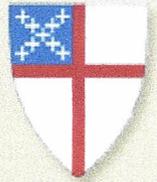




St. James' Episcopal Church Indian Head, Maryland



May/June 2012



Rector's Blog

Iona is amazing. It is beautiful here but also in some ways a harsh place. Even on a sunny day there is a constant wind blowing off the sea. Yesterday the temperature was in the mid 50's, but with the wind blowing it felt like the low 40's. Thank God the sun was out. I got here about 9:00 and dropped my stuff at the hotel and set off to explore. I came upon St. Oran's Chapel which is the oldest building on the island dating back to the 12th century. It is a small stone structure in the middle of a cemetery. There was a service going on so I just stood outside. I joined the service at what we would call the Prayers of the People. They invited me to read the psalm which I did. Most of the service was in English with a little Greek thrown in every now and then. It was a beautiful service and I was so glad that I happened by when I did. The Iona Community has residents who live there permanently and guests (about 80 a week stay at the Abby for a week at a time) and then the folks like me who are staying at hotels and inns. I then took a walk around the village and later went on a tour of the Abby. Nothing is left of the monastery that St. Columba established in 563 as the buildings would have primarily been wood and sod, so what is left was built much later. In spite of Viking raids and at least two slaughters of monks during these raids, the island has pretty much had a religious presence since 563. There is a small community of people who live on the island and are not part of the Abby. I think I read that population is around 90. Today is raining and cold. I plan on taking a short walk and then spending the rest of the day reading and keeping warm.

Also there are SHEEP! Lots of sheep and being Spring it is lamb season so lots of lambs! Most of you know, sheep, and in particular, lambs are my most favorite animals in the world. Everywhere you walk you see them in the fields and hear them baaing. Yesterday I watched these little twin lambs running up a hill baaing their little hearts out and then a mother turned and started baaing and running towards them. They met in the middle and the lambs rubbed up against their mom, it was so sweet. There are plain white sheep and black face sheep and yesterday I saw a black lamb in the middle of all the white ones, it was so pretty. My first night I walked into the dining room at the hotel and black face lamb was the special on the menu! I know it is a fact of life, but how could you watch those darling little creatures romping in the fields and then eat one for dinner? Needless to say I had the fish!

Lindisfarne is much different than Iona. It is larger, the village is much bigger, there are more tourists and it has the feel more of a national park than the Holy Island that it is. It is beautiful though with lots of birds of various kinds, seals, both white beachy and rocky shores and a castle. A little history of the island: the island was given to Aidan by the Anglo-Saxon King Oswald in 635 to bring Christianity to the Northumbrians. Aidan had traveled here from Iona where he had been a monk with Columba. It is from here that Christianity spread to the English speaking people of what is now England. The other Saint associated with Lindisfarne is Cuthbert. He was bishop and Abbot here after the Synod of Whitby and died here in 687. He was buried here and 11 years later when his body was exhumed it was found to be uncorrupted, a sign of sanctity. In 793 those nasty Vikings begin their raids until in 875 when the monks, taking Cuthbert's body, abandoned the island.

Here is a prayer of good wishes to you from the Celtic Tradition: I pray for thee a joyous life, Honour, estate and good repute, No sigh from thy breast, No tear from thine eye. No hindrance on thy path, No shadow on thy face, Until thou lie down in that mansion, In the arms of Christ benign.

Not much else to say, except I really feel God's hand in this whole experience. It is just amazing how things have continued to fall into place and gone so perfectly, like the weather.

Message from your Jr. Warden



If you hadn't noticed, a lot of little things are getting done at the church. We have Bonnie Richardson to thank for most of it. I'm sure Tom Peterson has had his hands in it too!

If you see something that needs to be fixed let me know.



I also want to thank Tom Peterson for making sure the lawn and our beautiful garden is being tended. Don't forget to pull a weed or two as you walk by.

In Christ's Love,

Adah



NETS

(Neighbors Eager to Serve)

Thanks to all for your donations for Easter Baskets. What a generous parish we have!

Thank you,

Barbara Prasser



Renewal Committee

Hello Everyone,

As our renewal time is coming to an end, I would like to look back at the retreats we were blessed to enjoy.

If you weren't able to make either of our retreats, you missed two great, informative and fun events. First, we were visited by Patience Robbins who facilitated our retreat entitled "Finding God in All of Life." On April 21, this retreat gave us a chance to connect with God through his beautiful gifts found in nature. It was literally a day for us to "stop and smell the roses." We also took time to reflect on the things that we are grateful for in our lives and also those things that didn't turn out quite how we planned. Roughly 25 members attended this retreat.

