

AROUND ST. JAMES

SEPTEMBER

2007

OCTOBER

Rector's Ramblings

Service Schedule Change

There are so many things we do well here at St. James' and one of those is to provide lots of opportunities for our children. We have wonderfully dedicated Sunday school teachers, we have great Youth Group leaders, we have committed nursery attendants, and people willing to help out with Vacation Bible School, and other activities that go on throughout the year for our children.

We also provide a Sunday service designed to help prepare children for participation in worship. Until this year, that service has been three Sundays of a prayer service and one with a Eucharist. Since we are a church whose main worship service is Holy Eucharist, I feel strongly that the service we offer to our children should be a Eucharistic service every week just like the rest of the church participates in.

In order to accommodate a Eucharist each week for our children, we need to make a small shift in our later service time from 10:15 to 10:30. This would allow us to have the following schedule each week:

8:00 – Rite I

9:15 – Family Service, followed by Sunday school

10:30 – Rite II with Choir

We would like this minor modification in our Sunday schedule to go into effect on Sunday, September 9th which is also the first day of Sunday school. At this point we are talking about running the Family Service from September through May but may continue it through the summer months if there is a desire for it to continue.

Please, talk with me or any member of the Vestry if you have any questions about this change, I hope that it will not prove to be inconvenient for anyone and will allow us all to worship God in the tradition of the Church.

Rev. Denise+

Opportunities for Fun

The fellowship committee is planning to have monthly activities and events at St. James and here is the schedule so far:

September 22nd & 23rd - Home Coming weekend - Family Fun Day and Gospel Choir Concert followed by a pot luck dinner.



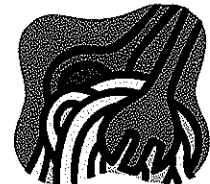
October - Pot Luck dinner and a Movie - Mexican Night

November - Dance Lessons



December 15th - Sight and Sound Theater trip

Community Dinner



Our next community dinner is September 24th from 6:00 - 7:30. We will be serving spaghetti again since it is good and it is easy to adjust as we see how many people we have. Please plan on coming, helping out or just eating. It is a wonderful opportunity to extend the ministry of hospitality to our neighbors.

Home Coming Weekend

The first annual St. James' Church Homecoming Weekend is September 22nd and 23rd. The 22nd will start with a family Fun Day with all kinds of kid friendly activities. At 4:00 that afternoon we will be having a wonderful Gospel Concert featuring Marnell Tanner well known recording artist who was featured on channel 9 news a few months back. After the concert we will be having a pot luck dinner, so bring a dish and come enjoy an evening of music, food and fellowship. Sunday morning worship will celebrate our community and praise God for his abundant blessings. Please join us.



Woman's Bible Study



The Women's Bible study will start up again on Monday, September 10th. We will meet from 11:00-Noon in the Rector's Office. Please join us for a morning of fellowship and Scripture. No Bible study experience needed.

First Communion

Several parents have asked when it was appropriate for their children to start taking Communion. Many of you remember the days when you had to be Confirmed before you could receive Communion. This was the case prior to 1979 and the "New Prayer Book". When the Church went back to the ancient days of early Christian worship to look at how it was done, it was discovered (Acts is very clear on this) that Baptism was the only initiation into the Church and once someone was Baptized, they were a full member and able to fully participate in the life of the Church. So, Baptism became the only requirement for receiving Communion.

However, not everyone is comfortable preparing their children for receiving Communion, part of the reason is that because it is something we take very seriously, we think there has to be a deep theological understanding to it. It doesn't have to be that complicated. However, there should be some understanding on the part of the person receiving no matter how old they are. Children understand the Eucharist differently than adults and that is okay, we all grow in our understanding of that experience as we grow and mature in our faith even as adults.

Having said all this, I will be offering a "First Communion Class" on Sunday, September 26th at Noon in the church. This will last about an hour and it will be a chance to talk with the kids about the Eucharist, let them see and touch the wafers, and practice how we receive Jesus into our hearts and bodies. Children of all ages are welcome. We will then have a "First Communion Sunday" as part of our Homecoming weekend, and invite the children and their families to come up first for Communion on that day. Remember, there will be one service at 9:00 on that Sunday. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Rev. Denise

Choir Practice

Adult Choir is on Thursday's 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Beginning September 6th !!!



