



St. James' Episcopal Church Indian Head, Maryland



September 2013



Rector's Ramblings

Confirmation: I had a seminary professor who used to say Confirmation was a Rite looking for a Theology. This means that we have a liturgy for it but aren't really sure anymore why we do it. At one time Confirmation was required to be a full member of the church. You couldn't receive communion or serve on the Vestry or be a lay reader, or chalice bearer or really do anything unless you were Confirmed. Then the church went back to its ancient roots and restored Baptism to the Sacrament that gave a person full membership in the church. That means that once you are Baptized you can receive Communion (no matter how young), serve on Vestry, become a lay reader or chalice bearer or do anything else one can do in the Church. So, where does that leave Confirmation? Why get Confirmed?

For some people, especially those who grew up when you had to be Confirmed, it is still a right of passage. It is something that we are supposed to do, usually as a teenager if we are members of a church. But often what happens is young people hang in there at church until they are Confirmed and then we never see them again. They checked off the box, they did what was expected, they passed go and can keep on going.

What I have come to believe about Confirmation is that it is an adult affirmation of our Baptismal Vows of which most of us had someone else make on our behalf when we were babies. It is an affirmation of our faith. It is something one does when they feel they desire to commit themselves to God as best known through Jesus Christ and at this point in their lives anyway, the Episcopal Church is the faith community in which they wish to make this journey.

This is why I do not offer Confirmation Classes for young people who are 13, 14 even 16 years old unless that young person wishes to do this for themselves and not because their parents want it for them. It is too serious a commitment to take lightly.

Our church also offers two other options for people who have been Confirmed in a denomination that Confirms by a Bishop or who have been Confirmed and are an Episcopalian.. If you are new to the Episcopal Church and have been Confirmed, you can choose to be formally received into the Episcopal Church by a Bishop. This is called being Received. The other is Re-Affirmation and is for people who want to re-affirm their Baptismal Vows in a formal way.

And so having said all this, if you are interested in Confirmation, Reception or Re-Affirmation, please talk with me and I will set up a class. The Bishop offers these sacramental rites at the Cathedral and on her visits to churches each year. We would plan for a Spring service.

Peace,

Rev. Denise+



Message from your Senior Warden

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find..." Luke 11:9

I must confess that recently I had two very long nights where I did not sleep. I had spent those nights letting worry and doubt rob me of a peaceful slumber. Time had gotten away from me as time seems to do, and I was faced with a looming deadline. I have been tasked with seeking donations for our baskets for the Fall Bazaar. I am following in the formidable footsteps of Sue Denison who was so brilliantly in charge of our four previous bazaars. Now, you understand my concern and self-doubt. Although, I had some donations, I did not have nearly enough. On the third night, I obviously was extremely sleep deprived and my mind would not turn off or slow down. Finally, I prayed to God, and said, "Lord, I need to sleep, please take this worry from my mind, so that I can get some much needed rest. I am turning this over to you." After praying, a little time passed and I was able to sleep. The next day was a Sunday and the reading for that day was Luke: 11:1-13. I listened to the reading and Denise's sermon, and said to God "I hear you." It was my birthday, and we went out to celebrate. I trusted what the Lord told me to do, and I asked to speak with the manager. When she came to the table, I asked her to donate a gift card for our baskets. You guessed it: "Ask and you shall receive." God has blessed me with several donations, and I am delighted. I trust Him to help make our basket fundraiser a huge success. Having said all of this, if you would like to donate a gift card toward our baskets, I will happily and gratefully accept.



By Jr. Warden

The Jr. Warden says that she does not submit a write up when the Sr Warden sends hers!!
Ha, Ha!

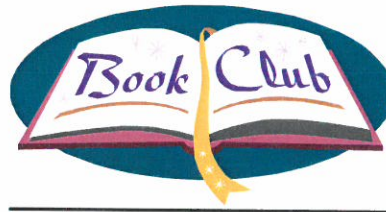
I will always be available to meet any needs you may have.

Love and Peace,
Adah

Denise's vacation schedule



Denise will be away on October 11 -19.



The Story

This year, we're doing something new. Starting the first week of Advent, the church new year, we are going to begin reading only one book. But, I think you'll agree, it's worth some special focus. It's the most important book you could think of — The Bible.

A study of over 1,000 Christian congregations recently determined that nothing has more effect on spiritual growth than scriptural reflection. And yet, many of us have never read the Bible and are not able to converse fluidly about its stories and their meaning in our lives.

