

AROUND ST. JAMES

NOVEMBER

2007

DECEMBER

Rector's Ramblings
Rev. Denise E. Cabana

Autumn is officially here and although I have conceded to closing my windows, I still struggle with putting shoes on my feet and retiring my sandals for the season. I do love this time of year, the color of the trees, the cool crisp days and deep blue skies. I guess because the church year doesn't get really rolling until the Fall, it always seems like the start of something. One of the things that Fall marks the start of is our annual stewardship campaign.

This year we are beginning a new way of looking at stewardship, one that you will be hearing more and more about over the next year. In essence, we are shifting our approach from thinking of stewardship as a once-a-year pledge appeal to approaching it as year-round process that focuses on all what stewardship really is--that it is a part of our every-day lives and a part of the way we live into the abundance that God has blessed us with, both individually and collectively.

Now this doesn't mean we are constantly going to be asking for money, although what we do with our money is a big part of it, but also, how we use our time and talents and how we plan for the future of the church, both short and long term, even after we die.

We are so blessed here at St. James'; I am amazed at the ways God has blessed us: open and generous hearts; warm and welcoming hospitality; caring, loving individuals responding to the hungry, the homeless, the poor, and even to God's four legged creatures; laughter and fellowship; people with all kinds of gifts and skills. Oh, yes we are so blessed here! Stewardship is about sharing our blessings; it is about responding to God's love for us and giving back to God. We say this prayer at the time of the Offertory each week: "All things come of thee O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee." Stewardship is about believing in and living these words.

We have a vision for our future here at St. James' that I truly believe comes from God's vision and mission for us. It came out of the Holy Cow survey we recently participated in. The fact that St. James' parishioners' responses were consistent across ages and length of time at this church is so remarkable that it has to be divine intervention! They also fit nicely into the St. James' mission statement: "The mission of St. James', through the grace of God, is to pray, worship, and proclaim the Gospel to all through our ministry of peace and love." We all need to learn this statement and live it. We also need to become familiar with our goals for the next year and do our part to make these goals a reality as we strive to live our mission and to attain our vision.

What I am asking each of us to do during this season of Autumn, at this start of something new, is to think about, and pray about, our own personal stewardship of money, time and talent, and as we make plans for achieving our goals for the upcoming year, discern what part each of us can play to make this a reality, to bring about God's Kingdom on earth, right here and now, in the time and place God has led us to.

Opportunities Abound

There are so many things going on at St. James' these days and the facilities are looking great. The new windows in the parish hall and nursery not only look good but do a great deal for our energy efficiency – no more drafts coming in and our heat or air conditioned air leaking out. The only building left to do is the old rectory that we now use for offices, meeting space and Sunday School class rooms.

We are inviting you to buy a window in memory or in honor of someone you love. The cost of a window is \$300 a piece. These are the same double hung, energy efficient windows we have put in the rest of the windows. We will make a plaque to hang in the parish hall that has the name of the benefactor as well as the person (s) the window is given for. If you would like to buy one or more windows, please make your checks out to St. James' Church, in the memo write "windows" and attach a note with the name(s) of the person or persons the window is given for. One of the men who installs the windows was so impressed with our church that he has committed to buy the last window we need himself (and he doesn't own the company).

Another opportunity to honor a loved one is by purchasing one of the *Wonder, Love and Praise* hymnals. These hymnals have some of the more contemporary hymns of the Episcopal Church in them and we have been hearing some of the music as the choir as sung from them over the past few months. These hymnals are \$16.00 a piece and will be inscribed on the inside cover with the names of those who purchased them as well as the person who is being honored or remembered.



Woman's Bible Study



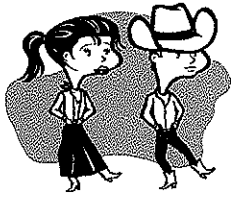
The Women's Bible study meets on Mondays from 11:00-Noon in the Rector's Office. Please join us for a morning of fellowship and Scripture. No Bible study experience needed.

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 November we are meeting on the 18th. If you have any questions please see Michelle Prasser or Ron Litten.

