

A Letter from St. James

Mill Creek Hundred

March 2016

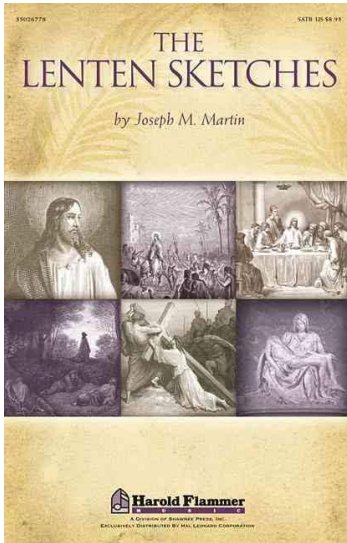
Rector's Ramblings: It's Not what we Say, it's what we Do

During the Sundays in Lent the Sunday morning Adult Class has focused on Jesus' exhortations that his followers care for the "least of these my brothers and sisters" (Matthew 25:40). By the least of these Jesus didn't mean those that were of less importance or earthly status. Jesus never used the yardsticks that societies and cultures employ to draw distinctions between people. Quite the opposite, he seems to cross every boundary, ignore any division that is put in the way to anything less than full recognition of the sacredness of each and every person. For Christians, as followers of Jesus Christ, doing likewise is not an optional aspect of our faith. It is a central tenet of what we should be proclaiming to a world that often denies the image of God in which we were all created.

But saying that we believe this and actually acting with respect and concern for others are two entirely different matters. Words must carry meaning; otherwise they are empty to the point of being hurtful by their pointlessness. When we say we care about the hungry, then we must find ways help, either through direct donations of food or by sending money to an organization that provides assistance. If we say that homelessness is an affront, not against the peace of a community but against the dignity of individuals, then we better find a way to literally get people in out of the cold.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I pass along the following antidote. The monetary offering taken at the main worship service of the recent convention of the Diocese of Delaware was designated to go to ministries working with homeless persons. The decision as to which ministries would receive a share of the offering was left up to our bishop, The Rt. Rev. Wayne P. Wright. Bishop Wright is well aware of the commitment of Family Promise to assist families that are homeless. So, it was a welcome surprise that he sent me a check for \$250 with the request that I pass it along to the Executive Director of Family Promise with his thanks and respect for all that they do to work with homeless families in northern Delaware. He also expressed his gratitude for the support that the people of St. James' Mill Creek have given to this ministry.

It was a kind gesture on the part of our Bishop. Now, as we approach the great Feast of the Resurrection, it is time for us to rededicate ourselves to offering new life, new hope, to those who are in any need or trouble. It is what Christ calls us to do. The Rev. Jim Bimbi



Lenten Sketches & More!

4th Annual Interdenominational Lenten Concert at St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church Sunday, March 13th 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.



This year's Wednesday Lenten Program for the Mill Creek Ministerium is being held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 1700 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808.

Ecumenical worship services are held at 12:30pm followed by a simple lunch. St. James' day to provide worship, soup and bread is March 9th. **This year's theme is: "Conversion: Becoming Disciples of Christ"**



Included in this newsletter is an envelope for you to use to help beautify the church for Easter and as a memorial to a loved one or to celebrate a blessing in your life. Please return the envelope (mail or put in the plate on a Sunday) no later than Palm Sunday, March 20th so that it may be listed in the Easter bulletin.

March 20th – Palm/Passion Sunday 2016

Last year the Worship Life Ministry Team planned two different services on what is commonly referred to as Palm Sunday, which is the Sunday before Easter Day. We will once again be offering these two very meaningful, but somewhat different services again this year. Below are the explanations and thoughts behind these services.



In the Episcopal tradition, the Sunday before Easter is called “The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday”. The service on that day begins with a reading recalling the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem when the people spread palm branches on the ground in front of him. This joyful entry is recalled in the first part of the liturgy as palms are blessed and distributed to every member of the congregation, and as we recall the words of the people of Jerusalem: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. Hosanna in the highest.”

The “Palm Sunday” celebration, however, doesn’t last very long. With little opportunity given to reflect upon Jesus’ arrival at Jerusalem and the days he spent in and around the Temple, the mood of the service turns somber in the reading of the Passion Narrative with its focus on the Last Supper and then Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Since the Church also observes these events later in the week, the inclusion of the Passion Narrative on Palm Sunday can diminish the worship impact for those who attend services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

With these thoughts in mind, the Palm Sunday services on March 20th will be as follows:

- **8:00am Service** – This service will include the complete traditional liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer including the Gospel reading on the Triumphal Entry and the blessing of palms at the start of the service, the reading of the Passion Narrative from the Gospel according to Luke (with parts assigned to the congregation), and concluding with the Holy Eucharist.
- **10:15am Service** – Worship will begin much like a regular Sunday. The Gospel reading on the Triumphal Entry will be moved to the normal position of the Gospel, followed immediately by the blessing and distribution of palms, the singing of “All Glory Laud and Honor”, and then a sermon on the meaning of the Triumphal Entry, Jesus’ last days in Jerusalem, and Jesus’ ultimate destiny of the cross. The service will conclude with the Holy Eucharist.

Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Dog Lunch

Every year we invite the neighborhood children to join our own youth for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone is asked to congregate in the parking lot at 11AM on Saturday March 26th. Following the hunt, the hunters and their families are invited to a free hot dog lunch. It's a great way to meet our neighbors and introduce them to our parish.

Please consider donating food and helping with the lunch. Sign-up sheets are posted in the foyer of the parish house.

We also need individually wrapped candies and plastic eggs for the hunt. The youth group will stuff them and hide them but we need you to supply the goods. Please bring donations to the office or drop them off at church any time between now and Palm Sunday, March 20th.



Are we having a Flea Market on April 16th? Help us Decide!

Nancy and Scott Martter have helped organize the last two flea markets but 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. **Please consider helping out with this annual fundraiser. We need someone to be the contact for renting tables to vendors, and a host of folks to help sort and set up the sale items in the downstairs St. James' room and to work on April 16th, the day of the Flea Market.**

Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for April 17th



One Worship Service at 9:00am

Vestry provided Brunch at 10:15am.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 10:45 and conclude by 12 noon.

All Ministry Heads Take Note: Please submit your ministry report by **March 31** so that it can be included in the printed annual report and booklet.

BAZAAR NEWS

The 2016 Bazaar & Turkey Dinner will be held November 4th and 5th.

Please be sure to mark your calendars.

The Bazaar Ladies are back. They have many new ideas and are anxious to get busy. They have started quilting, knitting, crocheting, painting, creating holiday decorations and designing floral arrangements. There are items needed to complete some of our projects. We would appreciate it if you could donate any of the following (items can be left at the bottom of the stairs in the Parish House):

Dryer Lint

Candle Stubs – Any Color, Scented or Unscented

Buttons – 1” or Larger

Old Crayons – All Colors

Coupons for A.C. Moore, Joanne’s and Michael’s – If you are not going to use your coupons from these stores, Bazaar Ladies would appreciate having them. Please leave them in the container marked “*Coupons*” in the Parish House closet.

Tercentennial Crock & St. James Cookbook – There are still Tercentennial Crocks and St. James Cookbooks available. The Crocks are \$25 and the Cookbooks are \$10. Both items will be on display in the glass case in the foyer of the Parish House. If interested in either item please contact Nancy Patterson (239-7649) or Shirley Alexander (738-5331).

Remember to save your Zingo receipts. There is a container in the Parish House closet marked “Zingo’s Receipts”.

Thank you for your continued support.



God Hears and Answers Prayers

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

Sunday, March 6th following the 10:15 am service (and on the first Sunday of each month), members of the prayer team will hold a short (30 minute) prayer service **in the church** (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.

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

Emmanuel Dining Room Ministry

For each month that has a 31st day (seven months a year), St. James' is responsible for the lunch at Emmanuel Dining Room on Walnut Street. In 2015, we provided over 1200 lunches packed with love and good nutrition to our guests and we have many people to thank for making this possible. Many THANKS to all who donated their time, resources, and support of this very important ministry.

And, special thanks goes to those in the Bazaar group who shared their holiday cheer and support of the Emanuel Dining Room ministry by providing donations to cover the cost of the January 2016 lunch and some to spare. Our guests enjoyed their favorite meal of lasagna, green beans, fresh fruit, and homemade cookies with milk and have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich to take and share with a friend.

Our next lunch for Emmanuel Dining Room is Thursday, March 31st!

Menu: Grilled cheese sandwiches, tomato soup, bag of chips, piece of fruit, and cookies. Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches are available for guests to eat at the dining room or take for later or to share with a friend.

Opportunities to share in this ministry:

DONATE food: We need 150 small cans (10 3/4 oz) of tomato soup, jars of creamy peanut butter, grape jam, and individual bags of chips. (Please label food EDR and drop in the basket in the inside of the church or in the parish hall kitchen on the back counter.) *Please provide donations by Easter Sunday, March 26th.*

DONATE money: to purchase needed items, including milk and bread (we purchase it in bulk.)

Join in the PREPARATION: Wednesday, March 30, 10 am to noon. Please join us in the St. James' Parish Hall Kitchen. We'll be baking cookies, putting together bread and cheese (for grilled cheese sandwiches), and making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Join in the DELIVERING and SERVING:

Thursday, March 31st, load cars (10:15 am) and leave the St. James' parking lot (10:30 am) drive into Wilmington make grilled cheese sandwiches and prepare to serve from noon to 1:15 pm.

