



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

Parish Office: 610-269-1774

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

March 2014

*I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. ~ Psalm 121:1-2*

From the Rector...

Thanksgiving weekend our young granddaughters who live in South Jersey came for a two night sleep-over. We had a Christmas gift project we'd been planning since August and time was running out. By Saturday afternoon the project was completed and they had decorated gift bags for each of their parents to hold the gifts they had made. The girls and I were in the den, each kind of doing our own thing, and Papaw John was in the living room reading. At some point eight year old Hannah gathered what she was playing with and decamped to the living room. John told me later that after playing for a while in there Hannah said, "Papaw, it's very quiet at your house." John asked her if it was ever quiet at her house. She said, "Yes, but not like this," and went back to playing.

These little girls are blessed with parents who see that they aren't continually glued to the television or computer or iPad. They read every day. They also spend a lot of time involved in wonderfully imaginative play and love creative crafting of one kind or another. But the one thing about the homes they live in is that they are seldom quiet. There's almost always music playing and/or an adult on the phone. And sometimes it's just plain noisy and chaotic given that they are young, energetic and not always completely cooperative. The point is that Hannah experienced the quiet of our house as a distinct kind of quiet worth commenting about.

Lent will be here before we know it. Ash Wednesday is March 5, and with that we enter those forty days until Easter that the Church has set aside as a time of preparation. For many centuries the emphasis has been on "giving up" something. The thinking is that depriving ourselves of something we enjoy or something we're used to will help us be more aware of things that really matter. And the fact is that, properly done, this can be a very valuable tool for deepening our spiritual awareness about what really matters. But it sometimes seems that Lenten disciplines can be little more than a kind of religious "New Year's resolution" concerned more with losing a few pounds or trying to kick some less-than-healthy habit than with nurturing and strengthening our relationship with God.

You and I live in a time and culture that worships distraction. So many things in our lives that used to be considered "options" have morphed into "have-tos"...even the things we supposedly do for fun! And we're way too "busy" for the kinds of things that might bring us joy and contribute our wholeness and well-being like taking a walk without the cell phone pressed to our ear or driving in the car with the radio turned off so we can actually hear ourselves think. Lent could be a fruitful time to become more aware of what distractions we've allowed to commandeer our lives that sap our energy and dull our senses and stifle our imagination.

(See Rector on page 2)

(Rector, from page 1)

In my experience, God doesn't command us to do things that might be inconvenient in our hectic lives as much as he invites us to reorder our priorities in a ways that, amazingly, lead to a richer and deeper existence. This Lent, I wish for you that distinctive silence in you heart and mind that can only be described as holy. This Lent, I hope you will give priority to the observances of Lent this year...or in the words of the Book of Common Prayer: *I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent...* beginning on Ash Wednesday at **Noon** or **7:30 P.M.**

Robin+

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.

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.

Email the parish office with "directory" on the subject line for the link and password to the online directory

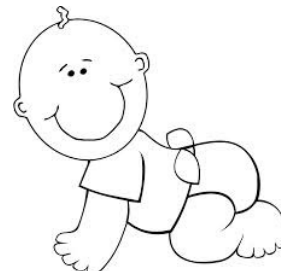
IT'S A BABY SHOWER AND YOU ARE INVITED

March 2nd in Bartholomew Hall
Benefits Birthright of Coatesville

The shower will be held after each service in Bartholomew Hall
Please consider helping this worthy ministry by bring a
gift to the shower.

Birthright's wish list

Diapers and wipes sizes 1, 2 and 3.
Breast feeding/nursing cover ups
Baby clothes size 0-3 month and 3-6 month both boy and girl
Maternity clothes sizes XL - plus sizes, any season, new or gently used
Hooded baby towels and wash clothes
Small infant toys - baby books, rattles, teethingers, stuffed animals
Bibs, socks and pacifiers
Baby toiletries - baby wash, baby lotion, baby shampoo,
diaper cream - prefer any dollar store brand
Crib sheets
Plastic (non-glass) BP safe bottles 4 and 8 ounce



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER OF CHESTER COUNTY

Thanks to everyone for all the donations for the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County! There was an enormous outpouring of generosity. We collected 18 sheet sets, 21 pillows and 10 plus towel sets! The staff members at the center were so thankful and amazed. There will be many fresh beds and towels awaiting women and children seeking safety thanks to you all.

God bless, Jen Harding

Deadline for the next issue of Steeple Notes is March 10th
Please submit to sjcparishoffice@verizon.net

VESTRY ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulation to the following members as they begin their three year term on Vestry

Laura Harting
Peg Leister
Dick McConnell
Ron Meacham

Representative to Diocesan Convention and Deanery

Christine Deitcher

We thank the following Vestry members for their three years of service to the church

Bob Yuninger
Alison Pierce
Janice Keller
Matt Ryan

If you have any questions about the annual meeting and elections, please contact Dick McConnell or Tim Gemmell. Copies of the Annual Report are available on Sunday or from the parish office



ST. JAMES' ANNUAL AUCTION

"APRIL IN PARIS"

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

We all enjoy the Annual Auction each year and it is time to start thinking about 2014. The auction is the biggest event at St. James' and requires the largest number of volunteers. There are all sorts of ways to volunteer and be a part of the fun.

