



A Letter from St. James

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

March 2017

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS . . . Lent: The Season of Reconciliation

The Church's season of Lent begins this year on March 1st (Ash Wednesday). Lent is often seen as a dreary time for Christians. The colors used in worship are more muted, the shiny brass and silver appointments used in the liturgy are put away or covered up, and the prayers and the music often sound more somber. Add to that the clergy urging parishioners to give up something they enjoy (chocolate is a perennial favorite of many) or to spend more time in prayer, Bible reading, or other spiritual practices.

Putting all these things aside, however, what truly makes Lent perhaps the most profound season of the Christian year is that it places before us God's love for humanity in the timeless call to reconciliation.

Reconciliation of the individual and the world to God is at the heart of our hope as Christians, for we believe that God, through Christ, has opened the way for all of humanity to be united in mutual concern and respect. This reconciliation, or the restoration of God's intentions for humanity, must move individual believers to return to God whether this is mediated by the Church or through personal repentance and/or conversion. That is the starting point of reconciliation, for it is not for the individual alone but for the greater purposes of God. (The resurrection of Jesus from the dead was not for the sole glorification of Christ. Rather, it was so that resurrection life might come to all peoples through the flesh of the One who was crucified and raised.)

Just as with Christ, the reconciliation/restoration of an individual does not occur within an isolated state where it will do no greater good, but is to become an efficacious channel for greater and greater conversion. If this restoration with God is to mean anything holy and enduring, we must strive to bring Christ into our closest relationships – starting with family and friends, and then moving out from there to our communities, our nation, and to the greater concerns of the world.

Every year God and the Church offer us this opportunity during the season of Lent to renew our focus on reconciliation. It is once more upon us. May we use it well.

Fr. Jim Bimbi

Genia Thomas honored on Her Retirement

On Sunday, Feb 19th, Genia Thomas was honored at the morning service and at a brunch after retiring in Dec 2016 following fourteen years as the parish's Administrative Assistant. Genia very graciously sent along the following note:

To Father Jim, Vestry, Journey Team, Bazaar Group and all members of St. James' Episcopal Church Mill Creek Hundred:

I want to thank you for the wonderful tribute you gave me Sunday, February 19th. The sign that greeted me as I pulled into the parking lot; the beautiful wrist corsage; the meaningful service and music; delicious brunch (St. James' has wonderful cooks!) with beautiful (and delicious) cake; the tributes and the gifts - all made me feel so appreciated and loved. The pin with the serenity prayer and Giving note; the picture of the church with many wishes written on the matting; the wooden replica of the church; beautiful rose scarf; G (gratitude) coffee mug - will be constant reminders of the love and friendship shown to me by all of you. The gifts from some parishioners as well as the retirement cards so many of you signed (and which will be reread many times over the years) are all greatly appreciated.

As much as all of the above mean to me, I am most grateful for the love shown me during my 14 years as your administrative assistant. I have been truly blessed to know so many of you. I pray that St. James' will continue to be a source of spiritual strength and love and a beacon of God's love in the community.



*Thank you for allowing me
to share in your ministry.*

Genia Thomas

Ash Wednesday, March 1st

Morning Services – 7:00am & 9:30am

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

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

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

2017 Flea Market in need of Chairperson(s)

The Vestry is currently looking for volunteers to lead the Annual Flea Market, which is typically held in the Spring. Last year, for a variety of reasons including the lack of a chairperson, we had to cancel our plans for this annual fundraiser.

It is a concern that if leadership of the flea market isn't in place within the next few weeks, the flea market will once again be cancelled. If you, or a team of you's, would be willing to take on this fundraising ministry, please contact Lola Michael Russell in the office at 302-994-1584, or email her at office@stjamesmillcreek.comcastbiz.net for more information.

Bishop's Blog *(posted on the Diocesan website, Wednesday, February 22nd)*

The Right Rev. Wayne P. Wright ***10th Bishop of Delaware***

This will be my last weekly email. My official retirement date is Shrove Tuesday (February 28th). The moving van will be arriving soon. For our family the next chapter is about to begin.

I am incredibly grateful for all the wonderful things that have happened over the last months – the receptions, church visits, letters, phone calls, and especially our recent diocesan convention. Having the new pavilion at Camp Arrowhead dedicated in my name is a great honor. I visited camp last week and had a look at the new pavilion site. This new building is much needed and will be well used. Thanks also to everyone who contributed to the Camp Arrowhead Scholarship Fund. To date \$6,785.00 has been raised. This fund helps to make our camp affordable for any family. I think that this is wonderful.



