



# St. James' Episcopal Church Indian Head, Maryland



August 2011

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## Rector's Ramblings

Well it is August, actually by the time you are reading this I am guessing that August will be almost over, as usual, the summer has flown by. It is time to start gearing up for church life. Things come back to life after the summer slow down as many clergy like to think of summer; committees don't usually meet, Bible studies take a break, Sunday School, Christian Education. This is all partially because people tend to go away in the summer and so attendance at everything at church is lower, but I think it is also that we just need a little break.

But it is time to start getting ready. The Vestry meets in August to talk about the crab cake dinner and other important things, we start making sure we have our Sunday School Teachers ready and classes figured out. My schedule starts filling up with committee meetings and adult education classes. It is time to get ready for the business of being church.

One of the items I would like to put back on the table so to speak, is something that Thomas Clay spoke to you all about one Sunday when I was away. He put a challenge before you. He said (and I am paraphrasing as I wasn't there) that if each of us brought one new person into the church, our pews would be full. Now I know that that is probably unrealistic. Not everyone is going to do this, some for very good reasons, like they don't know many if any people who don't already go to church. But if even half of us did it, we would be in great shape.

This is one of the items on the vestry agenda for August and probably for September as well. We need to figure out what we can do to support each other in this effort. What can we do to make it attractive, easier, even something you would consider doing? How can we support you in your inviting someone to join you at a worship service? How do we talk to people about what we love about St. James' Church and why someone might find it a good place to come and worship and serve God in a community of loving faithful people?

Think about this, think about what stops you or what you might need to help you to talk about our church and invite someone to join you here. Then share that with me or a member of the vestry and let's see if we can step up to Thomas' challenge to us.

Peace to you,

Denise +



## Letter from the Senior Warden

“O Lord, who has taught us that thou wilt require much from those to whom much is given; Grant that we whom thou hast called to so goodly a heritage may extend more abundantly to others what we so richly enjoy, and in serving them may know the glory of serving thee; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.” (1950)

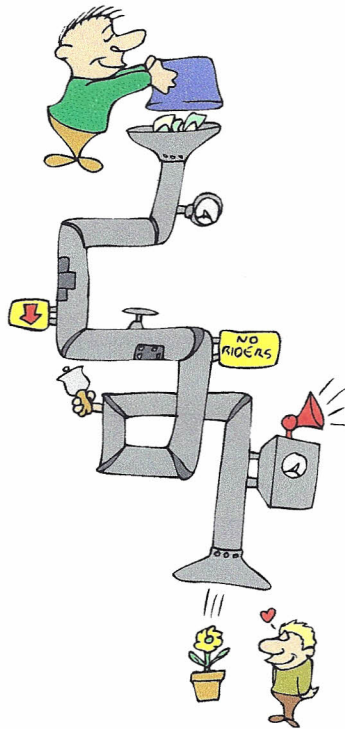
The Forward Day By Day for August-September-October has the above prayer. As I read it, I congratulated myself because I give to charities, I give to church, I help out those in need – friends and acquaintances. But as I continued to read it each day, I realized this is about so much more than money. God gives me so much. He gives me smiles that I can share with others. He gives me precious time that I can share with others – helping others. He gives me patience that I can use when dealing with others. He gives me the ability to be a good listener so that I may hear others and help them.

While I was on vacation last week, I had the opportunity to spend the day with my 99-year-old grandma. Her caregiver didn't show up for work and I needed to help her get dressed for the day and keep her company. To me this was no big deal. I saw this as a chance to spend time with a sweet lady who loves me. But for her, I was a Godsend. She was so grateful for my help. In fact she was still talking about it this week with my mother stating how I had been so good to her. This was me sharing my gifts with my grandmother. The gift of love, kindness and patience.

Wow! Thank you God for your many blessings that I may share with others.

Peace, Love and Joy,

Sheila



### **Sabbatical (Renewal) for Reverend Denise in 2012**

By now everyone has probably heard that Reverend Denise is planning to take a three and a half month sabbatical starting in March, 2012. Her plan is to go to Haiti and prepare future Episcopal priests in caring for people in their most vulnerable states (times of sickness and death), go to Ireland and learn more about Celtic spirituality, spend quality time with her family, and finally, go to Wales. In order to fund this endeavor, Reverend Denise hopes to receive a grant from the Lilly Foundation. A committee has been formed to write the grant application.

The committee met with the congregation on January 9 to discuss the Sabbatical. A survey was distributed to receive the congregation's feedback, which is needed to complete the grant application. Thanks to all of you who completed the survey questions. There were over 40 received.

The committee met on January 17 to compile all of the information answered on the surveys. They met again on February 7 to start writing the application. The last meeting was on February 21 to continue the process of writing the application. Yet another meeting will be held on March 7 to continue the process. A copy of the completed application will be made available for all to see once it has been submitted.

#### **Sabbatical Committee**

Reverend Denise      Sharyn Gantt  
Duncan Creelman      Sheila Gray  
Sue Denison      Bertha Gordon  
Tom Peterson



## *St James' Episcopal Church Women (ECW)*

### *ECW*

As Denise has said, summer is a time of rest and vacations. It is now time to roll up our sleeves and get back into the thick of it. Our next meeting will be held in the Costain House meeting room from 12:15 to 1:15 on Sunday, September 18. All women are members of St James' ECW and are invited to attend. Look forward to seeing everyone, ready to work and with fresh ideas.

In Christ's love and peace,

Bonnie Richardson, ECW President



## **Sunday School Starts on**

### **Sunday, Sept. 18th**

**We have gratefully filled the Sunday School Coordinator, but are still in need of a High School Teacher.**

The children are a very important asset to our church. We need to harness their enthusiasm and provide them with the knowledge and faith to carry with them and share with others. Please search your soul and consider taking on the task of High School teacher to these wonderful children. You will not regret it.

