



# STEEPLE NOTES

## *Newsletter for the family and friends of St. James' Episcopal Church*

*The Rev. Robin Martin, Interim Rector*

*The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel 3rd, Bishop Provisional*

409 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335

Parish Office: 610-269-1774

www.stjameschurch.ws email: sjeparishoffice@verizon.net

## *April 2014*

*The LORD is my strength and my song, \* and he has become my salvation.*

*~ Psalm 118:14*

### *Holy Week Worship Schedule*

#### **Palm Sunday, April 13**

*7:45am - Holy Eucharist Rite I*

*9am Holy Eucharist Rite II with Contemporary Music*

*Nursery care beginning at 9am*

*10am Community Outreach Project for Kids and*

*Grown ups, Coffee hour & Fellowship in Bartholomew Hall*

*11am Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir*

#### **Maundy Thursday, April 17**

*7:30pm - Holy Eucharist Rite II*

#### **Good Friday, April 18**

*Noon and 7:30pm - Good Friday Liturgy*

#### **Easter Day, April 20**

*7:45am - Holy Eucharist Rite I*

*9am Holy Eucharist Rite II with Contemporary Music*

*Nursery care beginning at 9am*

*10am - Coffee hour & Fellowship in Bartholomew Hall*

*No Sunday School and Rite 13 classes*

*11am - Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Sunday Schoolers will learn the story of "Jesus' Rising" and will bake their own snack, "Resurrection Rolls".
- Community Outreach craft project in Bartholomew Hall following the 9:00 Palm Sunday service. Craft items will be taken to the residents of Pembroke Health & Rehab in West Chester.
- Come and help "unbury the Alleluias" with Robin on Easter Morning

### *From the Interim Rector...*

After all these years of ordained ministry, nothing makes my stomach knot up and my anxiety increase as much as being in the presence of someone who wants me to make sense of Christianity. Usually the conversation revolves around a desire for me to "explain" something, and on the surface it is a reasonable request. There is much in our faith that is difficult to understand and explain. And as the one trained in scripture and theology, I ought to be the one who can reasonably be expected to do that. Even if I do not have the answer to every question on the tip of my tongue (and I do not), I ought to have a fairly good idea of where I might find an answer (and I do). So it's not coming up with an answer sooner or later that makes me uncomfortable. The discomfort comes from the need to try to put into words something that is virtually beyond the power of human language to express.

You and I have heard the Easter story so often. We tend to take it for granted. Have you ever tried stepping back to take a fresh look? It's a strange and fantastic thing we do when we say we believe that the God of the cosmos became a part of his creation, that he was put to death and that he was made alive again. And if someone asks us to please explain how this can be, if we are true to the story as we have received it, we have to resort to words and concepts that are equally strange and fantastic to a skeptical mind. Our discomfort can

*(See Rector on page 3)*



## COMMUNITY GARDEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers to run the Chester County Food Bank gardens on the back of the church property. This is an important ministry which provides fresh produce to the Lords Pantry of Downingtown. The duties include planting, watering, harvesting, washing and packing produce and delivery. Many hands make light work so please consider volunteering some time.

**We also need a "lead gardener" to step in to coordinate volunteer efforts and oversee this ministry.**

## MEN OF ST. JAMES!



Kick it up a notch this Lent with a little extra Bible study. We meet during coffee hour in the library to study Scripture, discuss how the passage applies to our lives, and pray for each other. Upcoming meetings: April 6, April 13, and May 4.

Questions? Contact Don Harting or Rob Deitcher

### OPENING MORE SPACE FOR GOD

Though we miss our gentle, precious leader, Joan, our meditation group is continuing to meet on **Wednesday mornings at 9:30**. We would love to have more meditators. In her sermon, Robin, talked about having Lent be a time for opening more space for God. Meditation helps to find more space for God on the inside, opening spaces in our mind. Please consider joining us this Lent. If you have never meditated before, and are a bit hesitant to try, I am happy to lead a guided meditation to help get started. My e-mail is [lbharting@verizon.net](mailto:lbharting@verizon.net) or phone number is 610-363-5258. Or just show up at 9:30 on Wednesday. We will love having you join us.

*Laura Harting*



### A Christian Community offering Spiritual Support for Women of All Ages

The Order of the Daughters of the King® (DOK) is a spiritual sisterhood of women dedicated to a life of Prayer, Service and Evangelism. We are lay and ordained women who have made a commitment to Jesus as our Savior, and we follow Him as Lord of our lives. We are women who, in the midst of our daily lives, find community and spiritual support in local chapters of three or more women.

