



STEEPLE NOTES

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

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

Parish Office: 610-269-1774

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

February 2014

*Sing to the LORD a new song; * sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.*

*Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; * proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. ~ Psalm 96:1-2*

**We welcome The Rev. Robin Martin, Our Interim Rector
to St. James' Church on February 2**

Please join in welcoming Robin (*as she likes to be called*) to be a part of our St. James' family.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE
ANNUAL MEETING AND VESTRY ELECTIONS
FEBRUARY 9, 2014 AT 10AM**

It has been said that one of the holiest moments of our worship service is when the people of God, who have been nurtured in the word and fed in sacrament go forth from the church into the world. The building we are in is not the church. You and I, we the people, are the church. Our service here this morning has ended, and now our service in the world begins

Schedule for the day

7:45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

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

Nursery Care: 9:00am - 12 Noon

10:00am Annual Meeting in Bartholomew Hall

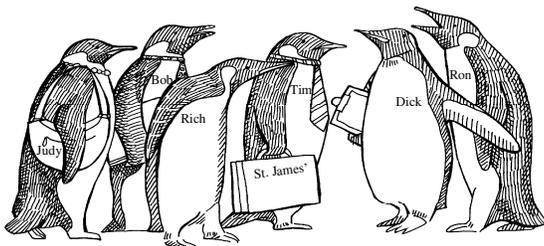
10:00am Sunday School and Rite 13 classes

11:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Traditional with Choir.

Please join Vestry and fellow members as we review the past year and look to the future of our wonderful spiritual home, St. James' Church.

Are you interested in running for vestry?

Vestry elections will take place at the annual meeting. All members of the parish in good standing and over the age of 17 are eligible to serve on the vestry. If you are interested in serving, please contact the Senior Warden (Dick McConnell) or any vestry member. Vestry terms are three years, renewable once. Thank you.



Annual Meeting

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

*'Good times never seemed so good
I've been inclined
To believe they never would
But now I...'*

Now is the time to honor the good work of Father Tim with your open hearts and open minds. May Hildebeutel phrased it well at Father Tim's retirement party. She said that the best gift we could give Father Tim was an openness to accepting a new rector. I do believe I heard her say that; it was not just wishful thinking!

Your Discernment Committee is working diligently on your behalf to find the spiritual leader that best suits St. James'. We have your input, your wishes and your beliefs ever before us as we meet and interview candidates. At the time of this Steeple Notes publishing, we will have reviewed approximately twelve portfolios and interviewed by phone or in person about six candidates. Contact any one of us if you have questions or concerns. We depend upon your daily prayer.

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously
to all without reproach, and it will be given him. James 1:5*

Faithfully,

Cathy Renzulli, Discernment Committee Chair

Committee Members: Cathy Renzulli, Peter Glidden, Mandy Watson, Peggy Leister, Pete Silvester, Carol Ryan, Dick McConnell, Gwen Settle, Bruce Shipley and Tripp Tyner. Jim Craig continues to watch over us and we trust he is bringing our good work directly to the Father!

CHILDREN'S BOOK PROGRAM UPDATE



I am pleased to announce that the people of St. James have contributed cash support in the amount of \$1,240 to the free books program for children of divorced parents. This money will enable Family Service of Chester County to buy and mail at least 150 more books during 2014. This means we will be able to help at least 150 more kids. Praise and thanks be to God!

In addition to financial contributions, the books program also received valuable support in other ways. For example, one member used her position on the board of directors of the public library to raise awareness of the books among library staff. One member shared a program flyer with a school counselor. Two members purchased books directly for family members. One volunteered to help spread the word among family law attorneys, while another volunteered to help with marketing and fulfillment. Still another volunteered to contribute self-adhesive stickers that would go inside every book to send a message of consolation to the child reading it. Another member suggested making the books program the beneficiary of an ongoing fundraising effort at St. James.

As the person who has been physically packing and mailing these books from my home (more than 1,000 since 2011), I can tell you that your expressions of support and encouragement are priceless. It is *so reassuring* to know that people do care about children of divorced parents and the special stresses they endure, especially during the Christmas holidays.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

If there is one final request I would like to make, it would be for those who donated money to also take a minute to offer a New Year prayer on behalf of the children who will be receiving their books during 2014. I have found that lighting one of the prayer candles in the rack at the front of the sanctuary can be an effective way to symbolize my ongoing prayers for book recipients. Something tells me that if we all do this, God will answer our prayers, kids will benefit, and St. James might need to buy a bigger candle rack!

*Gratefully from your brother in Christ,
Don Harting*

LETTER FROM OUR DEACON

Dear Friends at St. James',

This is the “show up” letter ... and the “give more” letter ... and the “goodbye” letter. Bear with me! This is my last chance to get on a soapbox, but it is all said with profound love and hopefulness for St. James'.

I am sorry to be leaving you, but I have been placed by the bishop at Episcopal Church of the Trinity in Coatesville. But you are now, and will be, in good hands – God’s, and each other’s. And if you are in each other’s hands, it becomes pretty clear that one of the most important things you can do for each other is to *show up*. Show up, love each other, be patient with each other, and worship together. Please pray for the discernment committee, the vestry and the staff - they all have extra work to do now. Remember the sentence from the St. James' prayer, “You and I, we the people, are the church.”