I began writing these weekly emails in September 2002. My hope has always been to share with you news and comments about my ministry and the many good things happening in our diocese. Delaware is a remarkable place. There are many good stories to tell.

Special thanks to the Bishop's staff and all those who have served in diocesan leadership over these years. As I said at the diocesan convention, no one ever does this alone. The Standing Committee, the Search Committee and the Transition Committee are doing an outstanding job as they guide the process to elect our next bishop. I look forward to joining you for the new bishop's ordination on Saturday, December 9th. In the meantime you will be in my daily prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings we have received during the years that we have served together.

(Bishop Wayne and his wife, Holly, have purchased a home in Philadelphia after living in church-provided housing throughout their entire marriage. We wish the new homeowners many years of joyful retirement. – Fr. Jim)

Search Yields 50-plus Applicants for Next Bishop

Process will go quiet until May

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Search Committee for the 11th Bishop of Delaware is now at the heart of its work: reviewing the applications of the 50+ candidates for our next bishop. We thank you all for your input, suggestions and engagement through the surveys, Town Halls, and development of our diocesan profile.

Critical to the integrity of the process is confidentiality. The Search Committee is dedicated to a process that: secures the confidentiality of the applicants; is respectful and pastoral in our interactions with each of them; and is one in which we hold each other on the Committee in prayer, have open and respectful conversations and exploration, and trust in the work of the Holy Spirit. Our target date is to produce a slate of three to five nominees to the Standing Committee of the Diocese in early May. You won't be hearing much from us between now and then.

We ask you to pray for us during this time of discernment. We ask you to pray for the candidates, who have already invested their time, soul work and emotional energy into this process. If you are a deputy to the electing convention in July, we ask that you familiarize yourself fully with the profile, especially "who we seek." We ask you to pray for our Diocese, as we look forward to this next chapter of our common life together as People of the Way.

Thank you for your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Martha Kirkpatrick and Mr. Steve Boyden
Co-chairs, Bishop Search Committee

Prayer for the Search Committee and Bishop Candidates:

God of all grace, we pray you bless this gathering of people for this holy work, committing themselves to presenting to this branch of your holy Church persons they discern will faithfully and effectively serve as Bishop of your Church and in this our Diocese of Delaware. Open their hearts and minds to one another and your guiding Spirit; knit them together in community prepared to share in the work set before them. May they be blessed in their labor with engaging and faith-filled nominees, every one of whom will be a faithful Bishop to our diocese. All this we ask in the Name of the one who is the Bishop of all souls, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 15th.***

The study period will go through May, and culminate in the rite of Confirmation (or Reception) at a **Regional Service to be held at 4:00pm at Christ Church, Greenville, on Pentecost Sunday on June 4, 2017.** Bishop Bud Shand, retired bishop of the Diocese of Easton, will be present for the Regional Service.

If you are interested, contact Fr. Jim by Sunday, March 12th.

Fr. Jim heading to Nicaragua with *Food for the Poor*

In 2015 and 2016 at Fr. Jim's invitation, retired Episcopal priests have addressed the congregation about the international relief organization ***Food for the Poor*** (FFP). A Christian charity based in Coconut Creek, Florida, FFP feeds hundreds of thousands of people every day in 17 countries throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. When Fr. Bob Deshaies visited St. James' last fall he stayed overnight with the Bimbi's in their home, and during his visit Fr. Deshaies urged Fr. Jim to make a trip to get a firsthand look at the types of missions FFP supports from the donations they receive. FFP not only provides food, but supports projects to build modest housing, provide clean water and medicines, supply schools, and develop sustainable agriculture.

Applying late last year, Fr. Jim was selected to travel to Nicaragua with a group of clergy from around the country. He leaves Monday, March 6th, and returns on Friday, March 10th. He is excited for this opportunity, and after he gets back will share what he learned and experienced.



Lent Madness 2017

Which saint will win the Golden Halo?

For the eighth 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: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. On the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time as participants read about and then vote for their favorite saint. 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 coveted **Golden Halo**. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch.



This is a fun way to learn about some of the saints of the Christian faith as we journey through Lent towards Easter – The Day of the Resurrection!

Sign up to participate at www.lentmadness.org

Looking Ahead – Mark Your Calendars

March 1st – Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday Services at 7:00am, 9:30am & 7:00pm.

March 5th – First Sunday of Lent – Services begin with a reading of the Ten Commandments and Confession of Sin.

March 12th, 19th, and 26th – Lenten Sunday services beginning with the Penitential Order from the Book of Common Prayer.

