

AROUND ST. JAMES

FEBRUARY 2008 MARCH

Rector's Ramblings Rev. Denise E. Cabana

I was looking at the Diocesan web site the other day and ran across this story that I just was so moved by I thought I would share it in our news letter. I thought it could serve as a good meditation during Lent. I hope you find it as moving and inspiring as I did.

"The Rich Family in our Church"

By Anonymous

I'll never forget the summer of 1946. I was 14, my little sister, Ocy, 12, and my older sister Darlene, 16. We lived at home with our mother, and the four of us knew what it was to do without many things. My dad has died years before, leaving Mom with seven school kids to rear and no money. By 1946 my older sisters were married, and my brothers had left home.

A month before Easter, the pastor of our church announces that a special Easter offering would be taken to help a poor family. He asked everyone to save and give sacrificially. When we got home, we talked about what we could do. We decided to buy 50 pounds of potatoes and live on them for a month. That would allow us to save 20 dollars of our grocery money for the offering.

Then we thought that if we kept our electric lights turned out as much as possible and didn't listen to the radio, we'd save money of that month's electric bill. Darlene got as many house and yard cleaning jobs as possible, and both of us babysat for everyone we could. For 15 cents, we could buy enough cotton loops to make three potholders to sell for \$1.00. We made \$20 on potholders.

That month was one of the best of our lives. Every day we counted the money to see how much we had saved. At night we'd sit in the dark and talk about how the poor family was going to enjoy having the money the church would give them. We had about 80 people in the church, so we figured that whatever amount of money we had to give the offering would surely be 20 times that much. After all, every Sunday the Pastor had reminded everyone to save for the sacrificial offering.

The day before Easter, Ocy and I walked to the grocery store and got the manager to give us three crisp \$20 bills and one \$10 bill for all our change. We ran all the way home to show Mom and Darlene. We had never had so much money before. That night we were so excited we could hardly sleep. We didn't care that we wouldn't have new clothes for Easter; we had \$70 dollars for the sacrificial offering. We could hardly wait to get to church.

On Easter morning rain was pouring. We didn't own an umbrella, and the church was over a mile from our home, but it didn't seem to matter how wet we got. Darlene had cardboard in her shoes to fill the holes. The cardboard came apart, and her feet got wet. But we sat in church proudly. I heard some teenagers talking about the Smith girls having on their old dresses. I looked at them in new clothes and I felt so rich.

When the sacrificial offering was taken, we were sitting in the second row. From the front, Mom put in the \$10 bill, each of us put in a \$20 bill. As we walked home after church, we sang all the way. At lunch, Mom had a surprise for us. She had bought a dozen eggs, and we had boiled Easter eggs with our fried potatoes!

Later that afternoon, the minister drove up in his car. Mom went to the door, talked with him for a moment, and then came back with an envelope in her hand. We asked her what it was, but she didn't say a word. She opened the envelope and out fell a bunch of money. There were three crisp \$20 bills, one \$10, and seventeen \$1s. Mom put the money back in the envelope. We didn't talk, just sat and stared at the floor. We had gone from feeling like millionaires to feeling like poor people. We kids had such a happy life that we felt sorry for anyone who didn't have our mom and dad for parents and a house full of brothers and sisters and other kids visiting constantly.

I know we didn't have a lot of things that other people had, but I never thought we were poor. That Easter Day I found out we were. The minister had brought us the money for the poor family, so we must be poor. I didn't like feeling poor. I looked at my dress and worn-out shoes and felt so ashamed that I didn't want to go back to church. Everyone there probably knew we were poor! I thought about my school friends and felt terribly embarrassed to be thought of as "poor."

We sat in silence for a long time. Then it got dark, and we went to bed. All that week, we girls went to school and came home, and no one talked much. Finally on Saturday, Mom asked us what we wanted to do with the money. What did poor people do with money? We didn't know. We'd never known we were poor.

We didn't want to go to church on Sunday, but Mom said we had to. The joy of what we had done, of sacrificing and saving had been taken away from us. Although it was a sunny day, we didn't talk on our way to church as we usually did. At church that Sunday, we had a missionary speaker. He talked about how churches in Africa made buildings out of sun-dried bricks, but they needed money to buy roofs. He said \$100 would put a roof on a church. The minister said, "Can't we all sacrifice to help these poor people?"

