

# *A Letter from St. James*

*Mill Creek Hundred*

*February 2016*

## ***Rector's Ramblings . . . Lent: A Time to Encounter God***

Well, it's happened again. The Church has journeyed through the retelling of the early stages of the Christian message with the stories and worship of the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. During Advent we heard and prayed on the prophecies of a Messiah, the Anointed One of God, promised to come and deliver God's people. The birth in Bethlehem of Jesus as that Messiah was celebrated at Christmas, and Epiphany has been marked by events from the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

And now, we find ourselves about to enter into the Church's season of Lent, a time of prayerful and intentional assessment of our lives. The central question is: *How is it that we, as Christians, are following in the footsteps of Jesus?* We profess that our redemption and salvation comes through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Our Lord Jesus. Lent offers us the opportunity to step back and assess our response to God's unmerited grace and forgiveness.

In order to prepare ourselves for the Easter celebration of resurrection and new life, we first need to honestly confront the times we let our ways supersede God's ways. How we treat one another as well as how we respond to those who are strangers or unknown to us is a good gauge of our commitment as Christians.

There are many ways to embrace the season of Lent and to seek an encounter with God. In this newsletter you will find five full pages (2 – 6) with special events, programs, and activities. It is my hope that some of these might provide a means for you to renew your faith and encounter or rediscover your relationship with the God who loves us all beyond measure.

*The Rev. Jim Simbi*

**Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**

**SHROVE TUESDAY Mardi Gras Dinner Party!**

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

*Plus*

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

*Plus*

*Report of the June 2015 Mission Trip to Kentucky*

**\$10 adult ~ \$5 child's plate (9 & under)**

**Advance tickets encouraged  
to help plan the food**

**Proceeds go to the St. James' budget**



**Ash Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Morning Service – 9:30am**

Bible Study – 10:30am

**Evening Service – 7:00pm**

Both 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

# Embrace Lent – Encounter God

- *Here's a short retreat to start off your Lenten observance:*

## “Lent through *Another Lens*”

*Responding to ‘The Story’ through music,  
poetry, storytelling and prayer*

**A two-hour mini-retreat on Saturday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, at two different locations:**

**10:00am – 12noon**

St. Alban’s Center

913 Wilson Rd

Wilmington, DE 19803

- or -

**4:00pm – 6:00pm**

The Retreat House

22005 Church St

Hillsboro, MD 21641

Enter Lent with an open heart and mind, listening for God to speak. Participants will engage with interactive and non-traditional responses to the Gospels of Lent. This 2-hour mini-retreat will be led by The Rev. Ginny Wilder, The Rev. Jim Bimbi, The Rev. Louise Howlett, and Francie Thayer, Director of The Retreat House in Hillsboro, MD.

Please email Francie Thayer at [francie@retreathousehillsboro.org](mailto:francie@retreathousehillsboro.org) to reserve your seat and to help with the planning of materials. A freewill offering will be invited.

- *Develop a more spiritual discipline:*



## Daily Online LENTEN PROGRAM “Growing a Rule of Life”

from the Society of St. John the Evangelist

This year the Brothers’ Lenten series will focus on God as the Chief Gardener of our souls and use a tool from monastic spirituality called a ‘Rule of Life’ to explore and cultivate our relationships with God, Self, Others, and Creation. Just as stakes and lattices nurture the growth of young plants, so too can spiritual disciplines support the flourishing of our whole being.

