



St. James' Episcopal Church Indian Head, Maryland



301-743-2366
www.stjamesindianhead.org

March/ April 2012



Excerpts from Denise's blog – see more at www.keepupwithdenise.blogspot.com

Well I'm here! It is hard to believe after all the planning that I am actually in Port Au Prince. The trip went smoothly and I arrived pretty close to schedule. Oge, the Dean of the seminary met me at the airport, thank God. I will never complain about driving in DC again, it is insane here. I am not sure if there is a side of the road; streets are narrow, two way traffic and people walking. I can't believe we didn't hit anyone! At one point there was a police SUV turning onto the street we were traveling and our driver just laid on the horn and swerved around him. My apartment mate's name is Denise and her English is not much better than my Creole so this should be interesting!

Today I went to church at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Their building was destroyed in the earthquake so they worship outside under a pavilion. These truly are wonderful people; warm, gracious, generous and quick to smile and laugh. The city is crazy; dirty, lots of rubble and trash on the sides of the roadways, driving or riding in a car is taking a chance with your life! But I don't think walking is much safer as we almost hit a young man on our way home from church.

It appears that the first missionary to Haiti to plant Episcopal Churches believed that for every church planted there needed to be a school built. Consequently there are over 250 Episcopal schools. The one I visited today is in what Oge called a slum. Now keep in mind that I would have described all I had seen of Port Au Prince as a slum. I couldn't even imagine what this would be like. I have never seen anything like it and I don't know if I can describe it. People, cars, buses they call "tap taps", school buses, trash, rubble, vendors, and buildings in ruin; it was just crazy! When we arrived at the school, Jean Fils Chery, the priest of the church and school who brought me there, had to call on his cell phone for them to open the locked gate for us. Behind the gate was a church, now unsafe to use because of the earthquake, and a building used as the school and worship space. It had been a convent at one time, a very old, concrete structure. There are 300 students at the school and over 1000 members in the church (400 on a Sunday). The classrooms have no doors or windows so the noise is incredible. When we walked into each class the children all stood up and in unison all greeted the priest and stood until he told them to sit. They are beautiful children; smiling, laughing, learning. It was almost easy to forget what was outside the gate. Jean Fils told me how most of the children come to school without eating and they have no facility or food to feed them.

Last night was my first class. I am teaching homiletics (preaching). It was really interesting as I had to speak slowly and wait for the student who was translating to translate each sentence or sometimes a few words. It does give one time to think about what you are going to say next rather than just rambling on. We started by telling our stories; how we got to seminary; what our call journey was. They had never told their stories like that before which I found interesting since when I was in seminary I got tired of telling mine we did it so often. Their stories were humbling. They spoke of writing the Commission on Ministry and waiting 6 years to hear back that they could go to seminary!

Coffee, coffee, coffee! I had my first cup of coffee since arriving in Haiti as we had power this morning and the cook made a pot. It is dark and thick and strong but surprisingly good. I am a cream and sweet'n'low girl. But with a very little of their natural sugar, no cream (I have not see milk at all), it was very good. I was very grateful but then worried that they used some of their food money to purchase it for me. Some of the seminarians drank some, but they got it because I mentioned that I missed it. That is how they are, very thoughtful and generous!

A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Happy Spring Everyone!

Time is moving so fast. It seems like it was only a short while ago when Reverend Denise spoke with the Vestry about the possibility of her using her Sabbatical time and like only last week when we met with the congregation to ask for their support. And, wasn't it just yesterday when we all screamed with delight after finding out that Denise had received her grant? I remember thinking that we had plenty of time to arrange everything and, in the blink of an eye, the time came for our renewal period. At the time of this printing, Denise will have been gone for five weeks.

Our renewal kick-off (or Denise's going away party) was great. I think that we really showed Denise how much we love and care for her and how much we support her sabbatical. I also really enjoyed Reverend Desir's visit last week and his message about Haiti. It was a pleasure to meet him and his wife.

Reverend Clay has been wonderful with his sermons on God's gifts. We are very blessed to have him.