We looked at each other and smiled for the first time in a week. Mom reached into her purse and pulled out the envelope. She passed it to Ocy, who gave it to me. And I dropped it into the offering. When the offering was counted, the minister announced it was a little over \$100.

The missionary was excited. He wasn't expecting such a large offering from our small congregation. He said "you must have some rich people in this church." Suddenly it struck us! We had given \$87 of that "little over \$100." We were the rich family in the church! From that day on, I've never been poor again.

We had been given back the joy of sacrificial giving.

Giving comes from the heart, not from wealth. These folks had a theology of abundance, God provides. I am thankful that I am a part of a community who seeks to live into such a theology.

Peace,

Denise+

Fellowship and Fun

Here is the schedule for fellowship activities for 2008. Please mark your calendars with the activities that sound like fun to you. More information will follow as the dates get closer.

Jan. 27th - Open house at Rectory 1:00-5:00 p.m.
come for any or all of it.



February 23rd - Game Night - 7:00 - 9:00 bring a board game & snacks to share

March 15th - Corned Beef Dinner

April 19th - Movie Night and Pot Luck



May 17th - Dance and Karaoke

June - Parish Picnic - Date to be determined



July - Baseball Game - Date to be determined

August 9th - Cooking Night

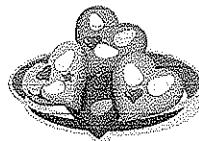


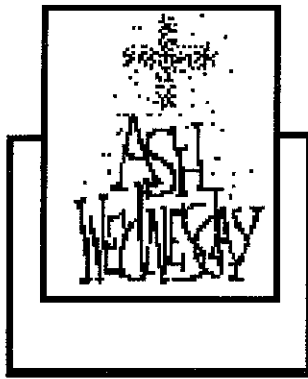
Sept. 20 & 21st - Homecoming



October 18th - Game Night 7:00 - 9:00 bring a board game & snacks to share

November 22nd - Cookie Bake





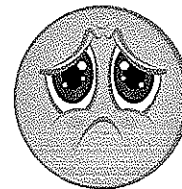
There will be two services on Ash Wednesday:
12:00 Noon and 7:00PM.
 They will both include Holy Eucharist and the
 imposition of Ashes.

Lenten Series

This year's Lenten series is going to be on death and dying. Although this might seem like a strange topic for a Lenten series, it really is very appropriate as we make our journey to the cross where Christ died for us and gave us the gift of ever lasting life, making death a temporary state. Many people don't like to think about death, their own or anyone else's but death comes to all of us, we all will loose loved ones and

one day we all will die. Being prepared is a gift to oneself and to those who are left behind to make decisions whether they are end of life decisions i.e. life support or funeral arrangements. The series will run for five weeks from 3:00-4:30 p.m., followed by a simple supper. Please sign up for each session on the board outside the parish hall so we know how many people to plan for. The following topics will be covered:

- Feb 10th** – What happens when we die – what does the Bible say about death and what do we believe about death.
- Feb. 17th** – End of life decisions – living wills
- Feb. 24th** Planning your funeral – making decisions for yourself about what you want is a true gift to your loved ones who are otherwise left to make these decisions for you.
- March 2nd** – Estate planning – wills and planned giving.
- March 9th** – The Resurrection – hope in the face of death



The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,
 and saves the crushed in spirit. --
Psalm 34.18

Church Membership

There are two kinds of memberships in an Episcopal church, the membership of our hearts and the membership by the Canons. Most of us who attend a church regularly and contribute to it financially feel that we are members of that church; we are a part of the church family. This is true. The Church however, has canons (or the laws of the church) that say that a person is member who has been Baptized, Confirmed or Received into that church. OR who transfers their membership from their previous church OR who registers their baptism with their new church. So, if you would like to be an "official member" of St. James' Church, it is really quite simple. You can contact the church you previously attended and ask them to send a letter of transfer to St. James'. If this is not possible for whatever reason, you can register your baptism here by filling out the following form and giving it to Rev. Denise.

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Church you were Baptized in: _____

Date of Baptism: _____ Confirmed: ___yes or no___

If yes, when and where: _____

From another denomination other than the Episcopal Church and are interested in being officially Received into the church: ___yes ___no.

ECW NEWS

Calling all women of St. James'. If you would like to come and see what the ECW is all about, please attend one of our meetings which are held the 2nd Sunday of the month at 12:15 pm in the meeting room. We'd love to have you join us.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 15, 2008 - Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

May 2, 2008 - Flower Mart at the Cathedral

If you are interested in attending, please contact Jean Artes or Sharyn Gantt. A fee is required for transportation.

