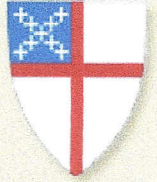




St. James' Episcopal Church

Indian Head, Maryland



May - June 2010

Rector's Ramblings

Rev. Denise Cabana

There is a lot of talk in churches these days on how to grow our churches, how to bring people into our faith communities, how to reach out to young people. The keynote speaker at the annual clergy conference was a man named Bill Tully whose topic was "Reinventing Church". I have to say this is something I struggle with all the time. I too want our church to grow, I want young people to come and experience what we experience of Jesus and come to know God in this faith community but I struggle with having to reinvent ourselves to make that happen. I love the Episcopal Church; I love the liturgy and the hymns. Being raised in the Catholic Church I still remember the first time I stepped into St. Mary's Episcopal Church as I was searching for a new place to worship and thinking, "I am home" as the liturgy began. I still am brought to tears singing hymns like "What Wondrous Love is this," "O My Soul," and "My Song is Love Unknown." And my heart is filled with joy when we sing "This is the Feast of Victory for our God."

But they say it isn't the kind of music that speaks to young people today and that our service is a little stiff for the 20 something crowd. They say that the young folks don't make commitments to things like we did, denominations don't really mean much to them. We have to not only be a way for them to connect with God but also a way for them to live their faith in a meaningful way but don't expect them to join committees and make a lifelong commitment to serving as a Sunday school teacher.

I do understand much of this. I want my church experience to be one that helps me connect with God, that helps me in my journey, and that allows me to live my faith in a meaningful way through serving others. I think that is what most of us look for and the reason we stay when we find it. So how do we let young folks know that they can find these things here and how do we open ourselves to perhaps making some changes that might make them feel comfortable here without compromising too much of who we are as a church? To me, these are the tough questions and not ones I have the answers to right now. But what I do know is that we can find the answers if we seek them together prayerfully and if we are open to what the answers truly might be. Change is not easy. It is sometimes scary and we are afraid of losing what we love and cherish. But I do believe if we are really open to new ideas there are ways we can preserve what we love and add something new to create something meaningful to everyone.

I don't know where God is going to lead us over the next several years but I do believe God wants us to bring more people to know, love, and serve God through St. James' Church. And, I also know that as much as we want them to, things don't stay the same for too long, and maybe that is a good thing. There is a reason they call this a journey.

Our Beautiful Landscaping

A big thank you is given to Sue and Frank Denison for donating the beautiful landscaping done to our church back yard. The circle which had been an eyesore for years is not only so pretty to look at but people are loving sitting on the benches in the nice weather to chat or have some quiet time. We are so grateful for Sue and Frank's generosity.

Easter

A few people have asked me why we don't say the Confession or the Angus Dei and Words of Humble Access (at the 8:00 service) during Easter which is from Easter Sunday through the Sunday of Pentecost. It is because in the words of my good friend The Rev. Lyndon Shakespeare, "In this season of Easter, we celebrate that through the body of Christ death and sin have been conquered. We are the body of Christ; let us learn to live as forgiven people." It is important that we live into the seasons of the Church, it is God's time as opposed to the world's time and marking them in some distinct way helps us to keep the seasons in our hearts and minds.

On Beads of Prayer

Claire Phillips

St. James' has been with the On Beads of Prayer ministry for one year and have made plenty of beads. Over 10,000 sets of prayer beads have been sent to the troops in the four years since it has been in place. This year alone, St. James has contributed over 800 sets of prayer beads. That is nearly a tenth of the prayer beads made. And we will be taking over about 200-250 sets in the next week. We very much enjoy ourselves in this ministry and we enjoy the fellowship with each other. We do have a good time! We have been to several other churches in Maryland to help them get started with their bead ministry. During the convention in January, we helped in the cathedral and represented St. James. Sue and I met with Bishop Chane. Our On Beads of Prayer ministry was represented at our 2009 church bazaar, Christmas Tea and at our 2010 Spring Tea.

Message from the Senior Warden

Sheila Gray

First, I want to thank you all for entrusting me with the position of Senior Warden. When Reverend Denise approached me about becoming the Senior Warden, I thought that she was kidding. I quickly found out that she wasn't when I realized that I was the only one laughing. Me? Senior Warden? I thought about this and prayed about this all of the following week, and I realized that there was absolutely nothing stopping me from assisting in the church this way. Try as I might, I could not think of one good reason not to take on this responsibility, so I did. While reading from the 2010 Lenten meditations, I came across the answer that I had been looking for earlier. It was very clear. It reads,

"If we are truly dedicated to being vessels of God's purpose, then it shouldn't be necessary to know the master plan. It's probably presumptuous to think we need to know it in order to implement it. A pitcher has no knowledge of its contents. - it could be milk to nourish a child – or water that mixes with an herb to cure illness. God's hand holds the pitcher. God's hand pours the contents. Trust . . . Trust . . . Trust."