St. James Youth Group

We are looking for 6th – 12th grader's to join the St. James Youth Group. We have a lot of fun and ministry work planned for the upcoming months. If you are interested in attending a meeting to see if we are what you are looking for in September we are meeting on September 9 & 30th. If you have any questions please see Michelle Prasser or Ron Litten.

Prayer List Update

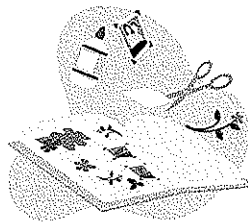
This is a new section for our church newsletter. This section will be for updating the congregation on the people we have been praying for on the sick and military list. So if you have information on someone on the list and they don't mind you updating the congregation on their condition please email Shelley Prasser at ShelleyP65@comcast.net.

The following is a update on Ryan Ramos that is on the prayer list:

For those of you who don't know who Ryan Ramos is, he is the grandson of Ron and Michelle Prasser. He was born with Cerebral Palsy and when he was 4 months old he suffered a stroke. So he has had a difficult time from the start, but by the grace of God he is improving week by week. He is now 2 years old. Although he still does not walk he has

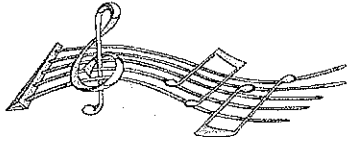
learned to pull himself up and to crawl. He is starting school in September where he will learn day to day living skills. He recently started wearing eyeglasses, which has improved his eyesight tremendously. Please continue to keep him in your prayers, because that is what keeps us encouraged.

Remember if you have an update on someone and won't mind sharing with the Congregation please email me or give me a call at (301) 743-7515



Nursery

We now have nursery staffed by adult volunteers each Sunday at the 10:15 service. Thank you to Ron Litten, Jean Alice Artes, Nancy Ahern and Mittie Buchanan. We have a good number of children in the nursery on Sundays and could use a few more volunteers to be present so if a child needs one on one attention there is someone else to remain with the other children. If you are interested in helping out with this important ministry, please talk with one of the volunteers or with Rev. Denise. The commitment is only once a month.



HISTORY OF CHURCH HYMNS

It Is Well with My Soul - by Horatio Spafford

The author of this hymn was a layman, a lawyer and professor of medical jurisprudence from Chicago who maintained a close friendship with D.L. Moody and other Christian leaders. During the 1871 Chicago Fire, Spafford lost all of his real estate holdings. The year before his son had died.

In order to assist Moody in a Great Britain campaign, Spafford planned to travel there with his wife and four daughters. Due to business commitments, he was unable to travel with his family, but planned to join them within a few days.

On November 22, 1873 two ships collided; Mrs. Spafford was rescued, but their four daughters were lost. While Horatio Spafford sailed to join his grieving wife, it is believed that he penned the words to this hymn, including the words, "When sorrows like sea billows roll...." In the face of overwhelming tragedies, he was able to declare, "It is well with my soul."

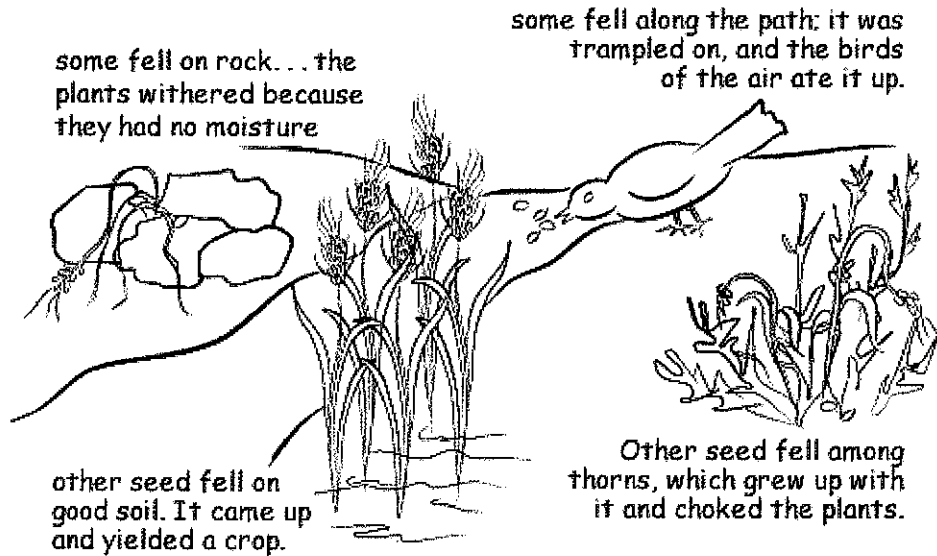
After the tragedy, the Spaffords had two more children: a son, Horatio, born 1876, and a daughter, Bertha, born two years later. Sadly, young Horatio contracted Scarlet fever and died at the age of four. Then in August 1881, the Spaffords set out for Jerusalem as a party of 13 adults and 3 children to set up the American Colony a Christian Utopian society. (To find out more on the American Colony visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Colony). Spafford died on October 16, 1888 at the age 60 from malaria and was buried in Jerusalem.

