



STEEPLE NOTES

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

*The Right Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr., Bishop
The Rev. Timothy L. Steeves, Rector*

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March 2010

From the Rector's Desk....

By the time you receive this edition of "Steeple Notes", we will be well into our Lenten journey, and keenly anticipating, not only the arrival of Palm Sunday and Easter, but the return of our beautiful sanctuary – once the ceiling is stabilized and restored.

The season of Lent begins in ashes. On Ash Wednesday we were reminded of our mortality and the sinful nature of the world we live in. It's important to remember that the season of Lent, and Ash Wednesday in particular, is not a time for groveling, or self-pity, or self-debasement. During the Enlightenment, an 18th Century philosophical movement characterized by rationalism and skepticism, the Ash Wednesday observance almost became extinct. That age of reason and individualism held that human beings should never grovel or become servile in any way.

But the church has never regarded Lent as a time for groveling or debasement. It is a time for unflinching reality, for genuine humility, for authentic repentance and renewed commitment to following the path laid out by Jesus.

The first name which the church had for the season of Lent was "The Forty Days". Forty days separate Ash Wednesday from Easter (discounting the Sundays, which are regarded as "mini-Easters". Forty days is about a month and a half: long enough to have significance, but not so long as to seem interminable. In the same way, the colloquial expression "forty winks" describes a nap long enough to offer real refreshment, but not so long as to disrupt the course of your day.

Forty is also a kind of generic number in the Bible (a long time, but not too long), and we see it crop up all over the place.

- The forty days of Noah's flood.
- Moses' forty days on Mt. Sinai (where he received the Ten Commandments).
- The forty days that Nineveh was given to repent (from the Book of Jonah).
- Israel's forty-year journey through the Wilderness.
- Jesus' forty days in the Wilderness where he was tempted by Satan.

Lent is a season which invites us into a kind of wilderness experience. Here are the major themes which we will encounter Sunday by Sunday:

- To honestly face the many temptations which come before us (Lent 1)
- To bravely struggle against the forces of evil and sin which threaten us (Lent 2)
- To keep alive the hope and trust we need to be true followers of Christ (Lent 3)
- To find the humility and grace to accept and rely on the mercy of God (Lent 4)
- To learn how to trust and rely on one another as we journey together (Lent 5)

Lent is one of the most "theme-laden" of all the seasons of the church. Here is a partial listing: journey, pilgrimage, wilderness, preparation, honesty, self-reflection, repentance, forgiveness, humility, renewal, service, the list can go on and on. As you participate in our Lenten journey together, you will hear these themes in our prayers, the passages from Scripture, the preface to the Eucharist, the hymns and service music, the litanies, and in the penitential offices.

Nowhere will you hear themes of self-degradation, groveling and abasement. Ours is a journey to build up, not to destroy; to find renewal, not debasement, and to find faith, even in a world plagued by doubt and skepticism. It's a wonderful journey, and we invite any who would like to walk beside us to come along.

God bless,

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES THROUGH MARCH



This year, our Lenten Bible Studies will be meeting at NOON (from 12 – 1:00 pm) in the Parish Library. We ask you to bring a brown bag lunch to enjoy while we discuss the passages from the Bible used by Handel for the second and third sections of his famous oratorio *Messiah*.

These are the Lent/Easter portions of Messiah, and include readings from Isaiah, the Psalms, Revelation, Job and First Corinthians. After learning about the text which Handel sets to music, we will be in Bartholomew Hall to hear it played on our wonderful new sound system.

Here is the schedule:

- Wednesday, March 3rd.** Session One and Half: (TBA)
Wednesday, March 10th. Session Two: "Lift up your Heads"
Wednesday, March 17th Session Three: "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth"
Wednesday, March 24th Session Four: "Hallelujah!"

HARMONY COFFEEHOUSE

March 20 at 7pm

Harmony Coffeehouse is a new music and fellowship venue that is held on the third Saturday night of each month in Bartholomew Hall. Each month, the proceeds benefit a different charity, and various local musicians perform. Coffee, tea, and other beverages, and desserts and snacks are available. The next event will be on March 20 beginning at 7:00 pm. For more information or if you would like to volunteer to help, please email Diane Umile at tumile@comcast.net or call her at 610-384-8538.

