



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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February 2012

*Praise the LORD, you that fear him; * stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.*

From the Rector's Desk...

Epiphany is often referred to as the "Season of Light". Many of the readings for this season have to do with the Light of god, the glory of God, or the radiance of God's love breaking out of the darkness and shining forth in our lives. A well-known and much loved reading for Epiphany comes from the fourth chapter of Matthew's Gospel: **"...the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."**

Saint Matthew offers this quotation from the Prophet Isaiah as he recounts the beginning of the ministry of Jesus in Galilee. Matthew wants us to remember that the ministry of Jesus, this bold emergence of the radiant light of God's own glory, occurred in a very dark time in the life of the people of Israel. The nation had been conquered and occupied by the Romans; it was governed by the despised puppet regime of the Herodians; and it was beset by heavy taxation and universal mismanagement in both the Palace and the Temple. Little wonder then that civil unrest, disorder and rebellion had turned the once-shining Kingdom of Israel, which had known the glories of David and Solomon, into a police state, plagued by the intrigues of corrupt officials in both the Temple and the court of Herod, and held in check by garrisons of Roman Legionnaires. What a mess!

The very next thing that happens in Matthew's Gospel is the narrative of the call of the first Apostles. As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon "called Peter", his brother Andrew, and James and John, the sons of Zebedee. **"Come, follow me," he says, "and I will make you fishers of men."** So begins the adventure of faith called Christianity.

The title *Apostle*, is from the Greek word for "being sent". An Apostle is literally one who is sent forth on a special mission. The mechanism behind the Bible's story is the combination of the glory of God shining forth in dark times, plus the calling of persons to witness the presence of God and proclaim it to others. That's how the Bible works. Notice that the greatest witnesses to the glory of God seem to have arisen in the darkest of times. Moses was called during the time of Israel's slavery in Egypt and its time of wandering in the wilderness; Isaiah arose during the time when the Israelites were conquered and carried into exile; the ministry of Jesus began during a time of Roman occupation and social unrest; Paul's great mission to the Gentiles took place during a time of increasing persecution (Paul, as a matter of fact, was one of those persecutors).

God calls us into service, but we have to be able to hear God's voice calling us among the welter of other voices all clamoring for our attention. This is the second great theme of the season of Epiphany. In the Collect for the Third Sunday after the epiphany we hear these words: "Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation..."

The fullest exposition for responding to the Call of God is probably found in the Book of Exodus, with the famous call of Moses. God has heard the cry of his people who are suffering in the terrible darkness of slavery in Egypt. In answer to his peoples' cry, he calls Moses to go to Egypt and free the Israelites.

Moses offers four reasons why he cannot possibly succeed in this mission:

First, it's just plain impossible: "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" After all, Moses is a down-and-out guy reduced to tending the flocks of his father-in-law. And Pharaoh is, ... well, Pharaoh. How could Moses possibly hope to succeed?

(Rector, Continued from page 1)

Second, he does not have the necessary experience or skill-set to accomplish such a task: "If I come to the Israelites and say to them 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you', and they ask me 'What is his name?' What shall I say to them?" Poor Moses has so little experience with the ways of the Israelites he doesn't even know the name of their God!

Third, the whole plan is too risky: "But", Moses said, "Suppose they don't believe me?"

Finally, Moses is simply afraid of looking like a fool. He says to God, "I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

Actually, every single reason Moses offers against this call and mission is perfectly sound.

The voice of reason tells Moses that it's impossible;

The voice of experience tells him that it can't work;

The voice of caution tells him that it's too risky;

The voice of pride tells him that he'll look like a fool.

But the voice of God says: "I will be with you." As it happened, that was all Moses really needed. Thanks be to God!

God bless, 



*****New At St. James'***
Young Families Group**

Stay Tuned for information on the upcoming St. James' Young Families Group!! If you have any ideas or suggestions please contact Jennifer Harding at jenharding22@gmail.com or 484-237-8562. A kick-off potluck dinner is in the works for late February/early March.



Vesper Services
An Order of Worship
for the Evening:
A time for meditation and healing

February 5 beginning at 4pm

March 4 and April 1 - service will begin at 5pm

Vespers Services during Lent beginning at 5pm

February 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1

Soup and Bread Supper

after each Vesper Service during Lent.

The Daughters of the King will host the first supper on February 26. A sign up sheet will be posted for volunteers for the remaining 5 Sundays.

Lenten Bible Study

This year, for our Wednesday luncheon Lenten Bible we will be continuing with our detailed look at Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians. We will pick up where we left off at Advent. In this year's Bible study we will work our way through the of this wonderful Epistle and discover its rich themes of joy, humility and thanksgiving.

The words "joy" and "rejoice" occur over and over again in this letter. Even though Saint Paul wrote this letter while he was in a prison in Rome, during the time of Emperor Nero's savage persecutions, Paul is able to find joy and contentment in the most difficult circumstances.