Again, thank you,

Pat Minor, Gail Coverdale, Ginny Dennis, and Cindy Fauerbach

Questions: call Cindy Fauerbach (302)239-8336 or email: cindyfauerbach@verizon.net

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS



Our next host week begins Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016 through April 2nd. There are several volunteer opportunities where you can help:

- Overnight Hosts
- Set-up on Saturday March 26th at 12:00pm
- Take Down Sunday April 2 following the 9:00am service
- Donate breakfast and lunch items
- Provide/prepare breakfast on Saturday April 2 or Sunday April 3.

Please check the sign-up sheets in the parish house available spots or contact Susan Winward@comcast.net

More ways to help below: Please contact Susan Winward: susanwinward@comcast.net

- Whole Foods in Glen Mills has selected Family Promise as one of two *Nickels for Non-Profits* beneficiaries for the upcoming quarter, which started Monday, January 18th! The quarter runs thru April 10th, 2016. We have two volunteers for Friday, March 11th; start time is flexible 10 or 11 AM until 1 or 2 PM. Would anyone else be available to spread the good news about Family Promise and the success of our families? You would represent us at a table in the store and the dates are flexible. Let us know if you can help. This is a great opportunity to let more people know about Family Promise and the great work we do. Those getting a credit of 5 cents per bag for bringing their own, have the option of donating it to the two selected organizations. The proceeds will be split on April 10th.
- Training is offered for those interested in mentoring a Family Promise family. Give me a call to hear more about how you can be part of a family success story.
- If you know of a volunteer who has an hour on Thursdays from 5 PM-6 PM, we could use assistance at the Day Center with the kids while the parents attend the Parent Support Group. We just had 2 people step up but can add you to a list to call when needed. College and high school age OK.
- We are now able to take household goods and linens. We have limited storage space, and what we don't accept will be brought to Goodwill (save us the sorting time and trip). Please, only items in like new condition. Unless clothing is a specific request or you check with us first, we do not take clothing. Thanks to a Girl Scout Gold Award Project and a Home Shower put on by a women's group at Hockessin UMC we have lots of new household items but could use new bed pillows, flashlights and working vacuum cleaners.

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, Saturday, June 4th, 2016. Bellevue State Park.

Walk with us, the “St James Holy Strollers”, to prevent and end homelessness for families! *This year, we are raising funds for our Pathway to Career Program for more sustainable careers for our families. This is a fun day! To donate and or join our team go to: <http://bit.ly/1P0VeeU> and locate our team the “St James Holy Strollers”.* Our goal is to raise \$2000.00. We need your help! Registrants raising at least \$30 get a free T-shirt.

Location: Bellevue State Park

Date: Saturday, June 4th

Time: Registration begins 7:45am.

Walk: 5K begins at 9am; 1 Mile at 9:15am

Join in the fun with pre-walk activities and post-walk raffle. Bring the whole family including dog! The walk is sponsored by Highmark of Delaware.

Contact: Susan Winward for more information

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 20th (see page 3 for description of services)

8:00am Traditional Palm/Passion Service

10:15am Palm Sunday and Choral Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, March 24th

7:30pm Commemoration of the first Lord's Supper
with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, March 25th

9:30am Traditional Good Friday Liturgy

12 Noon Ecumenical Good Friday Service

Holy Saturday, March 26th

9:30am Holy Saturday service of prayer

Easter Sunday, March 27th

8:00am Easter Celebration with hymns

10:15am Easter Celebration with choir

There will be no Sunday Morning Academy on Easter.

VESTRY MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2016 – SUMMARY OF BUSINESS

(A complete copy of the Feb 2016 Minutes is available from the Parish Office upon request)

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- The deficit for 2015 was \$12,900. It was a little more than the projected amount of \$11,800.
- Pledges and contributions were \$14,000 below the budgeted amount.
- St. James was named as a beneficiary on an insurance policy taken out by Rue Ann Dubel. The parish will receive \$3,663/yr. for two years and probably a third year.
- A letter to the Parish from the Vestry was included in the February newsletter. It included steps taken by the Vestry to manage the shortfall in the 2016 budget:
 - The cost of living increase on salaries recommended by the diocese, will not be implemented.
 - The congregational assessment paid to the diocese will be lowered by \$1,000.
 - The Vestry is looking to reduce the music and various other parish program expenditures.

