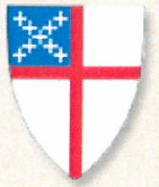




St. James' Episcopal Church

Indian Head, Maryland



June 2014



Rector's Ramblings

I believe that this is one of the most important Ramblings I've written to our parish in the nearly eight years that I've been privileged to serve among you.

I have said many times that St. James' is a special church and I truly mean it. We have wonderful, thoughtful, caring people sitting in our pews. We have missions happening locally and internationally. We are faithful in our attendance at worship. But I am not sure if we have a handle on whether we are growing spiritually. I believe that this is an important aspect of church, to help us grow in our love and in our relationship with God.

This fall, in a focused way, we will begin a process of taking stock of how we are growing spiritually. Throughout the fall, a group of six to eight parishioners will be reflecting on where we are and where we are called to be. This process will begin with a survey. That's where we need your help.

I'm asking that you set aside about 45 minutes to take a Spiritual Life Survey. Unlike previous surveys that may have been done here at St. James', this survey focuses on you, on your spiritual life and how St. James' helps you grow spiritually. The survey findings will help shape decisions about how to create the best possible ministries and programs. Your feedback will directly impact how we allocate resources to further our spiritual journeys.

The program originated with a simple study, grew to encompass research of 470,000+ congregants in 17,000+ parishes of 19 denominational and non-denominational Christian churches have taken the survey, which will provide powerful benchmarks. The survey is anonymous, run by a third party, and we will only receive composite findings from the church as a whole. The survey is open to all parishioners, 18 years and older, and we encourage all parishioners to take the survey, whether you attend every week, or are only able to be with us

a few times a year. Here is a link to Renewalworks, the Episcopal organization that runs this program www.renewalworks.org.

Your participation is important and so we thank you for setting aside the time to take the survey. To get an accurate picture of our church, we need everyone to participate. We will begin taking the survey on September 20th. You will receive a link to go on to the website and take the survey in the comfort of your own home. I suggest getting a cup of coffee, tea, wine, etc. and get comfortable.

We will also have an opportunity to have folks take the survey here at church. We will have a Sunday when we will have laptops and tablets available in the parish hall and meeting room to sit and do the survey before or after church.

For those who prefer to take the survey “on paper”, we will offer multiple opportunities for people to take the survey in the Parish Hall at the church or take it home to complete. We want to make this as easy as possible for people to participate because it is that important.

We look forward to taking the next steps in growing our faith together. The first step is to take the survey. Join me in praying for this process and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all we do.

If you are interested in serving on the committee for this process, it entails attending four meetings beginning in September, please talk to me.

Peace,

Denise

Denise's vacation schedule



Denise will be away on June 1 and June 5 - 7.



Welcome Me From your Senior Warden

There is a story that has gone viral on Facebook about a church that ignored the pleas of a homeless man. A Pastor transformed himself into a homeless man, and went to the 10,000 member church where he was going to be introduced as the head pastor that morning. He walked around for 30 minutes while the congregation arrived. Only 3 people out of the 7,000 to 10,000 people said, "Hello." He asked for change to buy food and not one person gave him money. He sat in the first pew and was asked to move to the back of the church. When he greeted people, they looked down on him with dirty looks and stares. Imagine the congregation's shock, surprise and shame when the new pastor was introduced. He took the microphone and said:

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

The Pastor proceeded to tell the members of the congregation what he had experienced that morning, and some people hung their heads in shame and many began to cry. He went on to say that he saw "a gathering of people and not a church of Jesus Christ. The world has enough people but not enough disciples. When will You decide to become disciples?"

Although, this story is one of many hoaxes that circulate on Facebook, it clearly touches a nerve and asks a relevant question. I would like to think that at St. James' this man would be welcomed and we would prove to be disciples!

Free Community Spaghetti Dinner



Donations of \$210 were received at the free community spaghetti dinner held on March 31st. This money was used to help pay for desperately needed repairs to a vehicle used by a parishioner.

The next spaghetti dinner is **Tomorrow, June 2nd**. Choices are: Come and eat, come and bring a dessert, or come and help out! Either way, we'll see you then!!



Parish Hall Rental

We are trying to promote the rental of the parish hall as it is a great source of church income. The rates are as follows:

Parishioners of St. James'

Asked to make a donation of \$100.00

Non-parishioners

\$350.00/first 4 hours - Limited use of the kitchen

\$50.00 each additional hour

\$400.00/first 4 hours - Full use of the kitchen

\$50.00 each additional hour

A signed contract is included for the use of the hall.

If you know of anyone that needs to use a hall for a wedding reception, dinner, birthday party, etc., or if you have any questions please have them contact **Karen Burroughs**.



