



A Letter from St. James

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

February 2018

Rector's Ramblings . . . February 14th & Matters of the Heart

In case you are not yet aware, this year both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day of February 14th. (As it turns out, Easter Day and April Fool's Day also occur together on April 1st, but that's a topic for another time.) I have had both laity and clergy ask me what I plan to do, as if there has to be the choice between one or the other.



You would expect me to say that Ash Wednesday should take precedence, and you would be right. That is not to preclude, however, proper attention paid to my earthly beloved 'valentines'. It is not one or the other, but giving prayerful attention first to God who creates us all in Love, and then with the assurance of our relationship with God being able to reach out to our earthly companions. As written in 1 John 4:7a, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God." God is the source

from which we draw the ability to show true love to others.



And so on Wednesday, February 14th, you will find me observing Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent by asking for God's forgiveness and mercy for the brokenness and sins that stand between God's love and me.

Then, in turn, I will let the people in my life know how much I love them and am grateful that they are a part of my journey. I see no conflict whatsoever of these two observances falling on the same day, and in fact they present the opportunity to bring together the sacred and secular in grand sweep of gratitude. How wonderful for such an opportunity, and may we seek to recognize God's presence in every moment of our lives and relationships.

Fr. Jim Bimbi

A February Weekend Retreat in Rehoboth Beach

Sign up now for **The St. James' Retreat Weekend, February 9-11, 2018**, at the diocesan operated A. Felix DuPont Memorial House, nestled among pine trees just two blocks from the Atlantic Ocean in Rehoboth Beach. **This retreat for both Men and Women** begins with dinner on Friday and concludes on Sunday morning, and includes lots of free time and opportunities for socializing. **Cost is \$170/person.** Contact Susan Winward or Fr. Jim today!

Fr. Jim elected President of North American Board

Back in November 2017, our rector, The Rev. James M. Bimbi,, was elected the new president of the Board of Directors of the North American Committee (NAC) for St. George's College, Jerusalem. Father Jim assumed his new responsibilities after serving as the board's secretary for the past five years. His faithful work has given him a deep understanding of NAC's history, its partnership with St. George's, and the board's work to financially support this institution in the Holy Land.

St. George's College is not an academic institution in the normal understanding of a college. Originally founded to train indigenous clergy, it has become a place that provides short-term pilgrimages for Christians from around the world. Pilgrimages are lead by instructors and guides familiar with the land and its history, and are supported by an chaplain who provides spiritual guidance and meditations.

Having attended pilgrimage courses offered by St. George's and making several visits to Israel, Father Jim knows the college's needs, as well as the quality and impact of its programs, attesting personally to the way they have shaped his ministry. He is deeply committed to a continued partnership with NAC's Canadian friends to build both marketing and financial support across North America, and has recently helped broker an arrangement with the Diocese of Ottawa to bring employment and financial stability to the position of Dean at St. George's College.

Father Jim's volunteer work for NAC is done primarily on his own time, although there will be occasions that take him away from St. James', like his upcoming trip to Jerusalem on February 15-20 for meetings with the Archbishop and the Foundation that oversees the operations of the college.

Sunday, February 4th - Prayer Team Ministry

*For when two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them. (Matthew 18:20)*

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**

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 services. Following tradition, the dried palms will be burned and the ashes used for this year's Ash Wednesday services.



Please bring any palms **by Sunday, February 11th** (cut up in short pieces would be helpful) and put them in the basket in the entryway of the church.

February 14th - Three Ash Wednesday Services Offered

Morning Services – 7:00am & 9:30am

Bible Study – 10:30am

Evening Service – 7:30pm

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

Mill Creek Ministerium—Wednesday Lenten Program

This year the Wednesday noon Lenten Worship & Soup Luncheons will be held at the St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 5320 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808. The theme for the six-week program is ***"Hospitality: A Biblical Blessing to the World"***. The complete schedule is:

- Feb 21st St. Philip's Lutheran - The Rev. Patrick Downes
- Feb 28th St. James' Episcopal Mill Creek - The Rev. James M. Bimbi
- Mar 7th St. Barnabas Episcopal - The Rev. Martha Kirkpatrick
- Mar 14th St. Mark's United Methodist - The Rev. Thomas Edwards
- Mar 21st Limestone Presbyterian - The Rev. Nancy Conklin
- Mar 28th Marshallton United Methodist - The Rev. Kymm Hockman

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.

Tuesday, February 13th at 6:00pm
St. James' Parish Hall
SHROVE TUESDAY Mardi Gras Dinner Party!



and/or



FOOD

Shrimp & Grits, Jambalaya, Mac & Cheese, Bread Pudding

Pancakes and Scrapple, too! So many great options or enjoy a sampling of each! Meal hosted by St. James' Youth, Youth Leaders, and Sam White.

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

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 event!