Contact Nancy Cianfrani, Lee Edmonds, or Luann McIlvaine if you would like to know more about the Daughters of the King. Our Chapter, Eius Amore, meets once a month

## BIRTHRIGHT BABYSHOWER UPDATE!

When St. James' throws a baby shower it just rains down with God's blessing. The outreach committee could not believe the gifts that were donated for the Birthright Baby Shower. From diapers to onesie to baby soap and shampoo to stuff animals, and so much more, all to help Birthright of Coatesville. The committee would like to thank everyone for their generous and overwhelming support.



### BABY BOTTLE PROJECT

For our Lenten project, the Outreach Committee handed out baby bottles to our members to fill with loose coin (or dollar bills). Use this time in Lent to pray for the mothers and babies that have been helped by Birthright and pray for the volunteers that give of their time and talents to help them. Each time you drop coins in the bottle, you are the answer to a prayer. The filled bottles will be collected on Palm Sunday. If you did not receive a baby bottle, any container will work to collect coins. Donations by checks can be made out to Birthright of Coatesville. All donations should be brought to the church on Palm Sunday

**Birthright Outreach**

## HOSPITALIZATION REMINDER

It is important to notify the Rector or the parish administrator (610-269-1774) when you or a family member is in the hospital. Due to privacy laws, hospitals are no longer able to give the church that information. **Please let us know when you are in the hospital.** Private messages may be left for the rector at 610-873-1065. After hours pastoral emergencies: 610-306-7059.

**Do you need help with meals?** Our Ministry of Meals can help. Contact the Rector, parish administrator, or Mandy Watson at 610-518-0399.



## ST. JAMES' ANNUAL AUCTION

### "APRIL IN VENICE"

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

Join us for an evening of fundraising and fun. Auctioneer Ken Reed will conduct the Live and Silent Auction selling artwork, vacations, sporting events, home décor, dinners, themed baskets, and much more. Family and friends are welcome to join us!

#### Dinner Menu

*Mixed Greens Salad*

#### *Entrée*

*Broccoli Rabe over Gluten Free Pasta aglio e olio (olive oil and garlic)*

*Chicken Marsala*

*sweet marsala wine, mushroom sauce*

*Eggplant Parmigiano*

*provolone cheese, marinara sauce*

#### *Sides*

*Assorted Grilled Vegetables*

*Penne Pasta Marinara Sauce*

*Doors Open: 6:00 p.m.*

*Silent Auction: 6:00-7:30 p.m.*

*Buffet Dinner: 6:30 p.m.*

*Live Auction: 7:00 p.m.*

**\*\*LOOK FOR YOUR INVITATION  
IN THE MAIL\*\***

#### *Get your 50/50 raffle tickets*

*\$1 each or a book of 6 (six) tickets for \$5*

Tickets will be available for purchase on Sundays or call the parish office

610-269-1774. Volunteers are needed to help sell tickets on Sundays after each service and during coffee hour.

Contact Jim Umhofer at [jumhofer@verizon.net](mailto:jumhofer@verizon.net) or look for the auction sign up sheet on the bulletin board

*Proceeds from the raffle sales helps to offset a portion of the auction expenses*



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*(Rector, continued from page 1)*

grow if we feel that this questioner thinks we are foolish and gullible, too ready to accept and own this fantastic story about Jesus of Nazareth. No matter how deeply we believe, we do not want to appear foolish.

I have no idea when Easter became something more to me than new clothes and good smelling flowers and the proud feeling of a mite box heavy with coins to be brought forward in church at a special service on Easter afternoon. I do know that to this day some Easters are more meaningful than others. Some Easters the story rings truer than it does on others. I hope this is okay because that's the way it is. I also know that it was not someone's "explanation" of the story which made it real and true for me because, in some way that's virtually beyond the power of human language to express. I believe because I have, on occasion, encountered the risen Christ myself. It's those encounters that ultimately allow me to accept and believe the story.

People will not cease to ask us to "explain" this, that or the other thing about our faith. Our calling is to make the best explanation we can, knowing that however eloquent it may be it will still be inadequate. We need to offer our "explanations" in the sure and certain hope that the resurrected Lord is eager to make himself known to all people, and to never cease praying for that to happen.

A blessed Easter to you.

*Robin Martin +*

## RECYCLING

Due to the declining commodity price of newsprint, we will not receive a rebate for our paper recycling. We will continue to have use of the recycle bin at no cost. If you have no other convenient place to recycle your paper, magazines, catalogs, and junk mail, please continue to use the green and yellow bin in the back parking lot. If prices increase, the rebate program will resume.

