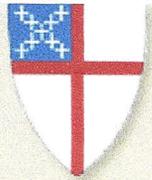




St. James' Episcopal Church Indian Head, Maryland



March 2011

Rector's Ramblings

Okay, I have a confession to make. It is Tuesday and this was due to Brenda by last Sunday and so I am trying to get something to her ASAP but my brain is just not cooperating. I know that Lent is just around the corner (Ash Wednesday is March 9th) and I should have something to say about getting ready for Lent but right now, quite honestly, I feel I have too much to do between now and then to get myself thinking about Lent.

Right now my head is filled with planning my Sabbatical or as the Lilly Foundation calls it, my renewal time. It isn't that I want to be there already, it's that the grant is due on May 12th and the Renewal (again trying to use the grant language) Committee and I have been hard at work trying to get it finished by the beginning of April. The grant asks for a great deal of detail on exactly where, what and how much. So I have been, thank God for the internet, spending a great deal of time looking at flights to Haiti, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Looking for car rentals in Scotland, Ireland and Wales, how much gas will cost. Did you know they sell it by the liter there and it is very expensive? I am calculating that to fill a 12 gallon tank will cost about \$90 in Ireland. Then places to stay and how much food will cost each day has to be calculated and this is all dependent on the value of the dollar and that certainly will not be the same next year as it is today but today is all we have to go on.

All this planning is making me both very excited and more than a little anxious. I am excited about the places I will get to visit and the experiences I will have and the hope of this all deepening my faith and my relationship with God. I am anxious about being away from all of you for three and a half months. About being away from Doug for two to three weeks at a time before he joins me; about being away from Sammy, Alex and Boo for a month at a time; about driving on the wrong side of the road; about being in Haiti where I don't speak the language (I am struggling through trying to learn French with the Rosetta Stone but I am NOT good with languages); about teaching a seminary course; about traveling alone and of course about flying so far and by myself.

But then I remember the words to the hymn in *Wonder, Love and Praise*, "Will you come and follow me?" The first line is "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known? Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?" As I think about these words, I know that I am being led to Haiti and Europe and if I let go of my fears and anxieties and trust, it will all be fine. Having faith isn't necessarily not having fears, it is about stepping, moving forward and doing it (whatever it may be) in spite of those fears trusting that God is with you on the journey and wherever it ends, it will be just fine. Hey, maybe I am focused on Lent after all.

Peace,

Denise +

LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER



Ash Wednesday - March 9th - There will be two services with Ashes and Eucharist - Noon and 7pm.



Wednesday Nights during Lent - Holy Eucharist at 6:30pm in the Church.

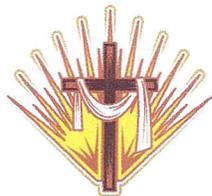


Lenten Bible Study - Sundays following coffee hour in parish hall (may move depending on our numbers). We will be studying the Gospel of Matthew. *This is for everyone, whether you have never OPENED the Bible before or you read it every day.*



Holy Week

- + Tenebrae - Wednesday at 7pm
- + Agape Meal and Eucharist - Thursday at 7pm
- + Stations of the Cross - Friday at Noon
- + Good Friday Service - Friday at 7pm



Easter

- + Easter Vigil - Saturday at 7pm
- + Regular Easter Services - Sunday 8:00 am, 9:15 am, and 10:30 am



Stewardship



Although our stewardship campaign is over (thank you to all who pledged and all who contribute each week) it is a good thing to have something on stewardship every now and then. One reason for this is to just remind people how important their pledge is. Another reason is that we are blessed with having new people in our church, people who joined at various times during the year who may have missed the stewardship campaign. Also, some people come from traditions that don't use a pledge program or perhaps don't have any previous faith tradition and want to know about "those envelopes that people put in the collection plate each week". So here are a few things about pledging that came from St. John's Broad Creek that might be helpful to all of us, old or new.

MYTH #3: The Annual Stewardship pledge is essentially a contract that is expected to be fully honored.

The pledge is a statement of intention. The amount is prayerfully arrived at and reflects the giver's desire to show true thankfulness for all the blessings of this life. The Bible establishes a standard of giving 10-percent of our yearly income as a just portion of God's gift that we are being asked to return. Since for some this is a very hard level to take on immediately, the Episcopal Church suggests that the pledge be based on a smaller percentage to start with. It is then much easier to "sneak up" on the 10-percent level by increasing ones giving level by one percentage point each year. Now, sometimes life's emergencies force a giver to miss the pledge target. Loss of a job or loss of one of the family bread-winners could make meeting the pledge impossible. Even if giving must be put on hold, the church will continue to be a source of love and support for that member, especially during such times of trouble.

