



St. James' Episcopal Church Indian Head, Maryland



August – September 2014



Rector's Ramblings

Last month I talked to you about the RenewalWorks project and our participation in it. I know you haven't heard anything about it since then, but that is about to change. We will be starting to get information out about the project and how you can participate in it at the end of the month and every week until we are finished with the surveys. We are working on getting the parish hall set up with WiFi so that people who either do not have computers at home or would just rather do it here can do that. We will have two Sundays set aside, one is September 28th and the other is October 5th. On these Sundays there will be stations with laptops or iPads in the parish hall and the office for people to do the surveys either before or after church. It takes approximately 45 minutes so we encourage you to get a cup of coffee or punch and a snack.

I can't tell you how important your participation in this survey is. It is a chance for us to take a serious look at how we are doing individually and as a church on our spiritual journey. The survey asks questions that most of us have never been asked before about our faith and our life with God.

In the end we will have tools and a language to talk about what we think is important to us individually and as a church. It is so important that we keep growing, not in numbers, although that would be nice but that we grow in our life in Christ. If we don't grow, we stagnate, and in some cases we die, our faith withers and dies. Our desire to know and serve God dies and our sense of the Holy Spirit being present with us here at St. James' dies and we are no longer a church that attracts people, but people leave.

So please, please, please, take this survey, either at home on line, using the paper copies, or at church.

Some of you know that the washing machine at the rectory died at the end of July. For three weeks while we waited to see if it could be repaired, I did laundry at the Laundromat in Indian Head. I was shocked to see how expensive this was! I kept thinking how do people with limited resources afford to do laundry here each week? It really bothered me and nagged at me for weeks.

The Sunday that I did the pulpit swap with Molly, I was driving over listening to NPR. I also had a book on tape I was trying to get finished and back to the library. I thought to myself, "I need to turn this radio off and get this book finished." Then thought, "I also haven't listened to the radio in a while so I'll keep listening then listen to the book on the way home." The next story that came on was called "Laundry Love". It was the story about a church in California that once a month takes over a Laundromat and allows people to come and do their laundry for free! I thought, "Well there was a God moment!"

It turns out, this is a national program. The story of "Laundry Love" began with T-Bone (Eric), a homeless gentleman living in Ventura Calif. In one particular conversation, a question was asked of him: "T-Bone, how can we come alongside your life in a way that would matter?" His response was honest and practical. "If I had clean clothes I think people would treat me like a human being." The dream of "Laundry Love" is to see the 30,000+ laundromats nationwide host "Laundry Love" efforts. I think we can have one right here in Indian Head.

If you are interested in this effort, see me and let's make it happen. In the meantime check out their website at

www.laundrylove.org

Peace,
Denise+



Message from your Senior Warden

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Hebrews 13:2 ESV

When members of our congregation are asked, we state that St. James is a friendly church. This is true to a point; we are friendly to those we know. We also must ask ourselves if we are a welcoming, hospitable congregation. I believe this is an area where we have to improve significantly. We simply must do better.

I have been a member of St. James for a number of years. There was a long period of time, due to caregiving responsibilities, where I was unable to attend worship services regularly. Upon my return to St. James' hospitality hour after worship, I spent the first six Sundays sitting alone. I did not feel comfortable approaching tables that were filled with people already engaged in conversation. I was definitely welcomed during the worship service, and people were genuinely happy to see me, but I did not initially feel this hospitality after the service. I am very grateful to this day to the person who took the time to sit with me. We caught up like the old friends that we are, and from that Sunday forward I felt engaged in the fellowship of our congregation. Thank you, Karen Burroughs, for your graciousness.

This month, a new family began visiting our 10:30 service. Reverend Denise asked me if I would go and visit with this family. I had observed them sitting alone, but was busy with my duties of hosting coffee hour. When I approached their table they did not have food or drink in front of them. I inquired if they had any refreshments, and the charming daughter readily answered, "Yes." I realized at this point that they had thrown away their trash, and they were sitting there hoping to be acknowledged. I sat down and chatted with their precocious, delightful daughter. We talked about where they lived and our church activities, and had a terrific conversation.

I implore each member of our church to take a little time each week to talk with someone that you do not ordinarily socialize with during coffee hour. Regardless of whether you are unsure if people are new, talk with them and find out a little about their life. We can become a more hospitable church, and welcome new people, and perhaps even gain new members in the process. I would like to form a team of people who will agree to make certain that everyone is engaged and welcomed to our church family. Many of you have the gift of hospitality, and I hope you will be willing to socialize with people outside of your normal group. Please speak with me if you are interested.