!!!!WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

The Auction Committee needs volunteers

Behind the Scenes Committees:

Donor Callers	Dinner/Desserts Planning	Decorating Planning	Raffle Sales
Make Announcement on Sunday		Assemble Baskets	Mailings
Bulletin Board Display	Computer Help	Set Up of Live and Silent Auction Areas	

Night of Auction Committees

Check In/Check Out Room	Live Auction	Silent Auction	Greeters
Bid Recorders	Clean Up	Anything else we can think of	

Contact the parish office to find out how you can volunteer!

WE WANT YOUR STUFF!

The 2014 St. James' Auction is now accepting donations. Here's what we are looking for:

Handcrafted Items

Food Gift Baskets

Artwork

New or Regifted Items

Vacation Houses or Timeshares

Dinner Parties

Vintage Attic Treasures

Jewelry (handcrafted or in good condition)

Home Décor Accessories

Services (anything from handyman to professional)

Unique Experiences (Do you have an unusual occupation or passion to share?)

We are always in need of LARGE baskets, large bows and any gifts you may receive

that you really don't know why you got!

You can "regift" them to the auction.

We cannot use large furniture or everyday clothing, but if you have something interesting, let us know.

Donations can be dropped off at the parish office or call the office to arrange pick-up.

If you drop a donation off when the office is closed, please make sure the item is marked for the auction.



Brrr.... February was a cold month! However, the calendar indicates that spring will be here in several weeks. With that in mind, the staff of the Thrift Shop is gradually decreasing the

amount of winter related items that are available for sale to our customers. There will be unannounced special prices on selected items to make space for the change of seasons. Like the brightness of the Philadelphia Flower Show, the shelves and clothing racks will soon blossom with brighter colored items. The selection of items available at the shop is always changing. Browsers are always welcome. Come in during our hours (Mon through Thurs: 10 AM to 3 PM, and 1st and 3rd Sat: 9 AM to 1 PM) and hopefully be surprised at what you find.

Shirley Tompkin



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY AT ST. JAMES

We plan to meet weekly in the library after the 9 a.m. service for about an hour. We plan to use the Serendipity Bible for small groups as a guide and follow the Serendipity method. Our first study will last 6 weeks. The title will be "Accountability: Beyond Football and the Weather." Men can bring their own Bibles or use the ones in the library. Each session will have 3 parts: 1) small talk/get acquainted 2) Bible study 3) prayer.

The March Altar Flowers are offered in loving memory of

March 2

George Fritze, Sr.
Sarah Schmid

There are no Altar flowers during Lent

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.



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 flower table in the hall or call the parish office. Orders are due by April 6

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 for more information. We will be reading the following books:

- March: The Ambassadors by Henry James
- April: The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014 ~ ADVENTURES ON PROMISE ISLAND

Mark your calendars!

VBS 2014 will be held during the week of August 4th-8th, 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 or Gail: gailsusanstuart@gmail.com

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

March Birthdays

Bill Barger	March 1	David Torone	March 15
Jeannie Carroll	March 1	Pete Silvester Jr.	March 17
Hailey Heurich	March 1	Terry Young	March 17
Marilyn Miller	March 1	Dawn Filetti	March 18
Cathy Smith	March 2	Johanna Ugglia	March 18
Linda Coleman	March 3	Matt Scott	March 19
Robert Ingram	March 3	Kelly Feeley	March 20
Marcia Rosenberg	March 3	Rebecca Ward	March 20
Sarah Ellis	March 4	Don Harting	March 21
Peggy Leister	March 4	Kyle Mea	March 21
Ray Shea	March 4	Isabelle Schweiger	March 22
Robin Martin	March 5	Mary Pat Rupp	March 23
Rita Montgomery	March 6	Hud Voltz	March 24
Gregory Brink	March 7	Kay Miller	March 26
Collin Scott	March 8	Mary Engel	March 27
Emma MacDonald	March 10	Rich Carango	March 28
Adam Carango	March 11	Charlotte Craig	March 28
David Brink	March 12	Spencer Ugglia	March 28
John Woodcock	March 12	Chet Whiting	March 28
Mackenzie Long	March 13	Resa Harding	March 29
Rick Crompton Jr.	March 14	Maria Lewis	March 29
Gene Sullivan	March 14	Aidan Rieder	March 31



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.

Take us out to
the ballgame ...



HUDSON L. VOLTZ, ESQUIRE
JANET J. SATTERTHWAITE, ESQUIRE

JOY L. VALANIA, ESQUIRE
HEIDI T. NOVINO, PARALEGAL

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

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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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**DO YOU LIKE PANCAKES?
JOIN US FOR
SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**

What?

It's St. James' Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
hosted by the Vestry

When?

Tuesday, March 4th, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Where?

Bartholomew Hall

How much?

\$4.00 for adults; \$3.00 for children;
\$14 maximum per family

Enjoy pancakes, beverages, dessert and
the fellowship of your St. James' family



**Ash Wednesday Services
March 5th
Noon and 7:30pm
Imposition of Ashes
and
Holy Eucharist**

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
sjrector@verizon.net

Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper

Luann McIlvaine
sjparishoffice@verizon.net

Christian Education Coordinator

Beth Sharamatew
sjcsundayschool2@verizon.net

Church website: www.stjameschurch.ws

Address

409 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335

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

Lord's Pantry of Downingtown

610-873-1149

141 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, 19335

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 Gemmell 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
Ron Meacham Home: 610-269-9352
Dick McConnell Home: 610-524-2447



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.