Parish Picnic June 22



The service will begin at 10:00.



Bring a dish to share and a chair for the service.



Please sign up so we know how much chicken to purchase.



If it rains, we will picnic in the parish hall.





St James' Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

We will be holding several fundraisers this year. The first will be a Yard Sale being held on August 16th at the church. We will have a meeting on July 20th to discuss the details. More information will follow.

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

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



FELLOWSHIP

Up-coming events are:

- **Mixer with Old Durham & Karaoke:** We are continuing to build our relationship with Old Durham in order to help support each other in our ministries. It is our turn to welcome them to St. James'. On June 7th at 5:00 we will host a pot luck dinner. This will be followed by an opportunity to get to know one another and end with Karaoke. Please join us for at least part of the evening if you can. It is important that we show the folks of Old Durham that we are happy to have them with us. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board.
- **Game and Hot Dog Night – Monday, June 30 @ 4:00**, food around 5:45, cake and ice cream around 7:32 (Tom's Birthday!!)
- **Kayaking** followed by a picnic on **July 19th** – Since there is a good chance it will be hot, we thought we would try something different. We will have a dinner picnic at the rectory about 5:00 and then go out on the creek around 7:00. It will be cooler then and the sun won't be so bright but it will still be light long enough to get out for about an hour or so. Please sign up by July 7th so we can get the kayaks reserved for those who need to rent. Kayaks are \$37.10 for a double and \$26.50 for a single.
- **Ice Cream Social – August 10th** – after 10:30 o'clock service

Love in Christ, Adah



On Beads of Prayer Ministry

Come young & not so young! I have a new idea for children: I'll bring acrylic beads that will help them learn to string. And better yet, they can keep them to take home (hear that Junior?!)

So for a fun summer activity bring the kids & grandma too!

We will meet **June 13 & 28, July 11 & 26, and Aug 8 & 23**. Hope to see you there.

Have a GREAT day! :~)

Martha

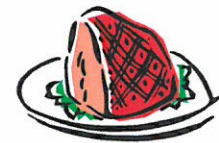
The Beauty of Spring Tea



While we didn't have as many people as we have had in the past, it was still a great day!! This fundraiser brought in a net profit of \$650.00. Thank you to all who helped with the planning, set up, food, and clean-up. We couldn't do it without you.



Ham and Crab Cake Dinner



SAVE THE DATE!

September 7, 2014

THANK YOU, ST. JAMES

As you all know our trip to Haiti was a wonderful experience for all. You also know all went well until our last day there. You are also aware that I suffered a bad fall and ended up in the hospital in Mirebalais. I came home with the most severe shoulder injury my surgeon had ever known.

Needless to say, I was frightened and worried. Would I be ok? Would I be able to use my arm again? How would I get home? What doctor would we find who could handle the surgery I needed? How would my fellow travelers feel about the sudden change of plans for the day? And on and on my worries went.

As you've heard the stories of the Haitian people and their love and concern for me you know I was truly blessed, although it was difficult at that moment to see the blessings. My St. James family who traveled with me never left my side. YOU went with me to the hospital, stood outside in the heat and waited, came in to check on me, prayed and waited. Never once did YOU complain that the day's plans were halted. In fact YOU even said the focus of our mission to Haiti had changed to be about me.

We made it back to the US and on to the closest hospital. I had no idea what was ahead I just went along with the plans made on my behalf by those of YOU with me as well as those of YOU back home at St. James. The surgeon on call just happened to be the absolute best doctor for trauma surgery specializing in shoulder and upper extremities. Just perfect for my shattered shoulder, 8 breaks to the humerus bone and fractured elbow.

Was all this medical expertise just my good luck? It couldn't be. There is no way all this happened by chance. So why was I so fortunate? I know why, it's because of YOU, my family at St. James. The news spread immediately and you all took charge. My accident was reported on our Facebook page, phone calls were made and YOU moved into action planning for my return. One of YOU knew of the closest hospital, knew doctors there, others of YOU planned for our pick-up arrangements and changed plans needed to get to the hospital ASAP upon our arrival.

Many people, in fact all of YOU, deserve naming but for fear of neglecting someone I hope YOU will accept my group THANK YOU.

I was NEVER left alone. I was at the hospital with a group of YOU, that long painful night before we could return home two of YOU stayed in the room with me. Every day, night and minute while in the hospital one of YOU was there with me. When discharged, I went home not to my house but to stay with YOU so I wouldn't be alone. YOU made a schedule so someone would visit and bring meals every day. YOU drove me everywhere I needed to go. The list of things YOU did goes on and on. I realize there is no way I can properly thank all of YOU but I pray this letter will at least show my attempt to do just that.