Adult Bible Study

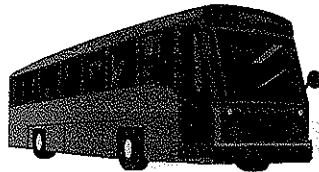
Will meet Sunday afternoons from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m., in the meeting room (old kitchen) in the rectory. The study is on the Gospel of Mark. It will last five weeks beginning on 9/23 and run on the following dates 9/30, 10/14, 10/21, and 11/4. All are welcome!



Coming and Going

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

On Saturday, November 3rd we will be having a night of dancing, laughter and fun! Our own Joan Shaw will be teaching Country Line Dancing in the parish hall from 7:00-9:00. This event is open to all ages, couples, singles, everyone. Come and have fun!



Sight and Sound Trip

The trip to Pennsylvania to the Sight and Sound show is coming up. **The bus will be leaving at 8:00AM from the St. James' Church parking lot.** Bring a bag lunch and a few dollars for a gratuity for our bus driver (this is customary). We will be stopping on the way home for dinner and plan to be home by 8:30 that evening. If you have not made your final payment, please do so as soon as possible.



Clean up Day



The Fall/Winter clean up day is scheduled for Saturday December 8th from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00. p.m. There is a lot to do to spruce up the church and get ready for the winter months so please come for an hour, two, or the whole time to help out. Bring rakes and other cleaning materials. Lunch will be provided.

Worship Opportunities – Mark your Calendars

Thanksgiving Day

Come give thanks and praise to God for all the blessings we have been given. A service of Holy Eucharist will be held at 9:00 on Thanksgiving morning.



Advent

December 2nd IS the First Sunday in Advent. We will be having one worship service that morning at 9:00 and it will be a service of Advent Lessons and Carols which will also include Holy Eucharist. Please join us for a special marking of the season.



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve - 7:00PM & 10:00PM. Christmas Morning - 10:00AM.



Jesus' Birthday Party

Come join the Sunday school Children in the celebration of the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus on Sunday, **December 16, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.** We will be celebrating with a play, music and fellowship. We will also have a special visitor!



Christmas Cantata

The St. James Choir will be presenting the Christmas cantata, "*Touched By a Child, Touched By a King*" on Sunday, December 23rd 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Please come and join us in this musical celebration of our Savior's birth.

"O come All Ye Faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"



Christmas Concert

We are celebrating into the 12 days of Christmas this year with a wonderful Christmas Concert on **December 29th** **starting at 3:00.** The concert is a return visit of Marnell Tanner and Southern Mix. Marnell is also bringing a special guest to

perform some pieces with him, Ruth Leeds. Marnell and Ruth have been singing together for years now and do wonderful duets. The concert will be followed by a pot luck dinner in the parish hall. There will be a free will offering at this event.

Greetings from the Buildings & Grounds Committee,

It's been a very exciting and productive year. We're really thankful for all the many ways the Lord has blessed St. James' this year with windows, air conditioning, heat, paint, carpet, grass etc. We're asking Parishioners to "purchase a window" in the old rectory to provide the final energy efficient windows (see Rev. Denise, Po or Bonnie for details). This will help stretch our B & G budget (it's already tighter than a banjo string - but it's been money well spent). We ask God's grace to finish all such good works as He has prepared for us to do.

The Building and Grounds committee will host our annual Fall Parish Preparation/Cleanup day on Saturday, 8 Dec. Come on out and join us (it's always a hoot when Doug, Tom and Po get together) as we get things ready for the winter. And this year, we'll feast on hot dogs, or sandwiches, or maybe soup.

Bonnie, Buildings & Grounds co-chair

Greetings from the Junior Warden!

Our first annual Homecoming celebration was a great success; we already have many great ideas for next year! Although it didn't turn out just as we'd planned (former members reminiscing about the old times), we reached out to new folks. A special thanks to our musical guests and all those who worked so hard to prepare for it.

Last month's Annual Ham and Crab cake dinner went very well. Thanks again to all who gave of themselves through their hard work and dedication. Some folks (like Barbara) continue to give until it hurts, and then some.

Thanks to all who support the Coffee Hour, whether through delicious dishes or monetary contributions. Week by week, our Parish benefits from your generosity.

Many folks are looking forward to the upcoming concert and Annual Christmas Tea (see Karen or Jackie for details) and the Sight and Sound trip (see Mittie for more info). There've been a lot of behind-the-scenes preparations to coordinate these events.