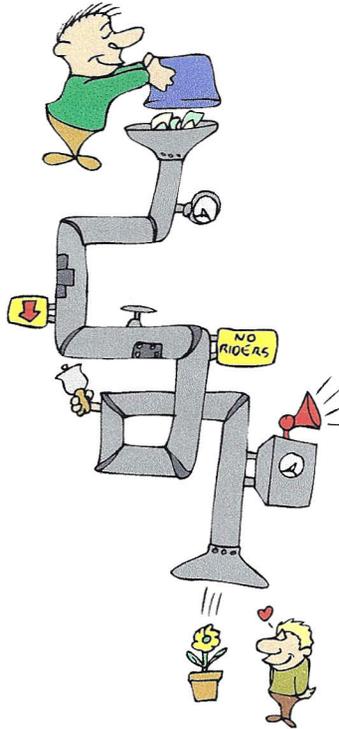
MYTH #4: Stewardship is all about money.

A Steward is someone who protects and nurtures someone else's property. A Christian steward is responsible for God's property: the gift of life and of this abundant earth, the love of Christ, the Holy Spirit within every human being, the love and fellowship of family and friends. Stewardship is a way for Christians to show heart-felt thanks for these gifts. The steward does so by serving the church in three basic ways: (1) utilizing ones God-given talents in service to the church community, (2) allocating meaningful time in support of the church's mission of outreach and (3) giving back a percentage of one's treasure to sustain the corporate body of the church: its programs, its staff and the physical plant. So, money is only part of the practice of stewardship.



Newcomers Gathering

Come one and come all! Get to know both old and new members of the church just a little bit better. Bring a dish/snack to share and enjoy the fun on **March 5 from 3-5pm.**



Sabbatical (Renewal) for Reverend Denise in 2012

By now everyone has probably heard that Reverend Denise is planning to take a three and a half month sabbatical starting in March, 2012. Her plan is to go to Haiti and prepare future Episcopal priests in caring for people in their most vulnerable states (times of sickness and death), go to Ireland and learn more about Celtic spirituality, spend quality time with her family, and finally, go to Wales. In order to fund this endeavor, Reverend Denise hopes to receive a grant from the Lilly Foundation. A committee has been formed to write the grant application.

The committee met with the congregation on January 9 to discuss the Sabbatical. A survey was distributed to receive the congregation's feedback, which is needed to complete the grant application. Thanks to all of you who completed the survey questions. There were over 40 received.

The committee met on January 17 to compile all of the information answered on the surveys. They met again on February 7 to start writing the application. The last meeting was on February 21 to continue the process of writing the application. Yet another meeting will be held on March 7 to continue the process. A copy of the completed application will be made available for all to see once it has been submitted.

Sabbatical Committee

Reverend Denise Sharyn Gantt
Duncan Creelman Sheila Gray
Sue Denison Bertha Gordon
Tom Peterson



St James' Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

ECW

All women are members of St James' ECW and are invited to attend our monthly meetings. They're usually held the second Sunday in the Costain House meeting room from 12:15 - 1:15 (the next meeting will be 27 Mar). As Mary Clagget was fond of saying, many hands make light work. Please prayerfully consider joining us; for "our yoke is easy and our burden is light". Your other Officers are Brenda Peterson - Vice President, Karen Burroughs - Secretary and Adah Morgan - Treasurer. We extend a special thanks to Jean Alice Artes and Barbara Prasser for their tireless dedication.

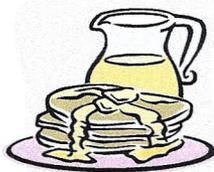
On 13 Feb we observed our third annual Women's Day, which Mittie Buchanan started. It was a blessing to see so many women and girls continue the tradition by wearing red and sitting together. John, his family, and VFW members watched as Rev Denise dedicated a podium in Mittie's memory.

The ECW will hold the Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner on Sun, 20 Mar, from 3 - 6 pm, with preparations on Sat, beginning at 9am. We kept the price at adults: \$15, children (5 - 12): \$7.50 and nibblers: free. We thank everyone for contributing to the success of this annual fundraiser.

We'd like to thank all the men, women and children for making St James' a wonderful place to worship and a beacon for the Indian Head community and western Charles County. Every person contributes and has an important role in making this Church so much more than brick and wood. Your loving kindness is evident in your thoughts, words and deeds. Thank you for being such a blessing to each other.

