

# AROUND ST. JAMES

## APRIL MAY JUNE

### 2008

---

### Rector's Ramblings

What a wonderful Holy Week and glorious Easter we had here at St. James'. Many of you participated in the various Holy Week services as we made our journey to the cross and Good Friday. Even more of you were part of the Easter Sunday celebrations. The church looked beautiful with the Easter lilies and candles as we gave thanks and praise to our God for the amazing gift of the life, death and most especially the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

When I was a parishioner at St. Mary's Church in Manchester, CT before going to seminary, we had the wonderful gift of having The Rt. Rev. Donald Hart, retired Bishop of Hawaii serve as our interim rector for nearly two years. He and his wife, Elizabeth and Doug and I became friends over their time with us. After leaving St. Mary's Don went down to serve as Assisting Bishop in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. He was there when I went to seminary at VTS in Alexandria. One of Don's ministries was to visit the seminarians from Southern Virginia each semester and see how they were doing. Elizabeth always accompanied him as their daughter lived in DC. They would always call me and Doug and invite us to lunch with them and their seminarians and then we would get the chance to visit with them.

At one such visit just following a meeting with the seniors who would be soon graduating and ordained as transitional deacons, Don was a bit flustered. He shared with us that one of the seniors who was from a "High Anglo-Catholic" background asked if he could follow the ancient custom of the Roman Catholic Church and prostrate himself before the Bishop after the laying on of hands when he would be ordained a deacon. Don said, "Absolutely not, we are resurrection people!"

"We are resurrection people." That has always stayed with me and each year I ponder it and pray with it and try to live into it more and more. To me to be resurrection people means we live into our new life in Christ with joy and hope, trusting that Jesus did indeed die for our sins and did open for us the way of everlasting life. It means that through this amazing act of dying on the cross for us, Jesus showed us the depth of God's love for us, showed us that there is nothing we can do that can separate us from the love of God.

The letter to the Colossians says "He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son." Jesus showed us that we are beloved children, who God welcomes into his fold with open arms, as the collect at the end of Morning Prayer says "Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your loving embrace." It means that Jesus has indeed made us worthy to stand before God.

This doesn't mean that I don't feel I have to kneel and ask forgiveness for my sins, but it means that I know that my sins are then forgiven and I can rise to my feet with confidence and joy and stand before God, one of his beloved children. Again as we read in Colossians, "He has now reconciled (you) in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before Him."

Alleluia, Christ is risen, and we are indeed people of that resurrection!

Rev. 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.



**May 17th** - *Dance and Karaoke* The cost is \$10 per person, Bring a snack to share and if you want anything to drink besides soft drinks, bring your own.

**June 8<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School Recognition at 10:30 Service with cake to celebrate the end of the School year during coffee hour.



**July** - *Baseball Game - Date to be determined*

**August 9th** - *Cooking Night*

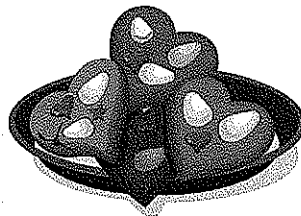


**Sept. 20 & 21st** - *Homecoming Weekend* – Includes Parish Picnic



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

**November 22nd** - *Cookie Bake*





# Happenings

## Windows

There are still 5 windows left to be purchased to cover the cost of the new windows in the old rectory building. The windows are \$300 and can be purchased in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Once the windows are all sold, a plaque will be made up with all the names of those in whose names the windows were purchased. This will hang in the parish hall for all to see.

## Good things Happening

Did you know you are sponsoring a dance program for Middle School children who otherwise could not afford this opportunity? Kay Cotton, a local dance instructor was looking for space to rent to teach her dance classes. She approached the Vestry about using our Parish Hall on Tuesday afternoons. We agreed to let her do so at a reduced rate if she would offer a class free of charge to Middle School kids who

could not afford to go to dance classes. Working with Principal Cynthia Baker at Smallwood Middle School we set up a class on Monday afternoons. The kids are having a great time and it gives them something to do after school. This is a great way to help our community and we are blessed to be able to be a part of making it happen.

## Wednesday Service

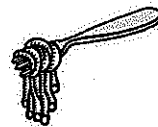
Just a reminder that we have a Wednesday Noon Eucharist each week and everyone is invited. It is a half hour in length so, doesn't take up too much time. Although we pray for our military – those who have died and those who are serving, it is not just for families who have people serving in the military. 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.