Our women need to determine the road ahead for the St. James' ECW. To work around holidays and not interfere with scheduled events, it looks like 9 Dec is the next available Sunday. Whether you've been involved with the ECW before or not, I invite you to pray on this. Bring your thoughts and ideas, whatever they may be, and attend a short meeting during the 9 Dec Coffee Hour. Let us collectively and prayerfully decide how to proceed.

A special hello goes out to Ida Mae DeMarr, to cheer her as she continues to regain strength.

May the Lord richly bless the Litton family and comfort them in their time of loss. St. James' parishioners stand ready to help in any and every way we can.

St. James' congratulates Cathy Jenkins and Cedric Welch as they greet and cherish our newest member. We'd like to extend a warm (and overdue) welcome to their little bundle of joy!

Bonnie, Jr. Warden

Bible Word Search: Music

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters in the correct order to spell the **Mystery Word**. To work the puzzle on paper instead: Print this page and circle each letter of the words you find.

H	K	G	L	A	P	M	U	S	I	C	I	A	N	S
T	I	E	N	A	L	P	S	A	L	T	E	R	Y	L
I	N	N	O	I	T	A	T	N	E	M	A	L	N	A
A	G	I	S	T	K	N	N	I	S	E	W	L	O	B
F	S	R	T	E	S	A	E	O	M	R	C	A	M	M
W	U	E	P	I	O	M	M	H	B	I	N	R	Y	
O	O	N	M	O	S	U	Y	U	P	R	O	A	C	
R	I	B	A	U	R	S	R	N	R	R	I	E	H	D
S	G	M	T	R	C	A	T	A	D	R	T	T	L	C
H	I	A	S	T	H	B	S	S	E	S	E	S	N	S
I	L	T	A	B	E	R	N	A	C	L	E	M	N	A
P	E	R	C	U	S	S	I	O	N	F	I	F	E	I
N	R	O	H	S	T	E	U	Q	N	A	B	T	M	S
B	U	G	L	E	R	T	S	N	I	M	O	S	E	S
D	I	R	G	E	A	L	A	U	T	I	R	I	P	S

Antiphonal, Banquets, Bass,
Bugle, Castanets, Choirs,
Cymbals, Dance, Dirge,
Faith, Fife, Harmony, Horn,
Instrumental, Instruments,
Israelites, Kings,
Lamentation, Merrymaking,
Minstrel, Moses, Musicians,
Orchestra, Percussion,
Psaltery, Religious, Sounds,
Spiritual, Tabernacle,
Tambourine, Timbrels,
Trumpet, War, Worship

Answer

Home page: Select another puzzle

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Parishioners Corner

Mexican Chicken Recipe

Several people asked me to share the Mexican Chicken recipe I used for the dish that some of you had at coffee hour following the Mexican Pot Luck on Oct. 13th. Here it is...

* Double this for a 9X13 pan as this is for a 9X9, although I still only used 10 tortillas

½ cup chopped green peppers	¼ cup hot or mild salsa sauce
½ cup chopped onion	1 tbsp chili powder
2 tbsp margarine	10 flour tortillas cut in squares
2 cups cook chicken cubed or shredded	1- 8oz pkg shredded cheddar cheese
1- 10 ¾ oz cream of mushroom soup	
1 – 16oz can diced tomatoes undrained (I used the diced with green chilies in it)	

Preheat oven to 350. Sauté green peppers and onions in margarine, add next five ingredients, mix well. Place in sauce pan and heat over medium heat, stir while heating. Set aside. Place a single layer of tortillas in bottom of ungreased baking dish. Top with ¼ of the sauce, then a layer of cheese. Repeat layers ending with the sauce on the top. Bake uncovered for 30 minutes, top with remaining cheese and bake long enough to melt the cheese.

Let it cool for 10 minutes prior to slicing.

