



A Letter from St. James

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

December, 2016

Rector's Ramblings ... Gratitude for the Seasons of Sharing

If you read the title of my "Ramblings" you might have thought that "Seasons" (plural) is a typo in that this time of year is frequently referred to as the Season (singular, no 's') of Sharing. It is that indeed, but sharing is certainly not limited to just one time or period of the year, especially when that sharing consists of the dedication and friendship of another person.

I have been blessed to have many seasons sharing the weekly office workload with Genia Thomas, but alas, all good things must come to an end. It is an occasion of celebration when the ending can be planned and of one's own choosing. And what Genia has decided is that it is time for her to retire after fourteen years of faithfully engaging in the work and ministry of Parish Secretary. To say that she will be missed by one and all is an understatement, but the burning question is 'How am I going to get along without her?'

Genia is the only Parish Secretary that I've employed since coming to St. James' in 2002. When I arrived the position was officially vacant, with Barb McKee filling in to help keep things going. When I began to take steps to fill the position I mentioned the job opening to other clergy in the diocese, and that's how Genia, a member of Ascension Episcopal Church in Claymont, heard about the job and sent me a letter and her resume. The rest, as they say, is history.



She has been a delight to work with, as she has diligently but gently kept me on track with the weekly and monthly deadlines of service bulletins, schedules, newsletters and reports. It was more than this, however. She helped to keep me sane in the ever-changing and shifting demands of parish ministry. She'd remember things I'd forget or overlook, and I don't know how I'll get along with her. That said, I'm extremely happy for her in spite of my pitiful whining for myself.

I know you all join with me in wishing her well in her retirement, and hope that we will still get to see one another from time-to-time. Our seasons together have been filled indeed with God's grace.

Fr. Jim Bimbi

Changes Ahead for Christmas 2016

The Worship Life Ministry Team wants to get the word out concerning the schedule of Christmas Services, as a few things will be different this year.

For Christmas Eve, Saturday Dec 24th, two services (rather than three) will be offered in consideration of our available resources and overall attendance in recent years.

Additionally, both Christmas Day, Dec 25th, and New Year's Day, Jan 1st, fall on Sundays, so for both of those days there will be one service only at 9:00am.

So, the holiday schedule will look like this:

- **Saturday, Christmas Eve, Dec 24th, 2016**
 - ~ **7:30pm**, Youth-Led Service with Holy Eucharist
 - ~ **10:00pm**, Candlelight Service with Holy Eucharist
- **Sunday, Christmas Day, Dec 25th, 2016**
 - ~ **9:00am**, Quiet Holy Eucharist
- **Sunday, New Year's Day, Jan 1st, 2017**
 - ~ **9:00am**, Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist

“Jesse's Gift” – Help a Needy Child

One of the traditions that Fr. Jim brought to St. James' is his Christmas Eve retelling of the true story of his encounter many years ago with a poor Native American man and his son Jesse. The father's care for his young son's schooling, and Jesse's gesture of thanks, are both loving and profound in their simplicity.

In past years, some people have brought school supplies to the Christmas Services to be given to poor children in honor of “Jesse's Gift”. The Journey Team wanted to rekindle this spirit, and a member of the Team, Val Hall, contacted her principal at Shortlidge Elementary to inquire what was most needed by some of the students in this school that serves a very poor population. **It turns out that it was not school supplies that these children needed, but rather socks, shoes, and pajamas!**

Donating shoes might be difficult (although The Journey Team is looking into that further), but we can do the rest. **Children at Shortlidge Elementary are ages 5-10 and most would wear pajamas sized 6-8, 8-10, and 10-12 and socks sized 7-8 1/2 or 9-11.**

Before you come to worship this Advent or Christmas, please consider purchasing clothing items in the sizes indicated. Then bring them to Church to help a needy child in the area stay warm and be prepared to come to school knowing that someone out there cares for them.

DEC 4th at 9:00am – Stewardship Celebration Breakfast

The 2017 Pledge Campaign has gone well, with the total amount pledged up 4 percent over the current year. To celebrate all that we have to offer from what God has blessed us with, the Vestry and the Journey Team will host a free breakfast for everyone in the parish on Sunday, December 4th. Please plan to join them at 9:00am in the Parish House for a little pre-Christmas joy, feasting, and fellowship.