Sowing Seeds

Luke 8:4-15 (NIV)

Jesus often used word pictures to teach the people. These stories were called Parables. They were meant to illustrate some truth. The people did not always understand, but Jesus was happy to give an explanation to those who wanted to know more. A picture story often helps us to see the point being made and to remember it better. One such story is the parable of the Sower in Luke 8:4-15. Below you can see the story in a picture.

A Farmer went out to sow his seed ...



some fell on rock... the plants withered because they had no moisture

some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.

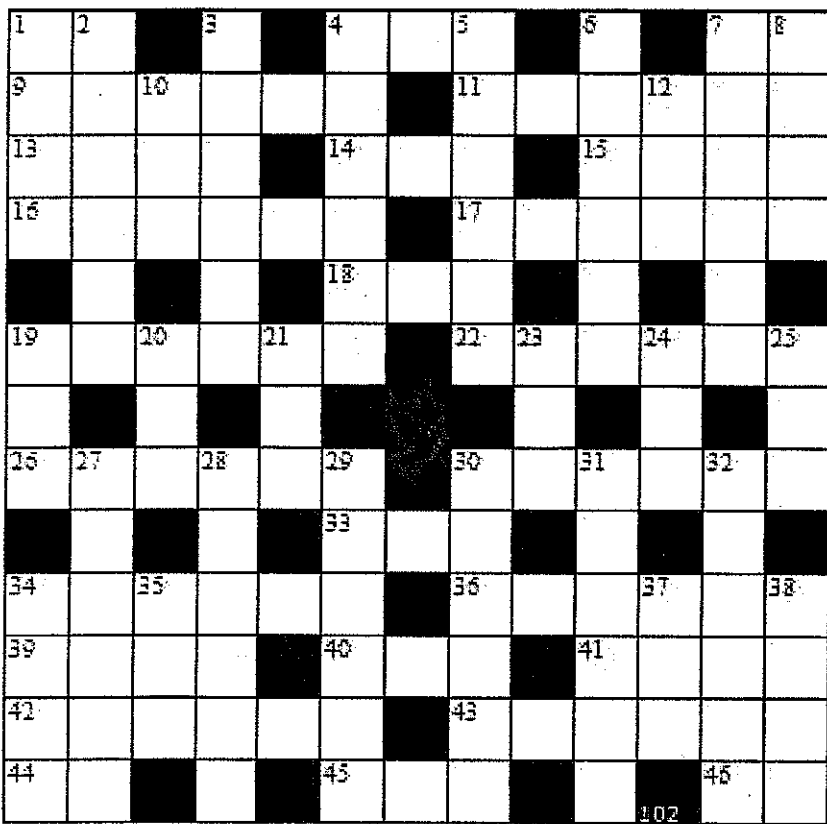
other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop.

Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.

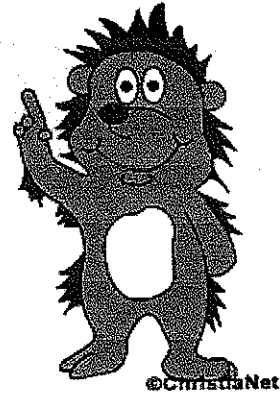
Read Luke 8:11-15 to see how Jesus explained this Parable and fill in the blanks below. Draw a line from the answer to the part of the picture that illustrates it.

The seed is the _____ of God. (vs.11)

<p>... the _____ comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not _____. (vs.12)</p>	<p>... believe for a while, but in time of _____ they fall away. (vs.13)</p>
<p>... hear, but as they go on their way they are _____ by life's worries, _____ and pleasures, and they do not mature. (vs.14)</p>	<p>... those with a noble and _____, who hear the _____, retain it, and by persevering produce a _____. (vs.15)</p>



Trust God in every sticky situation!