## Evangelism Conference

The diocese is sponsoring an evangelism conference on June 7 (9 a. m. to 3:30 p. m.) at the 4-H Conference Center, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. The keynote speaker is internationally known evangelist Brian McLaren, founder of Cedar Ridge Community Church and author of *Everything Must Change, The Secret*

*Message of Jesus and A Generous Orthodoxy*. The conference includes workshops on faith sharing and parish communications and media relations. Register at [https://www.sporg.com/pom/registration?cmd=event\\_info&event\\_id=106795](https://www.sporg.com/pom/registration?cmd=event_info&event_id=106795)

## Community Dinner



St. James will host a free Community Dinner on May 19th and July 28th. From 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Donations of spaghetti and service will be greatly appreciated.

## ECW News

Women of St. James', if you would like to come and see what the ECW is all about our meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of the month at 12:15 pm in the meeting room. We'd love to have you.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.

## St. James Disciples

The Youth Group is collecting full size toiletries for the women's shelter. Also the following items are needed at the shelter: coloring books, books and snack items for the children that are there. The youth group is looking for new members in grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. We meet every other Sunday at 6:00 p.m., the dates for May have not been decided as of this date, due to Mother's Day and Memorial Weekend. They will be announced in church and via email. We are going to start a program called "Start Something" by the Tiger Woods Foundation. This program helps the children to identify goals and dream, develop leadership ability, volunteer service and exploring careers.



## Tutoring Program

You've been hearing about a tutoring program in math and reading for children at the Indian Head Elementary school whose parents can not afford a tutor. Well it has become a reality! The program is running on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 –

6:40 p.m. in various rooms around the Church. We are still looking for folks who love children and want to help a child succeed in school. Training will be provided. See Brenda Peterson or Jackie Williams if you are interested.

## Craft Get Together

Some crafters got together and decided it would be fun to learn new and different crafts, so on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 a day for you to share your gift with others. Our next "Craft Get Together" is May 3 from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. we will make "Mother's Day Cards and some all occasion cards. The cost of this craft is \$10.00. Other "Craft Get Together to be announced.

Card Making "Mothers Day" May 3                      10:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Pre-registration is required. The Sign up sheet is in the church hallway.

# Hymn Stories

## Just As I Am

John 6:35, 37

Words by Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

Music by William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

Without question, this hymn has touched more hearts and influenced more people for Christ than any other song ever written. The text was born within the soul of an invalid woman who wrote these words out of intense feelings of uselessness and despair.

Charlotte Elliott was born in Clapham, England, on March 18, 1789. As a young person she lived a carefree life, gaining popularity as a portrait artist and writer of humorous verse. By the time she was thirty, however, her health began to fail rapidly, and soon she became a bedridden invalid for the remaining years of her life. With her failing health came great feelings of despondency. In 1822 a noted Swiss evangelist, Dr. Caesar Malan, visited the Elliott home in Brighton, England. His visit proved to be a turning point in Charlotte's life. In counselling Miss Elliott about her spiritual and emotional problems, Dr. Malan impressed upon her this truth, "You must come just as you are, a sinner, to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." Throughout the remainder of her life, Miss Elliott celebrated every year the day on which her Swiss friend had led her to a personal relationship with Christ, for she considered it to be her spiritual birthday. Although she did not write her text for this hymn until 1836, fourteen years after her conversion experience, it is apparent that she never forgot the words of her friend, for they form the very essence of this hymn.

Though Charlotte Elliott lived to be eighty-two years of age, she never regained normal health, and she often endured seasons of great physical suffering. Of her own afflictions she once wrote, "He knows, and He alone, what it is, day after day, hour after hour, to fight against bodily feelings of almost overpowering weakness, languor and exhaustion, to resolve not to yield to slothfulness, depression and instability, such as the body causes me to long to indulge, but to rise every morning determined to take for my motto, 'If a man will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'" Another time she wrote, God sees, God guides, God guards me. His grace surrounds me, and His voice continually bids me to be happy and holy in His service just where I am."

Miss Elliott wrote the text for "Just As I Am" in 1836. It was published that same year in the second edition of *The Invalid's Hymn Book*, a collection which contained 115 of her original works. She wrote this hymn with the desire that it might aid financially in building a school for the children of poor clergymen that her own pastor brother was trying to build in Brighton, England. Miss Elliott felt so helpless in her desire to aid the parishioners in this worthy project. Interestingly enough, this one hymn from the pen of the clergyman's invalid sister brought in more funds than all of his bazaars and projects combined. The brother himself has left these words, "In the course of a long ministry, I hope to have been permitted to see some fruit of my labors; but I feel more has been done by a single hymn of my sister's."

In all, Charlotte Elliott wrote approximately 150 hymns. She is generally regarded as one of the finest of all English women hymnwriters. It is said that after her death more than a thousand letters were found among her papers from individuals around the world, expressing testimonials for what this one hymn had meant in their lives.