New Officers

Cathy Jenkins - President

Mittie Buchanan - Vice President

Jean Artes - Treasurer

Karen Burroughs - Secretary

St. James Disciples

The youth group is looking for new members in grades 6th through 12th. We meet every other Sunday at 6:00 p.m., with the exception of February were we will not meet. Our March dates are the 2nd and 16th. On February 1st, 6:30 p.m. we are having "Kid's Movie Night" in the parish hall. The youth group will be showing "Ratatouille". Hot Dogs, Chips & Soda and of course popcorn will be available. We are asking for donations to cover the cost of the food. We are also collecting full size toiletries for the women's shelter. Also for the shelter we are collecting coloring books, books and snack items for the children that are there.

Happenings

Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be on February 3rd. There will be only one service at 9:00 a.m. that day. The meeting will follow immediately after church service. There will be a catered Brunch at the meeting.

Community Dinner

St. James will host a free Community Dinner on Monday, January 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Donations of spaghetti will be greatly appreciated.



Tutoring Program

There is interest in starting a tutoring program in math and reading for children at the Indian Head Elementary school whose parents can not afford a tutor. The program would run on Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We are looking for people

who love children and want to help a child succeed in school. Training will be provided. See Brenda Peterson, Bonnie Richardson, Mary Thorsen, Ruth Cole or Rev. Denise if you are interested

WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Just a reminder that we have a Wednesday Noon Eucharist each week and everyone is invited. It is a half hour in length so, doesn't take up too much time. Although we pray for our military – those who have died and those who are serving, it is not just for families who have people serving in the military. It is a wonderful opportunity to have a mid-week time for prayer and worship and to be centered in Christ for the rest of the week. Please join us.

Women's Group

The Women's Group meets on each Monday from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – the book of Proverbs is being study.

Craft Get Together

Some crafters got together and decided it would be fun to learn new and different crafts, so on the 2nd Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted we will have a "Craft get Together" where a craft will be taught. So if you have a special craft you would like to share with people please see Elizabeth Fusina or Michelle Prasser and they will schedule your craft day. The cost will only be for the materials. Bring a bag lunch or chip in with others to order pizza or subs. Here is what we have scheduled so far:

Soap Making	March 8	10:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Elsa Ault
Bead Bracelet	April 12	10:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Elizabeth Fusina
Card Making "Mothers Day"	May 3	10:00 – 2:00 p.m.	

Pre-registration is required. Sign up sheets will be in the hallway.



You are cordially invited

To

**“Lavender and Lace”
Spring Tea**

**May 10, 2008
12:00 noon to 2:30pm**

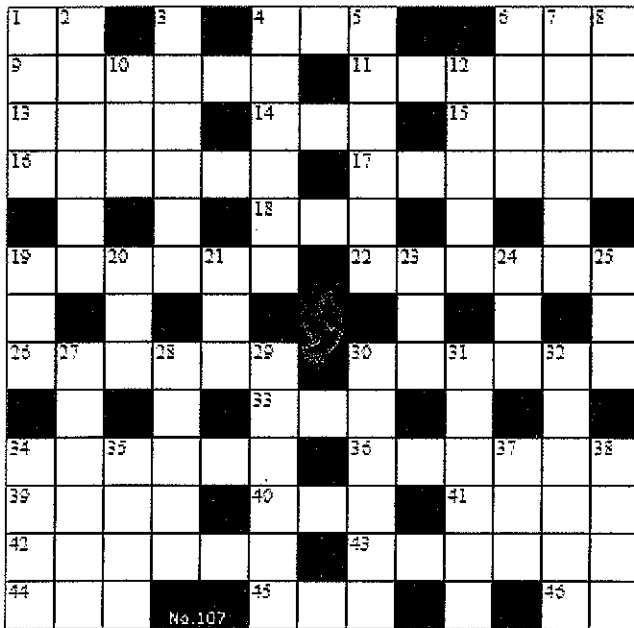
**Bring your favorite tea cup
Tickets \$10.00 per person**