Join us for an evening of great music and fellowship

A Day of Quiet Reflection

Saturday, March 20, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Trinity Church, Ambler
708 Bethlehem Pike, Ambler PA 19002

A Day of Quiet Reflection is offered by the Spiritual Growth Resources Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania on Saturday, March 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Trinity Church, Ambler, 708 Bethlehem Pike, Ambler PA 19002.

What is a day of quiet reflection? It is a gift of time which we give ourselves as we try to live at a sacred pace. Gentle guidance will be given during the morning and afternoon sessions. In the morning session, after a brief guided meditation and quiet reflection, we will use simple art materials to create images that are meaningful to us as we journey through Lent.

Bring a brown bag lunch. The suggested donation for the day is between \$10 and \$25 as able. Registration is through the Leadership Institute, online: <https://diopa.wufoo.com/forms/a-day-of-quiet-reflection-03202010/> E-mail jdlafrance@diopa.org or tel. 215-627-6434 x151.

Chester County's Garden Luncheon to benefit the Bridge of Hope

"Over the past three years, Bridge of Hope of Chester and Lancaster Counties has averaged a success rate of 76% in helping homeless and at-risk single mothers become financially self-sufficient through employment."

Much lies behind that success story, including the Annual Chester County Garden Luncheon. It brings together gardeners from around the county for lunch, a silent auction, and a presentation by Denise Cowie, former **Philadelphia Inquirer** garden columnist. All proceeds support the work of Bridge of Hope.

Saturday, March 20, 11:00am – 1:30pm
at the Desmond Hotel in Great Valley

\$55 per person (\$20 is tax deductible)
Guest Speaker: Denise Cowie
Gardening Topic: Extraordinary Gardeners -
The Art of Cultivating People and Plants

If you would like to take part in this year's event, contact Carol McConnell at 610-524-2447 or at dick.mcconnell@fiserv.com. She would like to put together a St. James' table.

NOONTIME LENTEN SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY OF DOWNINGTOWN

Wednesday, February 24

Downingtown United Methodist Church, Rev. Charles Weigel

Wednesday, March 3

Downingtown Friends Meeting, Mr. Francis Brown

Wednesday, March 10

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Monsignor Lynn

Wednesday, March 17

Central Presbyterian Church, Rev. Patrick Hartsock

Wednesday, March 24

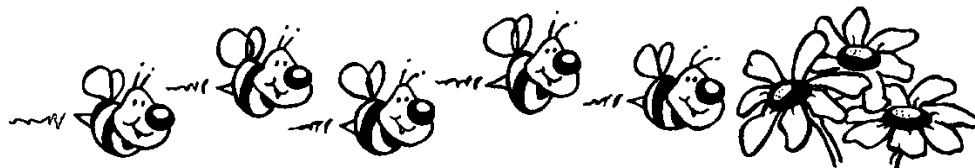
Thorndale United Methodist Church,
Rev. Thomas Davis-Shappell

WORSHIP: 12noon – 12:30 p.m.

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE
PLEASE COME AND ENJOY THE WORSHIP AND
FELLOWSHIP**

**Due to the repairs needed to the ceiling in the sanctuary,
St. James' will not be hosting the Lenten Services and
Luncheon.**

**DEADLINE FOR SCHEDULES AND
ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL STEEPLE
NOTES IS MARCH 10TH**



MAKE A "BEE LINE" ... TO SPRING!

YOUR INVITATION IS IN THE MAIL
27TH ANNUAL ST. JAMES' CHURCH
FUNDRAISING AUCTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010

at

St. James' Episcopal Church

409 E. Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, Pennsylvania 19335

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.

** Check-Out closed until 8:30 p.m. to allow time to enter winning bids from Silent Auction*

AND DON'T FORGET - WE WANT YOUR STUFF!

The 2010 St. James' Auction is now accepting donations for the event.