The tune, "Woodworth," composed by the well-known American gospel musician, William B. Bradbury, was first used for the hymn, "The God of Love Will Soon Indulge." Years later another American gospel songwriter, Thomas Hastings, wedded Bradbury's tune with Miss Elliott's text.

Other hymns by William B. Bradbury include "He Leadeth Me", "Jesus Loves Me", "Depth of Mercy", "Even Me", "Sweet Hour of Prayer", and "The Solid Rock".

Only eternity will reveal the vast number of individuals whose lives have been dramatically changed through the use of this one hymn from the pen of an invalid woman. It is a hymn that can and should be used more frequently than merely an invitational number at the close of a service. Its message is one that we as believers need to be reminded of frequently—that our eternal standing and peace with God depend solely on Christ's merits and not our own.

**Just As I Am**  
**Words by Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871**  
**Music by William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868**

**Verse 1**

**Just as I am, without one plea,  
 But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
 And that Thou biddest me come to Thee,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Verse 2**

**Just as I am, and waiting not  
 To rid my soul of one dark blot;  
 To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Verse 3**

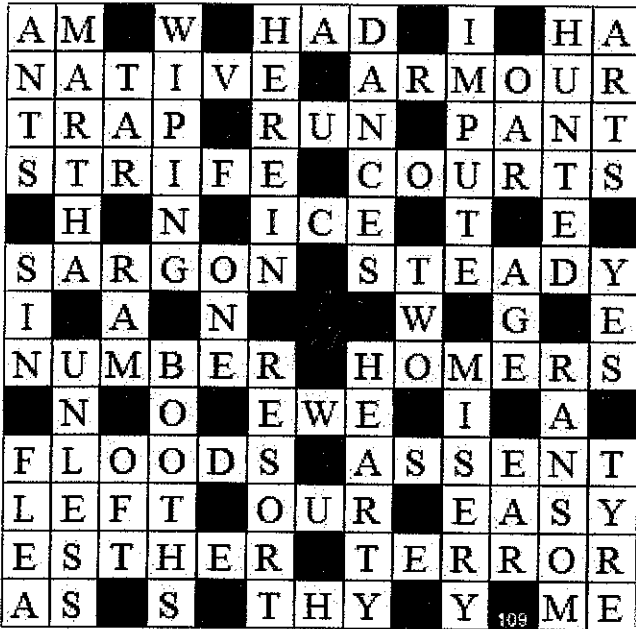
**Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
 Because Thy promise I believe,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Verse 4**

**Just as I am, Thy love unknown  
 Hath broken every barrier down;  
 Now, to be Thine, yes, Thine alone,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

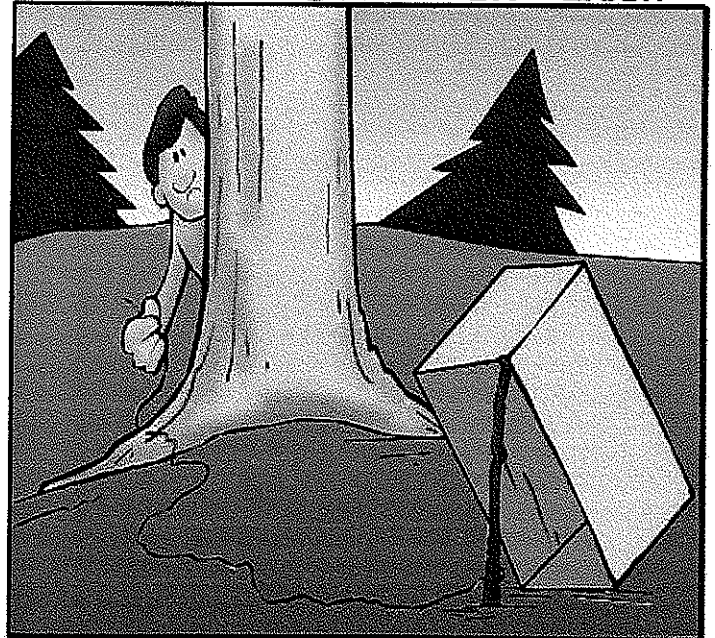
*Helpful web sites*

Church website [www.stjamesindianhead.org](http://www.stjamesindianhead.org) and the  
 Diocese website: [www.edow.org](http://www.edow.org)



Copyright 2008 biblewordgames.com All Rights Reserved

**The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**



In our attempts to KNOW GOD, to UNDERSTAND GOD please realize Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipotent God can not be put in any box devised by man.  
 Isaiah 55:8,9

