



St. James' Episcopal Church Indian Head, Maryland



November 2015



Rector's Ramblings

Greetings Church,

Hello, wonderful members of St. James'. I have been with you now five weeks and two days. From the first time I met you all on August 30th, I go from one awesome encounter with you to another. Several things stand out about the disciples of St. James'. First, you are friendly and fun. You treat each other well. You give with your blood, sweat and tears to the needs of the church. You do not forget those who are hurting outside the church. You accept the Lord's great commission to Love God with your whole heart, mind and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Some things I really love about Sundays: praying and singing with you; preaching for you; the way you bring your personal celebrations into worship; the way the children are held up before the congregation as belonging to all; the decorum and commitment of the acolytes, readers, prayer leaders, choir and our musician.

I really love our parish fellowship after church. The food is good. The people are happy and truly enjoying one another. I think our church is beautiful and unique. It gives me joy just to walk into the Nave and to think of the care you have all given to the church to keep it clean, beautiful and solemnly ready for worship.

More things I love: your service to humanity: opening the church as a shelter; providing Thanksgiving dinners to those in need; looking to our near neighbors in Haiti; going to where the rubber meets the road by sharing coins at the laundromat for those so poor that staying clean is a burden.

I love your sophistication in bible study. I love that you all know how to pray. I love your creativity in turning fund raisers into fellowship and outreach. I love that God blessed me by bringing me to you.

Blessings, thanksgivings and love,

Nan+



Message from your Senior Warden

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers," Ephesians 1:16 ESV

As Senior Warden, during this time of transition, I am grateful to all the people of St. James', who have helped me to keep things running smoothly. We are blessed to have our Interim Priest, Nan Hildebrand, to preside over worship, and guide our Vestry with the business of St. James'. I am grateful to all of the people who have expressed their appreciation and encouragement to me as Senior Warden. It has been challenging, and rewarding. We are a blessed congregation at St. James', with devoted people who generously share their blessings, time, talent and treasure "with the hope of showing God's love to others."

As you will read, in Cathy Jenkins stewardship article, we are \$23,000 short in making our 2016 budget. St. James' is blessed to have a devoted, passionate, Finance Committee who take their fiduciary responsibility very seriously. The shortage is a concern, due to our desire to live out our mission statement in the world, "We generously share our blessings, in the name of Christ with the hope of showing God's love to others." In order to do this, we need the funding for the daily operation of St. James', so we may continue what we at St. James' do so well, our mission work. I know and love this congregation, and I am confident that we will make our 2016 budget!! Thank you in advance for your generosity in our stewardship campaign.

Cathy Jenkins has been in charge of our stewardship campaign for the last 15 years. Cathy has annually written beautiful, compelling, insightful letters reminding us of the importance of stewardship. Cathy is stepping down from the stewardship campaign, once we complete our 2016 drive. I know you will join me in thanking Cathy for her tireless efforts on behalf of St. James'.

I would like to express my public gratitude to Diane Ryan, who abundantly blesses our church each week. Diane quietly, and cheerfully, formats our bulletins each week, with the proper readings and liturgical seasons, as well as formatting our funeral bulletins. I would not have been able to keep our worship experience on track if it had not been for Diane! I am so very grateful and indebted to her for assisting me in this important matter. Diane will be uncomfortable with the public accolades, but she so richly deserves for everyone to know how much she does for our church. When you see Diane please express your appreciation and gratitude.

Faithfully yours,

Linda



The Search Committee

The Search Committee convened on Tuesday, November 17 to begin the process of finding our next installed Rector. We mapped out our work plan for the next few months, and began to bond as a cohesive group. We have assembled a wonderful cross section of our congregation, representing a variety of ministries, gifts, talents and demographics. The vestry discerned for a lengthy period of time, when they appointed the members. The Search Committee will be commissioned on November 29, 2015 when we have one service, at 9:00 AM for "Lessons and Carols." The Search Committee is comprised of the following members:

Tom Gray worships at the 8:00 service and has previously served on the Vestry, and currently serves on the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Tom has been a member of St. James' for approximately 9 years. Tom is married to Sheila, father of Ryan and Kyle.

Cedric Welch worships at the Family Service with his wife, Cathy, and daughters Mackenna and Amelia. Cedric and Cathy used to attend the 8:00 service until they had children. Cedric has served on several search committees at his previous church, and he has served on St. James' Vestry. Cedric has attended St. James' for approximately 10 years. Cedric will be the Chaplain of our committee.

