anyone can contribute something with a processor manufactured in this century, please let us know.

Most importantly, our children seem to be having a wonderful time learning through play and structured socialization. Morning drop-off is a buzz of happy activity and I'm told that energy grows stronger all morning. The children are supporting the church's Operation Shoebox project and other outreach activities as Advent approaches.

Finally, I also want to thank Karen Greeley for her thoughtful contributions to the board. If anyone has any thoughts about the program, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth, Fred, Karen or me. We are always grateful for ideas to strengthen the school and its relationship with the church.

Building & Grounds

Sandy Wallis,

Junior Warden

I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Maintenance Fund. Thanks to your generous help we have been able to provide needed repairs for the Rectory. It now has a new roof! The back sliding door was replaced and siding was repaired. I'd like to thank Fred Ferry and Bob Paine for replacing the slider and repairing the siding. This assistance certainly helped our budget greatly.



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Christian Education

Sue Wallis, Chair

Our Sunday School program has gotten off to a wonderful start ! The new Intermediate Youth Class is very successful. Similarly, the Godly Play and Youth Classes are moving forward smoothly under excellent leadership. Children's Sabbath Sunday featured the hard work of both teachers and students alike. Many thanks for all the effort put into the preparation for this special Sunday.

Sunday School classes are planning to help with preparations for our Thanksgiving Feast on Nov. 23. Each class will have an age appropriate hand in this annual event.

Teachers will be meeting on Nov. 16 after church to plan for the Advent season. We are planning to feature our children in the Christmas tableaux during the Advent season.

This continues to be a very popular activity for children and adults alike at St. James'.

The issue of implementing a Nursery is still open for discussion and comments.

I would encourage families to speak to me about their feelings as we determine the desire for such a group at St. James'. It will be the parents of our youngest members who help us make this determination.

*Thanksgiving
at St. James' Church
Sunday, Nov. 23,
11:15 a.m.
Sign up in the Parish
Hall for a covered dish to
share. Join us for the fun-
filled annual event.*

As always, I thank our dedicated staff of teachers for their Christian leadership. I also thank our dedicated children for their faithful attendance on Sunday mornings.



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SOMETHING TO THINK
ABOUT

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed.
Or are you just content that
Your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the crowd,
Or would you rather stay at home
and complain both long and loud?

do you give a little time
And help to make things tick
Or leave the work to just a few and talk
about the clique?

Think it over, member,
Are you right or wrong?
Are you really an active member,
Or do you just belong?

There's quite a lot that's scheduled
That means success, if don
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.

So come to the meetings
And help with hand and heart;
don't just be another member.
But take active part.

--Submitted by Corinne Sommer

Healing and Hope for our Times:
An Evening with Archbishop Desmond
Tutu

Saturday, November 22
Old St. Paul's Church, Baltimore
4:30 p.m. "Hear the Word"
Donation: \$25

All proceeds benefit *The Bishop's Initiative on
Reconciliation* in the Episcopal Diocese of
Maryland and *The Tutu Institute for Prayer &*

Community Tree Lighting
at
St. James' Church, Parkton
Sunday, November 30 5 p.m.



Christmas Carols Refreshments



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Holiday Festival

Dottie Arthur, Chair

Thank you one and all for another successful Holiday Festival. Everyone worked hard. It was wonderful to see that all ages worked together and enjoyed the fellowship. Someone said, "it was good to see a parish come together and put together an elegant event." The final results aren't in as yet but we know we met our goal. More information will come later. Thank you all!

Finance /Stewardship

Dottie Arthur, Chair

November is Stewardship Month. In the next few weeks, you will be given information concerning the upcoming year. In order for us to accomplish our mission and vision as a parish, we need your generosity of time, talent and money. This past year, we were able to enhance our parish life and take it a step further through your wonderful support. Again, we ask you to continue this energy by giving to St. James' Church as a way of "returning to God a portion of what has been given you."

November Anniversaries

<i>Sharon Devin & Henry Rosendale</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Arlene & Wayne Townsend</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Martha & Howard Canoune</i>	<i>24</i>



Happy November Birthday to...

<i>Karen Greeley</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Zoe Jack</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Jack Arthur</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Will Somerville</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Gloria Whitaker</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Zachary Kralec</i>	<i>24</i>