If you find this to be your calling or you need more information to make an informed decision, please contact Nancy Hurlburt or Rev. Denise Cabana.

## Free Community Spaghetti Dinner



Monday, September 26, 2011

All the proceeds will be given to Denise to use where it is most needed in Haiti next spring.

Keep your eye out for the sign-up sheet which will be posted on the bulletin board as the time draws near. Please sign up to help and/or bring a dessert.

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



### FELLOWSHIP

We had a great time at the Blue Crabs Baseball game. Denise threw the first ball and to her delight made it across the home plate! The choir and attending church members sang two songs, one during a break and one on the field at the end of the game. To top it all off we won the game in the bottom of the ninth inning. Exciting game! As if all this was not enough, the night ended with a spectacular fireworks display.

Coming Up:

We had to cancel the July 30<sup>th</sup> kayaking trip due to the unrelenting heat. It is being rescheduled for one day in September. Keep your eyes and ears open for forthcoming information. We'll picnic at the rectory after the kayaking. Feel free to just picnic.

Game Night is on its way. Listen for the announcement!

As always, if you have any ideas, please let me know!

Love in Christ,

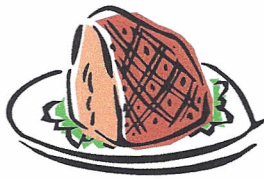
Adah



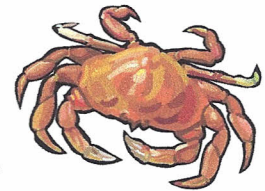
## Blessing of the Animals And Holy Eucharist

When: 9:00 AM on October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Where: Outside at the St. Francis Statue



## Ham and Crab Cake Dinner



Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

Help is needed on Saturday starting at 9:00 to help with prep and then on Sunday starting after church to help finish up and cook, serve and clean up. See the sign up sheet on the board. Also desserts needed.

**Only one service will be held at 9:00 on this day.**

# Thanksgiving

November 20<sup>th</sup>

Sunday School will serve a Thanksgiving breakfast to the congregation.

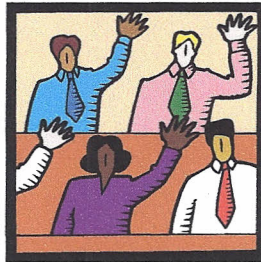


## Monday Morning Bible Study Group

Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-12:00

Sign-up sheet is on the board.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



### Helping Hands

The church depends on many hands to help in all areas of the church. One way you can help is by serving on one or more committees/jobs. They are all open to every member of the church.

Alter Guild - Needs extra hands now - See Nancy Hurlbert

ECW - Bonnie Richardson, Brenda Peterson

Buildings & Grounds - Tom Gray

Missions - Jackie Williams, Duncan Creelman

Worship - Kathleen O'Day, Rev. Denise Cabana (in need of acolytes & ushers)

Newcomers/Welcoming - Sheila Gray, Adah Morgan

Ways & Means - Karen Burroughs

Finance - Ron Litten

Administration/Communication - Matthew Gray

Outreach - Ruth Anderson-Cole

Coffee Hour - Sheila Gray



## COFFEE HOUR

We have been blessed to have a coffee hour after our 10:30 service for many years. The donations that many of you provide for this service goes into the ECW Treasury and is used to purchase coffee, punch, paper products, and condiments. None of it is used towards the food consumed. There are a few faithful members that have provided these wonderful repasts for us at their own expense.

These members are Linda Wilson & Nancy Hurlburt (who along with myself have been providing this service for over 25 years); Ginny Jameson, Adah Morgan, Cathy Jenkins, Cedric Welch, Doug & Evelyn McClanahan, Bobbi King, and Ethel Evans, as well as others who fill in from time to time. Our congregation has grown and these faithful servants try their best to accommodate not only the rising numbers but also dietary restrictions, and of course those of us with a sweet tooth. We sincerely thank them for their generous service.

We are all also aware of the rising costs of purchasing the food provided. Because of this, we are asking for more volunteers to join in on providing this service to our church family. This can be done by either joining in on the rotation of Sundays or by assisting some of the members listed above. Please contact Sheila Gray at 301-893-2738.

In Christ's Love,

Barbara Prasser



## NETS

(Neighbors Eager to Serve)

On behalf of the NETS Organization, I would like to thank all of you for the generous support of our food pantry. Besides the food baskets provided at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, the NETS Food pantry is open all year long for our clients. They are provided with a weeks worth of food as needed.

The first Sunday of each month is designated as NETS Sunday for food donations. The next "ingathering" will be Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. With the holidays just around the corner, we would like to ask that as you pick up items for donation you think canned sweet potatoes, turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, etc.






Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Please consider joining us. If you are interested, or would like any more information, please contact me at 301-743-6880.

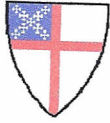
Thank you,

Barbara Prasser



## SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31 8:00 PM AA Meeting	1 8:00 PM NA Meeting	2	3
4	5  LABOR DAY	6	7 8:00 PM AA Meeting	8 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	9	10  Kitchen Volunteers 9:00 AM Dinner Setup
11  Join Us For Supper! 3:00 PM Ham & Crabcake Dinner	12 6:30 PM Vestry Officer's Meeting	13	14 7:00 PM Finance Committee 8:00 PM AA Meeting	15 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	16	17
18  Welcome Back! 9:45 AM Sunday School Starts	19 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting	20	21 8:00 PM AA Meeting	22 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	23	24
25	26  11:00 AM Monday Morning Bible Study Group 5:00 PM Community Spaghetti Dinner	27	28 8:00 PM AA Meeting	29 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Meeting	30	1



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