**St. James' Episcopal Church  
2008 Nursery Schedule  
As of February 23, 2008**

February	3	Mittie Buchanan
	10	Jeanette Rosario
	17	Ron Litten
	24	Nancy Ahern
March	2	Barbara Prasser
	9	Shelley Prasser
	16	Mittie Buchanan
	23	Ron Litten
	30	Jeanette Rosario
April	6	Nancy Ahern
	13	Barbara Prasser
	20	Mittie Buchanan
	27	Ron Litten
May	4	Shelley Prasser
	11	Jeanette Rosario
	18	Nancy Ahern
	25	Ron Litten
June	1	Barbara Prasser
	8	Mittie Buchanan
	15	Shelley Prasser
	22	Jeanette Rosario
	29	Nancy Ahern
July	6	Ron Litten
	13	Barbara Prasser
	20	Mittie Buchanan
	27	Shelley Prasser

If you need to switch, here is everyone's telephone number and e-mail:

Nancy Ahern	301 743-9583; <a href="mailto:mojr3645@comcast.net">mojr3645@comcast.net</a>
Mittie Buchanan	301 292-3274; <a href="mailto:mittiebuchanan@aol.com">mittiebuchanan@aol.com</a>
Ron Litten	301 934-1471; <a href="mailto:rlitten.architect@verizon.net">rlitten.architect@verizon.net</a>
Barbara Prasser	301 743-6880; <a href="mailto:bprasser@verizon.net">bprasser@verizon.net</a>
Shelley Prasser	301 743-7515; <a href="mailto:shelleyp65@comcast.net">shelleyp65@comcast.net</a>
Jeanette Rosario	301 375-9213; <a href="mailto:jrosario@comcast.net">jrosario@comcast.net</a>
Evelyn McClannahan (will substitute)	301 375-7406; <a href="mailto:elmdam457@cs.com">elmdam457@cs.com</a>