Charlotte Martin worships at the 10:30 service and she raised her children at St. James'. Charlotte has participated in a variety of ministries from teaching Sunday school, serving on the Vestry, Finance Committee, and being a lay reader. Charlotte is a wife, mother and grandmother.

Karen Burroughs has attended St. James since the early 1970's, and raised her children at St. James'. Karen serves on the Altar Guild, coordinates the Acolytes and Lay Readers, she is the Vestry Clerk and ECW Secretary. Karen is a wife, mother, and grandmother. Karen will be the Search Committee Secretary.

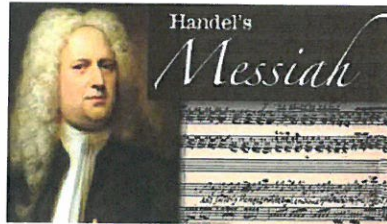
Adah Morgan worships at the 10:30 service, and has been a member of St. James' for 9 years. Adah has served on the Vestry, is part of our Choir, is the ECW treasurer, a licensed Eucharistic visitor, and currently is head of our kitchen, and participates in a variety of ministries including GRACE.

Erica Prasser worships at our 10:30 service, and has been a member of St. James' since before she was born. Erica was raised in our Sunday school, attended our Family Worship and served as an Acolyte. Erica is the youngest member of our committee, and she will represent the younger generation. We are blessed to have a professional photographer on the committee, and Erica will capture pictures for our Parish Profile.

Bertha Gordon worships at both the Family Service and the 10:30 service, and has been a member of St. James' for 6 years. Bertha is married to Thomas, our Junior Warden, and they are raising their three children, Thomas, Jr., Georgia, and Victoria in our Sunday school. Bertha has served on the Vestry, is a Counter, and is a Sunday school teacher.

Tom Peterson worships at the Family Service with his grandchildren and the 10:30 service where he sings in the choir. Tom is married to Brenda and they have been members of St. James' since 2000. Tom is the Treasurer, he serves on the Finance Committee, as well as a variety of other ministries, he is the "Tech Guy," and "Cookie Man." Tom is the Co-Chair of the Search Committee.

Linda Mohler worships at the 10:30 service, and raised her daughter in our Sunday school and Family Service until Kira's teen years. She has been a member of St. James' for over 26 years. Linda is the Senior Warden, she has been on the Altar Guild, taught Sunday school, is a licensed Eucharistic visitor, and is currently a Lay Reader, as well as participating in a variety of other ministries including GRACE. Linda is the Co-Chair of the Search Committee.

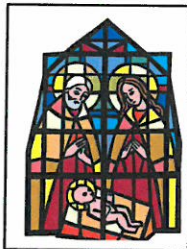


Handel's Messiah

The Fort Washington Community Chorus featuring our own Joan Shaw, Rosalie Puterbaugh, and Doug Scott will present portions of Handel's Messiah on Sunday, December 6th at 4:00PM. It will be performed at Providence-Fort Washington United Methodist Church at 10610 Old Fort Road, Fort Washington.



We will not have a service on Thanksgiving Day.



Christmas Services

Dec. 20th 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM service
The pageant will be presented at the 10:30 AM service.



Dec 24th 7:00 PM - Carol Sing



7:30 PM – Eucharist

(One service only)



There will be no 10:00 PM service on Christmas Eve or a Christmas Morning service.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE 2016 COFFEE HOUR

Volunteers are needed to assist with our weekly coffee hour after the 10:30 a.m. service. Each Sunday at least two parishioners are needed to donate a snack and coordinate that week's coffee hour. The coffee and other drinks, along with the plates and eating utensils, are provided by the church. If you are already on the volunteer list, you need not volunteer again. However, if you are interested in helping, or if you have any questions, please contact Sheila Gray. A sign-up sheet will be posted in late November.

God Bless You, Sheila



Parish Hall Rental

We are continuing to promote the rental of the parish hall as it is a great source of church income. The rates are as follows:

Parishioners of St. James'

Asked to make a donation of \$100.00

Non-parishioners

\$350.00/first 4 hours - Limited use of the kitchen

\$50.00 each additional hour

\$400.00/first 4 hours - Full use of the kitchen

\$50.00 each additional hour

A signed contract is included for the use of the hall.

If you know of anyone that needs to use a hall for a wedding reception, dinner, birthday party, etc., or if you have any questions please have them contact **Karen Burroughs**.

Free Community Spaghetti Dinner



Donations of \$190 were received at the free community spaghetti dinner held on September 28th.