We'll be using a Bible curriculum called [The Story](#). It divides the Bible into 31 segments and tells the Christian story in a narrative chronology. We'll cover one segment each week from December through the end of June. To participate, all you need is a Bible.

We will be following along with the Diocesan program "The People of the Way" as they too read through the Bible using The Story. **We will gather on Tuesday evenings, beginning on December 3rd from 6:30-8:30 in the parlor at the church for coffee, tea or whatever and start learning about the Bible.** This is for ANYONE and EVERYONE, you don't need to have ANY Bible experience at all.

If evenings are not good for you, let me know and if we get a group, we can find a day time to do this as well.

If you would rather do it on your own, you can just log into the Diocesan website and do it at home - www.edow.org/peopleoftheway, you'll see a calendar of 31 weeks of study. As we get to each week, its label will become a hyperlink that accesses a blog-type reflection and some questions for contemplation. It has everything you need to do a personal study.

I know that 31 weeks is a big commitment and not everyone will be able to meet each week and that is okay. We will do the best we can to meet weekly and if there are times we can't we can figure out how to get it all in. There will be a sign-up sheet on the board in November.

Haiti News

Hello everyone,

I just want to keep you updated as to what is happening with our Haiti project. I think I gave you some background on Jean Fils and his being moved from the church he was serving when I met him to a very poor, rural region of Haiti by the Bishop of Haiti because he supported someone the Bishop didn't want as Suffragan Bishop. Well it has happened again!

The Bishop got wind that Jean Fils was building partnerships and making things happen out there; so, he moved him to a new location.

The good news is that it is a place where his family can be with him and he is in the region where my friend Oge Beauvoir (who was the Dean at the Seminary when I was there and who is that very Suffragan Bishop the Diocesan Bishop didn't want) is. We hope that Oge will be able to keep Jean Fils there for a while now.

We, the Haiti Mission Committee at St. James', have decided to follow Jean Fils. We are doing this for two reasons. One is that there is no longer a priest whom we can trust to ensure the teachers are paid each month and who is committed to the quality education of the students as Jean Fils is. Two, the place that Jean Fils was moved to is not any better than it was other than there is water there.

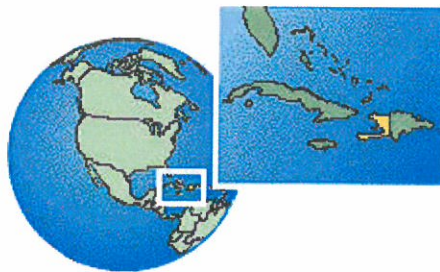
We will now be supporting the teachers and students of the Church of St. Mathieu in the city of Gonaives. Jean Fils arrived a few weeks ago and is still assessing the scope of the issues and challenges facing him there.

I hope you will still support our efforts to help bring a quality education to the children of Haiti. We are planning a trip to Haiti in February. Jean Fils can accommodate 15 people. I don't know if we have that many going but if you are interested in traveling to meet the people whose lives you are helping to change, just let me know.

Thank you so much for your support. We are sending the August payment this week.

Peace,

Denise

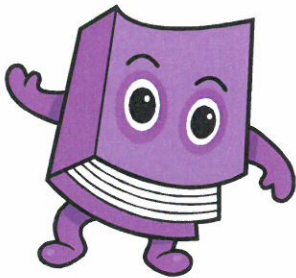


50/50 Raffles

50/50 raffles will be held to help fund the trip to Haiti. Tickets will be on sell at coffee hours and at all church events. The first drawing took place after the indoor yard sale. The next one will take place after the Ham and Crab Cake dinner on September 8.



Choir Rehearsal resumes on Thursday, Sept. 12 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 4th, starting at 10 am. Just meet in the kitchen - EEOC



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**.



St James' Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Please join us at the next ECW meeting on September 15 at noon and become a part of our committee. The ECW meets once per month, alternating between a 9:00 a.m. and a noon meeting time. All women of St. James' are welcome to attend. Please join us and have fun while helping to organize our Fall Bazaar in November and our Fashion Show in April, 2014. Please look on the church bulletin board to get the latest ECW news.