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Bible Wordsearch Abraham buries Sarah

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Puzzle # 146

Genesis Chapter 23

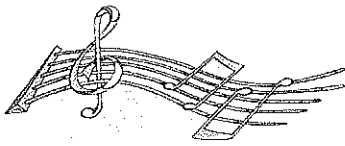
E	L	I	V	E	D	H	D	L	E	W	C	F	H	O
C	I	T	G	I	V	E	A	E	L	N	P	I	Y	D
N	S	S	N	O	R	B	E	H	A	E	F	E	T	I
I	T	G	G	S	R	E	D	R	O	B	S	L	H	Y
R	E	G	N	A	R	T	S	P	G	U	M	D	G	S
P	N	T	H	O	D	W	L	T	F	A	R	R	I	P
E	E	A	I	S	L	E	K	E	H	S	E	T	M	O
B	M	O	T	T	N	E	R	R	U	C	T	W	I	K
M	A	M	R	E	T	N	B	D	E	I	R	U	B	E
L	B	D	N	A	L	I	E	N	N	A	A	N	A	C
W	O	R	T	H	L	H	H	G	R	U	E	E	A	I
D	W	E	E	P	G	C	A	V	E	U	H	A	T	R
R	E	V	L	I	S	E	E	R	T	S	O	R	I	P
O	D	E	E	D	E	D	E	M	A	N	O	M	T	A
L	S	W	I	F	E	F	R	U	G	S	I	R	T	Y

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| ABRAHAM | MAMRE |
| AGREED | MIGHTY |
| ALIEN | MOURN |
| BELONGS | NAMED |
| BETWEEN | NEAR |
| BORDERS | PAY |
| BOWED | PEOPLE |
| BURIED | PRICE |
| CANAAN | PRINCE |
| CAVE | REFUSE |
| CITY | ROSE |
| CURRENT | SARAH |
| DEAD | SELL |
| DEEDED | SHEKELS |
| FIELD | SILVER |
| GATE | SITTING |
| GIVE | SPOKE |
| HEBRON | STRANGER |
| HITTITE | TERMS |
| HUNDRED | TOMB |
| LAND | TREES |
| LISTEN | WEEP |
| LIVED | WEIGHED |
| LORD | WIFE |
| WORTH | |

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Proverbs 27

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HISTORY OF CHURCH HYMNS

Amazing Grace
by John Newton

John Newton was born in 1725, and died in 1807. It seems that the only Godly influence in his life, was his mother, who died when he was only seven years old. When she died, John was virtually an orphan. His father remarried, sent him to a strict military school, where the severity of discipline almost broke his back - he left in rebellion at the age of ten. One year later, deciding that he would never enter formal education again, Newton became a seaman apprentice, hoping somehow to step into his father's trade and learn at least the ability to skillfully navigate a ship.

By and by, through a process of time, Newton slowly gave himself over to the devil, determining that he would sin to the fill without restraint, now that the righteous lamp of his life had gone out. Later drafted into England's Royal Navy, he deserted, was captured like a common criminal and beaten publicly several times at the mast, and dismissed from the service. After enduring the punishment, Newton again fled, entertaining thoughts of suicide and made his way to Africa, deciding that would be the place he could get farthest from anyone that knew him. Again he made a pact with the devil to live for him.

Somehow, through a process of the events, Newton got in touch with a Portuguese slave trader, and lived in his home. He was married to a wife who was brimming with hostility and took a lot of it out on John. She beat him, making him eat like a dog on the floor of the home. If he refused to do that, he would be whipped with a lash.