Hosted by “The Ways and Means Committee” of St. James

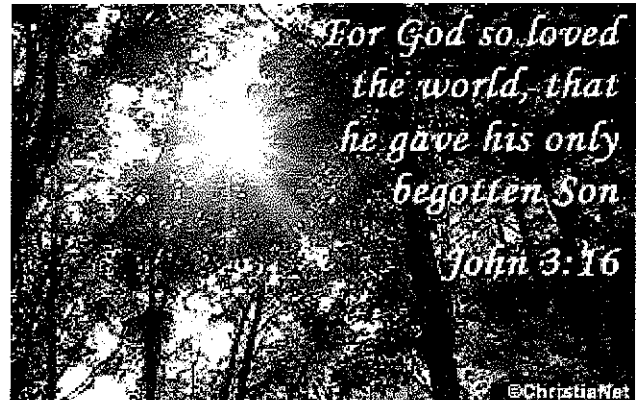
**Jean Artes 301-743-2288
Karen Burroughs 301-283-6692
Ethel Evans 301-283-6829
Christine Freeman 301-743-7378**

**Barbara Prasser 301-743-6880
Jackie Vos 301-743-2410
Claire Philps**

ADULT FUN PAGE



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ACROSS

- 1 I speak the truth in Christ, I ___ not lying (Rom 9:1)
- 4 stayed behind to ___ Queen Esther for his life (Est 7:7)
- 6 Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the ___ of the world (John 1:29)
- 9 they had brick for stone, and slime had they for ___ (Gen 11:3) ASV
- 11 Joshua did it; he left nothing ___ of all that the LORD commanded (Josh 11:15)
- 13 Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put an ___ of manna in it (Ex 16:33)
- 14 The breath of God produces ___, and the broad waters become frozen (Job 37:10)
- 15 He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who ___ on seventy donkeys (Judg 12:14)
- 16 full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they ___ the unstable (2 Peter 2:14)
- 17 the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light ___ in the prison (Acts 12:7)KJV
- 18 decay (Isa 50:2)
- 19 a tent that will not be moved; its ___ will never be pulled up (Isa 33:20)
- 22 Strengthen the feeble hands, ___ the knees that give way (Isa 35:3)
- 26 let it be used to repair whatever ___ is found in the temple (2 Kings 12:5)
- 30 not leave your post; calmness can lay great ___ to rest (Eccl 10:4)
- 33 I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ___ for several days (Dan 8:27)
- 34 praying for you and ___ God to fill you with the knowledge (Co 1:9)
- 36 insolent, arrogant and boastful; they ___ ways of doing evil (Rom 1:30)
- 39 Your feet are ___ in the mud; your friends have deserted you (Jer 38:22)
- 40 Then Jesus said, "He who ___ ears to hear, let him hear." (Mark 4:9)
- 41 For my yoke is ___ and my burden is light (Matt 11:30)
- 42 Then the high ___ stood up before them and asked Jesus (Mark 14:60)
- 43 Fear and trembling have beset me; ___ has overwhelmed me (Ps 55:5)
- 44 So they ___ out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel (Luke 9:6)
- 45 He saith unto him, ___, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. (John 21:16) KJV
- 46 "Come, follow ___, " Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men (Matt 4:19)

DOWN

- 1 30th book of the Old Testament
- 2 Saul, receive your sight! And at that very ___ I was able to see him (Acts 22:13)
- 3 taking out a stone, he slung it and ___ the Philistine on the forehead (1 Sam 17:49)
- 4 People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from ___ (Luke 6:44)

- 5 How can the ___ of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? (Matt 9:15)
- 6 As ___ as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water (Matt 3:16)
- 7 But Christ has ___ been raised from the dead (1 Cor 15:20)
- 8 The LORD will fight for you; you ___ only to be still (Ex 14:14)
- 10 Their breastplates were fiery ___, dark blue, and yellow (Rev 9:17)
- 12 I will be able to defeat them and ___ them out of the country (Num 22:6)
- 19 unhappy (Matt 19:22)
- 20 brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched ___ (Deut 26:8)
- 21 is there flavor in the white of an ___ ? (Job 6:6)
- 23 she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with ___ and pitch (Ex 2:3)
- 24 Cornelius answered: "Four days ___ I was in my house praying (Acts 10:30)
- 25 affirmative response (Acts 22:27)
- 27 I ___ you before God that what I am writing you is no lie (Gal 1:20)
- 28 he will bless those who fear the LORD, small and great ___ (Ps 115:13)
- 29 Isaac lived a hundred and ___ years (Gen 35:28)
- 30 Elijah's successor (2 Kings 2:9)
- 31 they helped David against the band of the ___ (1 Chron 12:21) KJV
- 32 but to serve, and to give his life as a ___ for many (Matt 20:28)
- 34 the poison of ___ is under their lips (Rom 3:13) KJV
- 35 with skin and flesh and ___ me together with bones and sinews (Job 10:11)
- 37 O Lord, let your ___ be attentive to the prayer of this your servant (Neh 1:11)
- 38 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of ___ and Sidon (Matt 15:21)

Favorite Cookie

An elderly man lay dying in his bed. In death's agony, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite chocolate chip cookies wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength, and lifted himself from his bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of his bedroom, and with even greater effort forced himself down the stairs, gripping the railing with both hands. With labored breath, he leaned against the door frame, gazing into the kitchen.

