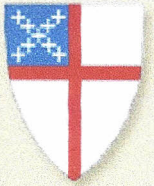




St. James' Episcopal Church Indian Head, Maryland



June 2011



Rector's Ramblings

Summer has arrived if not officially than certainly weather wise. I am not ready for hot weather yet, although to be honest, I am not ever ready for hot humid weather. I had the gift of meeting my parents at Ocean City for a few days this week and someone asked me if it was cold while I was there. I said, "No it was beautiful, 73 degrees and sunny." He said, "Well I guess to you that's warm, to me that would be cold at the beach." It's funny how in December a 70 degree day would be warm, a heat wave even but in June at the beach, it's cold. There is so much about this world that we aren't happy with – the weather, weeds, mosquitoes, flies, pretty much most insects, some of us like warm climates and others cooler, some like the mountains others the beach, we are a fussy lot. The reality is, God's creation is amazing and wonderful even if we don't always understand the purpose of it all.

Doug and I were blessed to travel to Seattle this year and saw some spectacular sights: The Pacific Ocean and some of the most beautiful mountains I have ever seen, Mount Baker and Mount Rainier. We went to Butchart Gardens. A little about the gardens - In 1888, near his birthplace, Owen Sound, Ontario, the former dry goods merchant, Robert Pim Butchart, began manufacturing Portland cement. As Mr. Butchart exhausted the limestone in the quarry near their house, his enterprising wife, Jennie, conceived an unprecedented plan for refurbishing the bleak pit. From farmland nearby she requisitioned tons of top soil, had it brought to Tod Inlet by horse and cart, and used it to line the floor of the abandoned quarry. Little by little, under Jennie Butchart's supervision, the abandoned quarry blossomed into the spectacular Sunken Garden. Later she created a Japanese Garden, an Italian Garden, and a Rose Garden. It was just amazing to me how something so spectacular could come out of the ugly space left after mining.

The point is, there is beauty every where on earth. Some things have been completely created by God, mountains, the sea, lakes, rivers, birds, animals, flowers and trees, and some things we get to help God create, gardens for instance. This summer, as life slows down a little, take time to enjoy and give thanks for all that God has created, even those days that are too hot or too cold or too buggy. It is interesting how if we look at life and creation with gratitude even those things that we don't particularly appreciate don't seem so bad.

Peace,

Denise +



Letter from the Senior Warden

Happy summer! I hope that everyone is enjoying the warm weather. As I sat at my computer pondering what to write about, I received this email. I took that as a sign that I should share the email with you. Enjoy. -- Sheila

The Devil & the Duck (I'M IN THE 93%)

There was a little boy visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play with out in the woods. He practiced in the woods; but he could never hit the target. Getting a little discouraged, he headed back for dinner. As he was walking back he saw Grandma's pet duck. Just out of impulse, he let the slingshot fly, hit the duck square in the head and killed it. He was shocked and grieved! In a panic, he hid the dead duck in the wood pile; only to see his Sister watching! Sally had seen it all, but she said nothing.

After lunch the next day Grandma said, "Sally, let's wash the dishes." But Sally said, "Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen." Then she whispered to him, "Remember the duck?" So Johnny did the dishes.

Later that day, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing and Grandma said, "I'm sorry but I need Sally to help make supper." Sally just smiled and said, "Well, that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help?" She whispered again, "Remember the duck?" So Sally went fishing and Johnny stayed to help.

After several days of Johnny doing both his chores and Sally's; he finally couldn't stand it any longer. He came to Grandma and confessed that he had killed the duck. Grandma knelt down, gave him a hug and said, "Sweetheart, I know... You see, I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing, but because I love you, I forgave you. I was just wondering how long you would let Sally make a slave of you."

Thought for the day and every day thereafter:

Whatever is in your past, whatever you have done... And the devil keeps throwing it up in your face (lying, cheating, debt, fear, bad habits, hatred, anger, bitterness, etc.)...whatever it is...You need to know that:

God was standing at the window and He saw the whole thing.

He has seen your whole life... He wants you to know that He loves you and that you are forgiven. He's just wondering how long you will let the devil make a slave of you.

The great thing about God is that when you ask for forgiveness; He not only forgives you, but He forgets.

It is by God's grace and mercy that we are saved.