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

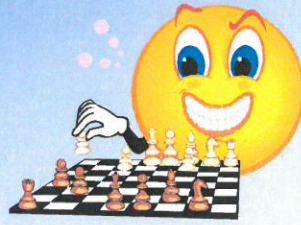
Free Community Spaghetti Dinner



Donations of \$349 were received at the free community spaghetti dinner held on July 29th. This money will be used to help local families with back-to-school needs and the children of Haiti.

The next spaghetti dinner will be held on **Monday, September 30th**. We are in need of spaghetti sauce and thin spaghetti.

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. Unfortunately we were unable to have the pool party due pool issues. Game Day, movie night, kayaking, and karaoke were a great success. If you were unable to attend think about joining us this fall. Keep your eyes and ears open for the announcement of future events. Also if you have any suggestions please see Brenda Peterson or myself.

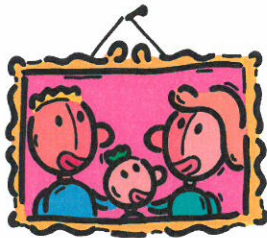
Love in Christ,

Adah



Save the Date - Prayer Breakfast

November 16, 2013 8:00-10:00



Picture Day



SAY CHEESE - FAMILY PICTURES AND A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 4 (2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) and Saturday, October 5 (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) when Lifetouch will be at St. James' to take pictures of you and your family. More details and rates will be available closer to the date. We will also update the church directory at that time.

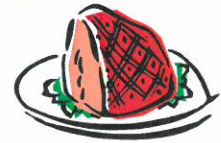


CWOD

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 14th, members of both churches will be gathering at St James' to discuss Stewardship (looking at some new ways of doing this and what has worked and what has not); Worship (ideas to help make our worship more meaningful especially looking at Advent and Christmas but also the "regular Sundays"); and Missions (what are we doing that we could work on together). As always, the food will be spectacular and the fellowship rewarding and who knows, you might even make a new friend! Oops I almost forgot to tell you that it is from 9 - 12. The next time we will gather at Old Durham so be on the lookout for that.



Ham and Crab Cake Dinner



Sunday, September 8, 2013

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 2014.



On Beads of Prayer Ministry

Beads of Prayer continues to meet twice a month. We will be sending 225 sets to Chaplin Rhindahl Oat Ft Drum, NY. We will be getting together on September 13th and the 28th as well as October 11th and the 26th. Please join us!

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. On August 22nd, NETS provided 100 back packs for area children at the Town of Indian Head Back to School Celebration. The Saint James' congregation provided 14 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!



To Erica Prasser and Janet Cooper

On behalf of the clergy and the congregation of St. James Church, we thank you for your service as an **Acolyte**. You have played an important role in helping to celebrate worship on Sundays, special occasions, and church holidays.

You approached with reverence, humility, and spiritual meaning.

We wish you the best in your future plans.

Please take this special prayer with you as you start college.

The serenity Prayer

God, grant me the **Serenity** to
accept the things I cannot change,
the **Courage** to change the things I can,
and the **Wisdom** to know the difference.

Amen

Best wishes,
Karen

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The 2013/2014 Sunday School season will start on September 15. 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 2013/2014 SUNDAY SCHOOL SEASON

Please take note of a few new events for this upcoming year as marked by an asterisk.

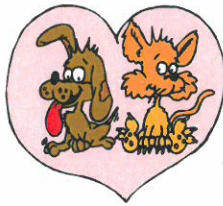
ST. JAMES' 2013/2014 SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

2013

September 15	Sunday School Begins
October 6	Blessing of the Animals Donate towels, sheets, dog food, detergent, etc. for animals Sunday School to meet following the blessing.
*November 2 (Saturday)	Fall Bazaar – Kids to help run a children's white elephant sale
November 3	All Saints Day Kids Dress Up Like Characters from the Hymn "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" – 10:30 a.m. Service (There will be a 9:15 a.m. service.)
November 24	Parent Breakfast (No 9:15 a.m. service)
December 1	First Sunday in Advent – Blended Service NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (No 9:15 a.m. service)
*December 15	Items due for Operation Shoe Box – Haiti (Children will create shoe boxes filled with supplies such as toothpaste, pencils, and other items that fit into a shoe box, to be donated to the Haiti children.)
December 22	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
December 24	Christmas Pageant
December 29	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
<u>2014</u>	
*January 24 (Friday)	Children's Movie Night
February 2	Annual Meeting – Blended Service NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (No 9:15 a.m. service)
*March 2	Pretzel Making Sunday (No 9:15 a.m. service) Meet at 10:15 a.m. to make pretzels Pretzels served at the coffee hour One of the children will read the story about the pretzel making and how it came to be.
*March 30	Sunday School to go Bowling
April 13	Palm Sunday Children Read the Passion at 9:15 a.m. Children's Service
April 20	Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt <u>after</u> the 9:15 a.m. Children's Service
May 18	Sundae Making Sunday <u>after</u> the 9:15 a.m. service Bring a Friend to Church