Were it not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in Heaven: there, spread out on newspapers on the kitchen table were literally hundreds of his favorite chocolate chip

cookies. Was it Heaven? Or, was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted wife, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man?

Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself toward the table, landing on his knees in a rumped posture. His parched lips parted; the wondrous taste of the cookie was already in his mouth, seemingly bringing him back to life. The aged, withered and shaking hand made its way to a cookie at the edge of the table, when it was suddenly smacked with a spatula by his wife. "Stay out of those", she said, "they're for the funeral."

Helpful web sites

Charles County Sheriff's office - <http://www.ccsso.us/joomla/index.php>

Southern Maryland News - <http://somid.com/>

American Red cross of So. Md - <http://chapters.redcross.org/md/charlescounty/>

Charles County Government - <http://www.charlescounty.org/>

Hymn Stories

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matthew 28:6

Words by Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music From *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

The first Wesleyan Chapel in London, England, was a deserted iron foundry. It became known as the Foundry Meeting House. This hymn was written by Charles Wesley for the first service in this chapel in 1739, just one year after Charles's dramatic Aldersgate conversion experience. The hymn was first published in the Foundry's Collection-which contained "hymns set to music as they are commonly sung at the Foundry." The book had approximately fifty hymns with an additional Psalm Supplement. This hymn was originally entitled "Hymn for Easter Day" and consisted of eleven four-line stanzas.

The popularity of this hymn is due in part to the fine tune with which it has been wedded for many years. The composer of the music has never been identified. The tune first appeared anonymously in the *Lyra Davidica* hymnal, published in London in 1708. The joyous "alleluia" at the end of each line was not written by Wesley but was added by some editor to make the text fit the tune. "Hallelujah" or "alleluia" is from the ancient Hebrew worship service and was a common expression of praise in the early Christian Church. Jerome, an important leader of the early church who translated the Bible into the Latin language and died c. 420 A. D., wrote that in his day the very ceilings of houses of worship were often shaken with the reverberating "Hallelujahs" when believers sang their praises to God. Charles Wesley is also the author of "Jesus, Lover of My Soul", "O for a Thousand Tongues", "A Charge to Keep I Have", "Depth of Mercy", and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing".

Quoted from "101 Hymn Stories" by Kenneth Osbeck. Kregel Publishers, P.O. Box 2607, Grand Rapids, MI 49501, 1982.

Verse 1

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens and earth reply: Alleluia!