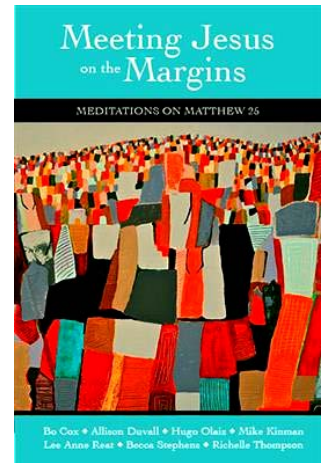
Join the brothers of SSJE as they dig deep and dream big about ways to live into a more abundant life with Christ. **Sign up by Feb 10<sup>th</sup> at [www.ssje.org/time](http://www.ssje.org/time)**

- *The Social Gospel – “As you have done for the least of these”*

## Meeting Jesus on the Margins

A 6-Week Adult Group Discussion for Lent  
Sundays, 9:05am

Where do you meet Jesus? In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus urges us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, and visit the prisoners. And in doing so, we meet Jesus. *Forward Movement* has published these daily reflections for Lent that provide boots-on-the-ground stories of serving and being served by "the least of these." The meditations also explore our own hunger, our vulnerabilities, and the times we are imprisoned, either self-imposed or by circumstance.



Twenty copies of “Meeting Jesus on the Margins” will be available on a first come first served basis at a cost of five dollars each. Or you can order your own copy at “forwardmovement.org” or for \$4.99 download to Kindle and Nook readers.

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – “I was hungry and you gave me food”**

**Feb 21<sup>st</sup> – “I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink”**

**Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – “I was a stranger and you welcomed me”**

- *Caring for God’s Gift of Creation*

## “A Carbon Fast for Lent”

The Southern Africa environmental group Green Anglicans, are urging Christians and congregations to undertake a series of challenges during the season of Lent. *“For Anglicans, Catholics and many others, Lent is the time when we remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, facing challenge and temptation. It is a time when we reflect on God’s purpose for our life. This year we challenge you to take a carbon fast – to reduce the actions which damage God’s Creation.”*

To assist you at home, a crib-sheet of daily challenges on the consumption of power, water, food, etc., is available in the church or parish office. Some can be fun (have dinner by candlelight), and others commonsense (don’t leave the tap water running when brushing your teeth). And what are your ideas for St. James’ Church to undergo a “carbon fast”? No electric lighting during daytime services in the church? Begin an active recycling program? Give us your ideas!

- *Special Musical Offerings*

## **Evensong at St. James' - Sunday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm**

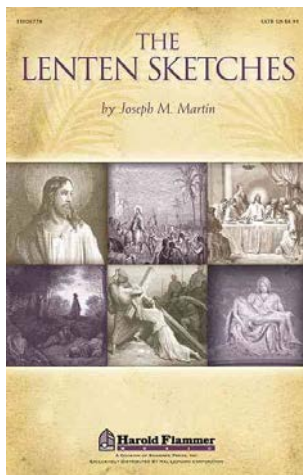
The choir of Immanuel Church in New Castle and their director Jack Burnam will graciously make a Lenten journey out to the country church of St. James' to lead us in the traditional service of Evensong.

It was two years ago during our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary that the choir and director of Immanuel last graced us with their musical talents. It will be good to have them back in their "mission" church once again.

Evensong is quite simply a sung version of the Office of Evening Prayer from The Book of Common Prayer. It has been a part of the Anglican/Episcopal tradition since 1549, and traces its roots to medieval monastic life and worship.

Please plan to join us at 4:00pm on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, and be sure to invite your music-loving friends to come along. A reception will be held in the church following the service.

## ***Lenten Sketches & More!***



## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdenominational Lenten Concert Hosted by St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm**

In what is becoming a Lenten tradition, 100+ choir members from a number of area churches will combine as one to offer a stirring concert of sacred music. Featured once again will be a performance of Joseph Martin's *Lenten Sketches* accompanied by an orchestra. This stirring piece combines narrative and singers in a moving presentation of the Passion of Christ.

Participating churches include St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, St. James' Mill Creek, New Castle Presbyterian Church, Immanuel Highlands Episcopal Church, and St. Paul's Lutheran.

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church is located at 2800 Duncan Rd, Wilmington, DE 19808. A freewill offering will be taken to help cover expenses and to benefit a local charity. Past offerings have gone to Hurricane Sandy relief, Family Promise, and The Center for Missing and Exploited Children.