God Hears and Answers Prayers

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

On Sunday, December 4th 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

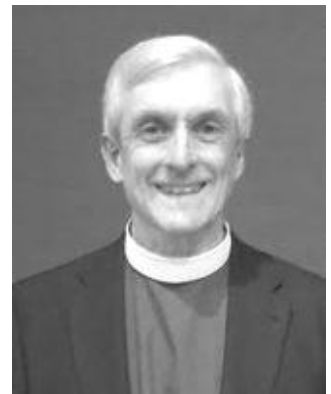
RSVP Now for Bishop's Farewell Reception on January 12th

After serving more than 18 years as our diocesan bishop, The Rt. Rev. Wayne P. Wright will be retiring in early 2017. A farewell reception for Bishop Wayne and his wife Holly will be held on January 12th at St. David's Episcopal Church, 2320 Grubb Road, Wilmington, from 7PM – 9PM. In order to help with the planning, please RSVP by January 5th to:

www.st_davids_day_school@verizon.net

If you don't have online access, just notify the church office and we'll do it for you!

Let's have a good turn-out from St. James' to show our thanks for all the years that Bishop Wayne has given to our diocese and its people.





ADOPT-A-FAMILY 2016

This year St. James' is adopting 4 SMALL FAMILIES. We will supply gift cards of their choice so that the parents will be able to buy appropriate gifts for their children. These families would not be able to afford to purchase Christmas gifts without our help.

The families consist of 8 children and 4 adult heads of the family. The first family: Mother is unemployed/looking for work. Father left family/not paying child support. The second family: Homeless; father is caregiver. He is disabled, and his child is also disabled. The third family: Young mother with baby son. Living with grandmother because child required hospitalization after birth, and mother then hospitalized with complications of a chronic illness. The fourth family is homeless; mother has three children.

The deadline for donations (any amount is appreciated) is Sunday, Dec. 11. Please make your check payable to St. James' Church (note Adopt-A-Family on the check). You may also put cash in an envelope marked for Adopt-A-Family.

Thank you very much for your support. God bless you for helping these families know that God's love is with them.

Mission and Outreach Committee

Christmas Memorials



Enclosed in this newsletter you will find an envelope for your use in making a memorial contribution for Christmas flowers. Not only do they beautify the church as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior. This is a fitting way to remember loved ones who have passed on and/or to celebrate the people and events in our lives.

Contributions may be mailed or placed in the offering plate. They must be received by December 18th to be listed in the Christmas bulletins.

View from the Road.... Thoughts from your Journey Team

This is the season for Thanks and Giving—and we are thankful for so much!

As we reflect over our journey of the last year, we are thankful for new friendships we have gained and old friendships we have neutered and maintained. It's all about relationships: building relationships by making and sharing memories, sharing stories, and sharing our love for God and each other.

"Lord, You have given me so much, I ask for one more thing--a grateful heart."

George Herbert, paraphrased

We wish you a blessed holiday season and Merry Christmas and New Year!

*Sister BJ Brown, Cindy Fauerbach, Val Hall, Deb Nuss,
Nancy Patterson, Steve Prescott, Jenny Vrana, and Father Jim.*

St. James' Youth Support our Military



Stocking Stuffers: Sam Manthorpe, Donald Chance, Hayley August, Kaitlyn August



Stuffing Helpers: Fran Mayhew, Lisa August, Susan St. John

Sunday, November 20th, the youth put together 257 'Snowman Soup bags' (hot chocolate, Hershey kisses, miniature candy cane, marshmallows, and a Snowman poem)

The Snowman Soup bags are part of the **"Stocking for Solders"** campaign. On the back of the poem, the youth included the churches' e-mail address in case our service men and women wanted to send an e-mail back to them. The bags were delivered to the campaign on Monday, November 21st and will be sent out to the service men and women on December 2nd so they arrive in time for the holiday season.

Thank you to Susan and Fran for their help with the project. Also, thank you to everyone who provided any supplies.

- Lisa August

2016 BAZAAR - Another Successful Year!!!!



The Bazaar, Luncheon, and Turkey Dinner were a big success again this year. There were many compliments from those who shopped and those who enjoyed the Luncheon and/or Turkey Dinner.

St. James is very fortunate to have so many members who are willing to give of their time and talents to make the Bazaar Weekend a winner each year.

The Bazaar Ladies extend a big ***“THANK YOU”*** to everyone who helped. Thank you to those who supplied the Bake Shop, crafters who donated hand crafted items, those who donated items for the Raffle Table and Door Prizes, those who sold Turkey Dinner Tickets, organized the seating, and everyone who donated food, cooked turkeys, prepared and served during the Luncheon and Turkey Dinner, those who filled in and helped in the shops, the volunteers who helped set up and clean up. We appreciate everything that was done and we thank everyone. We couldn't do it without your support. ***Job Well Done!***

A very special ***“Thank You”*** to the ***Youth Group*** for taking everything downstairs after the Bazaar. That is a big job and it is something the ladies cannot do. All of their help is greatly appreciated.