April 2nd – Fifth Sunday of Lent – Cathedral Choir School adds their musical talents to the 10:15am service.

April 9th – Palm/Passion Sunday – Focus of 8:00am service is the Passion of Jesus; the 10:15am service will recall the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

April 13th – Maundy Thursday – 7:30pm service recalling the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. Prayer vigil before the Altar of Repose from 8:30pm-Midnight.

April 14th – Good Friday – 9:30am Good Friday Liturgy. Ecumenical service at 12 noon with the Churches of the Mill Creek Ministerium with preaching on the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross.

April 15th – Holy Saturday – 9:00am Liturgy for Holy Saturday, and Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt at 11:00am.

April 16th – Easter Sunday – Joyful services of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ at 8:00am & 10:15am.

April 30th – The 3rd Sunday of Easter – ONE SERVICE @ 9:00am, followed by brunch and the Annual Parish Meeting.

Bazaar News (*from the ladies in the basement*)

The Bazaar Ladies are back!!! They have started quilting, knitting, crocheting, painting, creating holiday decorations and designing floral arrangements. **Want to join the fun?** They meet every **Tuesday morning at 9:00am**. No skills necessary, just a desire to come and be a part of the action.

There are items needed to complete several of our projects. We would appreciate it if you could donate any of the following:

Candle Stubs – Any Color, Scented or Unscented

Old Crayons – All Colors

Buttons – Nickel & Quarter Size

Nice Stainless Steel Teaspoons

Sea Shells

Yarn

The items can be left at the bottom of the stairs in the Parish House.

Coupons

If you are not going to use the coupons for **A.C. Moore, Joanne's and Michael's** in Sunday's News Journal, the Bazaar Ladies would appreciate them. Please leave them in the container marked "**Coupons**" in the Parish House closet.

Remember to save your Zingo receipts. There is a container in the Parish House closet marked "Zingo's Receipts".

***Thank you,
The St. James Bazaar Ladies***

The Annual Claudia White Memorial Bingo Night

The St. James' Ladies are looking forward to seeing everyone again this year, so mark your calendars for **Monday, April 24, 2017, at 7:00 PM.**

As in the past, The Claudia White Memorial Bingo Night will be held at the St. James' Parish House, and we will be collecting non perishable food items for the local food closet.

For more details, call Nancy Patterson at (302) 239-7649

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 st	Jillian Fauerbach
2 nd	John Gillespie III
	Karen Selvage
3 rd	Trevor Philip
4 th	Barbara Bowser
	Justin Dunford
	Deborah Hollstein
6 th	Laura Vrana
7 th	Kaley Martter
	Rowyn Kingsley
9 th	John Fauerbach
	Natalie Popham
	Doris Stampone
	Jenny Vrana
10 th	Ann Healey
	Kayleigh Aichele
11 th	Val Hall
	James McCracken
12 th	Arnold Green
	Wes Loveland
13 th	Kathryn Llewellyn Gannett
15 th	Frank Hickam
	Kristin Liersch
	Fran Mayhew
	Lisa McGee
16 th	Brad Beebe
	Ann Merrill
17 th	Alexander Dunford
	Sam White
20 th	Sue Strecker
21 st	James White
23 rd	Carly Bond
24 th	Britta Bimbi
	Georgine Sukeena
25 th	Christine Haywood
26 th	Madison Morales
27 th	Alex DelleDonne
29 th	Randy Dill, Jr.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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

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. Walking tours for new campers will be March 26th and April 23rd 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 15th**.



Easter Flower Memorials



Please PRINT the information below, then place this form and your donation in an envelope and drop it in the offering plate by Sunday, April 9th.

Envelopes may also be mailed to St. James Church, 2106 St. James Church Rd, Wilmington, DE 19808, to be received no-later-than Friday, April 7th.

Given in Memory of: _____

Given in Thanksgiving for: _____

Given by: _____

_____ Phone: (_____) _____

Prayer Team Ministry

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

Sunday, March 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

*A Letter from St. James'
March 2017*

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

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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: stjamesmillcreek.org

INSIDE: Dates & Articles of Note

Mar 1st @ 7:00am, 9:30am & 7:00pm
Ash Wednesday Service page 3

Mar 8th – April 12th, 12:00noon
Mill Creek Ministerium
Lenten Programpage 3

Mar 15th – Confirmation class . .page 6

Genia Thomas honored page 2

Bishop Search Processpage 5

Nicaragua Trip page 6

Easter Flower Memorials page 11