## **Lent Madness 2015 – Which saint will win the Golden Halo?**

For the seventh year running, people worldwide are gearing up for Lent Madness, the “saintly smack down” in which thirty-two saints do battle to win the coveted Golden Halo.

The creator of Lent Madness, the Rev. Tim Schenck, says, “The saints aren’t just remote images in stained glass windows or pious-looking statues. They were real people God just happened to use in marvelous ways.” Lent Madness began on Schenck’s blog in 2010 as he sought a way to combine his love of sports with his passion for the lives of saints.

The Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, Schenck’s Lent Madness co-conspirator, says, “Throughout Lent, as we’re having fun with the competition, we are also inspired by how God used ordinary people to do extraordinary things.” Gunn, who is executive director of Forward Movement in Cincinnati, Ohio, adds, “That’s the whole point of the Christian life: to allow God to work in us to share God’s love and proclaim Good News.”

Here’s how it works: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org) about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the Golden Halo.

**Sign up to participate at [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org)**



**This year’s Wednesday Lenten Program for the Mill Creek Ministerium will be held at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, 1700 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808.**

An ecumenical worship service will be held at 12:30pm followed by a simple lunch. St. James’ day to provide worship, soup and bread is March 9<sup>th</sup>. **This year’s theme is: “Conversion: Becoming Disciples of Christ”**

## Feb 7<sup>th</sup> – African Team Ministries – Crafts & Jewelry

African Team Ministries is a Christian ministry working as an intermediary between African and American churches. With help from Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Anglican denominations, they provide funding for orphan and refugee relief missions and evangelism in East Africa. The support received is sent directly to partnering Bishops to provide school fees, tuition, books, and uniforms. This support ensures that the children receive an education and a measure of stability needed to rebuild their minds. We currently have children registered for sponsorship in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda. Thru our support we are giving the gift of HOPE!

The proceeds from the handcrafted items for African Team Ministries will make it possible to provide Drip Irrigation Kits for the families in the drought and famine areas enabling them to grow food all year round instead of only when it rains. More than 250,000 people died during this recent drought and famine. They also resettle displaced people, support orphans, provide AIDS education and prevention and literacy training.

Take time to look at and perhaps purchase these handcrafted items.



### Yes, we are (hopefully) having a 2016 Flea Market this April!

Nancy and Scott Martter have helped to organize the last two flea markets have been organized by Scott and Nancy Martter, but they are presently in the middle of plans to purchase a new home. So, they rightfully cannot commit to head up this year's sale at this time. **Won't you please consider helping out with this annual fundraiser? Hopefully there are several people who can take on different responsibilities, thereby spreading the duties around.**





## 2015 Adopt-A-Family

Lynne Baker shares thank you notes from those your generosity benefited this past Christmas. Your generosity was truly appreciated. Thanks again.

Our main family writes: "Thank you so much for adopting my family. This is the 1st year, and we are blessed. We would not have had a Christmas. The past 3 years, we have been homeless living from shelter to motel. It was bad. Now I got a house for my family, and I pay all bills with my money I get from work. I have 5 boys and I'm a single Mom. My 5-year-old has a lung disease. He is really sick. You made our Christmas. Thank you."

A second family writes: "Thank you so very much. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

A third family writes: "Thanks for being there for me and my family. We enjoyed it. God is going to bless you."

A fourth family writes: "Thank you so much. We are more than grateful. God bless."

A fifth family writes: "Thank you so much. May God bless you."

## **Baylor Women's Correctional Institute Sundries Ministry**



When I was lonely, you offered me hope.