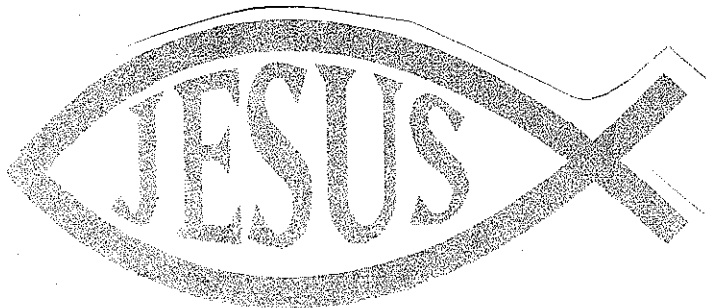
ACROSS

- 1 " ___ ! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? (Luke 4:34)
- 4 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on ___ and wine (Luke 10:34)
- 7 You brood of vipers! Who warned you ___ flee from the coming wrath? (Matt 3:7-8)
- 9 Do to ___ as you would have them do to you (Luke 6:31)
- 11 they ran both together: and the other disciple did ___ Peter (John 20:4) KJV
- 13 He sacrificed for their sins once for all ___ he offered himself (Heb 7:27)
- 14 Saul tried to ___ him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him (1 Sam 19:10)
- 15 the devil threw him down, and ___ him (Luke 9:42) KJV
- 16 the borrower is servant to the ___ (Prov 22:7)
- 17 There were ___ in the earth in those days (Gen 6:4) KJV
- 18 what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the ___? (Matt 24:3)
- 19 All this I have told you so that you will not go ___ (John 16:1)
- 22 the pot is to be scoured and ___ with water (Lev 6:28-29)
- 26 For there is a ___ time and procedure for every matter (Eccl 8:6)
- 30 Tell the Israelites to turn back and ___ near Pi Hahiroth (Ex 14:1-2)
- 33 Peter replied, "Even if ___ fall away on account of you, I never will." (Matt 26:33)
- 34 as one wipes a dish, ___ it and turning it upside down (2 Kings 21:13)
- 36 my words that I have put in your mouth will not ___ from your mouth (Isa 59:21)
- 39 ___ for that day! For the day of the LORD is near (Joel 1:15)
- 40 The breath of God produces ___, and the broad waters become frozen (Job 37:10)
- 41 Jesus was led by the Spirit ___ the desert to be tempted by the devil (Matt 4:1-2)
- 42 But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your ___ endures (Ps 102:12)
- 43 Set on the great pot, and ___ pottage for the sons (2 Kings 4:38) KJV
- 44 an enormous r ___ dragon with seven heads and ten horns (partial word) (Rev 12:3)
- 45 They do it to ___ a crown that will not last (1 Cor 9:25)
- 46 Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven ___ they were eating (Mark 16:14)

DOWN

- 1 Hyenas will ___ in her strongholds (Isa 13:22)
- 2 Men of ___ ! I see that in every way you are very religious (Acts 17:22)
- 3 Speak the truth to each other, and ___ true and sound judgment (Zech 8:16)
- 4 the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ___ (Lev 11:13) KJV
- 5 No ___ will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham (Gen 17:5)
- 6 None who go to her return or ___ the paths of life (Prov 2:19)
- 7 the ___ and the crane and the swallow (Jer 8:7) KJV
- 8 lofty trees will be felled, the tall ___ will be brought low (Isa 10:33)
- 10 as a ___ gathers her chicks under her wings (Matt 23:37)
- 12 Peter, however, got up and ___ to the tomb (Luke 24:12)
- 19 the sucking child shall play on the hole of the ___ (Isa 11:8) KJV
- 20 where ___ or three come together in my name, there am I with them (Matt 18:20)
- 21 Blessed ___ the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God (Matt 5:9)
- 23 placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the ___ (Luke 2:7)
- 24 Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the ___ (Gen 41:49)
- 25 send Lazarus to ___ the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue (Luke 16:24)
- 27 they that passed by ___ on him, wagging their heads (Mark 15:29) KJV
- 28 a place of confinement (Judg 16:25)
- 29 He got up and rebuked the wind and the ___ waters; the storm subsided (Luke 8:24)
- 30 David was the youngest: and the three ___ followed Saul (1 Sam 17:14) KJV
- 31 Joshua ___ on stones the law of Moses which he had written (Josh 8:32)
- 32 He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister ___ (John 11:1)
- 34 which brought fish, and all manner of ___, and sold on the Sabbath (Neh 13:16) KJV
- 35 He would plunge it into the ___ or kettle or caldron or pot (1 Sam 2:14)
- 37 Go to the ___, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! (Prov 6:6)
- 38 part of the foot (plural) (Dan 2:41)

Simply



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SAVE THE DATE!