Verse 2

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Verse 3

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Verse 4

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

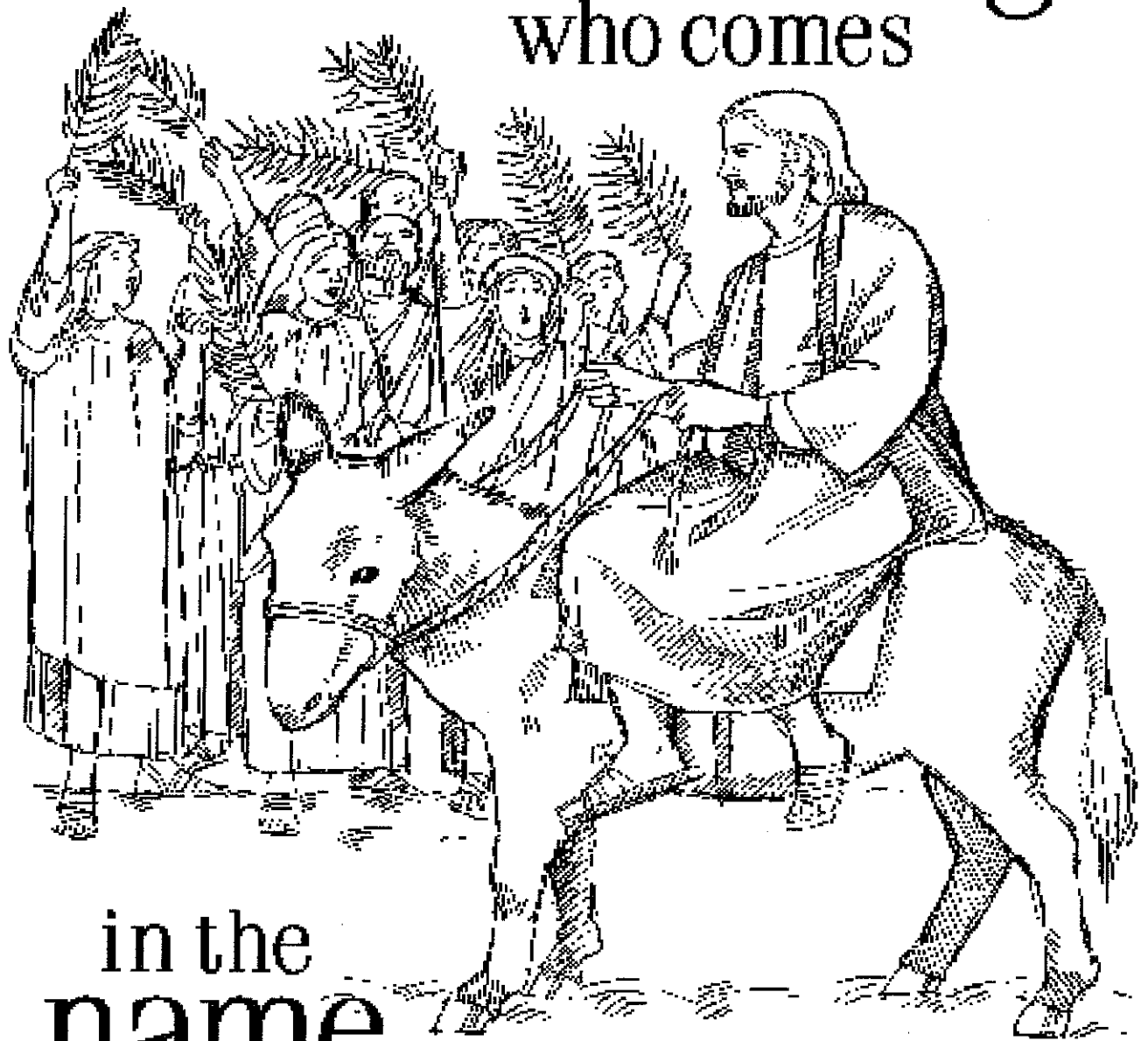
Verse 5

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia!
Christ hath burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Corner