PROPERTY:

- **Phone System:** The current phone system is obsolete and can no longer be serviced. Dick Prettyman researched several possible replacement systems and presented his findings to the Vestry. It was decided that a proposal from AVATEL was considered the best for St. James. It included a 5 year lease on new equipment, installation, programming, training, maintenance coverage, fax capability with splitters. The cost will be \$79.69/mo.
- **Fire Sprinkler Inspections:** Wayman Fire Protection, Inc. submitted a bid for a contract renewal. It is a five year contract @ \$300/yr. The system extension to the Rectory would be an add-on to the contract at an additional \$300/yr. Vestry approved both contracts, with the cost of inspection in the Rectory passed along to Family Promise.
- **Fire Sprinkler Code Violation:** The sprinklers in the Bazaar Room are in violation of code as they are concealed by the ceiling tiles. The estimated cost of repairs is \$4,304. Vestry authorized repairs, not to exceed \$5,000.
- **Family Promise Covenant:** The Family Promise board has proposed a 5-Year Agreement, Feb. 1, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2021, with monthly payments to St. James' increased annual by \$30/month. Vestry authorized moving forward with the new covenant.
- **Removal of Abandoned Oil Tank:** DNREC paid to have the oil tank removed. The subsequent soil evaluation report indicated that there won't be any problem with soil contamination as long as the site is left undisturbed. Replacing the sidewalk will not disturb the site.
- **Office Computers:** The Vista operating system currently running our computers is obsolete and will no longer be supported or updated by major internet providers. Windows 10 may have to be purchased.

UPDATE from THE JOURNEY TEAM:

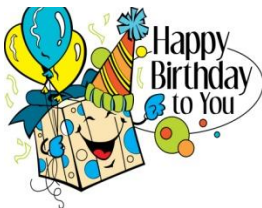
- The Team has been meeting bi-weekly and continues to analyze the information received from the parishioners.
- They have identified common themes of Outreach – Internal & External, Relationship Building, Growth & Decline, Spirituality & Worship, and Financial. The team has decided that the financial piece is not a part of their agenda and needs to be given to the Financial Advisory Committee.
- They have come to the realization that the process is going to take more time than they thought.
- The team will begin looking at committee structure next.

PARISH COMMUNICATON:

- The Newsletter will now be attached electronically to the e-Epistle and posted on the Website.
- Printed copies of the newsletter will be available in the Church and Parish House.
- It was proposed that a survey be conducted to find out who needs it mailed.

March Birthdays

- 1st Jillian Fauerbach
- 2nd John Gillespie III
Karen Selvage
- 4th Barbara Bowser
Justin Dunford
Deborah Hollstein
- 6th Laura Vrana
- 7th Kaley Martter
Rowyn Kingsley
- 9th John Fauerbach
Doris Stampone
Jenny Vrana
- 10th Ann Healey
Kayleigh Aichele
- 11th Val Hall
James McCracken
- 12th Arnold Green
- 15th Frank Hickam
Fran Mayhew
Lisa McGee
- 17th Alexander Dunford
Sam White
- 20th Sue Strecker
- 21st James White
- 22nd David Seeman
- 23rd Carly Bond
- 24th Britta Bimbi
Georgine Sukeena
- 25th Christine Haywood
- 26th Madison Morales
- 27th Alex DelleDonne
- 29th Randy Dill, Jr.



March Anniversaries

- 5th Nancy & Dick Prettyman
- 22nd Cindy & John Fauerbach



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

*If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know. **You** are an important part of our church family.*



Time to
Spring Ahead

Daylight Saving Time

Begins at 2AM

Sunday, March 13.

It's time to bring in those Flea Market Donations. Please place them in the flea market area downstairs.



Word Search

Holy Week and Easter

A N T G Y A L E O N T W C M N
N X O U O A I P A P N R T A O
N J Y I I O E U L S O J M U I
A Z Q N T N D G L W T U L N X
S J E T T C H F N E E E V D I
O D T O J B E O R U L Q R Y F
H P M D T E F R Z I D L A T I
B B Q R G T Q R R Q D D A H C
I J P K H R S I F U N A X U U
M O U O X A T L I U S Y Y R R
W Y R S E Y S Y S L D E W S C
W N X Q A A N M Q H O S R D B
S K P R X L L P I L A T E A V
S E H C N A R B M L A P O Y F
K H M W P L A S T S U P P E R

ALLELUIA
BETRAYAL
CROWN OF THORNS
CRUCIFIXION

Denial
Easter
Good Friday
Hosanna

Joy
Last Supper
Maundy Thursday
Open Tomb

Palm Sunday
Palm Branches
Pilate
Resurrection

*A Letter from St. James'
March 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



Holy Week

Palm Sunday 8 & 10:15am

Maundy Thursday 7:30am

Good Friday 9:30am

Ecumenical – Noon

Holy Saturday – 9Aam

Easter Sunday – 8 & 10:15am



Saturday March 26

11AM

A Letter from St. James