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 Philips**



# KIDS CORNER

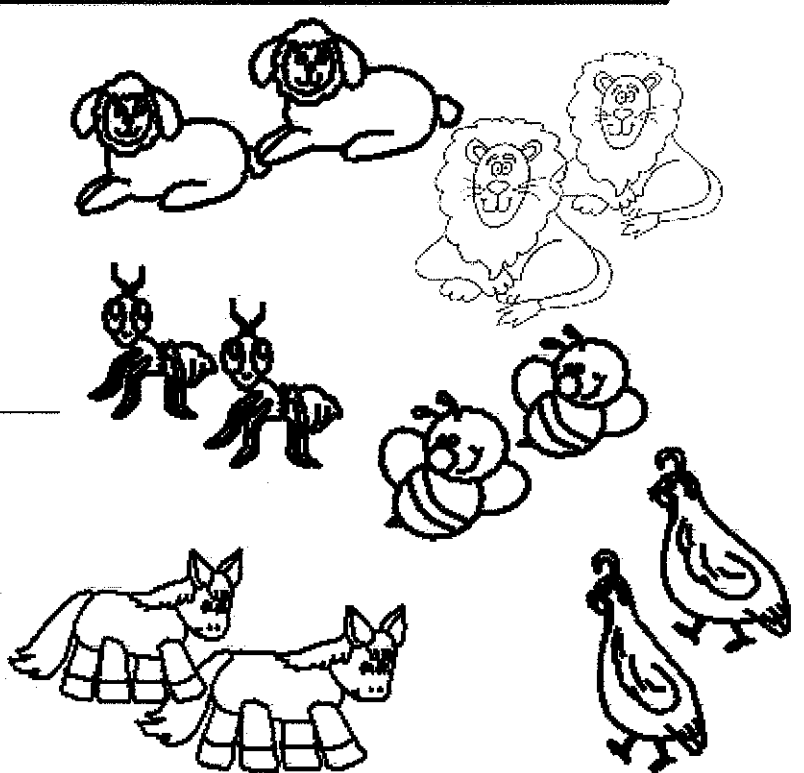
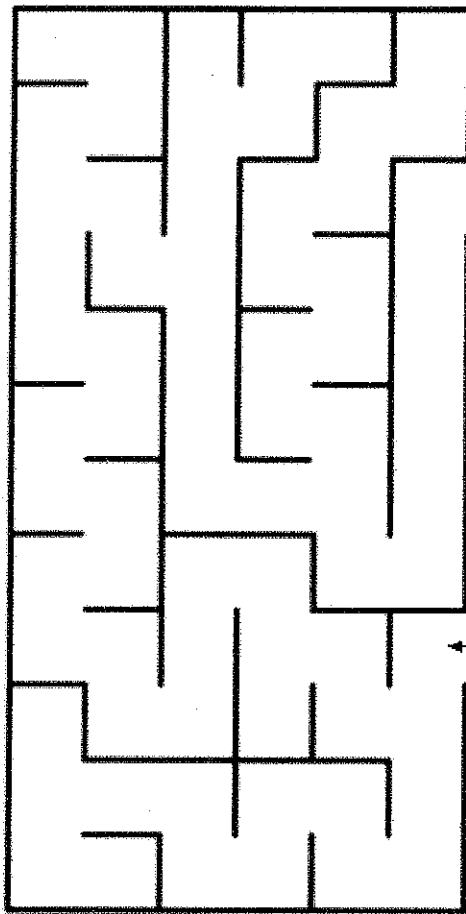
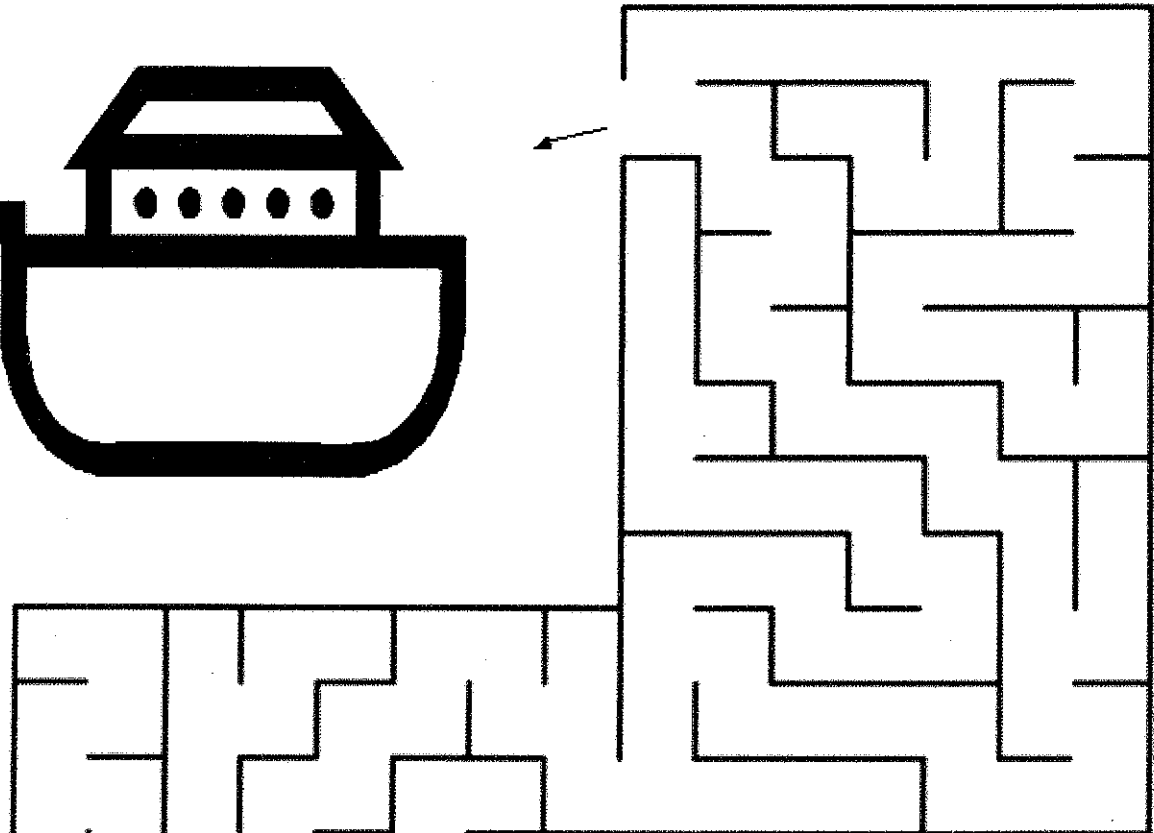
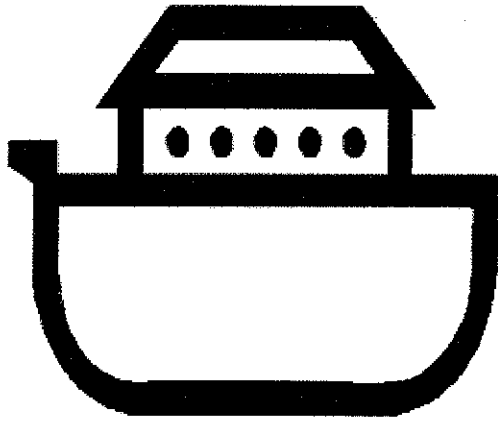
## KIDS