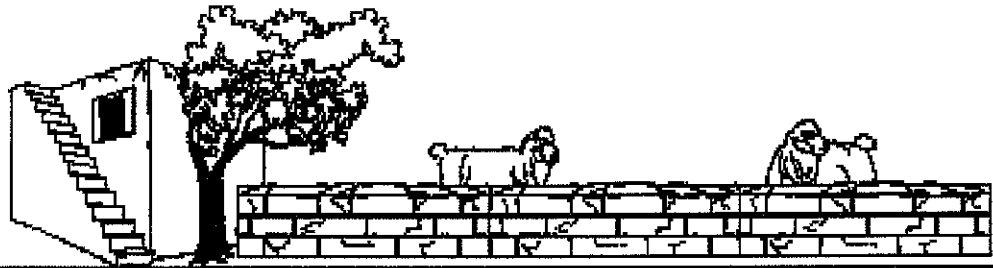
Kids

“Blessed is the king
who comes

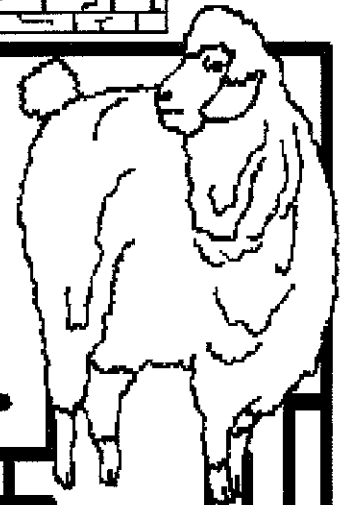
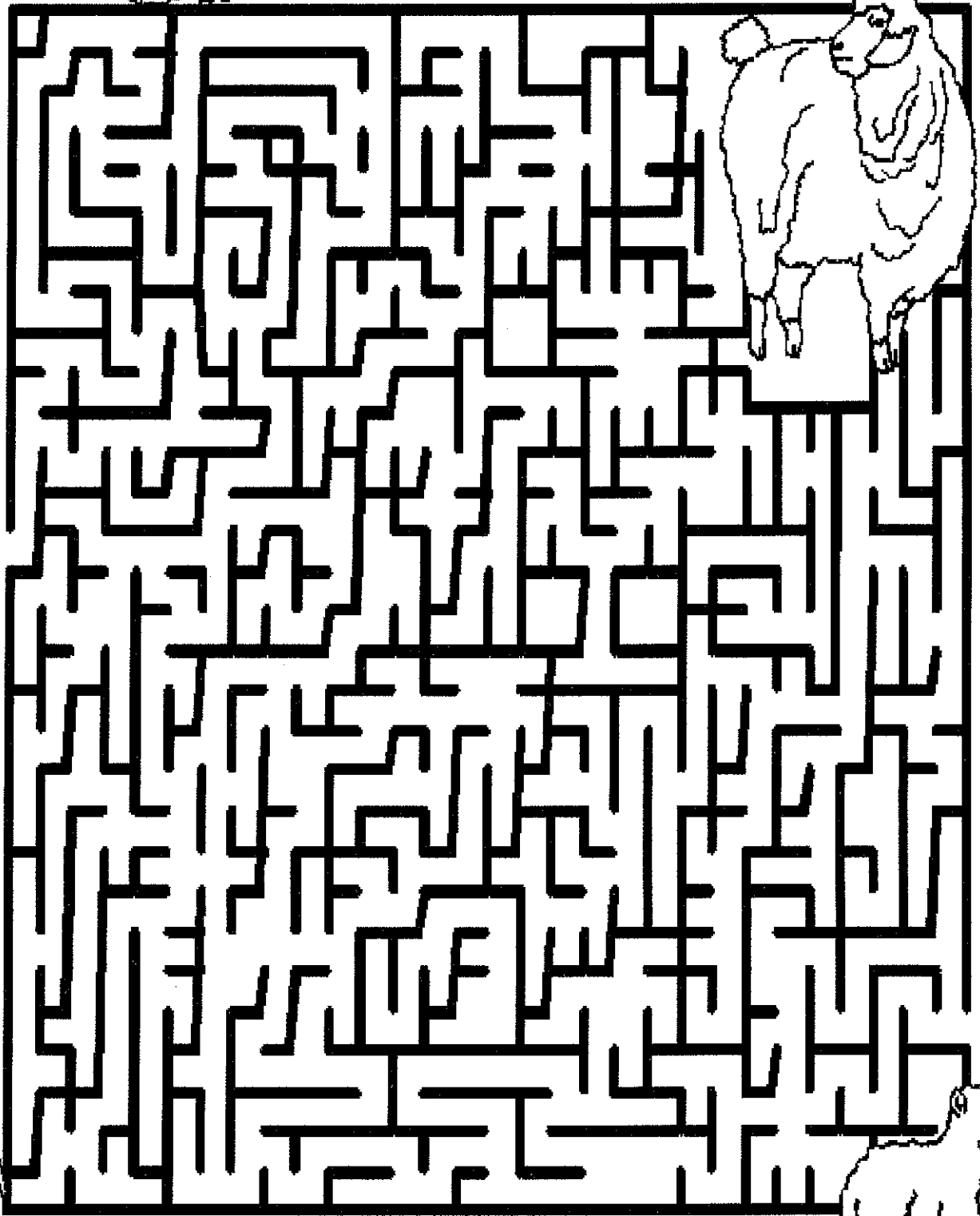


in the
name
of the Lord!”

L u k e 1 9 : 3 8



Find the
Lost Sheep



Treasurer's Corner:



Well, I believe Winter has finally come to Indian Head with snow and other stuff. I am looking forward to Spring. On December 8, 2007, I attended a Treasurer's Workshop put on by the Admin group at the Diocese. Learned some interesting stuff - such as the "audit reports" that had been submitted over the last 15-years from St. James' are not considered adequate audit reports by the Diocese. It appears that the Diocese wants standard financial statements such as those of a business - income statement, balance sheet, etc. The Diocese also wants them to be audited just like they would be audited for a business. Well, that info put a slight crimp in the way we track out funds and account for our money. I had always had our records audited each year by a CPA I know. But beginning in 2009, we will need to budget for an independent

firm to complete our audit which may be expensive. There will be more on this later.

