



A Letter from St. James

*The Monthly Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church
in Mill Creek Hundred, Wilmington, Delaware*

February 2017

Rector's Ramblings . . . Conventions, Connections, and Blessings

I am writing this month's *Ramblings* as I prepare to attend my 15th diocesan convention since coming to Delaware. It will also be the last convention presided over by Bishop Wayne Wright as he is soon to retire. By the end of this year it is expected that we will have called and ordained the person who will serve as our next diocesan bishop. It will be an exciting time as we enter a new era in the life of the diocese, but also a bittersweet moment for me as it was an unplanned meeting with Bishop Wright that brought me to Delaware and St. James' Mill Creek.

Back in 2001, while rector of a parish in Pueblo, Colorado, I agreed to baptize the child of a young couple who had met in the Air Force and were stationed at a military base in Wyoming. The mother's family was from Pueblo and the father's family, several of who came for the baptism, was from Georgetown, Delaware. The couple was so pleased with the baptism that they asked me if I would perform a church ceremony blessing their marriage, for they had gotten married in a civil ceremony without any family present. I agreed, and later that year many family members and friends came for the church service. The groom's father, Buster Richardson, was the senior warden of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Georgetown, and was thrilled when I asked him to administer the chalice for the Holy Eucharist.

Buster and I kept in touch in the months following, and when in January 2002 I was called upon to travel to Washington, D.C., on church-related business, I made a side trip to southern Delaware at Buster's request. After having some breakfast and a tour of his parish, I was about to walk out the door when I walked Bishop Wright. One day a month the bishop would come to St. Paul's to hold appointments with clergy and others in Sussex County. And that just happened to be the day I was there! Buster introduced us and after the very briefest of conversations, I left.

Several weeks later I received in the mail the parish profile for St. James' Mill Creek, which was in the search process for their next rector. When I called the bishop's office to ask why I was sent the profile, I was told that it was thought that I might be interested in being considered for the position. Although I had had no intentions of leaving Colorado, after reading the profile and praying over the decision, I submitted my name for consideration.

Well, to make a long story short, here I am, going on 15 years. A baptism, a wedding, and a chance meeting with Bishop Wright are all parts of the story that brought me here. God is indeed full of surprises. As Bishop Wright prepares to retire, I wish him many blessings in the years ahead.

Fr. Jim Binli

Sunday, February 19th—ONE SERVICE at 9:00AM

Join us as we gather together and give a great big **THANK YOU** to **GENIA THOMAS** in recognition of her 14 years of faithful service to St. James' Mill Creek as Fr. Jim's Administrative Assistant. Genia will be present with us for worship on February 19th and as honored guest at a brunch in the Parish House following the 9:00am service.

Bazaar News (from the ladies in the basement)

Weather Permitting, the Bazaar Ladies will be back February 14th. **During their winter break they were busy finding new creations to make and are anxious to start making them for the 2017 Bazaar. The ladies meet every Tuesday morning from 9:00 – 11:30 in the basement craft room of the Parish House.**

The dates for the 2017 Bazaar are:

Friday, November 3rd & Saturday, November 4th – Be sure to mark your calendars!

Nancy Patterson and Shirley Alexander are the co-chairs again this year.

Items Needed

We can always use the following items:

Corks, Baskets, Buttons, Yarn, Seashells, and Jewelry (we will recycle your unwanted jewelry). All items can be left outside the Bazaar Room at the bottom of the stairs in the Parish House.

Remember to save your Zingo receipts. Zingo's reimburses us 1% of the total receipts we submit to them. We average about \$130 yearly from Zingo's. The funds are used to purchase supplies for the projects the ladies make. There is a container marked "Zingo's Receipts" in the foyer closet of the Parish House.

Thank you for your continued support!

Thank you for the warm welcome!

As I come to the end of my first month as the new Administrative Assistant at St. James' I have so appreciated the many parishioners who have come by the Parish House to greet me. As Genia left she assured me that this was a wonderful, friendly place to work and I must agree. I look forward to meeting those of you I have yet to meet in person and I extend my thanks to you all for making me feel so welcome.