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club meets at Panera Bread in Exton (the Giant shopping center on Swedesford Road) the third Friday of each month at 11am. New members are always welcomed. Contact Peg Leister at [kenapeg@aol.com](mailto:kenapeg@aol.com) for more information. We will be reading the following books:

- April: The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty



## Celebrate Your Faith Night with the Reading Fightin Phils! June 26th

**Fightin Phils vs. Portland Seadogs**

**Bus leaves at 4:30pm sharp from the church parking lot. Game starts at 7:05pm**

Join us on the bus for an exciting trip to see the Reading Fightin Phils play ball. We will meet with some of the players before the game and learn how their faith has made a difference in their life. The cost is \$9 per ticket.

## HIGH 5 Soccer

### for players with special needs



GEYA's HIGH 5 Soccer Program is designed to meet the needs of young athletes with disabilities in our community in an adaptive and fun environment.

**Who:** Any player from 5-19 years old

**Where:** Fellowship Fields,  
275 Fellowship Rd., Chester Springs

**When:** Saturdays from 3:00-4:00 beginning April 12

### Your child will benefit by:

- Developing a sense of belonging to a community.
  - Learning the value of being part of a team.
- Gaining improved self-esteem, fitness and social skills.

### Your family can expect:

- A fun and meaningful experience for you and your family.
- Games and activities adapted to ensure your child's participation.
- A safe and healthy environment.
- Opportunities to network with other families for support and information sharing.

**Registration is FREE to all participants**

**For more info and to register, go to:**

[www.geyasoccer.org](http://www.geyasoccer.org)

**Deadline for the next issue of Steeple Notes is April 10th. Please submit articles and schedules to [sjparishoffice@verizon.net](mailto:sjparishoffice@verizon.net)**

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014 ~ ADVENTURES ON PROMISE ISLAND

**Mark your calendars!**

**VBS 2014 will be held during the week of August 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00-11:30 am.**

We're very excited as we plan the curriculum entitled "Promise Island", focusing on Bible stories about God's promises to love and care for us. We'll be having lessons, skits, crafts, songs, games and snacks, all centered on the Biblical theme of each day.

We're reaching out to the congregation, asking for youth volunteers, ages 13 and older, to join us as junior and senior counselors. We also invite adult volunteers to donate their time and talent to the children of VBS. The good news...no special skills are needed, just a willingness to have fun and work with the children. We'll teach you everything you need to know!!

So please contact directors Judy Benne or Gail Gilbert, when you see us at church or via e-mail.

Judy: [sbenne@dejazzd.com](mailto:sbenne@dejazzd.com) or Gail: [gailsusanstuart@gmail.com](mailto:gailsusanstuart@gmail.com)

**We appreciate and welcome both new volunteers, as well as our faithful veteran volunteers!**

# April Birthdays

Adam D'Andrea April 1  
 Christine Kilmartin April 1  
 Nathaniel Belluso April 2  
 Patty McCue April 2  
 George Fritze Jr April 3  
 Danny Harding April 3  
 Tony Pierce April 4  
 Andrew Lindner April 6  
 Gerry Frank April 7  
 Jason Kirk April 7  
 Bobbie Carpenter April 9  
 Jason DiOttavio April 9  
 Debbie Harnsberger April 9  
 Delaney Craig April 11  
 Lori Engel April 11  
 Florence Vivian April 11  
 Lloyd Pettit April 12  
 Laurel Glidden April 13  
 Ron Renzulli April 13

Lew Sibley April 13  
 Tom Umile April 13  
 Andrew Giffi April 14  
 Alex Tyner April 16  
 Esther Brink April 17  
 Dorothy Plank April 17  
 Scott Settle April 17  
 Ed Dazio April 19  
 Dave Feeley April 19  
 Gail Yuninger April 20  
 Katie Tears April 23  
 Christina Hudecheck April 24  
 Laura Harting April 25  
 Carl Grashof April 26  
 Barbara Holden April 26  
 Sue McIntyre April 28  
 Helen Larson April 29  
 Maddie Heurich April 30  
 Victor Wallace April 30



## EASTER LILIES ON THE ALTAR

You can offer a lily in memory of or in thanksgiving of a loved one to be placed around the altar on Easter Sunday. The cost is \$20 for one plant (please order just one plant and there is no limit on the number of names). Order envelopes can be found on the glass display case in the Chapel or call the parish office. **Orders are due by April 6**