Soon, you will receive an interim rector, and then call a permanent rector, and together, you can envision together the St. James' Church of the future. It will be exciting and a time of new things.

St. James' has been a wonderful place for a deacon-in-training, really the best. I have learned, just as an example, that an awful lot of pastoral ministry happens right in the line of hand shaking and hugging after each service. I have learned how really bad I am with names (but fortunately I’m rather good with faces). I have learned a tremendous amount from Tim and from each of you. One of the ways you’ve blessed me is to help me feel comfortable with you when I preach. That is part of the warm and welcoming nature of St. James', which I have happily learned is noticed by our diocesan bishops and officials. When I arrived I “depended on the kindness of strangers,” to quote Blanche Dubois in “A Streetcar Named Desire.” As I leave I appreciate the kindness of dear friends.

Now, the “give more” part: there’s definitely room for growth in pledging at St. James'. (To reassure you, I have never had any knowledge of individual pledges at St. James', nor did Tim.) And I'm aware that the stewardship campaign is over until next fall, but this message is urgent. Growth in the church, and growth in program at St. James' depends on increased giving. Of greater concern, maintenance of the current status of St. James' depends on increased giving.

Unlike what we might do as members of a fitness center, a trade association, a union, or Boy or Girl Scouts, we are not giving to the church for services rendered or in the expectation of future services. We don't have a bill or a membership to pay; it's an entirely different kind of transaction. In these examples given, when the membership isn't paid, the entire relationship simply ceases to exist.

When we give wholeheartedly to the church, we are actually fulfilling a promise in our Baptismal Covenant, that which says “Will you continue in the Apostles’ teaching, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?” In truth, this portion of the Covenant requires a place to do these things: a place to hear preaching, a place to share in the sacrament which redeems us, a place to pray together. And by extension, we also need people to lead us in these activities and others to support us. Christian life and worship requires community, and living a fully Christian life compels us to give open-handedly to provide for each other. Finding God “on the golf course” (a reason we’ve all heard for not attending or belonging to a church) misses entirely the point of the *community* of the body of Christ.

Another sentence from our Baptismal Covenant asks the candidate and the congregation, “Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?” We all agree that we will proclaim the Gospel within the church and beyond the church, enlarging the community of the body of Christ. How could this ever be done without a community from which we are sent? In fact, every one of the promises of the Baptismal Covenant implies that we depend on the support of our Christian community, and concretely, God's help, in order to fulfill our promises.

So I hope that you might re-examine your past thoughts about stewardship and prayerfully consider significant giving that builds the community of the body of Christ.

You have helped to form me as a Christian and as a deacon; possibly I have helped you in that way. It is obvious that you have formed and will help form each other. That has brought growth in our lives, growth as members of the body of our Lord. I will hold you close in prayer, and will be watching St. James' with excitement from over at Trinity in Coatesville.

*And, see you at the auction!
God's peace, Joan*



Our volunteers had joyous holidays and everyone was well rested during the December respite so we can all start the New Year with energy and gusto. We want to thank our loyal thrift shop customers for the home made chocolates and cookies bestowed upon us. Food is always appreciated by us sweet craving workers.

The end of the year was busy for us all. We had hardly completed the fall season with sales, decorations, and a bag sale when we had to prepare for the Christmas season. It went so quickly that once again we did the box lot sale of Christmas decorations that helped empty the shop of 'tis the season.'

Now that the brutal cold days have gripped our area we are prepared with warm sweaters, coats and ski-wear for purchase. Some of those extreme low temperatures have put a dent in donations and sales but we will bounce back quickly. Keep us in mind for your unwanted winter items.

The shop is now geared toward Valentine's Day and we have many gifts on our tables but they are steadily being sold so don't miss out if you are searching for a gift.

One of our reliable and long-time regular volunteers, Nancy Gallen has retired and we thank her for her dedication to the shop. She will enjoy more time at home with her loyal dog. Nancy has agreed to jump in and help out when assistance is needed, so we will call it a "semi-retirement". Our new replacement is Marnie DeCarville, who is very organized and methodical. Marnie uses her decorating skills to enhance our shelves so that they appear attractive and inviting. We now know where we can find the doilies!

Thanks everyone for your support.

Anna Filoromo



Happy 2014 from all of us at St. James Preschool. 2013 was a wonderful year for us, welcoming new staff and families to our school and purchasing new some furniture, equipment, and educational toys for our classrooms. We were sad to say

goodbye to Father Time in December, but had a very special Christmas Chapel time with him. We look forward to a great 2014!

January was a month filled with fun. We quickly got back into the routine of things after enjoying a nice Christmas break with our families. We have been missing our playground time with the weather being so cold, but we have had some fun indoor recess in the parish hall. Our wonderful teachers have found great creative ways to pass the time. We also enjoyed a field trip to United Sports Training Center which helped chase away the winter blues. At the beginning of February we are looking forward to our Chuck E. Cheese Fundraising Night. Our St. James' Family looks forward to this event every year as a great time to be spent together as a school at our favorite pizza and gaming spot.