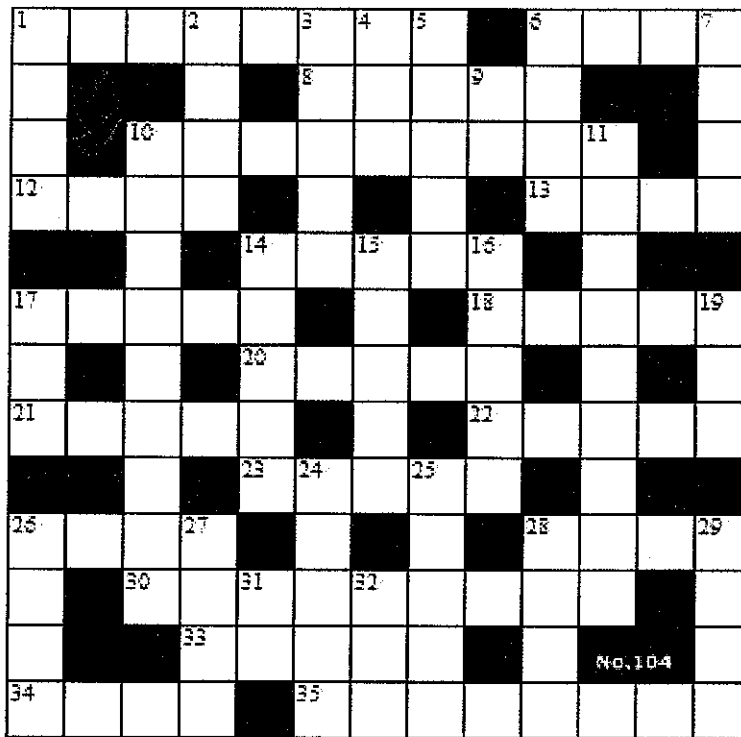
From there, penniless, and owning only the clothes on his back, Newton fled to the shoreline of Africa where he built a fire, hoping to attract a ship that was passing by. A skipper took him on thinking he had gold or slaves or ivory to sell and was surprised because the young man was a skilled navigator. It turned out to be a slave ship, and John lived on this ship for a long period of time. It was not uncommon for as many as six hundred blacks from Africa to be in the hold of the ship, down below, being taken to America.

During these years, on a number of occasions, Newton went through all sorts of narrow escapes from death. One time he opened some crates of rum and got everybody on the crew drunk. The skipper, incensed with his actions, beat him, threw him down below, where he existed on stale bread and sour vegetables for an unendurable amount of time. When the skipper brought him above for another beating, Newton fell overboard. Because he couldn't swim, the skipper harpooned him to get him back on the ship, and John lived for the rest of his life with a large scar in his side. On board, inflamed with fever, John was enraged with the humiliation. A storm broke out, and he wound up again in the hold of the ship, down among the pumps. To keep the ship afloat, he worked as a servant of the slaves. There, bruised and confused, bleeding, diseased, he became the epitome of a degenerate man. It was then that John Newton remembered the words of his mother, and cried out to God, calling upon His grace and His mercy to deliver him, and upon His Son to save him. The only glimmer of light he could find was in a crack in the ship's floor above him - he looked up to it and screamed for help.

Soon afterwards, while reading "The Imitation of Christ", Newton's heart was softened. At first he tried to justify his work by improving conditions on his ship, and even holding worship services for his crew. Later he served as a clerk at the Port of Liverpool and became a strong crusader against slavery.

Newton married a childhood sweetheart, entered the ministry and was ordained in 1764. Everywhere he preached, rooms had to be added to the building to handle the crowds that came to hear the presentation of the Gospel and the story of God's grace. At age 39, he became Pastor in Olney where one of his "extremist" practices was the singing of hymns which expressed simple heartfelt faith rather than the staid singing of Psalms. Not finding enough hymns of this nature, Newton began writing his own. In 1780 he began a long pastoral ministry in London. When advised to retire, Newton replied, "What, shall the old African blasphemer stop while he can still speak?" His epitaph, which he wrote himself, reads:

*John Newton, Clerk
Once an infidel and libertine,
A servant of slavers in Africa,
Was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Preserved, restored, pardoned,
And appointed to preach the Faith
He had long laboured to destroy.*



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ACROSS

- 1 Honest scales and ___ are from the LORD (Prov 16:11)
 6 Tell them everything I command you; do not ___ a word (Jer 26:2)
 8 the sign was written in Aramaic, ___ and Greek. (John 19:20)
 10 Observe my Sabbaths and have ___ for my sanctuary. I am the LORD (Lev 19:30)
 12 Weren't there three men that we ___ up and threw into the fire?" (Dan 3:24)
 13 oldest son of Isaac (Gen 25:25)
 14 Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem..... at the ___ of the wall (2 Chron 26:9)
 17 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be ___ out (Acts 3:19)
 18 dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and ___ (2 Chron 5:12)
 20 there in its beak was a freshly plucked ___ leaf (Gen 8:11)
 21 This miraculous sign will ___ tomorrow (Ex 8:23)
 22 you may not eat the camel, the rabbit or the ___ (Deut 14:7)
 23 But during the ___ an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail (Acts 5:19)
 26 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. ___ (Phil 4:20)
 28 Accept him whose faith is ___, without passing judgment (Rom 14:1)
 30 gathered the church together, they ___ all that God had done (Acts 14:27)KJV
 33 attacked the ___ of the herdsmen and carried off droves of sheep (2 Chron 14:15)
 34 Each of them quickly lowered his ___ to the ground and opened it (Gen 44:11-12)
 35 He who has been ___ must steal no longer, but must work (Eph 4:28)