Sunday, Rev. Denise spoke of the Holy Spirit. I have never really understood this idea. Who or what is the Holy Spirit? I now know and understand. The Holy Spirit is YOU. The Holy Spirit is sent from God to be our helper, comforter, and guide. YOU were sent by God to be this for me. YOU brought God to

me in your love, prayers, concern, help, visits, and care. The Holy Spirit is one who walks with us. YOU walk with me every day.

St. James is truly filled with God's Holy Spirit. YOU are an amazing group of God's people.

I love and THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart!

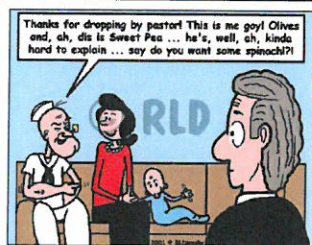
Jackie Williams



Memorial Day Brunch (aka Pancake Supper)

Someone asked me this question "So how much did we go in the hole on this?"

You see, we only had about 9 people come in off the street. But guess what? We actually ended up making a profit of \$1,500! That's a Profit! Best ever!! Thanks to everyone that showed up and a special thanks to those that bought extra pancakes in an effort to make this a success!!



Pastoral Visits

At one point in time one of the main functions of the parish priest was to visit people in their homes, everyone got a home visit at least once a year. Over time things changed, the role of the priest became more diverse and busier, more women began to work outside the home, and family life got busier and so on. I love visiting people in their homes. I get a chance to get to know you better when we can sit for a while and just talk without all the distractions that happen on Sunday morning, even in coffee hour. I know some people like to have a priest visit and others – not so much. If you would like to have me come by and visit some afternoon or evening, please let me know (I won't be insulted if you don't). You can either call the office 301-743-2366 or email me at revdcabana@verizon.net and we can set up a time.

GUESS WHO THIS ST JAMES' PARISHIONER IS!



What if I told you I came to St James' during a period of great strife and the only reason I stayed was because someone was nice to me! Or how about this, I married the love of my life before I grew up? My name starts with the letter – yeah right, like that wouldn't give it away!!

(The answer to the last challenge is Karen Burroughs)

Missions Committee

We continue to support mission projects both at home and elsewhere such as Charles County Hospice, St. Joseph's Indian School, NETS, The Haiti Micah Project, and local families in need, just to name a few.

We are struggling to fulfill the commitment we made to support Jean Fils' church. If there is anyone who can and wishes to help with this monthly payment of \$1,694, please see Denise. Even a commitment of \$5 a month would make a difference. Your help will be greatly appreciated by all.

Thanks to the St. James' family for your continued generous support of our various projects.





Lawn and Garden



We are seeking volunteers to assist with maintaining the circle and watering the flowers this summer. The grass in the circle should be checked weekly (before Sunday) to determine if cutting and trimming is needed. The flowers will need to be watered throughout the hot and rainless days in the summer. Please let us know if you would love to help keep St. James' garden beautiful. A sign-up sheet will be available for the week or day you are able to help out.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee



Finances

As most of you are aware we are running a substantial deficit this year. We have asked everyone to catch up on pledges and if possible to add a few dollars every week to your pledge. For those who have done this we are very grateful!

We are also doing some things to address the areas that have gone significantly over budget. One is the oil bill. The heat was turned off earlier than usual and the furnace will stay off later into the fall than usual.

Another is the electric bill. We have contacted SMECO to try to figure out why our electric bill is so high considering that we had the audit and made changes that were suppose to show a savings.

And finally the copying expenses. We have put codes on the copy machine so that it cannot be used unless you have a code. This is not to stop people from making copies but to get a handle on what copies are being made. If you do not have a code and need to make copies please see Denise or Linda Mohler.

Comics by Joshua:



Our mission statement:

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

JUNE 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 9:45 AM Sunday School Classes</p>	<p>2  5:00 PM Community Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>3 4:30 PM Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>4 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>5 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>		<p>7   5:00 PM Pot Luck w/Old Durham @ St. James 7:00 PM Karaoke</p>
<p>8  Sunday School Awards after 10:30 Service 9:45 AM Sunday School Classes</p>	<p>9 3:00 PM Spiritual Direction Group</p>	<p>10 4:30 PM Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>11 7:00 PM Finance Committee 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>12 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14  14 JUNE FLAG DAY</p>
<p>15 Parish Picnic Only one service 10:00</p>	<p>16 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>17 4:30 PM Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>18 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>19 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 </p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 4:30 PM Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>25 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>26 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 </p>
<p>29 Parish Picnic Only one service 10:00</p>	<p>30  5:00 PM Game Night & Hot Dogs</p>	<p>1 4:30 PM Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>2 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>3 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>



St. James' Episcopal Church
7 Potomac Avenue
Indian Head, MD
20640