The kids have been busy learning their songs in preparation for the much-anticipated Mommy and Me Tea Party in February. We all love celebrating our special moms by creating a craft for them and performing some Valentine's songs (and of course we love the tea and cookies too!).

Openings are still available for the 2014/15 school year, so if you would like a tour or have any questions feel free to call our office. Registration is ongoing.

Have a wonderful winter and stay warm!

Suzanne Diodato and Johanna Uggl



NEW 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 start on Sunday, Feb. 9. 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.

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



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.

Volunteers are needed for

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 volunteer or for more information.

WE WANT YOUR STUFF!

The 2014 St. James' Auction is now accepting donations. Here's what's always popular with bidders:

- 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.

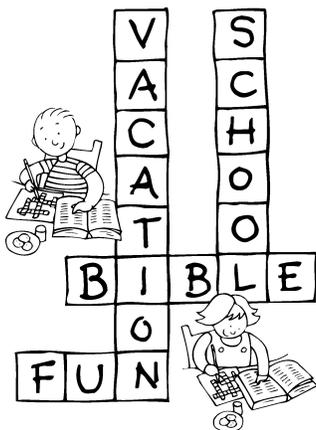
Donations can be dropped off at the parish office or call the office to arrange pick-up.
If you drop a donation off when the office is closed, please make sure the item is marked for the auction.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014

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

Gail: gailsusanstuart@gmail.com

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

RECYCLING

Please continue to bring your newspaper, magazines, catalogs, school and office paper, and unwanted mail to our green and yellow bin in the back parking lot. During the month of December, we recycled 2.60 tons. Our paper recycling is part of Full-Circle Recycling; what we recycle today is used to make newsprint that can be recycled over and over. If you have shredded paper, please place it in paper bags to conserve space and prevent "mess" around the bin. Books can be recycled if the covers are removed. Do **not** put phone books or any kind of cardboard in the bin; they cannot be used to make newsprint. Do not put any type of plastic in the bin. Please recycle these last items elsewhere.

COFFEE

The coffee that is served at coffee hour and most St. James' events is Juan Ana coffee from Guatemala. It is grown by families in San Lucas Toliman and the profits go directly to them. Donations at coffee hour help to pay for this coffee. Did you know that it is also available for sale? The cost is \$10 per 17 ounce bag. It is available in regular ground, regular bean, and dark roast bean. Please contact the parish office during business hours if you would like to purchase some of this delicious coffee for yourself or as a gift.

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:

- Feb. The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolan
- March: The Ambassadors by Henry James
- April: The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty

CHAPEL CHAIRS

Chapel chairs are still available to be given in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving of a loved one, friend, family..... The donation is \$250 per chair. Contact Art Tompkin of the Memorial Committee for more information..

WALL SCONCES

The wall sconces are also available be given in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving of a loved one, friend, family..... Contact the parish office for more information.

February Birthdays

Thomas Fredericksen February 2
 Mike Miller February 3
 Bruce Shipley February 3
 Rita Hudecheck February 6
 Deborah Steeves February 6
 Geoff Burgess February 12
 Dawn Kirk February 12
 Zeke Umile February 12
 Melissa Snyder February 13
 Ken Leister February 14
 Ed Carpenter February 15
 Timmy Gemmell February 15
 Tim Steeves February 15
 Rebecca Worthington-Fritz February 15

Victoria Lubwama February 16
 Gerrie Greenleaf February 17
 Taylor Ryan February 19
 Finley Torelli February 22
 Dan Lindley February 23
 Beth Sharamatew February 23
 Jack Cerullo February 24
 Pete McIlvaine February 24
 Will Rupp February 24
 Keith Coleman February 25
 Liliana Holman February 25
 Lauren Benne February 26
 Tip McCabe February 26
 Art Tompkin February 28

A Prayer for Transition

Ever-present God,

You call us on a journey to a place we do not know.

We are not where we started.

We have not reached our destination.

We are not sure where we are or who we are.

This is not a comfortable place.

Be among us, we pray.

Calm our fears, save us from discouragement,

And help us to stay on course.

Open our hearts to your guidance so that

our journey to this

Unknown place continues as a journey of trust. Amen.

~The Rev. Canon Kristi Philip, Diocese of Spokane

The February Altar Flowers are offered in loving memory of

February 9

Fred and Elizabeth Ruby

Hugh J. and Ina Feeley

February 23

Helen R. Petrie

*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 Guild 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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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.
Contact Luann in the parish office for more information or just show up on Wednesday morning

Rector

The Rev. Robin Martin, Interim Rector

Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper

Luann McIlvaine
sjcparishoffice@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 2014

Ron Meacham Home: 610-269-9352
Alison Pierce Home: 610-466-9384
Bob Yuninger Home: 610-380-7941
Dick McConnell Home: 610-524-2447
Janice Keller Home: 610-524-5222

Vestry Members - Term 2015

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

Vestry Members - Term 2016

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

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 Father Tim 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.