With the help of Tom Peterson, we are moving to QuickBooks which is an automated accounting system. QuickBooks, hopefully - if I input everything correctly, will be able to generate the correct 2008 financial statements for the Diocese. Please be patient with me as I learn this new software and try to get the Finance Committee and Vestry used to a new way of looking at things.

I want to thank each and all for getting your pledges in timely. We sent out approximately 85 letters and received 54 pledges. That's a great return. You will hear more on our pledges and budget at the annual meeting (Feb 3). jv

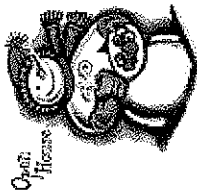


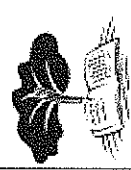
Ways and Means:

As you may know, the Ways and Means Committee is a Vestry fund-raising group. Our goal is to raise-funds to supplement the general fund (i.e. church checkbook). To accomplish this, we have had our recent Christmas Tea, which was a wonderful success (as always). We made \$1,519, with generous donations of food, time, laughter, donations and great door prizes. Thanks to all who made that experience such fun. Our next event is the Spring Tea with the theme of "Lavender and Lace" on May 10th. Tickets are always \$10. We are also thinking about bring back our Fashion Show in the Fall - more about that later. Jackie Vos

Church Bulletin:

Having done the bulletin for the last four years, give or take a few months, I find I need to stop doing it. I am hoping that someone will volunteer to take the job over, as I will no longer be able to do it after January 31st. Please call the church office if you want to volunteer your time for doing this extremely important job. Training cheerfully provided. Elizabeth

FEBRUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p>  <p>1:00 PM 2nd Annual Open House at the Rectory</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>11:00 AM Women's Group 6:00 PM Free Community Dinner</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>10:30 AM Annual Meeting 4:00 PM Super Bowl Party</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00 AM Women's Group</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00 AM Women's Group 7:00 PM Vestry Officer's Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 PM Finance Committee 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>4:00 PM Vestry Retreat</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 AM Vestry Retreat</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:00 AM Women's Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 PM Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
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The Best Day

I just got home from work and I got to thinking about this newsletter on the way out of town. You see, I was wondering if I ever talked about the recycling going on at our house. Fortunately, I keep all these writings in one place on the computer so I can just do a search on a few key words and voila, nope, never mentioned it.

It's kind of elaborate, so pay attention, just in case you ever come over to visit and need to know where to throw stuff. Let's start under the sink. If it's just paper and will burn (no plastic please, too stinky), there's a paper shopping bag to pitch it in. To the right is the compost bucket. If it's food and I won't eat it, toss it in there. Next we have the aluminum cans. They go out on the front porch (my sister got me a neat rig awhile back that stands up and holds a large 33 gallon trash bag - stick it in there). Next to that is another one exactly like it and in there please put the plastic, tin cans, and glass. Kinda near that stuff is the infamous Charles County Blue Bin. I'm just using that for paper products that are a pain to burn, like the newspapers, inserts, and magazines. And finally back in the kitchen over in the corner goes the rest of the stuff, basically anything that doesn't fit one of the categories above, a diaper is a good example.

I'm sure there are folks out there (like a certain Terps fan I know that lives on Laurel Drive) that are saying "Gee whiz, get on with it!" Anyway, one day I found an aluminum Diet Coke can in the burnable trash or maybe it was a half gallon milk jug in there. Now here's where I made my mistake:

"Brenda! What in the world is this Diet Coke can doing in here? You think this thing will burn?"

I pulled that sucker out of there and took a lighter to it, clearly demonstrating that it was just not going to burn, no matter how long I held that flame to it. So I'm thinking that will solve the problem in the future, just visualize a flame touching what you're about to toss in there and ask yourself if it will burn.

Little did I realize that Brenda was busily formulating her own unique solution to that problem. Oh yes, she came up with a winner! And I'm not even going to tell you what she thinks about all this. Oh no, you're just going to have to ask her yourself. So, the next time you see her just ask her, "Where do I throw this away?"

So why in the world did I call this *The Best Day*? Well, I guess because the best days always end with a little something to look forward to, a little something that will put a smile on your face. Perhaps even bring a tear to your eye when you realize that warm body next to you at night is someone so special you can't hardly stand it!

Tom