That's all the confirmation that I need! So the journey begins.

Sunday School News

Nancy Hurlburt

Sunday, May 30th is the ice cream social after the 9:15 service. Awards Sunday is June 6th at the 10:30 service.

Choir News
Jonathan McDonald

Growing up, I attended the Nazarene Church, so my introduction to church music was based on Gospel songs and Victorian hymns. Our hymnal was called “Worship in Song,” and from the age of 12 on, worshipping in song has been a main component to the way I worship. I enjoy walking down memory lane revisiting the music of my youth. When the choir was invited to participate in the Gospel Extravaganza, I was happy to go through my files and find some fun Gospel music for us to sing.

I hope you enjoyed the Gospel anthems we did while preparing for the Extravaganza, and I look forward to doing more of those songs. I also look forward to teaching you new songs and hymns. When I hear something new, I can’t wait to share it with the choir and with Saint James’.

As we start to get ready for the church picnic, I’m excited about the music we’re going to sing on the green. I am looking forward to singing some old “camp meeting” songs that remind me of youth retreats and summer camp.

As we go forward I invite all of Saint James’ to join the choir as we worship in song.

The upcoming music is:

May 30 (Trinity Sunday)

362 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God almighty
686 Come thou fount of every blessing
WLP785 Santo, santo, santo
510 Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove
365 Come, thou almighty King

June 13

This is the day, the Lord has made
Seek ye first
Come into his presence
Father I adore Thee
Do Lord, O Do Lord

June 27

518 Christ is made the sure foundation
359 God of the prophets
655 O Jesus, I have promised
660 O Master, let me walk with thee
525 The Church’s one foundation

July 11

375 Joyful, joyful we adore thee
609 Where cross the crowded ways of life
657 Love divine, all love’s excelling
326 From glory to glory advancing
551 Rise up, ye saints of God

July 25

709 O God of Bethel, by whose hand
462 The Lord will come and not be slow
711 Seek ye first
410 Praise my soul, the King of heaven
347 Go forth for God

June 6

255 We sing the glorious conquest
LEV189 Great is thy faithfulness
335 I am the bread of life
LEV139 Pass me not, O gentle savior
LEV165 Higher Ground

June 20

675 Take up your cross, the Savior said
567 Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old
296 We know that Christ is raised
654 Day by Day
450 All hail the power of Jesus’ Name

July 4

541 Come, labor on
535 Ye servants of God
620 Jerusalem, my happy home
321 My God, thy table now is spread
LEV226 Mine eyes have seen the glory

July 18

488 Be thou my vision
336 Come with us, O blessed Jesus
314 Humbly I adore thee
316 This is the hour of banquet and of song
401 The God of Abraham praise

August 1

420 When in our music, God is glorified
665 All my hope on God is founded
674 Forgive our sins as we forgive
LEV133 All to Jesus I surrender
344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing



ECW News
Mittie Buchanan

The ECW will have its last meeting for the 2009-2010 Season on June 6, 2010 and will resume on September 12, 2010. We look forward to you joining us. Activities are scheduled during the summer and we hope all will attend.

- Sunday, June 13, 2010, there will be one service held at the Indian Head Town Green. Following the service, please plan to attend our "Annual Family Church Picnic." All are welcome.
- Saturday, July 17, 2010 -- A Swim Party! More information later.
- The date of our Fall Bazaar will be given at our September meeting.

Spring Tea Highlights
Karen Burroughs

Our Spring Tea was a huge success. There were so many beautiful hats and of course tea cups. We prepared for 136 people and had in attendance about 131. We made \$2,259.50. We plan to continue to use the Pavilion as long as our guest list remains. We have a much easier time serving food and parking is great. We also welcome anyone who would like to become a member of the "Ways and Means Committee". We welcome Joan Shaw. Thank you to ALL that made this such a wonderful time for family and friends.

Our Christmas Tea is scheduled for December 4, 2010.

Fellowship
Adah Morgan

If you don't know it yet, there are a lot of fun people at St. James'. One way to find out is to join us at our fellowship "get together." We had a great time at game night. While we were playing Taboo I had the best belly laugh in months when Tom tried to get his team to say Eureka!. Hope to see you at the next one. Upcoming is the church picnic at the Village Green on the 13th of June. In July a swim party is planned with lots of good food and fun at my home. More information as the time gets closer. If you have any ideas let me know. God bless you all.

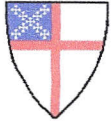
Denise's Vacation Schedule

My vacation schedule is: June 7-12, June 26 - July 1, July 15, August 4 & 5 and September 17-20

Treasurer's Comments
Tom Peterson

On behalf of the Vestry, I just wanted to extend a big "Thank You" for keeping up with your Pledges this year. Despite the tons of snow and the brutally cold temperatures, you have graciously weathered the storm and followed through on your commitments!





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

