



# *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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Bimbi*

# Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>—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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>. **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 3<sup>rd</sup> & Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – 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

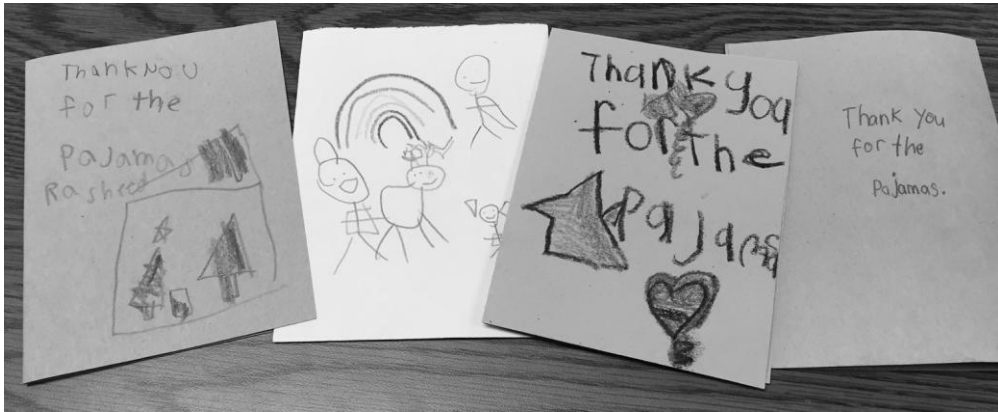
## —thoughts from your Journey Team

### 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>.***

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](mailto:sisterbjbrown@gmail.com)**

# Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> is *"The Book of Psalms—Ancient songs of Prayer & Praise for Today."* The complete schedule is:

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

- 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  
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 III  
27<sup>th</sup> David Metcalfe Jr.  
28<sup>th</sup> Thomas McCauley  
29<sup>th</sup> Wilma Toulson

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.camparrowhead.net). Walking tours for new campers will be March 26<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>**.



## CEMETERY

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

*A Letter from St. James'  
February 2016*

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

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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](mailto: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](http://stjamesmillcreek.org)

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