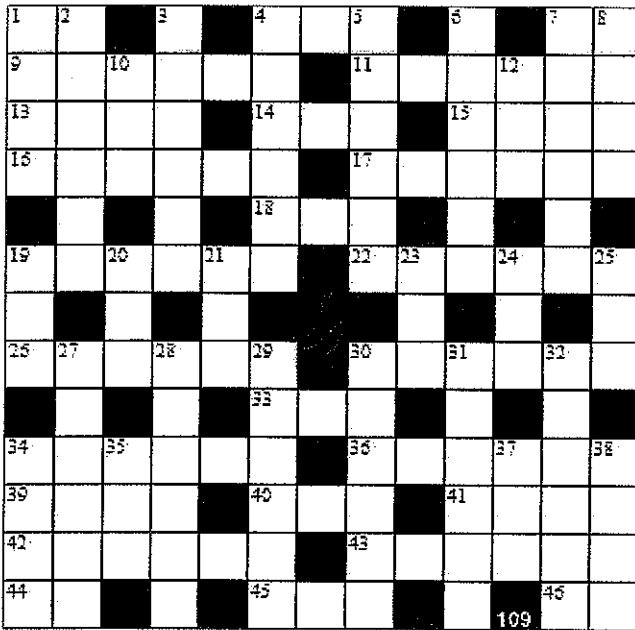
You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female,  
to keep them alive with you.  
*from Genesis 6*

# Noah's Ark Maze

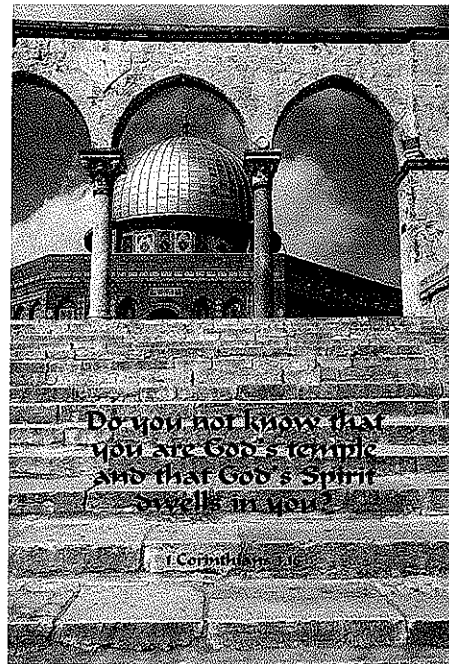
Help the animals find the ark.



# ADULT FUN PAGE



Copyright 2008 biblewordgames.com All Rights Reserved



## ACROSS

- 1 Then Jesus declared, "I \_\_\_ the bread of life (John 6:35)
- 4 he went away and sold everything he \_\_\_ and bought it (Matt 13:46)
- 7 "\_\_\_ ! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? (Luke 4:34)
- 9 When he lies, he speaks his \_\_\_ language, for he is a liar (John 8:44-45)
- 11 he taketh from him all his \_\_\_ wherein he trusted (Luke 11:22) KJV
- 13 You hypocrites, why are you trying to \_\_\_ me? (Matt 22:18)
- 14 If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will \_\_\_ out (Matt 9:17)
- 15 That \_\_\_ after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor (Amos 2:7) KJV
- 16 They are full of envy, murder, \_\_\_, deceit and malice (Rom 1:29)
- 17 Every day I sat in the temple \_\_\_ teaching, and you did not arrest me (Matt 26:55)
- 18 The breath of God produces \_\_\_, and the broad waters become frozen (Job 37:10)
- 19 the supreme commander, sent by \_\_\_ king of Assyria (Isa 20:1)
- 22 Strengthen the feeble hands, \_\_\_ the knees that give way (Isa 35:3)
- 26 The \_\_\_ of those who ate was about five thousand men (Matt 14:21)
- 30 gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten \_\_\_ (Num 11:32) KJV
- 33 Instead, he took the \_\_\_ lamb that belonged to the poor man (2 Sam 12:4)
- 34 I have come into the deep waters; the \_\_\_ engulf me (Ps 69:2)
- 36 words of the prophets declare good to the king with one \_\_\_ (2 Chron 18:12) KJV
- 39 do not let your \_\_\_ hand know what your right hand is doing (Matt 6:3)
- 40 Give us today \_\_\_ daily bread (Matt 6:11)
- 41 For my yoke is \_\_\_ and my burden is light (Matt 11:30)
- 42 When he saw Queen \_\_\_ standing in the court, he was pleased (Est 5:2)
- 43 Men will faint from \_\_\_, apprehensive of what is coming (Luke 21:26)
- 44 Be perfect, therefore, \_\_\_ your heavenly Father is perfect (Matt 5:48)
- 45 Son, be of good cheer; \_\_\_ sins be forgiven thee (Matt 9:2) KJV
- 46 "follow \_\_\_," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men"(Matt 4:19)