Lola Michael Russell

View from the Road

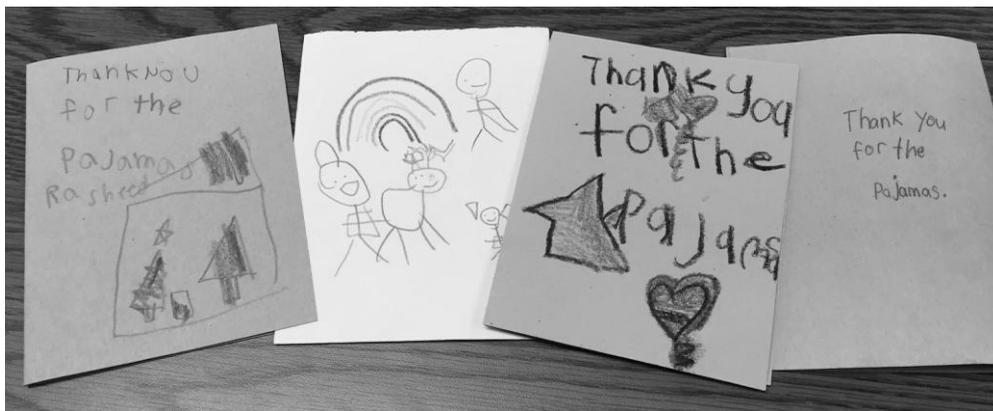
—thoughts from your Journey Team

What has:

152 legs? 152 arms? 554 feet?

ANSWER: The total number of pajamas, socks, and shoes that were lovingly donated for the *Jesse Project* during the Christmas season to the children in need at Shortlidge Elementary School in Wilmington.

Thank you to all those who generously supported this project!



A few of the many Thank-You cards received from the students at Shortlidge Elementary

Looking back.... We:

- ❖ Asked for and received Input from the parish about St. James' mission, focus, ministries
- ❖ Worked with a consultant to support the development of our path and mission
- ❖ Educated the parish about our work together
- ❖ Re-energized, initiated, and supported parish committees—with a focus on communication and relationship building
- ❖ Started Fellowship breakfasts between the services
- ❖ Built on Fr. Jim's Jesse story and outreach to children in our community with the Jesse Project—reached out to children who lacked basic needs-pajamas, socks, and shoes

Looking ahead....We are :

- ❖ Reaching out to the Vestry for feedback and collaboration
- ❖ Continuing to reach out to the parish....



Tuesday, February 28th at 6:00pm
St. James' Parish Hall

SHROVE TUESDAY & Mardi Gras Dinner Party!



and/or



FOOD

- Shrimp & Grits, Jambalaya, Mac & Cheese, Bread Pudding
- Pancakes, Bacon, and Scrapple, too!

So many great options or enjoy a sampling of each!

Proceeds from the dinner go to the St. James' Youth Ministry budget

Meal hosted by St. James' Youth, Youth Leaders, and Sam White.

FUN

Dixieland jazz, Rector's Trivia, and Beads! Beads! Beads!

"FUN" DRAISING

Silent Auction hosted by the St. James' choir and friends featuring gift items you'll want to give or get!

Proceeds from the Silent Auction go to the St. James' music ministries, including support for Lenten Sketches



Get your tickets soon! (After church services or call Parish Office)
\$10 adult ~ \$5 child's plate (9 & under)

Advance ticket sales help with food planning and ensure you'll be able to enjoy this annual sell out event"!

Confirmation and New Member Classes to be offered in the seasons of Lent and Easter

Confirmation is a sacrament of the church that is offered to support a maturing Christian faith and life. While there is no minimum age, those studying to be confirmed should possess the capacity to enter into a period of learning and reflection about God, the Bible, the faith of the Church, and Christian history including the origins of the Episcopal Church and its traditions.

This study would also be informative to those who have begun to attend worship in the Episcopal Church and those who might want to officially join the church.

*Eight classes are scheduled to be held on Wednesday evenings (the schedule is being worked out), with assignments to be completed at home between classes. **The initial class meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15th.***

The study period will go through May, and culminate in the rite of Confirmation (or Reception) at a **Regional Service to be held in the afternoon at Christ Church, Greenville, on Pentecost Sunday on June 4, 2017.** The Regional Service is necessary due to the retirement of Bishop Wright, who would normally have done confirmations and receptions on his annual visits to each parish. Bishop Bud Shand, retired bishop of Easton, will be present for the Regional Service.