Crossroads Restaurant again donated the coleslaw for our Turkey Dinner. This is the fourth year Crossroads has donated the coleslaw.

ACME and Zingo’s donated the cornbread stuffing mix used to make the delicious stuffing.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BAKE SHOP:

THANK YOU for all the goodies. Our tables were filled at the start of both days. Your delicious homemade items are the reason the Bake Shop was successful again this year.

- Shirley Alexander & Carolyn Eldridge

AND FINALLY:

The Workshop is taking a break. The Bazaar Ladies will be back after the first of the year with many new ideas for the 2017 Bazaar.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CONGRATULATIONS to THIS YEAR’S BAZAAR WINNERS:

Quilt Raffle:

Patricia Guenveur - *Quilt, Table Runner & Framed Quilt Square*

Raffle Table Items:

Judy Caskeys – *“Cat and Dog” Framed Needlepoint*

Sir Charles of Arundel (Charles Newsome) – *\$220 Money Tree*

Kathy Kwiatkowski – *Embroidered Throw*

Joan-Lynn Pordham – *Needlepoint Eye Class Case*

Tara Bristow – *Acrylic Ice Bucket*

Janice Baldwin – *Hand Quilted & Appliquéd Wall Hanging*

Door Prizes:

Mary Ann Bonner & Kim Mynuk – *WAWA Gift Cards*

Emmanuel Dining Room: Sharing Our Gifts with Others

New Year's Eve 2016! --- Please consider hosting a table of 8 for \$15

Our final lunch of 2016 is Saturday, December 31st (New Year's Eve). Again this year, we will serve what our guests have called their "favorite meal"- lasagna, green beans, roll, fruit (bananas and clementines), and homemade desserts.

- We hope you will consider offering a donation of \$15 (to cover the cost of a table of 8 guests), making homemade cookies, cupcakes, or cakes, and/or **joining us on Friday, December 30th 10 am to 11:30 am in the Parish Hall to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches** (a fun activity for the whole family.)
- Donations for the lunch can be made by check to St. James' or cash (please indicate EDR on your check or envelope) and will be used to purchase the lasagnas, green beans, milk, and bread/rolls in bulk.
- If you are donating cookies or cake, please wrap and mark them EDR and place them in the St. James' kitchen freezer by Friday, December 30th.

A February Weekend Retreat in Rehoboth Beach

Sign up now for **The St. James' Retreat Weekend, February 10-12, 2017**, at the diococesan 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 \$165/person.** Space is limited. Contact Sam White or Fr. Jim today!



Thanks to everyone who is serving or has served to bring much needed sundries to the Women's Prison. We could still use volunteers for the months of August and October. Serving simply involves buying items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo and soap for the inmates, \$25.00 worth from the Dollar Store and putting them in a box before the 15th of the month. The box is marked "Baylor Women's Prison, Attention: Chaplain Bernita Earle, Sundries from St. James Episcopal Church, Mill Creek Hundred" and left on the top shelf of the coat closet in the Parish Hall. Either Cindy Fauerbach or I will take the box to the prison.

Please consider being part of this ministry, serving the Lord through serving those in prison. To become involved call Gwen Gerety Hays at (392) 540-8429 or e-mail at ggerety@gmail.com. *Thank you.*

At the recent Parish Life Day one of the workshops was led by the twin poet laureates of Delaware, brothers Nnamdi Chukwucho and Albert Mills. One of the assignments we were given was to write a poem in 10 minutes, beginning with the words “Today I feel”. Below is what sprung out of my mind. – Fr. Jim

Sermon Preparation Day – a poem by Jim Bimbi (11-19-2016)

Today I feel . . .

surprised and grateful.

It is *Saturday* –
the day when usually
I am most conflicted
about the passing minutes
and hours of the day.

For many people
Saturday is a day
free from work’s demands.
For me it’s one of contemplation,
preparation, often exasperation
to find the words
I’ll need on Sunday.

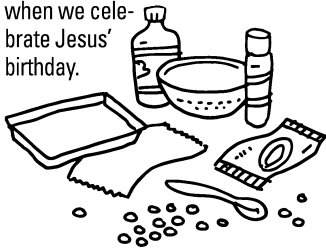
For, you see,
a preacher’s Saturday
is no Sabbath, nor is Sunday;
so when’s it to be?
Not planned, but Sabbath
can happen when the moment
jumps up and delights me
with the distractions,
the gifts of others
being shared in good spirits.

So today . . . I feel surprised,
and gratitude lifts my soul
as I play with words
that do not have to be profound
or have the sound
of heavenly speech.