Here's what's always popular with bidders:

Handcrafted Items

Food Gift Baskets

Artwork

New or Regifted Items

Vacation Houses or Timeshares

Sports Tickets & Entertainment

Dinner Parties

Vintage Attic Treasures

Jewelry (new or handcrafted)

Home Décor Accessories

Services (anything from handyman to professional)

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

Anybody have a used car or truck?

We cannot use large furniture or clothing.

Raffle Tickets

Help support the auction by purchasing and/or selling tickets! Tickets will be on sale after each service or in the parish office during the week.

Don't miss out on some great prizes!

First Prize

Cuisinart Private Reserve Wine Cellar plus 8 bottles of Chadds Ford Wine

Second Prize

Rosette Collection (Necklace, Bracelet and Earrings) by Tanya Lov Jewelry

Third Prize

Panimage 8" Digital Photo Frame

\$1.00 each or a book of six for \$5.00



As many of you know by now, we have been holding Sunday services in Bartholomew Hall because of repair work needed to the ceiling in the sanctuary. It is our hope to be back in the sanctuary by Palm Sunday. Contracts have been signed and work is beginning this week. If everything goes as scheduled, we will be celebrating Palm Sunday in the sanctuary. Please contact Matt Ryan with any questions or concerns you may have about the repair work.

March is looking like a quiet month, giving Father Tim time to rest up before Holy Week and Easter Sunday. We have Father Tim's bible study on Wednesdays through Lent. The Downingtown community will be holding the Noontime Lenten Services and Luncheon on Wednesdays at various churches in the area.

Congratulations to our new Vestry Members

Nancy Cianfrani, Tim Gemmell,
Matt Ryan, Bruce Shipley, and Jim Umhofer

We also thank Aaron Arnold, Ken Leister, and
Gene Sullivan for standing for Vestry.

Adam D'Andrea is our new Representative to the
Diocesan Convention and Deanery.

Copies of the Annual Reports are available on the counter in the Coffee Hour area. If you have questions concerning the Annual Meeting or Annual Report please feel free to talk to Peter Glidden (PGLIDDEN@wcupa.edu) or Matt Ryan (msr1222@gmail.com).

Do you want to get more involved with the church...

get to know your fellow parishioners better? Join one of our groups/committees. The following committees could use your help:

- Parish Life** - help organize church activities.
- Evangelism** - welcome new members, coordinate St. James' involvement in community events.
- Outreach** - help the church with its ongoing outreach projects (Lord's Pantry, Thrift Shop, Heifer International, UTO ...).

Only want to help out on Sundays? How about volunteering to be a **Greeter** or an **Usher** or host **Coffee Hour**? For more ways you can volunteer, contact Luann in the parish office 610-269-1774 or sjcparishoffice@verizon.net.

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St. James' Preschool



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Johanna Ugglia & Suzanne Diodato

As always with the long blustery month, March is busy as can be at St. James' Preschool. We are looking forward to a month of fun-filled activity. As always we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with

some Leprechaun mischief and hopefully a pot of gold. We are looking forward to celebrating Easter with an egg hunt and then a visit from the Bunny. We are hoping the groundhog was wrong and that spring is around the corner. Our students are anxious for our playground to dry up so we can get back out there for fun!

March is Read Across America month to promote literacy. The children will be bringing in their favorite books to show and tell with their classmates and we will be inviting parents in to visit as VIP readers to share some of their family's favorite stories.

We are expecting a special visit from Great Valley Nature Center, sponsored by our very generous PTO. They will bring us some furry cuddly springtime animals (perhaps a bunny or a chinchilla) and will help us to look for signs of spring. We are also expecting a visit from the dental hygienist to talk to us about the importance of eating healthy and keeping our teeth clean and strong. We'll finish up the month with a Chick-Fil-A fundraising night at our Downingtown Chick-Fil-A. Give yourself a night off from cooking on Wednesday March 24 and get some yummy chicken sandwiches—St. James will get a portion of the proceeds.

OUTGROWN SALE

MARCH 5TH AND 6TH IN BARTHOLOMEW HALL
CALL THE PRESCHOOL FOR HOURS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
610-269-0525

Care Packages for the Troops

We are collecting the following items: Chapstick, body wash, shaving cream, granola bars, individually wrapped snack items, beef jerky, body powders, face washes, razors, coffee, unscented non-greasy lotions, Crystal Light "On the Go" water flavor packs.