Yours in Christ - Linda

GUESS WHO THIS ST JAMES' PARISHIONER IS!



There is just no way I could say anything about myself and not give it away. So, I'll just say this "Ah, but I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now".

(The answer to the last challenge is Tom Peterson)



Confirmation Class

There will be a Confirmation Class beginning on **Sunday, September 14th at 12:30** in the Parlor. As you may have read in previous newsletters, I feel very strongly that Confirmation is an adult reaffirmation of our Baptism Vows. This means that unless a person who is 16 has the desire to do this (not because we think it is time for them to do so) I ask that parents do not sign their children up for the class. Confirmation is not something that we have to do it is something we should desire to do as part of our faith journey. The class will meet every other week through the Spring when we will participate in the Diocesan Confirmation service (unless we are lucky and get a visit from the Bishop in 2015).

This Class is open to anyone who has never been Confirmed, anyone new to the Episcopal Church who would like to be formally Received into the church or anyone who feels that they would like to renew their Baptismal Vows in a formal way.

We will be using Brian McLaren's book "We Make the Road by Walking" for this class. Please purchase it by the first meeting.

Haiti News

Hello everyone,

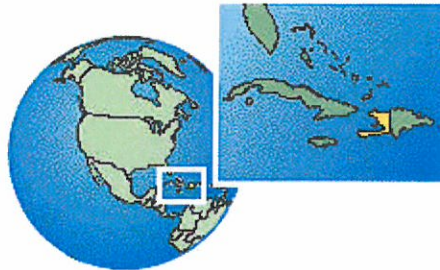
I just want to keep you updated as to what is happening with our Haiti project.

We are setting up a non-profit organization called Haiti Transformation Project. This will enable us to raise money beyond the circle of our congregation. This is a long and involved process that could take over a year to complete.

In the meantime, we are still committed to supporting the teachers and students of the Church of St. Mathieu in the city of Gonaives.

I hope you will continue to support our efforts to help bring a quality education to the children of Haiti. Thank you so much for your support.

Peace,
Denise

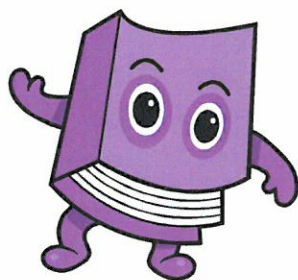


50/50 Raffles

50/50 raffles will be held to help support the teachers and students of the Church of St. Mathieu. Tickets will be on sale today at the indoor yard sale, spaghetti dinners, Ham and Crab Cake dinner, and the Bazaar. A drawing will be held at the end of each event.



Choir Rehearsal resumes on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 7PM



Our **FACEBOOK** Page

Did you know we have a Facebook page? One of the easiest ways to get there is to use the link on the Church's web site. We are asking all of our parishioners who are on Facebook to please "like" our page. Also, if you would invite your local friends to "like" our page, it will help us to promote St. James'. Further, we are asking you to please share on your page any of our posts when we are advertising an event at the church. Our page will begin to include more pictures and events to help keep you informed and create a social media buzz.



Ever wondered how those delicious St James' carrots are made that are served at most of the dinners? What are the ingredients and how is it all put together? Well here's your chance to find out! There will be a carrot making party on Wednesday, September 3, starting at 10 am. Just meet in the kitchen - EEOC



St James' Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

All St. James' women are a member of the ECW and we would love to have you attend the meetings and take part in our activities. We meet the second Sunday of each month (September – June), alternating between 9:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. If you have any questions about the ECW, please see one of our officers.

Sheila Gray – President
Clare Phillips – Vice President
Karen Burroughs – Secretary
Adah Morgan – Treasurer

Upcoming ECW Calendar Items

Saturday, November 1 - The annual Fall Bazaar
Sunday, September 14 (noon) – ECW meeting

In Christ's love and peace,
Sheila Gray, ECW President

Free Community Spaghetti Dinner



Donations of \$236 were received at the free community spaghetti dinner held on July 28th and \$309 from the June 1st dinner. This money will be used to help local families with back-to-school needs and the children of Haiti.

Our next Community Dinner is September 29th. We need sauce, thin spaghetti, and dressings - Italian, Ranch, French, and Thousand Island.

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



FELLOWSHIP

We had a wonderful summer filled with many activities. Game Day, movie night, kayaking, and karaoke were a great success. If you were unable to attend think about joining us this fall. We will be having a Karaoke night on Friday, October 3 at 6:30! Keep your eyes and ears open for the announcement of future events. Also if you have any suggestions please see Brenda Peterson or myself.