Once a month, volunteers from St. James' provide much needed sundries like deodorant, shampoo, cream rinse, tooth paste, tooth brushes, and from time to time Bibles for the women who are incarcerated at the Baylor Women's Correctional Institute. These items help to boost self esteem and are small reminders that others care about them. If these items are not provided, the women go without or have to wait until they earn enough to cover the cost of these items. Contributions are collected in a basket in the closet of the Parish House - *just no metal containers, no mouthwash (alcohol) and sprays.*

**We are seeking volunteers for the months of November and December 2016!** If you feel a call to help provide these items (usually around \$25 worth) for any of these months or if you would like to provide bibles any time, please contact Gwen Gerety Hays by email [ggerety@gmail.com](mailto:ggerety@gmail.com) or call [302-540-8429](tel:302-540-8429).

**The Bazaar Group** is on hiatus but will resume meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. New members are always welcome.



## **A Message from the Vestry**

Dear St. James' family,

Thanks to all of you who so generously responded to the Annual Fund pledge campaign. The pledges to date total \$127,300 of the \$130,000 that were anticipated for the 2016 budget.

We are hopeful that additional pledges will be forthcoming. In the meantime several steps have been taken to manage the shortfall. Your Vestry has decided to not implement the cost of living increase on salaries recommended by the diocese, voted to lower by \$1,000 the congregational assessment paid to the diocese, and is looking to reduce the music and various other parish program expenditures.

If you have not yet had a chance to make your pledge, please contact the office and we will make sure you get a pledge card and envelope. We will also be happy to answer any question you may have, so please feel free to contact any Vestry member if you need more information.

It is through the Annual Fund campaign that we are able to keep the church running day-to-day and fulfill our mission work. Your participation is a blessing and we thank you wholeheartedly.

May God's blessings be upon you,

The Vestry of St. James' Mill Creek

# Words for Lent

W G Z B C S R Y L D K W N T K G Z M Y	RECONCILIATION
Q I L S F C V E H T T V S G I R S Z R	COMMANDMENTS
U D Q A T O S I C O M M A N D M E N T	FORGIVENESS
R R H C G N P F O O N F O Y B A A S I	BODYANDSOUL
V Y N R X F X O G F N H J C N B C E W	TEMPTATIONS
I T L I T E I R A H Z C Y A H X E H T	CONFESSION
G N Z F N S P G O E V Z I Y O L G S O	SELFDENIAL
K A L I E S W I E G W L R L I F T A C	REPENTANCE
I V W C T I R V Q U S E A T I J R H R	SACRIFICE
Q R R E I O W E D K L Z H E X A Q Y P	PENITENT
P E E Y N N S N O I T A T P M E T E N	SERVANT
F S Y I E I D E J F O E L G M L Q I Z	SINNERS
G G A P P R K S A Y S Y T N F E Y P O	FASTING
D O R O T O N S Z J G V K V M Q P K P	MERCY
W W P U Q J T T M E R C Y F Y T I V H	PRAYER
I I N N P I E D L U O S D N A Y D O B	ASHES
P A T R N E C N A T N E P E R Y H X L	
Y Y L G T W G B Q Q W Y N W B G U W V	
L A I N E D F L E S T V O Z W H K F F	
D Z Y I D S E L O Y P T U U H K D E F	

## February Birthdays

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



## February Anniversaries

- 14<sup>th</sup> Stacy & Dick DuPont  
19<sup>th</sup> Barbara & John Bowser



Please remove any Christmas decorations that you would like to keep no later than February 15 or they will be thrown away.



**CEMETERY**



*A Letter from St. James'  
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: Debra Nuss  
Junior Warden: John Handlin

Office Contacts

Phone: 302-994-1584 / Fax: 302-994-3778  
Email: office@stjamesmillcreek.comcastbiz.net

Website: stjamesmillcreek.org

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Tuesday – Thursday  
Closed Monday and Friday

Service Times

Sunday –

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
9:15am Nursery & Christian Education  
for all ages.  
10:15am Family Worship

Wednesday

9:30am Holy Eucharist  
10:15am Bible Study  
6:30pm Holy Eucharist – Contemplative  
7:15pm Adult Study



**Tuesday**  
**February 9**  
**6PM**



**Mardi Gras & Pancake Supper**



**February 10**  
**9:30 AM and 7:00 PM**