## DOWN

- 1 \_\_\_ are creatures of little strength (Prov 30:25)
- 2 sister of Lazarus (John 11:5)
- 3 as one wipes a dish, \_\_\_ it and turning it upside down (2 Kings 21:13)
- 4 And \_\_\_ is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth (John 4:37) KJV
- 5 Isn't he the one they sing about in their \_\_\_ (1 Sam 21:11)
- 6 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not \_\_\_ sin (Rom 4:8) KJV
- 7 Those who were my enemies without cause \_\_\_ me like a bird (Lam 3:52)
- 8 the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret \_\_\_ (Ex 8:18)
- 10 she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with \_\_\_ and pitch (Ex 2:3)
- 12 all that handle the \_\_\_, the mariners, and all the pilots (Ezek 27:29) KJV
- 19 Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the \_\_\_ of the world! (John 1:29)
- 20 one \_\_\_ and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering (Num 7:15)
- 21 A voice of \_\_\_ calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord (Matt 3:3)
- 23 For where \_\_\_ or three come together in my name, there am I (Matt 18:20)
- 24 Ask him. He is of \_\_\_; he will speak for himself (John 9:21)
- 25 king of the Jews? "\_\_\_, it is as you say," Jesus replied (Matt 27:11)
- 27 no one can see the kingdom of God \_\_\_ he is born again (John 3:3)
- 28 the Israelites were to live in \_\_\_ during the feast of the seventh month (Neh 8:14)
- 29 he did not \_\_\_ to sorcery as at other times (Num 24:1)
- 30 so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by \_\_\_ counsel (Prov 27:9) KJV
- 31 "No misfortune is seen in Jacob, no \_\_\_ observed in Israel (Num 23:21)
- 32 the \_\_\_ for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough (Ps 49:8)
- 34 Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A \_\_\_? (1 Sam 24:14)
- 35 How \_\_\_ is the candle of the wicked put out! (Job 21:17) KJV
- 37 and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his \_\_\_ (Mark 14:47)
- 38 Jesus withdrew to the region of \_\_\_ and Sidon (Matt 15:21)

## Laugh for the day

Once there was a millionaire, who collected live alligators. He kept them in the pool in back of his mansion. The millionaire also had a beautiful daughter who was single. One day he decides to throw a huge party, and during the party he announces, "My dear guests . . . I have a proposition to every man here. I will give one million dollars or my daughter to the man who can swim across this pool full of alligators and emerge alive!"

As soon as he finished his last word, there was the sound of a large splash!! There was one guy in the pool swimming with all he could and screaming out of fear. The crowd cheered him on as he kept stroking as though he was running for his life. Finally, he made it to the other side with only a torn shirt and some minor injuries. The millionaire was impressed.

He said, "My boy that was incredible! Fantastic! I didn't think it could be done! Well I must keep my end of the bargain. Do you want my daughter or the one million dollars?"

The guy says, "Listen, I don't want your money, nor do I want your daughter! I want the person who pushed me in that water!"

## Convention 2008

The yearly Convention of the Diocese of Washington was held in the National Cathedral on January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008. This year, the convention was exceptionally great. The theme of "That we all may be one" served as an inspiration to all who attended. We truly felt that we were working as one body in Christ.

The Friday night Eucharist was beautiful. The cathedral choir was in the Chancel, along with six other parish choirs – including ours – in their robes and making proud. When the procession came down the center aisle and Karen Burroughs came along carrying our St. James Banner, it made us proud again. The Reverend Ian Douglas gave meaning to the theme "That we all may be one" In his very inspiring Eucharist sermon. His sermon is on the Diocesan website, if you are interested in reading it.

Saturday began with the Bishop's address (also on the Diocesan website) I strongly advise that you read it. You will be amazed at the missionary work that our Diocese has done and is still doing in other countries – especially South Africa. A lot of missionary work is being carried on here in our diocese among our 92 very diverse parishes. The John T. Walker School for Boys is due to officially open in September of 2008 and will provide an education for young boys from the most impoverished section of Washington.

One of our parishes in downtown Washington had been ready to close their doors until one offered to combine their efforts and money and form one church – which they have done and after petitioning the Diocese for a permit to do this (Which was voted on Saturday and happily granted), they are now the parish of "St. Monica and St. James."

Unfortunately, the Keynote address given by Dr. Peter Steinke is available only on audio on the Diocesan website. If you can manage it, it would really be worth hearing. He had a great message and a wonderful sense of humor.

All in all, this year was a different and very inspiring convention.

*Ann Morgan*

**Saturday, April 19, 2008: Family Movie Night and Pot Luck Dinner**

**Luck Dinner**

The movie will be Facing the Giants.