## *April Altar Flowers are offered in loving memory of*

*April 20 ~ Easter Sunday  
Robert & Ilse Hudson  
Paul Feeley.  
Sarah Schmid*

*If you would like to offer the Sunday Altar Flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving of a loved one, please fill in the date you would like in the Altar Gild Flower Book locate on the table by the main entrance. Envelopes for payment are next to the book.*

HUDSON L. VOLTZ, ESQUIRE JOY L. VALANIA, ESQUIRE  
 JANET J. SATTERTHWAITE, ESQUIRE HEIDI T. NOVINO, PARALEGAL

### HUDSON L. VOLTZ, P.C. ATTORNEYS AT LAW

*Small Business ~ Family Law ~ Estate Planning & Probate ~ Real Estate Law*  
 THE LAIRD PROFESSIONAL BUILDING 610-518-9500  
 110 HOPEWELL ROAD, SUITE 200 Fax 610-518-5316  
 DOWNTOWN, PA 19335-1047 E-mail: voltzlaw@comcast.net

Mr. Voltz is a member, serving the St. James' Community for Real Estate, Family, Business and Estate matters for the past 20 years

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## SOMETHING NEW FOR THE STEEPLE NOTES BEGINNING IN APRIL

Beginning with the May Steeple Notes, we are asking members to pick up their copy of the Steeple Notes after each service on the last two Sundays of the month. So on April 20 (Easter Sunday) and April 27 addressed envelopes will be set up alphabetically on the glass display case in the Chapel. Please find your envelope to take home with you. We have a few members that are unable to attend church and if they live near you, please take a few minutes of your time to drop off their copy and visit with them.

Why are we doing this you ask? It will help the church save on the cost of mailing the newsletter (*and will save the parish administrator from having to drive to the West Chester post office*) each month. However, most importantly, it will help us to identify those attending church but not in our membership database to receive the newsletter and other mailings throughout the year. Any newsletters not picked up after the second Sunday will be mailed. The newsletter is also available on our website.

The deadline for submitting articles and schedules is always the 10th of the month. Our new delivery system will require the Steeple Notes to be ready to print one week earlier. Meeting the deadline is very important.



Smile

## CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Our online photo directory is so easy to keep up to date but we need your help. Go online and check out the directory. Let the parish office know if there are corrections needed for your family listing AND if there is no picture, PLEASE email one to the parish office at [sjcparishoffice@verizon.net](mailto:sjcparishoffice@verizon.net).

A photo directory is invaluable to our interim rector, Robin (and down the road, our new rector) to learn our names. But it only works if we have your picture and correct contact information.

Email the parish office with “directory” on the subject line for the link and password to the online directory. There’s an app for that! That’s right, there is an app you can download to your smart phone.

### ***Sunday Service Schedule***

7:45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Contemporary Music

*Nursery care during the 9am and 11am service*

10:00am Fellowship and Coffee Hour in Bartholomew Hall

10:00am Christian Education Classes

11:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Traditional Music

### ***Wednesday Meditation Group***

The group meets each Wednesday at 9:30am in the Chapel.

#### **Rector**

The Rev. Robin Martin, Interim Rector  
[sjcrector@verizon.net](mailto:sjcrector@verizon.net)

#### **Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper**

Luann McIlvaine  
[sjcparishoffice@verizon.net](mailto:sjcparishoffice@verizon.net)

#### **Christian Education Coordinator**

Beth Sharamatew  
[sjcsundayschool2@verizon.net](mailto:sjcsundayschool2@verizon.net)

#### **Parish Office ~ 610-269-1774**

Monday : 10am - 3pm

Tuesday – Thursday: 9:00am – 3:00pm, Closed Friday

#### **Thrift Shop ~ 610-873-7812**

Monday - Thursday: 10:00am – 3:00pm

1st & 3rd Saturdays each month: 9am - 1pm

#### **St. James Preschool ~ 610-269-0525 ~**

[www.stjamespreschool.com](http://www.stjamespreschool.com)

#### **Vestry Members - Term 2015**

Judy Benne Home: 610-286-6141  
Rich Carango Home: 610-518-0399  
Nancy Cianfrani Home: 484-341-8051  
Brooke Giffi Home: 610-594-2712

#### **Vestry Members - Term 2016**

Tricia DeBlander Home: 703-403-9003  
Tim Gemmill Home: 610-431-7174  
Bruce Shipley Home: 215-368-0542  
Matt Wagner Home: 610-873-2419

#### **Vestry Members - Term 2017**

Laura Harting Home: 610-363-5258  
Peggy Leister Home: 610-696-5271  
Dick McConnell Home: 610-524-2447  
Ron Meacham Home: 610-269-9352