Love in Christ,

Adah



CWOD

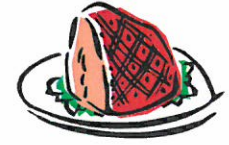
It's really all about Collaborating with Old Durham. We both have a lot to gain from communicating with each other and sharing ideas. This effort will continue for a while and hopefully you will gain something out of the experience. On Saturday, September 27th, Molly and I are planning a joint vestry gathering to talk more about how we can do more shared ministry with Old Durham. I think as our budget becomes tighter and tighter this becomes something we really need to consider.



There will only be one service at 9:00 am on Sunday,
September 7.



Ham and Crab Cake Dinner



Sunday, September 7, 2014

3:00-6:00 P.M.

Adults - \$22.00 includes dinner, drink, and dessert

Children (age 6-12) - \$11.00 includes/1 crab cake, drink, and dessert)

Children 5 & under - FREE



Interested in remembering that special someone with flowers on the altar?

Unfortunately, there are no more available slots this year. But you could contact Diane Ryan if you want to get on the list for 2015.

Sprucing Up the Hall

As you noticed, we have been sprucing up the Parish Hall in hopes of being able to rent it more often for weddings and other gatherings. This is one of the ways we can raise money for our operating budget without too much work or expense. One of the suggestions that was made to us by a consultant was that we should purchase round tables. We need to purchase 12 and they are \$100 each including shipping. If you would like to purchase a table, please make a check out to St. James' and put "tables" in the Memo.



On Beads of Prayer Ministry

Beads of Prayer continues to meet twice a month on the second Friday and fourth Saturday of each month. **All are welcome, including the children.** We will train any newcomers and help everyone who needs it. Our next meetings are Saturday, Aug 23; Friday, Sep 12; Saturday, Sep 27; Friday, Oct 10; and Saturday, Oct 25. Please join us! It is lots of fun!!

Hope to see you there.

Have a GREAT day!
Martha



NETS (Neighbors Eager To Serve)

NETS continues to help the communities of Western Charles County. Saint James' has supported this by providing food to help feed the children this summer who usually would have qualified for the free lunch program during the school year. NETS is providing 100 back packs for area children at the Town of Indian Head Back to School Celebration. The Saint James' congregation provided 12 back packs. On behalf of NETS, I would like to thank you for your generosity in this endeavor. Soon, it will be time again to fill the holiday baskets and NETS would like to thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

Sincerely, Barbara Prasser (B2).

P.S. The NETS Food Pantry shelves are empty. So, if people can bring in some food items over the next few weeks that would be wonderful!

Denise's vacation schedule



Denise will be away on August 29 – September 5 and then October 24 – November 1 and September 15 – 18 (Continuing Education)



Thank You!

Thank you to Thomas Gordon, Tom Gray, Jack and Nate Rogers, Mike Ahern, Matt Gray, Harvey Johnson, Bernard Jameson and Doug Scott who moved our "new" organ into place on Sunday after church.

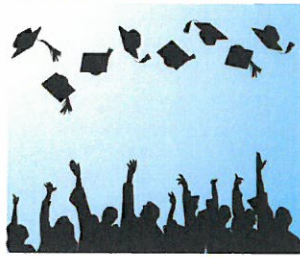
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



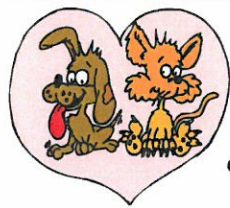
The 2014/2015 Sunday School season will start on September 14. Sunday School starts around 9:45 a.m. and lasts for 30 minutes. This season the classes will be set up as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Grade K –Grade 3	Nancy Ahern
Grade 4 – Grade 5	Diane Ryan
Grade 6 – Grade 8	Bertha Gordon
Grade 9 – Grade 12	Linda Mohler/Jack Rogers

PLEASE HAVE YOUR KIDS JOIN US FOR THE 2014/2015 SUNDAY SCHOOL SEASON



Special congratulations to all our High School Graduates:
Rachel Davis and Brandon Paulin