DOWN

- 1 Get this woman out of here and ___ the door after her (2 Sam 13:17)
- 2 Rise in the presence of the ___, show respect for the elderly (Lev 19:32)
- 3 Do not call anything impure that God has made ___ (Acts 10:15)
- 4 and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ___ (Matt 26:51)
- 5 "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not ___ (Rom 13:9)
- 6 The death he died, he died to sin ___ for all (Rom 6:10)
- 7 bring forth a son, and ___ shalt call his name JESUS (Matt 1:21)KJV
- 9 Blessed are the poor ___ spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matt 5:3)
- 10 Of a truth I perceive that God is no ___ of persons (Acts 10:34) KJV
- 11 my acquaintances are completely ___ from me (Job 19:13)
- 14 a garland to grace your head and a chain to ___ your neck (Prov 1:9)
- 15 as Jesus was ___ up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples (Matt 20:17-18)
- 16 I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the ___ angels (1 Tim 5:21)
- 17 Come, you ___ are blessed by the LORD (Gen 24:31)
- 19 He covers the ___ with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain (Ps 147:8)
- 24 units, parts, points
- 25 Do not be like the ___ or the mule, which have no understanding (Ps 32:9)
- 26 the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret ___, they could not (Ex 8:18)
- 27 I will break their yoke from your ___ and tear your shackles away (Nah 1:13)
- 28 His master replied, ___ done, good and faithful servant (Matt 25:23)
- 29 THIS IS JESUS, THE ___ OF THE JEWS (Matt 27:37)
- 31 "___ ! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? (Luke 4:34)
- 32 A man finds joy in giving an ___ reply (Prov 15:23)

Thank you

Thank you so much for recognizing Pastor Appreciation Day. I have to say I feel appreciated each and every day and really don't need a special day to be appreciated. This feeling of being appreciated comes from the kind generous spirits of each and every one of you who take the time to tell me that you are glad I am here and how much you are thankful

for what I do here. I am truly the one whose cup is overflowing with the blessings of being a part of this wonderful community and I am grateful for and I love each and every one of you.

God's Peace be with you,
Rev. Denise+

HELP

Brandon Paulin is raising funds to participate in a World Leadership Forum sponsored by People to People. To help him with fundraising, there are boxes in the hallway for placing of used ink cartridges & cans.

Church website: <http://www.stjamesindianhead.org>



Bible Wordsearch

Solution to Puzzle No.146

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	E	L	I	V	E	D	H	D	L	E	W	C	F	H	O
2	C	I	T	G	I	V	E	A	E	L	N	P	I	Y	D
3	N	S	N	O	R	B	E	H	A	E	F	E	T	I	
4	I	T	G	G	S	R	E	D	R	O	B	S	L	H	Y
5	R	E	G	N	A	R	T	S	P	G	U	M	D	G	S
6	P	N	T	H	O	D	W	L	T	F	A	R	R	I	P
7	E	E	A	I	S	L	E	K	E	H	S	E	T	M	O
8	B	M	O	T	T	N	E	R	R	U	C	T	W	I	K
9	M	A	M	R	E	T	N	B	D	E	I	R	U	B	E
10	L	B	D	N	A	L	I	E	N	A	A	N	A	C	
11	W	O	R	T	H	L	H	H	G	R	U	E	E	A	I
12	D	W	E	E	P	G	C	A	V	E	U	H	A	T	R
13	R	E	V	L	I	S	E	E	R	T	S	O	R	I	P
14	O	D	E	E	D	E	D	E	M	A	N	O	M	T	A
15	L	S	W	I	F	E	F	R	U	G	S	I	R	T	Y

Letters in **BOLD** above are the hidden verse

reading left to right starting at the top left hand corner and going down through the letters the hidden verse is:

He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit

Proverbs 27:18 niv

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(Over, Down, Direction)

- ABRAHAM(8,2,SW)
- AGREED(11,6,NW)
- ALIEN(5,10,E)
- BELONGS(8,9,NW)
- BETWEEN(7,3,S)
- BORDERS(11,4,W)
- BOWED(2,10,S)
- BURIED(14,9,W)
- CANAAN(15,10,W)
- CAVE(7,12,E)
- CITY(12,1,SE)
- CURRENT(11,8,W)
- DEAD(8,4,N)
- DEEDED(2,14,E)
- FIELD(13,1,S)
- GATE(10,15,N)
- GIVE(4,2,E)
- HEBRON(9,3,W)
- HITTITE(8,11,NW)
- HUNDRED(12,12,NW)
- LAND(6,10,W)
- LISTEN(2,1,S)
- LIVED(2,1,E)
- LORD(1,15,N)
- MAMRE(1,9,E)
- MIGHTY(14,7,N)
- MOURN(13,14,NW)
- NAMED(11,14,W)
- NEAR(13,10,S)
- PAY(15,13,S)
- PEOPLE(12,2,SW)
- PRICE(15,13,N)
- PRINCE(1,6,N)
- REFUSE(8,8,NE)
- ROSE(13,15,NW)
- SARAH(11,15,NW)
- SELL(12,4,NW)
- SHEKELS(11,7,W)
- SILVER(6,13,W)
- SITTING(15,5,SW)
- SPOKE(15,5,S)
- STRANGER(8,5,W)
- TERMS(12,8,N)
- TOMB(4,8,W)

The Worst Day

1984 was a bad year; heck 1983 wasn't that great either. Truth be told, when was the last really good year? Gee whiz, do we have to go all the way back to 1962 to find a truly good year? And what makes all the years in between not so hot? Sure there were memorable events, accomplishments to brag about, school grades to bring home to Mom. But lurking underneath the surface are vague memories of the bad stuff. How easy it is to forget, to push those memories under the surface, in some cases bury them away and hope they never rear their ugly heads again. We all want to feel good about ourselves and we especially want others to like us too. Remember what it's like to feel like a bad boy? Remember when your Mother hung a sign on your back and made you wear it all day around the apartment? It was a sign that said "I was a bad boy today". Good thing people can't look inside you and see the terrible stuff you're so desperately trying to hide.

Waking up in jail and not knowing how you got there is a frightening, horrible experience. And then as the head clears somewhat, some of the memories start creeping in and begin to deposit their wrenching agony of despair. There's the memory of beginning the previous day in the truck with the kids. Sure, let's hop on in and take a ride down south. It's only a few hours away and it will be fun, right? First there's a quick stop at MacDonaldis to grab a bite to eat. And off we go! But what happened after that? Why do the memories stop there? What happened in between Albany and New Rochelle? Oh my God! That's right! Now I remember! I was drinking again and I never really stopped from the night before. Sure, there was a period of sleep, if you could call it that. But to wake up and start the day with a beer? What kind of insanity is that?

Sitting in a cell and wondering about what happened and feeling miserable again, yes again, yet one more crazy incident to push back into the dark recesses of gray matter. Oh, the horror of it all! It's like being dead, it must be 'cause there couldn't be any feeling worse than this. There's no sound, no sign of another human being, no sunlight, just a bare bulb somewhere down what appears to be an empty hallway. Please don't let me be dead! Please don't tell me there was an accident, that I did some horrible, unforgivable thing!

It's hot too and I stink of stale, stinging sweat. But slowly the fog begins to clear and the nightmare of what's happened begins to unfold. It's slow at first. As the minutes tick by the memories gather momentum like a runaway train moving down a steep hill. Oh, please stop, I don't want to remember any more! If I'm not dead, then the burden of my actions will surely destroy me.

But, I'm one of the lucky ones you see. Why is that? For what purpose was I spared? Why wasn't Bill spared? Or Bruce? I don't know and I'm still wondering. Indeed, it's a great mystery; one that eludes me to this day. All I know is that each day is a gift from God. Each day is another opportunity to say "Thanks Dear Lord for giving me another chance to sing Your Praises, another day to make a difference, and another day to share Your Love".



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