Then, on May 18 and May 19, Reverend Dr. Price facilitated a retreat for us entitled "Be Who You Are, Do What You Can." This retreat started on Friday night with all of us present (roughly 14 members) taking the Myers Brigg's personality test. This proved amusing and enlightening. We looked into why we are the way that we are and why we interact the way that we do. As a hypothetical situation, we were given one million dollars to plan and take a Vestry retreat. It was interesting to see how the different personality types set out to spend the money. You'll be happy to know that none of the groups spent all of the pretend money just on the eight Vestry members. Some of us had a plan that included taking all of the church members with us on a trip and some donated money to help out in Haiti. Reverend Price turned this into a fun-filled day. And, we learned a lot about each other in the process. We learned to be who we are and to do what we can.

The last of our renewal events is scheduled for Sunday, June 17. We will have our welcome home picnic for Denise. I hope that everyone can attend.

Blessings,
Sheila

Missions Committee

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

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



Free Community Spaghetti Dinner



Donations of \$277 were received at the free community spaghetti dinner held on March 30th. This money went to support local families in need.

The next spaghetti dinner will be held on **Monday, June 4th**. We could use some extra sauce.



St James' Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The ECW will not meet during the summer. Meetings will resume in the fall. If you haven't noticed, please take a look at the new up-right freezer which we purchased for our kitchen to replace the chest freezer. It is wonderful!

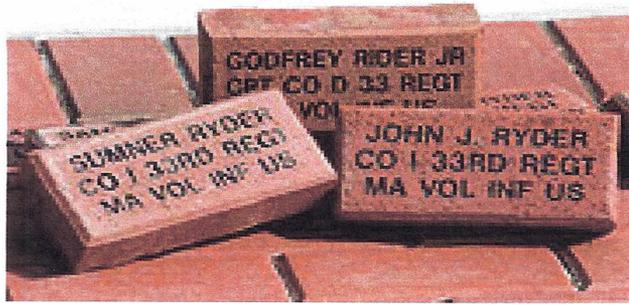
In Christ's love and peace,
Bonnie Richardson, ECW President

International Tea



Another **SUCCESSFUL** Tea!!!

We had a record number of people in attendance. This fundraiser brought in a net profit of \$1732. Thank you to all who helped with the planning, set up, food, and clean up. We couldn't do it without you.



St James' Memorial Walkway Fundraiser

We sold 88 bricks for our Memorial Walkway. All completed order forms were sent to the engraver on May 22, 2012. We expect to receive a proof of each brick by the first of June. Each person who purchased a brick will be asked to review the proof of his/her brick(s) and approve the wording/spelling prior to engraving. Once all the proofs have been approved, they will be returned to the engraver and we should receive engraved bricks within 4-6 weeks. Denison Landscaping will then install the walkway.

The walkway will consist of the original 88 engraved bricks as well as plain bricks. Plain bricks can be replaced with engraved bricks as additional memorial bricks are purchased. Thus the memorial will continue to grow.

To each of you, who purchased a brick, thank you for making this walkway possible. We hope that the walkway will be a source of comfort, peace, and beauty honoring you and your loved ones.

Thanks

We would like to extend a special Thank You to Reverend Thomas Clay for taking care of us for the last 3 ½ months. Job well done sir!!



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**.

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



FELLOWSHIP

In these past months we have enjoyed many activities. We saw an excellent play "Harvey", which was put on by the Port Tobacco Players in La Plata. The Flower Mart was another exciting trip taken by a few of us. The theme this year was Brazil. Lovely music, both voices and drums, and dance were presented to us.

Summer is here with many of you on vacation. Hope you had a good time, are having a good time, or the good time is yet to come.

Some up-coming events are: Blue Crabs Baseball Game, Kayaking followed by a picnic, Game Night and Ice Cream Social, and Karaoke. Dates are to be disclosed at a later time. Watch for the signup sheets.

The **BIGGEST, BESTEST** event is happening on June 17th. A great picnic on the Village Green to honor the return of our much loved **Denise**. Welcome Home! Be there or be square!!

Love in Christ, Adah

Sad News



Mary Pittman fell Sunday, May 27 at 3:00 am going to the bathroom in the hotel while in Oklahoma. She hit a glass coffee table and broke 3 bones in her neck and received several abrasions. She has been released from the hospital and moved to a rehab center where she can stay for up to 30 day. She is in a neck brace and has some paralysis in her arms from some pinched nerves.