The next spaghetti dinner will be held on **Monday, November 30th**. We are in need of sauce and as always, desserts. Sign-up sheet to help is on the bulletin board.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE ECW (AND TOM TOO)



In Christ's love and peace,
Sheila Gray, ECW President



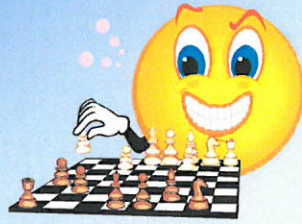
Christmas Tea

There will be no Christmas Tea, but keep your ears open for news of the Spring Tea. Hope to see you there!

Love in Christ,

Karen Burroughs

Dear Friends: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4.11



FELLOWSHIP

We recently had a Karaoke at the church. It was loads of fun. If you were not there you missed a banging great time.

We are looking for ideas for future events. Please let us know what amazing adventures would be of interest to you. I see a game day in our future.

As always, if you have any suggestions, please contact either Brenda or myself.

Love in Christ,

Adah

Twelfth Night Celebration

There is some confusion these days as to which night is Twelfth Night: the modern practice is often to regard the night of Epiphany itself (sixth of January) to be Twelfth Night. The older tradition of Twelfth Night being the 5th of January, stems from the medieval practice of the day beginning at sunset, rather than at midnight as it does now. Thus, Twelfth Night fell on the 5th January, ahead of Twelfth Day on the 6th. We are going to celebrate it on the 5th.

So Tuesday, January 5th at 7:00 we are having a Twelfth Night Party! We will have a roast pork dinner, wine (instead of the Burning Bishop that is the traditional drink, you can Google that one), a King's Cake, a King or Queen of the night, music, fellowship and offer gifts to our King. We are asking you to bring a side dish or dessert and a gift to offer to our newborn King, Jesus. The gifts can be a food item for NETS or a financial donation to either NETS or a local charity of your choice. Everyone is welcome! Please let us know if you would like to come but need a ride. Sign-up sheet will be on the board.



Stewardship and Finances



Hello All,

As all of you know, we are in the midst of our annual Stewardship Drive for 2016. The Finance Committee is working tirelessly in making the 2016 budget for St. James'. We spent 2 hours on it this past Monday evening. I have been asked by the Finance Committee to communicate our current financial situation for the upcoming year.

In preparing the budget, the committee has realized that in calendar year 2016 there will not be enough money to adequately fund the operations of the church nor provide a source of funding for missions. The church is projected to be \$23,000 in the red. Now, I know all too well, the members of St. James' do not like to talk about money. We skirt around the issue, ignore it, and just plain avoid it. However, now is the time to talk about it. Most of you are probably asking "how does the church find itself in this situation?" Let me explain. When I sat down and reviewed the pledges that are in compared to last year, I found that several families have left the church and several members have passed away. While we miss these people sorely, financially this is a difficult situation to be in. We have not been able to replace this revenue either through new pledges or increased pledges. As the responsibility of the Finance Committee, we will be making recommendations to the vestry to either cut operations and/or missions. This is a very hard recommendation to make. Options could include:

- o Eliminating Safe Nights
- o Eliminating donations to NETS
- o Eliminating the Diocesan donation
- o Cutting services to save on electricity and fuel oil
- o Keeping the church cooler during services in the winter and warmer in the summer months
- o Cutting back on cleaning services
- o Not being able to pay for repairs at the church or rectory
- o Inhibiting the church's possibility to hire a full time rector or a rector with the experience and tenure we desire

These are ALL real possibilities. You can help turn the tides. As a member of St. James' you can either increase your current pledge; or turn in your pledge if you haven't already done so; and finally, if you never pledge, please, please, please consider it. Cedric and I have taken the first step in making increases in our pledges. If you wish to increase your pledge and you have already submitted your form, you can either fill out a new form or send me an e-mail Jenkins.icatherine@gmail.com . Thank you for your time in considering this.

Cathy Jenkins
Stewardship Chair

"Remember, stewardship is what we do with all that we have once we have said 'I believe'."



On Beads of Prayer Ministry

The On Beads of Prayer ministry has been temporarily suspended. Please keep your eyes and ears open for its revival.

Have a GREAT day!
Martha

Haiti News

Hello everyone,

There has been an important shift in our Haiti Mission. Due to political circumstances, all Haitians residing in the Dominican Republic are being forced to return to Haiti even if they were born and raised in the Dominican Republic. Some of these people being sent to Haiti do not even speak the language. Jean Fils Cherie has been reassigned to work with churches and schools where these people will be transferred to. He was chosen in part because he speaks Spanish and Haitian Creole. He has asked us to continue our support of his missions which we have agreed to do.