Today's Events    This week's events    This month's events    This month's calendar    Next Month >

**MAY 2008**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 11:00 AM Women's Group 5:30 PM Elementary School Kids Tutoring Program	29 5:30 PM Elementary School Kids Tutoring Program	30 12:00 PM Noon Eucharist Service 8:00 PM AA Meeting	1 5:30 PM Elementary School Kids Tutoring Program 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	2 9:00 AM Flower Mart at the Cathedral <i>You're Invited!</i>	3 10:00 AM Craft Get Together - Card Making "Mothers Day" <b>Crafts for Kids!</b>
4	5 11:00 AM Women's Group	6 5:30 PM Elementary School Kids Tutoring Program	7 12:00 PM Noon Eucharist Service 8:00 PM AA Meeting	8 5:30 PM Elementary School Kids Tutoring Program 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	9	10 Tea Party 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM "Lavender and Lace" Spring Tea
11	12 11:00 AM Women's Group 6:30 PM Vestry Officer's Meeting	13 5:30 PM Elementary School Kids Tutoring Program	14 12:00 PM Noon Eucharist Service 6:30 PM Finance Committee 8:00 PM AA Meeting	15 5:30 PM Elementary School Kids Tutoring Program 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	16	17 SPECIAL MUSIC 7:00 PM Family Night - Dance & Karaoke
18	19 11:00 AM Women's Group	20 5:30 PM Elementary School Kids Tutoring Program 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting	21 12:00 PM Noon Eucharist Service 8:00 PM AA Meeting	22 5:30 PM Elementary School Kids Tutoring Program 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	23	24 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study
25	26 11:00 AM Women's Group	27 5:30 PM Elementary School Kids Tutoring Program	28 12:00 PM Noon Eucharist Service 8:00 PM AA Meeting	29 5:30 PM Elementary School Kids Tutoring Program 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	30	31

## Here We Are!

Let's see, I think it was about 4+ years ago that I became Senior Warden for the first time and as such, since Jim had just left, I had to figure out who it was that put together the Newsletter and then what in the world it was that I was supposed to contribute. As it turned out I didn't have a clue; so I just sort of opened up my heart and let stuff come on out. It never really seemed much fun to write something like a litany of accomplishments or plans for doing really important stuff in the future. So every time a Newsletter was produced, I just slipped something in there and rambled on telling stories and sharing things that I found interesting. The neat thing about reading is that you can just stop when you feel like it and pick it up later or just forget about it and move on.

I've always had fun doing this and I know there are at least 3 folks out there that have had a good time trying to follow along where I was leading with this. I'm thinking that now that we have a new Senior Warden, I'll just pass the baton along to her and see where that little gesture takes us. Whaddya think?

That being said, I'd like to introduce Brenda, aka Senior Warden. She's the one with the voice of an angel and a heart as deep as the Mariana Trench. A more dedicated Mother and Grandmother, you'd be hard pressed to find! But, she's also very bad at home - throws cold water on me when I'm in the shower, puts rocks in my pillow, and hides my glasses!! All in all, a well rounded individual, wouldn't you say? Ok, honey, your turn now - - - - -

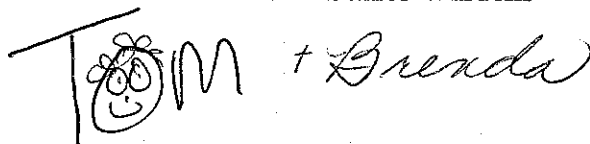
WOW, what an introduction! Just when I thought I was going to cry (so heartwarming), I started to laugh.

This Senior Warden stuff has been quite a roller coaster ride and I've had this job for less than three months. What the future holds, God only knows.

Speaking of God, I was having a discussion with my granddaughters, Anne Marie and Sarah, on our ride home from school. They had been reading a book about Haunted Houses. On one page was a picture of writings scribbled by various ghosts. They were having the best time decoding the messages, certain that if they got it right the ghost would appear (which by the way would scare them to death). Somehow the conversation moved on to whether or not we could talk with God. I told them that they could talk to God anytime they wanted, no matter where they were. Sarah asked if God would talk back. I explained that he would not talk to them like we talk to each other, but he would put ideas in their heads if they listened hard. Anne Marie agreed as if that was an obvious answer and she knew it all along. Sarah however was a bit skeptical, so Anne Marie excitedly said, "I'll talk to God now. God, is this a good ghost or a bad ghost?" (Figuring she would continue to decode the ghost writings if the answer was right). She waited a few seconds and then proudly announced, "God says it is a good ghost."

God, thanks for the children that give us such a pure and simple view of the world, and thanks for always listening to me even when I'm not so good at listening to you.

Tom and Brenda  
Past and Present Senior Wardens

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom + Brenda". The word "Tom" is written in a large, stylized font with a circular flourish around the letter 'O'. The word "Brenda" is written in a cursive script to the right of "Tom", with a plus sign between them.



St. James' Episcopal Church  
7 Potomac Avenue  
Indianhead, MD  
20640

