



St. James' Episcopal Church Indian Head, Maryland



February - March 2015



Rector's Ramblings

I mentioned at our annual meeting that this year I wanted to spend some time with the vestry reading, talking, praying about the future of St. James' Church, who we are, how we feel God is calling us to be church and serve the world from our little corner of God's Kingdom and set out a plan of how we hope to live into this vision. Of course most of what we are doing is figuring out how to best preach, teach, and live the Gospel and how to invite others to be a part of this with us. This also has to do with church growth. How do we grow individually in our faith and how do we grow as a faith community? One of the workshops I attended at the Diocesan Convention a few weeks ago had to do with growth in small churches. It was a presentation by three rectors of three churches in the Dioceses who have seen tremendous growth over the last five or so years. The one thing they all said was that there is no magic bullet, no single answer to how to grow a church, but that it takes being willing to try new things, take risks, fail, try again, change, and figuring out who you are. Each of the rectors took a completely different approach from what the others had done and each was successful. One of the Rectors, Lee Davis at St. Ann's in Damascus, said he and his vestry spent a year visiting churches of various denominations that were growing and those that were not, to see what the patterns were. He shared those patterns with us and I thought they were interesting. They are:

- Conflict – churches with visible major conflict tend to decline while those with no major conflict during the previous two year period tended to grow.
- Spiritual vitality (remember this term from RenewalWorks?) - If there is a sense that the congregation is spiritually vital, alive, where people encounter God and can share their stories, there is growth. (Remember to mark March 14th)
- Character of Worship – Worship that is joyful is more likely to experience growth where as worship described as reverent is least likely to grow.
- Change – congregations that act like they are open to and willing to change, tend to be growing.
- Worship Change – even moderate changes to worship style on a regular basis creates more growth than church who don't change their style.
- Children in Worship – Congregations that involve children in some way in worship show more growth among families than those who do not.
- Websites – Congregations that actively maintain a website tend to show more growth.
- Sponsoring public events – Congregations that sponsor public events show more growth.
- Follow-up with visitors – Churches that have multiple ways of following up with visitors have more growth.
- Clear understanding of Membership – Congregations that offer clear understanding of what being a member requires see more growth.
- Hospitality/fellowship – congregations that provide the opportunity to be a part of the community before expecting membership and the understanding of discipleship tend to see more growth.

These are just unscientific observations from a group of people who took it upon themselves to try to understand what makes churches grow. Some of these make sense to me, some are things we already do, and some are things we should have conversation about. This is a process that will take time and involve more than the vestry. I hope you will take time to think about what you value about church, about St. James' Church, and about Christianity. I also hope you will come to the workshop at Christ Church on March 14th. Spreading the story, inviting others to join us in our journey, and growing the church is all of our response to Jesus when he says to us "Come and follow me."

Peace,
Denise+

Senior Warden's Ramblings

"Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." James 2:15-17 NIV

In 2013, Oxford dictionary named Selfie as the word of the year. Selfie is defined as a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and shared via social media. Other nearby words include selfish, selfishness, and self-important. In 2015, at St James' I would challenge us to make selfless the word of the year. As followers of Jesus we are called to, well, follow Jesus and His example. He was focused on others, helping them and meeting their needs. We can all look at ourselves, and determine how best we can serve through time, treasure and talent. While some of us can provide financial assistance, others can be equally as impactful through their time volunteered. What is important is that we all take that first step toward service and helping others. The grand gesture is great, but not necessary. Every little effort, contribution, helping hand and prayer can help those less fortunate.

"Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. Money will come if we seek first the Kingdom of God-the rest will be given." – Mother Theresa

God's Grace,

Linda Mohler

Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Ramblings

The year has started with the new vestry. I am looking forward to our retreat and getting to know everyone better. We are always available. Please feel free to let us know what is on your mind. We care about your view of the future of St. James'.

In Christ's Love,

Thomas



Denise will be away:

- February 26 – 28
- March 6 – 7
- April 6 -11
- May 15 – 17
- June 8 -13



Spring Dinner
will replace
the **Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner**

Date & Time: Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 3- 6 PM

Menu: Pork Loin, Parsley Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Green Beans Almandine, Applesauce, and Dessert

Cost: \$15.00 Adults, \$7.00 Children (5-11 yrs), Under 5 yrs Free



NETS
(Neighbors Eager To Serve)

NETS is collecting food for Easter Baskets. They are in need of hams, canned sweet potatoes, greens, etc.

Free Community Spaghetti Dinner



Donations of \$222.00 were received at the free community spaghetti dinner held on February 2. This money will be used to help the needy.

The next community dinner will be held on **Monday, March 30**. We need **spaghetti sauce** and could use dressings - Italian, Ranch, French, and Thousand Islands are the most popular.

Dear Friends: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4.11



FELLOWSHIP

If you were not able to attend, you missed a fantastic Super Bowl Party! Try to join us at one of our next events.

Some upcoming events are: Karaoke, Game Night, Spring Flower Mart at the Cathedral in May, possibly a Dance Night. Look for announcements on the bulletin board for upcoming events.

As always, if you have any ideas, please let me know!

Love in Christ,

Adah

Sunday Bulletins

As you may or may not know, we reuse the bulletins minus the inserts every Sunday for a church season. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if you would return your bulletins each Sunday after the service to the basket outside the church door. The inserts are for you to keep and use throughout the week.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Please make a note of the upcoming Sunday School events.