If you have a gift item you'd like to donate to the auction, please contact Carolyn Mack by text 302-565-8675 or Cindy Fauerbach by call or text 302-584-8053 or cindyfauerbach@verizon.net by February 4th. Thank you!

Bazaar Group Reconvenes in February

Weather Permitting, the Bazaar Ladies will be back February 13th.

During their winter break they were busy finding new creations to make and are anxious to start making them for the 2018 Bazaar. The ladies meet every Tuesday morning from 9:00 – 11:30.

The dates for the 2018 Bazaar are:

Friday, November 2nd & Saturday, November 3rd – 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, Buttons, Yarn, and Seashells**

All items can be left outside the Bazaar Room at the bottom of the stairs in the Parish House.

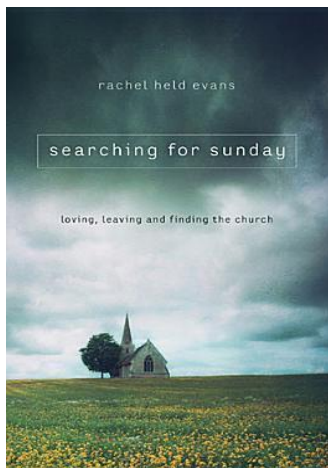
Remember to save your Zingo receipts. Zingo's reimburses us 1% of the total receipts we submit to them. We average about \$130 yearly from Zingo's. The funds are used to purchase supplies for the projects the ladies make. There is a container marked "Zingo's Receipts" in the foyer closet of the Parish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



Thank you for your continued support!

Thursday Night Lenten Book Discussion begins Feb 15th

Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church



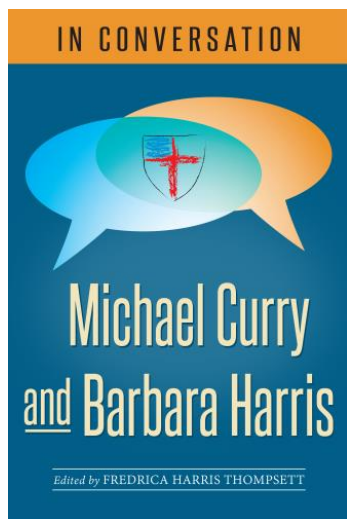
Like millions of her millennial peers, Rachel Held Evans didn't want to go to church anymore. The hypocrisy, the politics, the gargantuan building budgets, the scandals--church culture seemed so far removed from Jesus. Yet, despite her cynicism and misgivings, something kept drawing her back to Church. And so she set out on a journey to understand Church and to find her place in it.

Centered around seven sacraments, Evans' quest takes readers through a liturgical year with stories about baptism, communion, confirmation, confession, marriage, vocation, and death that are funny, heartbreaking, and sharply honest.

*A memoir about making do and taking risks, about the messiness of community and the power of grace, *Searching for Sunday* is about overcoming cynicism to find hope and, somewhere in between, Church.*

Sister BJ will lead a discussion of Rachel Held Evans' book at 7:00pm on Thursday evenings starting February 15th at her home, 8 Lynam Place, Wilmington, DE 19804. Father Jim has copies of the book to purchase for \$10, and highly recommends it as a means of opening ourselves up to new ways of understanding the younger generations of today and how they view organized religion and the Christian faith.

Sunday Adult Forum, 9:15am – Feb 25th, Mar 4th, Mar 11th



Michael B. Curry, serves the Episcopal Church as its 27th Presiding Bishop. **Barbara Harris** was the first female bishop elected by the Anglican Communion.

'Jesus can't make everybody happy, and neither can you,' Barbara Harris tells Michael Curry in this chronicle of conversations between these two giants of Episcopal faith, leadership and preaching.

Join Father Jim on Feb 25th, March 4th and March 11th as he shares excerpts from *In Conversation: Michael Curry and Barbara Harris* and invites others to reflect on their own stories of faith. While not necessary for participation, you can get your own copy of the book at www.churchpublishing.org.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

6 th	Barbara and Wayne McKee
14 th	Stacy and Dick DuPont
19 th	Barbara & John Bowser

Thinking about Summer Camp?

Information has been received about Camp Arrowhead's 2018 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. 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 14th**.



Please remove any Christmas decorations that you would like to keep no later than February 14th. After that date they will be discarded.

CEMETERY

*A Letter from St. James'
February 2018*

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:

INSIDE: Dates & Articles of Note

Feb 4th @ 11:30am – Prayer Team
meets in Church...page 2

Feb 13th @ 9:00am – Bazaar Group
resumes weekly gatherings...page 5

Feb 13th @ 6:00pm – Shrove Tuesday
& Mardi Gras Dinner...page 4

**Feb 14th @ 7:00am, 9:30am &
7:00pm** Ash Wednesday
Services...page 3