We currently do not have a Chaplain to send care packages to in Iraq or Afghanistan. If you have a loved one servicing in Iraq or Afghanistan, please give us their address. We would love to send the care packages to them and their fellow soldiers. Please give the address to the parish office as soon as possible.

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
110 HOPEWELL ROAD, SUITE 200
DOWNTOWN, PA 19335-1047

610-518-9500

Fax 610-518-5316

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU....

Birthdays for the Month of March

Marilyn Miller	March 1	Pete Silvester	March 17
Greg Politowicz	March 1	Terry Young	March 17
Sarah Flanagan	March 2	Dawn Filetti	March 18
Frankie Torelli	March 2	Johanna Uggl	March 18
Linda Coleman	March 3	Matt Scott	March 19
Robert Ingram	March 3	Rebecca Ward	March 20
Sara Schmid	March 3	Laurey Zoladz	March 20
Peggy Leister	March 4	Kyle Mea	March 21
Cody Pascale	March 4	Isabelle Schweiger	March 22
Ray Shea	March 4	Mary Pat Rupp	March 23
Jessie Cox	March 5	Peggy Whiteman	March 23
Rita Montgomery	March 6	Andrew Zoladz	March 23
Gregory Brink	March 7	Hud Voltz	March 24
Margaret Lindeke	March 7	Richard Geiger	March 25
Collin Scott	March 8	Kathleen Miller	March 26
Mary Landis	March 9	Lara Parsons	March 26
Adam Carango	March 11	Marian Benson	March 27
Karen Kimber	March 11	Mary Engel	March 27
David Brink	March 12	Rich Carango	March 28
Mark Pascale	March 12	Lindsay Gillespie	March 28
John Woodcock	March 12	Alyssa Meadows	March 28
Debra Bowman	March 14	Spencer Uggl	March 28
Rick Crompton	March 14	Chet Whiting	March 28
Johanna Edwards	March 14	Maria Lewis	March 29
Beth-Anne Heidelbaugh	March 14	Thomas Long	March 29
Gene Sullivan	March 14	Joseph Clegg	March 30
Melanie Rady	March 15	John Verdieck	March 30
Rachel Smoyer	March 15	Danielle Bernard	March 31
David Torone	March 15	Aidan Rieder	March 31



Schedule for Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday, March 28

7:45am - Holy Eucharist Rite I

9am - Holy Eucharist Rite II with Contemporary Music

Nursery care beginning at 9am

10am - Sunday School and J2A classes

10:00am - Coffeehour

11:00 - Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir

Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:30pm - Holy Eucharist Rite II

Good Friday, April 2

Noon and 7:30pm - Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Day, April 4

7:45am - Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00 - Holy Eucharist Rite II with Contemporary Music

Nursery care beginning at 9am

10:00am - Coffeehour

11:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite II with Vested Choir

No Sunday School/Journey To Adulthood classes



Save the Dates

March 20th

7pm to 10pm

Harmony Coffeehouse

In Bartholomew Hall

April 17th

27th Annual Auction

April 24

7pm to 10pm

Harmony Coffeehouse

In Bartholomew Hall

June 24th

“Celebrate Your Faith with the Reading Phillies”

St. James’ goes to the ballgame



Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies

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 \$14 for one plant (*please order just one plant and there is no limit on the number of names per plant*). Order envelopes can be found on the table in the hall.

Service Schedule

7:45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

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

Nursery Care: 9:00am – 12 Noon

10:00am Fellowship & Coffee Hour,

10:00am Spiritual Literature Study Group, Sunday School, Breakfast Club, J2A & Rite 13

11:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Vested Choir

Parish Office

610-269-1774

Mon. – Thurs.: 8:00am – 3:30pm

Friday: 8:00am – 12:30pm

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

Church Website & Email Addresses

Website: www.stjameschurch.ws

Rev. Timothy L. Steeves

Rector timsteeves@verizon.net

Luann McIlvaine

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