Blessing of the Animals And Holy Eucharist

When: 9:00AM on October 5th

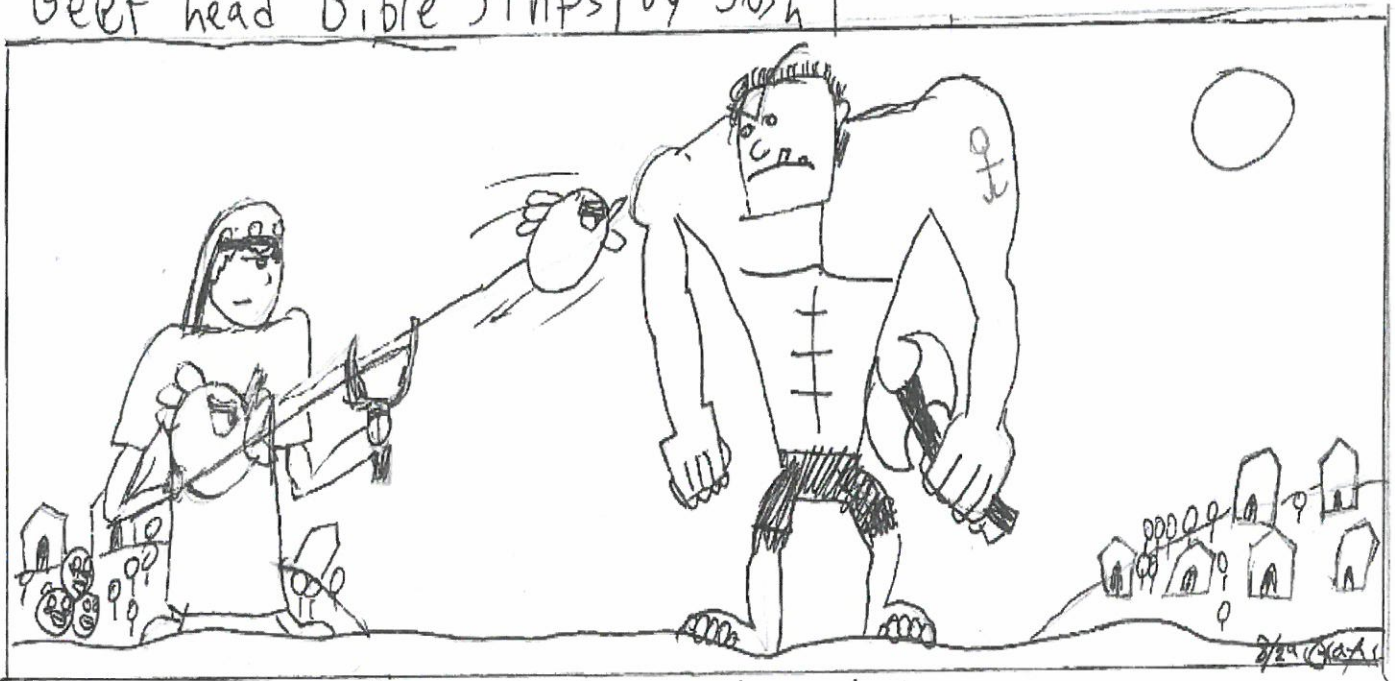
Where: Outside at the St. Francis Statue

Donations of towels, blankets, pet treats and toys will be taken to the Humane Society.



So often during the summer our overall financial picture has us running in the **red**. This year is no exception as our July financial statement shows that we are roughly \$11,000 in the hole. Most often this situation arises because people are away on vacations and get behind on their pledge. If you find yourself in this category, please try to catch up so we can get a better picture of where we are financially and can better plan for the remainder of the year. If you need a mid-year report on what you've contributed so far, please see Tom. If you can increase your giving each week by a few dollars, this would help a great deal as well! (I just noticed – that's a lot of if's all in a row!)

Beef head Bible Strips by Josh



How Angry Birds was invented

Our mission statement:

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

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31 Services are at 8, 9:15 (Family), 10:30 (with Choir)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 4:30 PM Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>3 10:00 AM Carrot Making Party 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>4 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6  9:00 AM Dinner Prep</p>
<p>7  1 Service today at 9 3:00 PM Ham and Crab Dinner</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 4:30 PM Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>10 7:00 PM Finance Committee 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>11  Choir Resumes 7:00 PM Choir Practise Resumes 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>12  10:00 AM Beads of Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14  Services are at 8, 9:15 (Family), 10:30 (with Choir) 9:45 AM Sunday School Resumes 12:00 PM ECW Meeting 12:30 PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>15 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>16 4:30 PM Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>17 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>18 7:00 PM Choir Practise 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Services are at 8, 9:15 (Family), 10:30 (with Choir) 12:30 PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 4:30 PM Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>24  Cheerios Jubilee Day 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>25 7:00 PM Choir Practise 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27  9:00 AM Vestry Retreat with Old Durham 10:00 AM Beads of Prayer Ministry</p>
<p>28 Services are at 8, 9:15 (Family), 10:30 (with Choir) 12:30 PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>29  5:00 PM Community Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>30 4:30 PM Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>1 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>2 7:00 PM Choir Practise 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>3 6:00 PM Karaoke</p>	<p>4</p>



St. James' Episcopal Church
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