Special congratulations to all our High School Graduates:
Erica Prasser, Caryll Fusina, Brandon Litten and Janet Cooper



Blessing of the Animals And Holy Eucharist

When: 9:00AM on October 6th

Where: Outside at the St. Francis Statue



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 can increase your giving each week by a few dollars, this would help a great deal as well!

Mark your calendars and invite your friends...

The Bluegrass Gospel Express

band will be coming to worship with us!



When: Sunday, October 20, 2013

Where: St. James' Episcopal Church

7 Potomac Avenue

Indian Head, Maryland 20640

Time: 3:00 pm

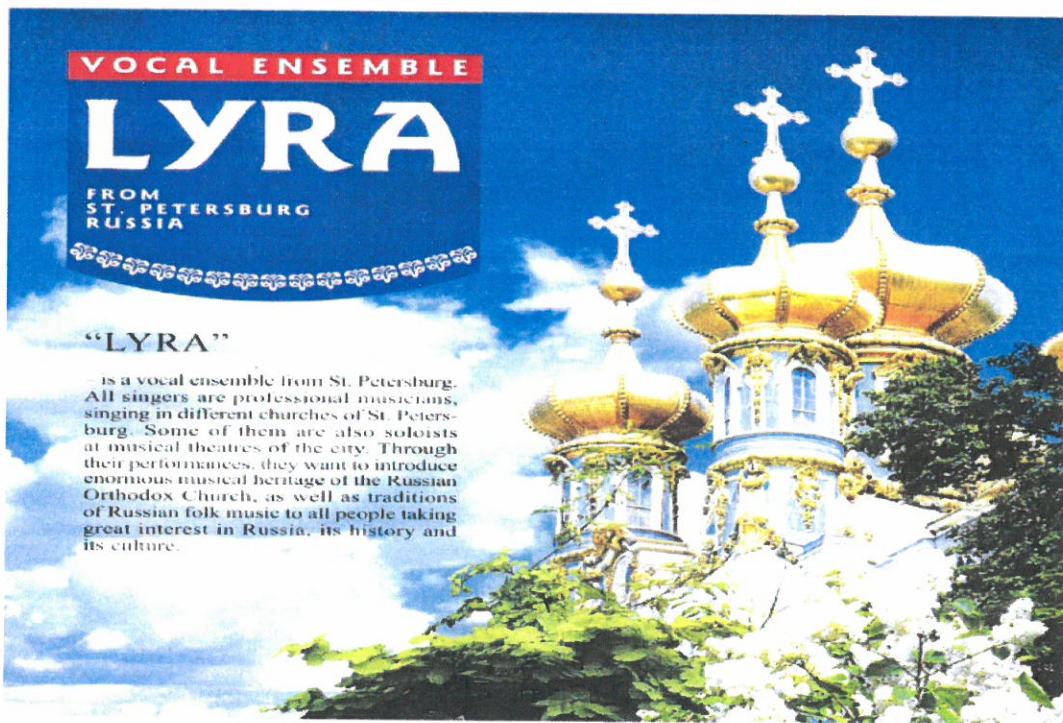
There will be a free-will offering taken to benefit

The Church of St. Mathieu in the city of Gonaives, Haiti.

Please join us for an afternoon of worship, beautiful music

and fellowship!

<http://bluegrassgospelexpress.com/>



“LYRA”

is a vocal ensemble from St. Petersburg. All singers are professional musicians, singing in different churches of St. Petersburg. Some of them are also soloists at musical theatres of the city. Through their performances, they want to introduce enormous musical heritage of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as traditions of Russian folk music to all people taking great interest in Russia, its history and its culture.