In Christ's love and peace,

Bonnie Richardson, ECW President



Shrove Tuesday - March 8 from 5:00-7:00pm

Adults - age 13 - \$8.00
Children - age 12-5 - \$5.00
Children under 5 - FREE

**Pancakes with butter, syrup, strawberries, and whipped cream
Also includes sausage, scrapple, eggs, applesauce**



FELLOWSHIP

Let's have as much fun as we can in 2011. It will be a time of inviting family and friends to enjoy fun with us as a part of our mission to share with others our love and faith.

Marine
Band
Concert
at 8th & I

Blue Crabs
Baseball

National
Cathedral
Flower Show

Kayaking

Game
Day

Game Night

Swim Party
and BBQ

Ice
Cream

Sunday Picnic

Events will all be posted on the bulletin board for sign-up. Keep an eye out for the things you want to do, better yet do them all!

God Bless You All,

Adah



5th Wheeler

St. James has been blessed with the donation by Boyce Maness of a beautiful, well-maintained 5th Wheeler. We are presently looking for a buyer. If you think you may be interested or know someone who is please call Thomas Peterson at 301-399-2779.

HAM, CORNED BEEF, AND CABBAGE DINNER!



Sunday, March 20th from 3:00- 6:00

Adults - age 13 - \$15.00

Children - age 12-5 - \$7.50

Children under 5 - FREE

Dessert is included in the price

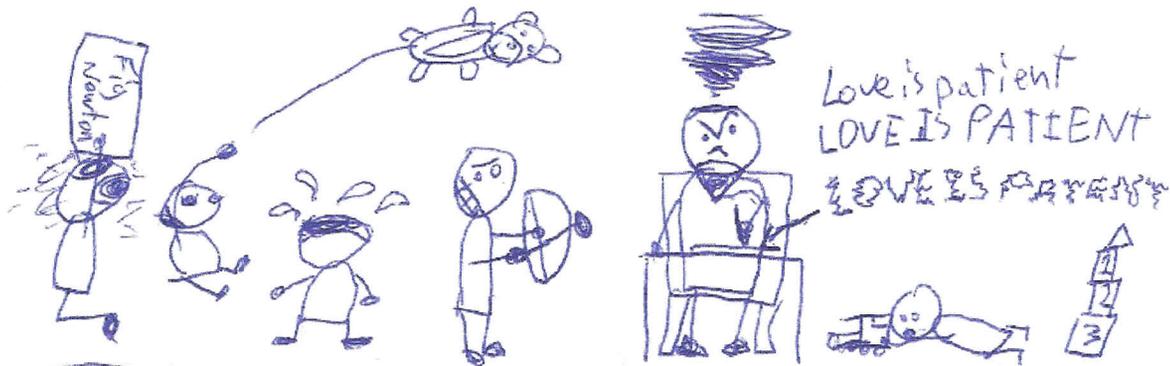
Additional Desserts Available for \$2.00

Prep day: Saturday - March 19th 9:00 - Noon

Please sign up to help and/or bring a dessert. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

COMICS by Joshua Gray

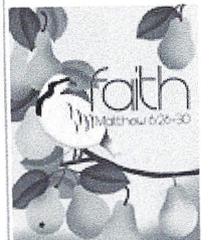
Pavl was a saint, christian, preacher
and an author of ~~several~~ several books in the Bible



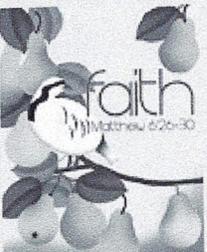
He was also a Sunday school teacher but that
only lasted 20 minutes

Joshua Gray

MARCH 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	1	2 8:00 PM AA Meeting	3 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	4	5 <i>New Members Are Joining</i> 3:00 PM Newcomers Party
6  9:00 AM Bishop Chane Visit - One Service at 9	7 6:30 PM Vestry Officer's Meeting	8  5:00 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	9  7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Finance Committee 8:00 PM AA Meeting	10 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	11	12
13  12:00 PM Annual Party at the Rectory	14	15	16 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting	17 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	18	19
20  12:30 PM Bible Study Begins 3:00 PM St. Patrick's Day Dinner Children \$7.50; Adults \$15.00; Desserts \$1.00	21	22	23 8:00 PM AA Meeting	24 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	25	26
27  12:30 PM Bible Study	28  5:00 PM Community Spaghetti Dinner	29	30 8:00 PM AA Meeting	31 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	1	2

APRIL 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p>  <p>12:30 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>5:00 PM Community Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <p>12:30 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>12:30 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 PM Vestry Officer's Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 PM Vestry Meeting 7:00 PM Finance Committee 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p>  <p>8:00 AM Palm Sunday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>7:00 PM Tenebrae Service 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>12:00 PM Stations of the Cross 7:00 PM Good Friday Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 PM Great Vigil of Easter</p>
<p>24</p> 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>



St. James' Episcopal Church
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