If you are interested, or want to know more, contact Fr. Jim at your earliest convenience.

Prayer Team Ministry

Sunday, February 5th members of the prayer team will hold a short prayer service in the church **at 11:30 am** (focusing on the prayer requests left in the basket in the entrance to the church and other concerns of the parish, community, and world.) Then throughout the month, we will continue collecting prayers at the end of the 2nd service and lifting them up during the week. **All are welcome to participate in this monthly service-usually held on the first Sunday of the month.**

For those who are not able to come to church or have an immediate prayer need, we invite you to email Sister BJ Brown at: sisterbjbrown@gmail.com

Ash Wednesday, March 1st

Morning Services – 7:00am & 9:30am

Bible Study – 10:30am

Evening Service – 7:00pm

All Worship Services will be from The Book of Common Prayer with the Invitation to a Holy Lent, Litany of Penitence, Imposition of Ashes, and celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Bring us your Palms

No, we're not looking for a show of hands but rather the blessed palms from last year's Palm Sunday service. The palms will be burned and the ashes used for this year's Ash Wednesday services.

Please bring any palms (cut up in short pieces would be helpful) and put them in the basket in the entryway of the church.

Mill Creek Ministerium—Wednesday Lenten Program

This year the Wednesday noon Lenten Worship & Soup Luncheons will be held at the new St. Philip's Lutheran Church at 5320 Limestone Road. The theme for the six-week program beginning on March 8th is *"The Book of Psalms—Ancient songs of Prayer & Praise for Today."* The complete schedule is:

- March 8th The Rev. Bruce Gillette of Limestone Presbyterian
- March 15th The Rev. Kymm Hockman of Marshallton United Methodist
- March 22nd The Rev. Patrick Downes of St. Philip's Lutheran
- March 29th The Rev. Lance Martin of St. John the Beloved Catholic
- April 5th The Rev. Thomas Edwards of St. Mark's United Methodist
- April 12th The Rev. James M. Bimbi of St. James' Episcopal Mill Creek

The weekly preacher's congregation is responsible for bringing the soups and breads for the luncheon that follows the 30-minute services. Thanks once again to Carole Leach who will be coordinating our volunteers.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Maddy Burns
2nd Joan Jennings
5th Robin Brennan
Daniel Behulak
6th Elinor Tuhy
9th Helen Balchan
Paul Pomeroy IV
13th Edward Loveland
Kyle Morales
14th Allyson Heinold
Amy Taylor
16th Aurora Taylor
Deb Grello
17th Debbie Dunford
Amy Haywood
Gail Zimmerman
18th Wendy Manthorpe
19th William White
Kandice Dill
21st David Cernos, Jr.
22nd Barb McKee
23rd Liz Lichtenstein
Shannon Dill
25th Ben Cook III
27th David Metcalfe Jr.
28th Thomas McCauley
29th Wilma Toulson

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

19th Barbara & John Bowser

Thinking about Summer Camp?

Information has been received about Camp Arrowhead's 2017 season. There are day and overnight camping opportunities for boys and girls ages 7-16 years old on Rehoboth Bay. Brochures are available on the literature rack in the Parish House. We also have registration forms in the office. Check out the website at www.camparrowhead.net. Walking tours for new campers will be March 26th and April 23rd from 2-4PM. The annual Work weekend is April 7-9. Call the office or check the camp's website for more information. Financial aid is available.

Have an Idea for a Newsletter article?

Is there something you would like us to write about or publicize?

Let us know! Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is **March 15th**.



CEMETERY

Please remove any Christmas decorations that you would like to keep no later than February 15th. After that date they will be discarded.

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February 2016*

St. James' Episcopal Church
2106 St. James' Church Road
Wilmington, DE 19808

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 36
Wilmington, DE

Rector: The Rev. James M. Bimbi
Senior Warden: David Niehaus
Junior Warden: Carolyn Joynt

Office Contacts

Phone: 302-994-1584

Email: office@stjamesmillcreek.comcastbiz.net

Office Hours: Tues-Wed-Thu—9am–2 pm
Closed Monday and Friday

Sunday Service Times

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:15am Nursery & Christian Education

10:15am Family Worship

Wednesday

9:30am Holy Eucharist

10:15am Bible Study



Website: stjamesmillcreek.org

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