I hope that everyone is reading Reverend Denise's blog. I look forward to her updates. It's like a book that you can't put down. Her experiences are both exciting and heartwarming.

So, what's next on the agenda for our renewal period? It's our retreat to be conducted by Patience Robbins from the Shalem Institute. She will host a retreat at St. James' on **April 21, from 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.** Her topic will be "**Seeing Anew: Finding God in All of Life.**"

I'm really enjoying the renewal journey thus far, and I'm looking forward to everything else that is to come. I hope that you are too.

O God, open our eyes to wider horizons
than we have imagined.
Unstop our ears to hear your voice
in unexpected places,
enlighten our hearts to know your presence,
and grant us to find you everywhere
and in all your children.

(Taken from the Lenten Meditations- Episcopal Relief & Development)

Blessings,
Sheila

******COMING SOON******

**RETREAT CONDUCTED BY
PATIENCE ROBBINS
FROM THE SHALEM INSTITUTE**

**Seeing Anew:
Finding God in All of Life**

Saturday, April 21, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

St. James' Parish Hall

This day will be a time to deepen and renew one's relationship with God. There will be guided prayer together, time alone in silence for prayer and reflection, and some small and large group sharing.

During the day, we will reflect on the question: Where is God in my life? We will take time to notice how God is showing up in our lives - even in the disappointments, challenges, and the twists and turns of our lives. We will spend time noticing and appreciating how God is present, active and loving. "And their eyes were opened and they recognized him ..." Luke 24:33

Breakfast and Lunch will be Served.
PLEASE SIGN UP BY APRIL 15, 2012

Junior Warden

"When you need help ask GOD, when you don't thank GOD"

Happy spring! I sure hope the pollen/allergies aren't too bad for everyone. Remember "this too shall pass".

I think the first month of our journey while Denise is on sabbatical has gone very well. No big complaints and we are getting things done. Thanks to all.

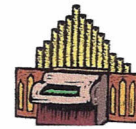
As always, let me hear from you if there's something I need to take care of.

Happy Easter!

In Christ's love,
Adah



Welcome Back



We welcome back **Julie Bivens** as the St. James' organist and look forward to her association with our Parish family. Julie has been the organist at St. James' on an as needed basis for the past 30 years.



Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 8, AFTER the 9:15 a.m. Service

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday immediately following the 9:15 a.m. service. Kids in grades pre-school through 5 will find eggs that are hidden by the kids in grades 6-12. All kids are asked to bring in three eggs (boiled or plastic). There will be a prize for the kid that can find the "golden" egg.



After the Easter egg hunt, there will be refreshments for the kids.



Renewal Committee

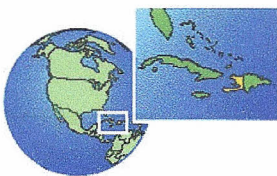
We are well on our way into this time of renewal. We have a calendar in the Parish Hall to keep track of the events in both Denise's life as she marches through her renewal time and our own time of renewal. We welcome any additions to the calendar. They may be given to Adah for incorporation. This time of renewal will continue thru June 17, 2012.

Just a reminder: The Renewal Committee members are Sharyn Gantt, Adah Morgan, Sue Denison, Bertha Gordon, Sheila Gray, and Tom Peterson. Each person has taken responsibility for ensuring that everything runs smoothly during Denise's absence which is as follows:

- Tom - Checking and responding to telephone messages and forwarding to Reverend Clay as needed
- Tom - Checking and responding to mail and forwarding to Reverend Clay as needed
- Tom - Checking and responding to e-mails and forwarding to Reverend Clay as needed
- Tom - Ensuring the March and May newsletters are done
- Tom - Ordering office supplies and reporting copier usage
- Bertha - Providing bulletin announcements and printing them
- Bertha - Printing the Bulletin and Prayer List
- Bertha - Announcing and coordinating the Community Dinners in March and May
- Adah - Coordinating food for the Community Dinners in March and May
- Adah - Continuing the work of the Finance, Buildings & Grounds, and Missions Committees as well as the Knitting Group
- Adah - Providing an Evening Prayer service during Lent
- Sharyn - Visiting our homebound parishioners - Gladys Marshall & Phyllis Wheeler and bringing them Communion
- Sharyn - Planning and coordinating the leaving brunch and returning picnic
- Sue - Visiting and or making calls to any sick or hospitalized parishioners
- Sue - Coordinating the retreats for the congregation's renewal time
- Sheila - Creating Vestry agendas and conducting Vestry meetings
- Sheila - Keeping up with the Renewal Team's and Congregation's work
- Sheila - Providing support to Reverend Clay
- Sheila - Ensuring there is a supply priest for 4/15 & 4/29 or providing Morning Prayer
- Sheila - Securing people to conduct the retreats spelled out in the grant
- Sheila - Coordinating with clergy that will preach and celebrate in March and May on Haiti and on Celtic Spirituality

The Reverend Thomas Clay has graciously agreed to perform the role of Priest-in-Charge during this time of renewal. He is preaching and celebrating at the three Sunday worship services, returning telephone calls and e-mails to anyone who needs to talk with a clergy person, providing a noon Lenten service on Wednesday afternoons and will provide Holy Week and Easter services. He is available for any funerals, pastoral emergencies, and will meet with people who ask to meet with a clergy person.

Feel free to approach any one of us with additional questions and concerns.



Denise's Journey:

As Denise begins her sabbatical in Haiti, you are invited to view her activities on her blog at www.keepupwithdenise.blogspot.com.



NETS

(Neighbors Eager to Serve)



Thank you!

St. James' alone has provided fourteen (14) Easter Baskets to needy children in the community. NETS is also providing over 50 food baskets to those in need.

Just a reminder that parishioners are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items on the first Sunday of each month. These donations are given to the pantry of the NETS organization which provides support to those in need located in the western part of Charles County.

Thank you,

Barbara Prasser



Parrish Hall Rental

We are trying 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 @ 301-283-6692.**

Free Community Spaghetti Dinner



Donations of \$277 were received at the free community spaghetti dinner held on March 26th. This money will be used to help families in need.

The next spaghetti dinner will be held on **Monday, June 4th**. We could use some extra sauce.

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



FELLOWSHIP

Up-coming Events

We will be going to see "Harvey". A comedy play at the Port Tobacco Players Theater, on the 15th of April (if you're still working on your taxes I guess you won't be able to go). That's a Sunday at 3:00 PM. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please let me know and pay by April 9th. Tickets are Adults \$17.00/ Youth and seniors \$14.00. For anyone that would like we will go to dinner after the play.

Flower Mart at the Cathedral is coming up in May. Watch for sign-up sheet and more information. We will car pool, so if you have a car to drive, let me know.

Game Day. coming soon!

In Christ's love,
Adah

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

The corned beef and cabbage dinner held on St. Patrick's Day added a profit of \$1,510.35 to the coffers of the ECTW. Thanks to all who helped with this annual event.



St James' Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Since Easter is on the second Sunday of April and Mother's Day is the second Sunday in May, we will have the next meeting right after the 10:30 service in the Costain Meeting Room on May 6th.

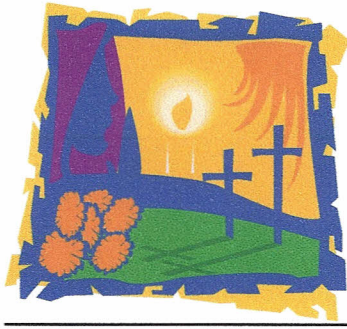
In Christ's love and peace,
Bonnie Richardson, ECW President



Drop Ceiling???

A drop ceiling has been installed in the nursery to help with the heat and A/C requirements of the church.

Thanks to Chas Scott, Doug Scott, Tom Gray, and Nate Rogers who donated their time to make this happen!