March 1	Pretzel Making Sunday (10:15 a.m.) Pretzels served at coffee hour. We will read the pretzel-making story.
March 22	Sunday School will go bowling on the base.
March 29	Children will Read the Passion at the 9:15 a.m. Palm Sunday Children's Service
April 5	Easter Service at 9:15 followed by the Annual Easter Egg Hunt
May 17	Sundae Making Sunday After the 9:15 a.m. Service Bring a Friend to Church Sunday
June 7	Children's Service at 10:30 AM. Kids to participate. Sunday School Awards will be presented during coffee hour.

It is never too late for your children to join these activities. So, if you want to bring them to an event, or if they wish to attend the weekly classes, they are welcome. Sunday School classes start around 9:45 a.m., immediately following the 9:15 a.m. children's service.

Yours in Christ,
Sheila Gray

Telling my Story

On March 14th from 9-12 there will be a workshop at Christ Church LaPlata, by Joey Rick, Canon for Congregational Vitality, called **Telling my Story**. This workshop is designed to help us learn to talk about our faith, our church, and why church is important in our lives. This is not something that most of us feel comfortable talking about, but it is crucial to the churches growth and survival. Being able to speak passionately about your church and your experience of your church is among the number one reasons that new people will come and check out a church. Please join us at this workshop. It is open to everyone and everyone should consider coming. There is a sign-up sheet on the board



The laundry love program has been met with great success. It is a heartwarming experience to share fellowship and God's Love with all who enter the Wash House. Let Denise know if you are interested in participating in this mission.

We are in need of liquid laundry detergent and quarters! Laundry Love takes place the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Laundromat in Indian Head.



Parish Hall Rental

We are trying to promote the rental of the parish hall as it is a great source of church income. If you know of anyone that needs to use a hall for a wedding reception, dinner, birthday party, etc., please have them contact Karen Burroughs.



St James' Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Over the next few months, the ECW will have events that we hope everyone will attend, participate in, and enjoy.

February 15 - Annual Women's Day (don't forget to wear red)

March 8 - ECW Meeting at Noon (All women in the church are welcome!)

March 21 - Pork Loin Dinner (3:00 PM - 6:00 PM)

April 18 - Fashion Show

Blessings,
Sheila Gray



Beads on Prayer

We started to bead again in January with amazing attendance. Please keep coming. The next dates are Friday, Feb 13; Saturday, Feb. 28; Friday, March 13; Saturday March 28; Friday, April 10; and Saturday, April 25 from 10:00 AM to noon.

Hope you can join us.
Martha



Pulpit Swap

Pulpit Swap with Old Durham - Feb 15th, April 19th & June 28th

Parish Picnic



Save the Date: Parish Picnic June 21st

Lenten Services:



Tuesday evenings at 7:00 there is Evening Prayer
 Wednesdays there is a Noon Eucharist

Holy Week and Easter – All evening Services begin at 7:00

Monday March 30	5:00-6:30	Community Dinner 
Tuesday March 31	7:00	Evening Prayer 
Wednesday April 1	7:00	Tenebrae 
Thursday April 2	7:00	Agape meal and Eucharist 
Friday April 3	12 Noon	Stations of the Cross 
	7:00	Friday evening the Good Friday Service 
Saturday April 4	7:00	Easter Vigil 
Sunday April 5	8:00	Easter Service 
	9:15	Family Service starting at 9:15 (Followed by Easter Egg Hunt) 
	10:30	Easter Service 



"The Beauty of Spring Tea"

May 9, 2015

The Pavilion
Indian Head

12:00 to 2:30 pm

Tickets \$17.00 per person/Children 12-under \$8.50

Bring your beautiful tea cups and teapots for the contest!

Wear your spring hats in the parade!



Hello St. James,

I am Amanda Sanchez. I'm sending flier with the information about the Spanish Classes (on the next page).

The Spanish Classes will be in the church in Indian Head, or in your home, or other place if you prefer.

If you are interested, please send an email for information about the hours, fee, etc.

God Bless:
Amanda





A M A N D A A N D I N O

SPANISH TEACHER

**I offer private
Spanish classes for
all levels. Spanish is
my first language**

I have master degree and
education experience.

Phone: 301-848-2262

Email: amandaandino@gmail.com

GUESS WHO THIS ST. JAMES' PARISHIONER IS!



This baby's mouth was closed then,
but it hasn't been closed since!

(The answer to the last challenge is Adah Morgan)



Our mission statement:

We generously share our blessings in the name of Christ with the hope of showing God's love to others.

FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Services are at 8, 9:15 (Family), 10:30 (with Choir)	2  Groundhog Day	3	4 8:00 PM AA Meeting	5 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	6	7
8 Services are at 8, 9:15 (Family), 10:30 (with Choir)	9  6:30 PM Haiti Mission Meeting	10	11 8:00 PM AA Meeting	12 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	13  6:30 PM Karaoke	14  3:00 PM NETS Valentine's Dinner
15  Services are at 8, 9:15 (Family), 10:30 (with Choir) 8:00 AM Women's Sunday 8:30 AM Bake Sale to Benefit Haiti	16  President's Day	17  4:00 PM Laundry Love Ministry 5:00 PM Pancake Supper	18  12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 8:00 PM AA Meeting	19 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	20  3:00 PM Vestry Retreat	21  8:00 AM Vestry Retreat
22 Services are at 8, 9:15 (Family), 10:30 (with Choir)	23	24  National Tortilla Chip Day 7:00 PM Lenten Prayer Service	25 8:00 PM AA Meeting	26 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	27	28  10:00 AM Beads of Prayer
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