"A Walk to End Homelessness in Charles County"

SPONSORED BY THE
CHARLES COUNTY HOMELESS AND EMERGENCY SHELTER COMMITTEE

*Join Our 5th Annual
3 Mile Walk*

Saturday, November 17, 2007

La Plata Town Hall
305 Queen Anne Street
La Plata, Maryland

Registration starts at 7:30am
(Pre registration is strongly encouraged)
Walk begins at 9:00am

*Proceeds benefit the Safe Nights Program, a temporary
homeless shelter for Charles County residents.*

Registration information and
contributions are being handled through:
LifeStyles of Maryland, Inc.
P.O. Box 1794
La Plata, MD 20646
301-609-9900

*"A Walk to End Homelessness in
Charles County"*

Saturday, November 17, 2007

Sponsored by the
Charles County Homeless and Emergency Shelter Committee

Registration Form
(Please Print)

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone #: () _____

Evening Phone #: () _____

Email: _____

Number of Adults: _____ Number of Children: _____ (under 12 years of age)

I will be walking as a(n):

- Individual - \$20.00
 Team Member - \$15.00 (5 or more participants)

TEAM NAME: _____

Registration fee enclosed: \$ _____

I am unable to walk, but please accept my donation: \$ _____

Waiver and Release of Liability

I hereby waive all claims against the Charles County Homeless and Emergency Shelter Committee, sponsors, and personnel for injury I may suffer in this event.

Signature: _____

X: _____ Date: _____

(Parent/Guardian signature is required if the walker is less than 18 years of age)

Make checks payable to:
LifeStyles of Maryland, Inc.
P.O. Box 1794, 612 E. Charles Street, La Plata, Maryland 20646
Phone: 301-609-9900

Tatanka

One of the reasons we ended up traveling to South Dakota this summer was to visit St Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain. I've always had a special place in my heart for the plight of the Native American. About 15 years ago I started donating money to St Joseph's because I believe in giving these kids the opportunity to make healthy choices in their life's journey. St Joseph's provides an environment so different from the alcohol and drug problems so rampant in their home communities. Little did I realize that what lay further down the road would so deeply touch me.

There isn't enough space here on this page nor are my words adequate enough to describe what Brenda and I found in the Black Hills. I still can't figure out how I never heard of the Crazy Horse Memorial. A young orphaned boy, Korczak Ziolkowski, started daydreaming about doing a mountain sculpture when he was just 13. A little over 30 years later Chief Henry Standing Bear began writing to him. Two men from totally different cultures shared a common dream. You see, Borglum was up the road a piece working on Mt Rushmore at the time and Chief Henry Standing Bear figured it would be a good time to get started on a project to create a memorial to the Native American. Korczak accepted and off he went, leaving behind the comforts of Connecticut.

Korczak arrived in the Black Hills on May 3, 1947 and got started. He spent the next 36 years, until his death in 1982, pursuing his dream, overcoming some of the most overwhelming obstacles imaginable. No, it's not finished, and it won't be for many years to come. But the dream is alive and the work is progressing.

We drove all around the Black Hills and went by Mt Rushmore many times before we actually decided maybe we better stop and check it out. What we found turned out to be another dreamer, another man who was dedicating his life's work to the plight of the Native American. Paul LaRoche was performing there with his band, Brule. The music was haunting and stirred my spirit at a grassroots level. In between songs Paul spoke briefly and described his dream.

Paul was adopted when he was just 6 weeks old. He grew up in the White World of Worthington, Minnesota, a small rural community. He always knew he was adopted. But, when Paul was 38, he was contacted by a man who said he was his biological brother and lived on the Indian Reservation of the Lower Brule Lakota Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. "Hey Bro", the man said, "You're Sioux!" Can you imagine? Looking at your arms and legs for 38 years and finally one day you discover why they look like that? Paul and his brother Fritz spoke often and one conversation ended with Fritz saying "Come home, come home!"

Paul went home. He has since dedicated his life to the reconciliation of two diverse cultures. Paul's medium is his music. Paul says: "The observance of Christ's birth is a time for reunion of the family and a season that transcends language barriers, national boundaries, and racial distinctions. Our message is clear: The hope for all nations and people begins with the birth of every child. In the innocence of every newborn, let us see the way to peace on earth and good will to all."

Two men - two dreams - One Great Spirit!



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