We have several up-coming fundraising events. Please find it in your heart to help by participating in one or several of these events. All money collected goes directly to the school (no middle man).

December 16 (5-8 PM) – Roy Rogers

December 20 (during coffee hour after the Christmas Pageant) – Bake Sale

50/50 raffles will be held at all spaghetti dinners. A drawing will be held at the end of each event.

Peace,
Thomas Gordon





NETS (Neighbors Eager To Serve)

NETS has provided 190 Thanksgiving baskets to the needy this year. They will be doing the same for Christmas.

We are so lucky to have such a generous congregation, because without you this would not have been possible. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

God Bless You,

Barbara Prasser (B2).



FALL BAZAAR THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the 2015 Fall Bazaar a success. Thanks for your time and for your donations. We made over \$3,500 and we couldn't have done it without you.

Gratefully,
The ECW
Adah Morgan, Bazaar Coordinator



Genesis Health Care Center

A monthly service of Holy Communion is being offered to the residents of Genesis Health Care Center, La Plata, by Reverend Tim of Christ Church, La Plata and our organist, Julie Bivens on the first Thursday at 3:00. If anyone would like to participate, help with the joyful noise that we make, and help the residents with their books please see Adah, Linda Mohler, or Brenda.

ST. JAMES' 2015/2016 SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS



2015



November 22

Parent Breakfast (No 9:15 service)
Kids will arrive at 9:00 a.m. to start breakfast



November 29

First Sunday in Advent - Blended Service
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL or 9:15 SERVICE



December 13
(tentative date)

Kids will do a Carol Sing at the nursing home.



December 20

Christmas Pageant

December 27

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

2016

January 3

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



February 7

Annual Meeting - Blended Service
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL or 9:15 SERVICE



February 28

Pretzel Making Sunday (Meet at 10:15 a.m.)
Pretzels will be served at coffee hour
The pretzel-making story will be read.



March 20

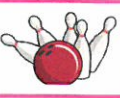
Palm Sunday
Children Read the Passion at the 9:15 a.m. Children's Service



March 27



Easter Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt after the 9:15 a.m. service
Bring a Friend to Church



April 10

Sunday School will go Bowling after church

May 22



Sundae-Making Sunday after the 9:15 a.m. service
Bring a Friend to Church



June 5

Children's Service at 10:30 a.m.; Kids will participate.
Sunday School Awards will be presented during Coffee Hour.



Christmas Pageant

Please mark your calendars for this year's Christmas pageant to be held on Sunday, December 20 at the 10:30 AM service. If your child can participate in the pageant, contact Brenda Peterson. Practices are held after the 10:30 AM service each Sunday.

All children are invited to attend.

GUESS WHO THIS ST. JAMES' PARISHIONER IS!



I was born and raised in Maryland and spent some time in another sunny state. I was the second of two children. I became a member of St James' in the early teens of the 21st century. I'm a lot older than that picture makes me look and my Mom is almost as cute as I am!

(The answer to the last challenge is Linda Mohler)

We miss Joshua's comics so here is an old one to enjoy!






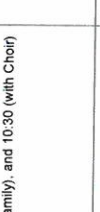
Comics by Joshua:

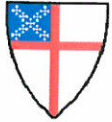


Our mission statement:

We generously share our blessings in the name of Christ with the hope of showing God's love to others.

DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29 8:00 AM Services are at 8 and 10:30 (with Choir) NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>	<p>30 5:00 PM Community Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>3  6:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 8:00 AM Services are at 8, 9:15 (Family), and 10:30 (with Choir)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>10  6:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 8:00 AM Services are at 8, 9:15 (Family), and 10:30 (with Choir)</p>	<p>14 6:30 PM Haiti Meeting</p>	<p>15 4:00 PM Laundry Love Ministry</p>	<p>16  FINANCE COMMITTEE 5:00 PM Roy Rogers Fundraiser 7:00 PM Finance Committee 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>17  6:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 8:00 AM Services are at 8 and 10:30 (Kids Christmas Pageant) 12:00 PM Haiti Bake Sale</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>23 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>24  7:00 PM Christmas Carols 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service (One Service only) 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 8:00 AM Services are at 8, 9:15 (Family), and 10:30 (with Choir)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>31  New Year's Eve 6:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>



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