Poetry Corner

birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

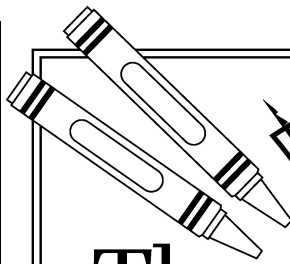


What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

What you do:

1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.

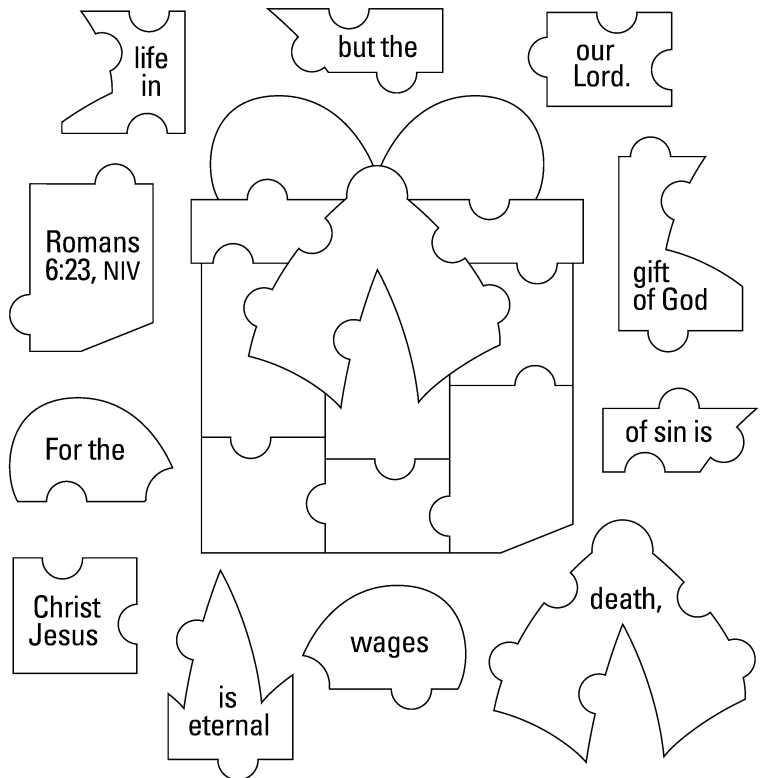


PUZZLE

The greatest gift

Gift-giving is a fun Christmas tradition. What very special gift has God given to you?

Directions: Write the words from each puzzle piece on the matching blank piece of the gift-shaped puzzle.



Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV

December Birthdays

- 1 Sherrie Bond
- 2 Perrie Carrow
- 3 Cynde Bimbi
Carole Leach
- 5 Kathryn Jackson
Paul Haefner
- 6 Daniel Bowser
Joyce Luff
Zachary Patterson
- 7 Edna Haywood
- 8 Hayden Fauerbach
- 10 Elaine Atz
- 11 Ann Kauffman
Jeff Swift
- 12 Robin Taylor
- 13 David Niehaus
Marion Phillips
- 14 Kurt Lichtenstein
Jeremy Ruff
- 16 Ginny Dennis
Stefanie Moyer
- 18 Allison Jessup
- 20 Donald Chance
- 21 Melissa DelleDonne
- 22 Hollie Gonce
Esther Insigna
- 25 Susan Winward
Sue Haefner
- 28 Tracey McCracken
Derrick Hale
Susie Ohlandt
- 29 Shawn Patterson
- 31 Richard DuPont



December Anniversaries

- 15 Elaine & Joe Atz
- 21 Fran & Eric Mayhew



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know. YOU are an important part of our Parish Family and we want to celebrate with you!



Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to the family of very active and long-time member **Irene Udinski** who passed away on November 10, 2016. She will be missed by all.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family and friends of **Marcia Jenkins** who passed away on November 19, 2016. Marcia's family connections to the parish goes back many years.

Finally, our sympathy goes out to the family of **Willard Dickerson**, who died on Thanksgiving Day, November 24th. Willard was the brother of Barbara Seddon, and before coming ill would often accompany her to church.



*A Letter from St. James'
December 2016*

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

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Wilmington, DE

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Senior Warden: David Niehaus
Junior Warden: Carolyn Joynt

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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Tuesday – Thursday

Closed Monday and Friday

Service Times

Sunday –

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:15am Family Worship

Wednesday

9:30am Holy Eucharist

10:15am Bible Study



Christmas Eve
SERVICES

7:30 PM
Youth Led Service

10:00 PM
Traditional
Candlelight Service



CHRISTMAS DAY

One Service
9:00AM

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