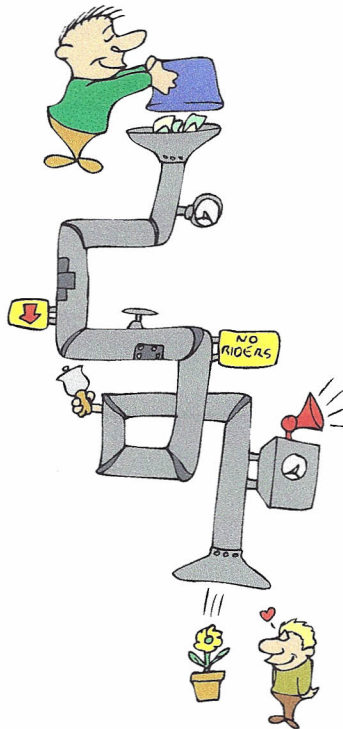
Go ahead and make the difference in someone's life today.

Share this with a friend and always remember:

God is at the window!

When Jesus died on the cross; he was thinking of you!

If you are one of the 93 % who will stand up for him? Share this with others. Would you believe that 7% of others won't?



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.

Denise, Sheila, and Tom signed the original, made 4 copies (1 for us), and mailed it off on May 3rd to the Lilly Endowment! Denise offered up a special prayer for all of our hard work and that it will arrive safely at its destination. And especially that we will be rewarded in our own renewal program this time next year!

We should all be very proud of the product the Team has put together. Thanks so much for all their time and efforts!

Sabbatical Committee

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



St James' Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

ECW

All women are members of St James' ECW and are invited to attend our monthly meetings. They're usually held the second Sunday in the Costain House meeting room from 12:15 - 1:15. Summer brings many vacations and family outings, which makes it difficult to gather people for a meeting. For this reason, we will not meet again until September.

In Christ's love and peace,

Bonnie Richardson, ECW President



HELP WANTED: Sunday School Teachers

Christian Education Director

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 Christian Education Director or 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 Reverend Denise Cabana.

Free Community Spaghetti Dinner



Monday, July 25, 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

The trip to the Marine Barracks for the evening parade was successful for 17 of us. It was hot, but worth a little sweat.

As you read this the parish picnic will have taken place. I'm sure all went well.

Coming Up:

We will be kayaking on July 30th at the Creek at the end of Mattingly Ave. Sign-up sheet is on the board. Please sign up by July 21st. We'll picnic at the rectory after the kayaking. Feel free to just picnic.

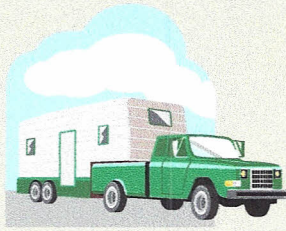
Also BBQ, Pool Party, and Cook Out!

Watch for sign-up and date on the bulletin board.

As always, if you have ideas let me know, i. e. Game Night.

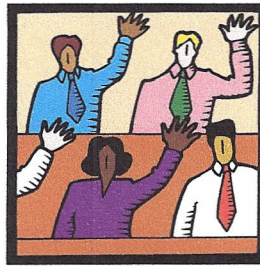
Yours in Christ's love,

ADAH



5th Wheeler

St. James has been blessed with the donation by Boyce Maness of a beautiful, well-maintained 5th Wheeler. We were blessed again when, in May, a buyer was found and the beautiful fifth wheeler now has a new home.



Committees

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. They are all open to every member of the church.

Altar Guild - **Needs extra hands now** - See Nancy Hurlburt

ECW - Bonnie Richardson, Brenda Peterson

Buildings & Grounds - Tom Gray

Missions - Jackie Williams, Duncan Creelman

Worship - Jonathan McDonald, Rev. Denise Cabana (in need of acolytes & ushers)

Newcomers/Welcoming - Sheila Gray, Bonnie Richardson

Ways & Means - Karen Burroughs

Finance - Ron Litten

Fellowship - Adah Morgan

Administration/Communication - Matthew Gray

Outreach - Ruth Anderson-Cole

•• On A Lighter Note •••••

How to stay safe in the World today! Where IS the Safest Place?

1. Avoid riding in automobiles
Because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks,
Because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water
Because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.

5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals.
So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

But,

You will be pleased to learn that only ...001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at Church!

And . . . Bible study is safe too! The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

So, attend church, and read your Bible...

IT WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE!

COMICS by Joshua Gray



2 Reasons Not To Mess With Children

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.'

The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.'

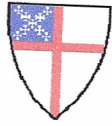
Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, 'Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?'

Her mother replied, 'Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.'

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, 'Mommy, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?'



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