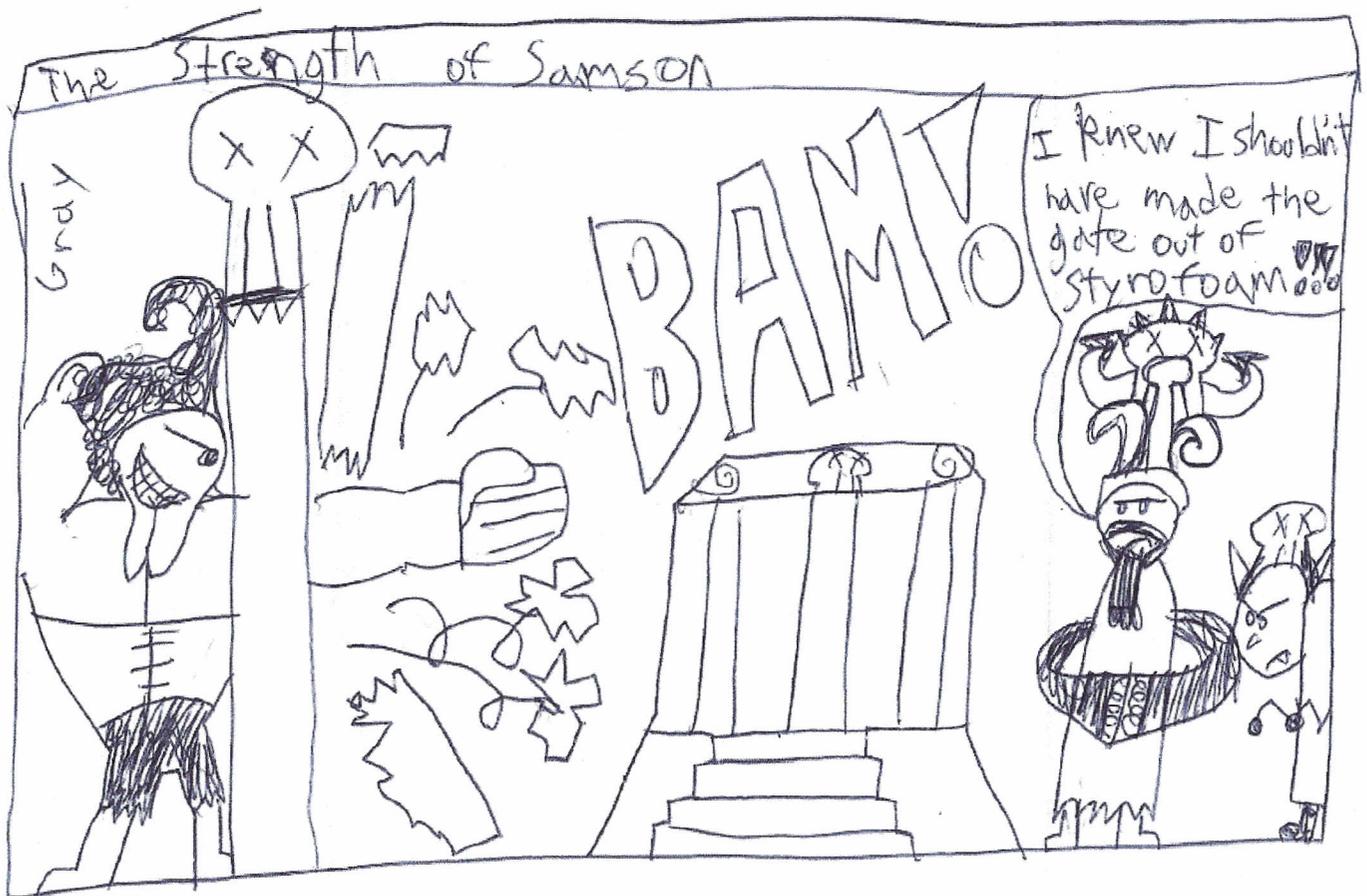
The family appreciates your prayers and Mary has been told that all of you send your prayers and well wishes. Her grandson's Episcopal minister has been visiting her everyday and that's a real comfort to her. If you would like to send a card please mail it to her grandson -

Mary Pittman
c/o Aaron Whitewolf
1017 Golden Eagle
Norman, OK 73072



The Newsletter Editors are thinking of adding a section here called 'What's Up In Our Parish'. This section will report on what you've been up to. Like Bob went to Tanzania and saw lots of neat stuff. Or Greg celebrated his 70th birthday while on vacation in St Petersburg. Or Shelby graduated High School with a 4.0 average. If we have enough interest AND folks send us information, we'll start running this next edition. So let us know what you think. If you don't know who 'us' is, just ask Brenda.

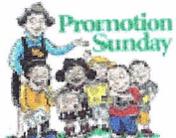
Comics by Joshua:



Our mission statement:

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

JUNE 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|--------|--|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 8:00 PM AA Meeting | 31 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting | 1 | 2 |
| 3  11:30 AM Sunday School Awards | 4  5:00 PM Community Spaghetti Dinner | 5 | 6 7:00 PM Knitting Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting | 7 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 7:00 PM Finance Committee 8:00 PM AA Meeting | 14 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting | 15 | 16  7:00 AM Fresh Veggies Day |
| 17  10:00 AM Welcome Home Denise | 18 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting | 19 | 20 8:00 PM AA Meeting | 21 8:00 PM NA Meeting | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26  "Forgive your brother or sister from your heart." MATTHEW 18:21, 23 7:00 AM Forgiveness Day | 27 8:00 PM AA Meeting | 28 8:00 PM NA Meeting | 29 | 30  HAPPY BIRTHDAY! |