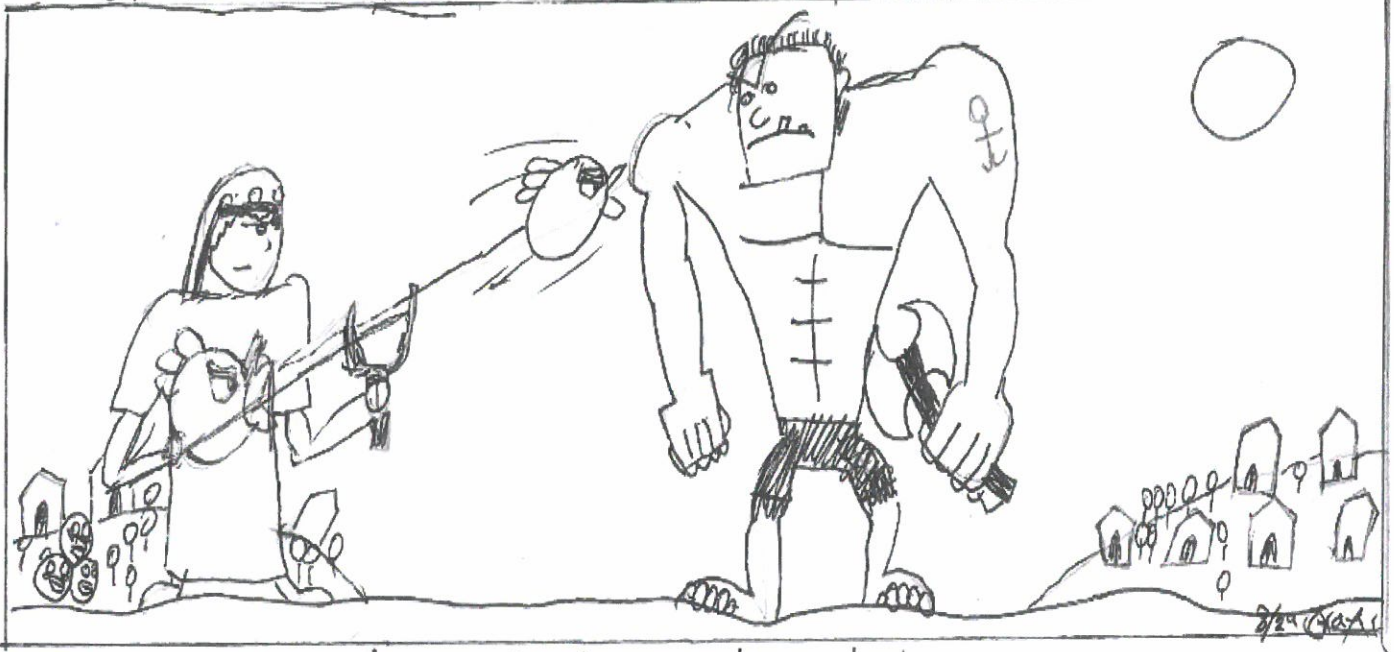
*Chants of Russian Orthodox Church
and folk songs from Russia*

**Friday, October 4th, 2013 at 7:00 PM
Christ Church Durham Parish
8700 Ironsides Road
Nanjemoy, MD 20662**

**Free will offering requested to defray travel costs
For information call Carl at 301-609-9664**



Beef head Bible Strips by Josh








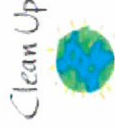
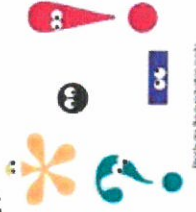




How Angry Birds was invented

Our mission statement:

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

SEPTEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2  LABOR DAY	3	4  9:00 AM Carrot Making Party 8:00 PM AA Meeting	5 8:00 PM NA Meeting	6	7  9:00 AM Prepping for the Dinner
8  9:00 AM !! One Service Today !! 3:00 PM Ham & Crabcake Dinner	9	10	11 7:00 PM Finance Committee 8:00 PM AA Meeting	12  Choir Practice Resumes 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	13  10:00 AM Beading	14 9:00 AM CWOD - Stewardship, Worship & Mission
15  12:00 PM ECW Meeting 9:45 PM Sunday School Starts Today	16	17	18 8:00 PM AA Meeting	19 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	20  Clean Up the World Weekend	21
22	23 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting	24  Punctuation Day	25 8:00 PM AA Meeting	26 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	27	28  10:00 AM Beading
29	30  5:00 PM Community Spaghetti Dinner	1	2 8:00 PM AA Meeting	3 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	4 7:00 PM Russian Vocal Group - LYRA	5