Holy Week

Tuesday, April 3 - 7 PM - Evening Service – Adah Morgan

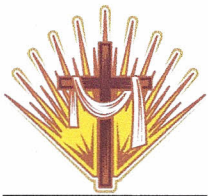
Wednesday, April 4 - Noon – Eucharist – Thomas Clay
7 PM –Tenebrae – Service of Darkness



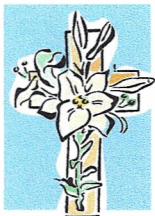
Thursday, April 5 – 7PM – Maundy Thursday – Agape Meal, Washing of the Feet



Friday, April 6 – Noon – Stations of the Cross
7PM – Good Friday Service



Saturday, April 7 – 7PM – Great Easter Vigil



Sunday, April 8 – Easter Services at 8:00, 9:15, and 10:30

Easter Egg Hunt will follow the 9:15 service





You are cordially invited to an **International Tea**

Saturday, May 12, 2012

12:00 to 2:30 pm

The Pavilion

Indian Head

Tickets \$15.00 per person



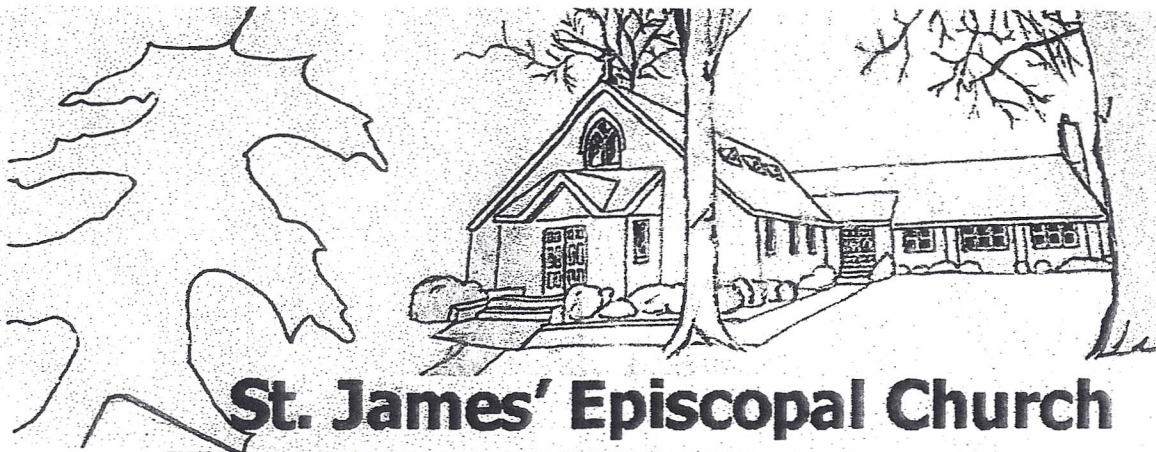
Wear your beautiful "Spring Hat"

Bring your lovely "Tea Cups" for the contest



St James' Memorial Walkway Fundraiser

Plans are underway to establish a Prayer Garden which will entail the building of a brick walkway from the front of the church to and around the St. Frances statue. Bricks (4"x8") are available for purchase for \$100 each. Each brick can be engraved with the name and special information requested by the purchaser. It can be inscribed with (1) the family name, (2) can memorialize or honor a loved one, or (3) can commemorate a special date or event. Funds raised for this memorial walkway will be used for needed repairs to the rectory. For the next few weeks Matt Gray will be available in the parish hall after the 8:00 and 10:30 services to assist you with your purchase. Attached is the request form and symbols to be included with your inscription.



St. James' Episcopal Church

ENGRAVED BRICK FUNDRAISER

Please join us in being a permanent part of our new
"PRAYER GARDEN"

- Your brick may be inscribed with your family name.
- It can memorialize or honor a loved one.
- It can commemorate a special date or event

___ 4" x 8" \$100.00 3 lines of engraving up to 15 characters per line, spaces, numbers and letters.

Purchased by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone No: _____

Engraving: *PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY*

Please return completed form along with
 check made payable to:

St. James' Episcopal Church

7 Potomac Avenue
 Indian Head, Maryland 20640
 301-743-2366

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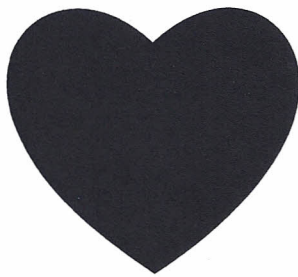
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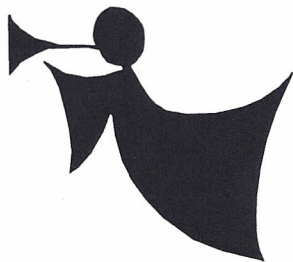
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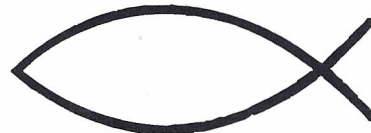
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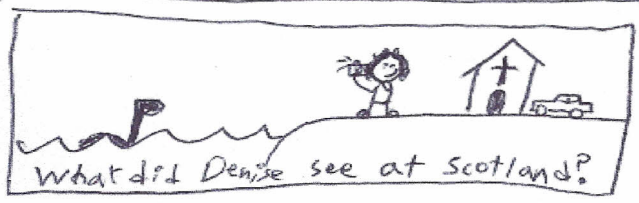
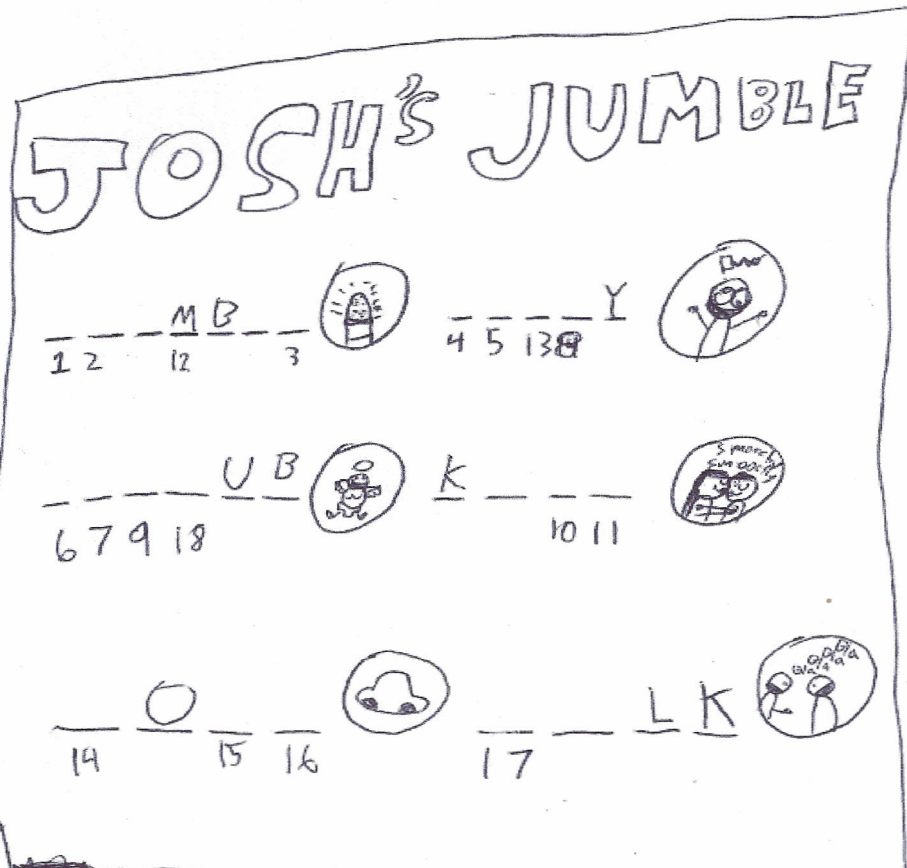
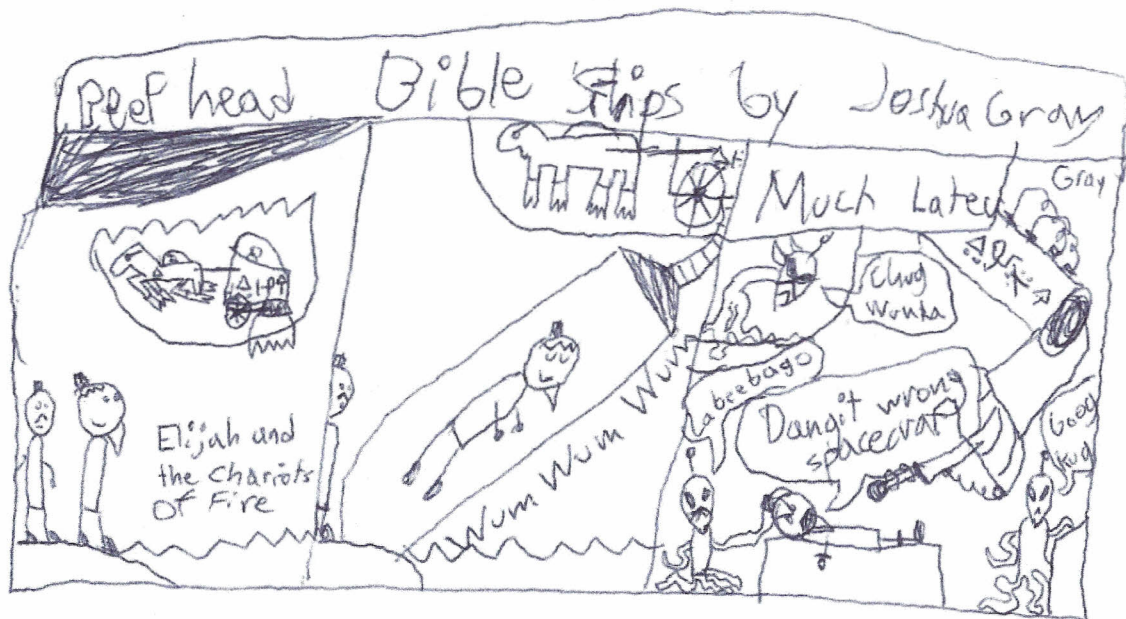


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Made by
the
AWESOME
Joshua
Gray

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Daily Prayers of Responsibility

Monday – “WASHDAY”

Help me, my God, to wash away all my selfishness and vanity that I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

Tuesday – “IRONING DAY”

Dear Lord, help me to iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have accumulated in my lifetime so that I may see the beauty in others.

Wednesday – “MENDING DAY”

O God, grant me to mend my ways, so that I will not set a bad example for others.

Thursday – “CLEANING DAY”

Lord Jesus, help me to reach the dust of all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart all these years.

Friday – “SHOPPING DAY”

O God, give me the grace to be a wise and prudent shopper that I may purchase eternal happiness for myself and my family and all who are in need of your love.

Saturday - “Cooking Day”

Help me, my Savior, to brew up a huge kettle of brotherly love and serve it with a clean sweet bread of human kindness.


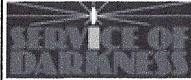









Sunday – “THE LORD’S DAY”

O God, since I have now prepared my house for you, please come into my heart as my honored guest, so that I may spend the day in your presence.

Our mission statement:

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

APRIL 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p>  <p>Holy Week</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30 AM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Lenten Evening Prayer Service</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>12:00 PM Noon Service during Lent 7:00 PM Knitting Group 7:00 PM Tenebrae Service 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>12:00 PM Stations of the Cross 7:00 PM Good Friday Service</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Easter Vigil 7:00 PM Great Vigil of Easter</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>12:00 AM Easter 9:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 PM Finance Committee 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>10:00 AM Beading</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p>  <p>It's SPRING! 3:00 PM Port Tobacco Players - Harvey</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 PM Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>Prayer Retreat 10:00 AM Retreat Conducted by Patience Robbins</p>
<p>22</p>  <p>Earth Day: GO GREEN 12:00 AM Earth Day 2012</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>12:00 AM Save the Frogs Day 10:00 AM Beading</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 PM Knitting Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>