Come and explore the wonderful story of how Paul found what has been called "a life worth living" locked in a prison cell, and shared it with the Church at Philippi.

Classes meet in Bartholomew Hall on Wednesdays at noon with a brown bag lunch followed by the class. The first class will be on Wednesday, February 29 and run through March 28th.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Daughters will be hosting an information event on February 12 during coffee. If you are interested in join the Daughters or just want a little more information, please join us.

FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

My favorite event at St. James' is coming up in February. Shrove Tuesday! What could be better than breakfast for supper? Having someone else do the cooking and to be served while enjoying the company of fellow members of St. James'. The vestry does a wonderful job of making pancakes, plain or chocolate chip, and the fresh sausage from Jim Craig's cousin's farm is the best. And ice cream sundaes for dessert. Join us on February 21, 5:30pm to 7pm.

The Light at the End of the Tunnel . . .

is coming at us, and it's the **29th Annual St. James' Community Auction!**

**Mark your calendars for a good time at the Luau-A-Bration,
an evening of fun, fellowship, and good food
devoted to the support of our many outreach activities.**

What do we need to make it a success?

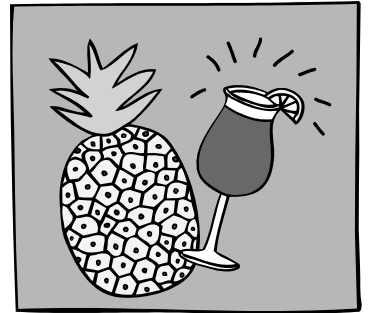
First, there's you, your family and your friends.
Make plans to get together at

St. James' Saturday, April 21.

Next, we need appropriate donations. We are always looking for new or slightly used items, vacation and get-away opportunities, gift cards, art work, crafts, etc. In fact, about the only things we can't use are large pieces of furniture, exercise equipment and standard clothing items.

Don't know what to donate? We can always use gift cards from stores and restaurants; jewelry (antique and modern) and unique experiences (hosted dinners, parties, tours, tickets for anything from an art gallery to a baseball game, etc.).

And don't forget to buy raffle tickets. Aside from giving us all a chance to win some nifty prizes, income from sale of the raffle tickets underwrites the costs of the auction. This means that every penny brought in at the auction itself can go to support our outreach efforts. Raffle tickets are available after every service (and a book will also be included in each invitation mailed out).



More details to come! Watch this space and the weekly bulletin for every exciting update!

P.S. Thinking of donating an item you have to make or secure, or an event that needs to be tied to a date (like vacation home stays, dinners, etc.)? Please let Karen Meacham know even if the details aren't final. It really helps our planning if we know something is in the pipeline. Thanks.



The 29th Annual St. James' Community Auction April 21, 2012 at 6:00 P.M.

Auction Raffle Tickets

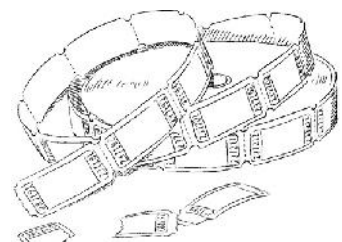
We have some great prizes this year.

First Prize 32" Sansul LCD HD TV

Second Prize Garmin GPS W/5" Screen and Lifetime Traffic Alerts

Third Prize \$150 Dick's Sporting Goods
Gift Card

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





Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

When?

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 (5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

Why?

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

Where?

Bartholomew Hall

How much?

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

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



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 22, 2012

Noon and 7:30pm

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist

Noontime Lenten Services for the Community of Downingtown

Feb 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28

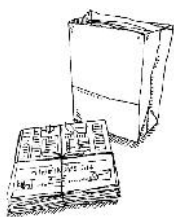
WORSHIP: 12noon – 12:30 p.m.

Schedule of host churches will be posted when made available.

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE

PLEASE COME AND ENJOY THE WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Paper Recycling



St. James' continues to recycle paper in the green and yellow bin in the back parking lot. In 2011 we fell a little short of the amount we recycled in 2010. Please bring your newspaper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, school and office paper when you visit the church. You can also recycle shredded paper, but please stuff it into paper bags. If shredded paper is not placed in bags, it takes up extra space in the bin and also tends to fly around, creating a messy situation. Unwanted books - both paperback and hardback - can be recycled, but the covers must be removed. Our bin cannot accept any kind of cardboard, including cereal and cracker boxes and gift boxes. If your neighbors and friends do not have a way to recycle paper, please encourage them to use our bin. By using the bin, paper that can be reused is kept out of landfills. We earn money that is used to support our church programs. We help the environment while we help ourselves!



Happy 2012 from all of us at St. James Preschool. 2012 was a wonderful year for us, with some great capital improvement to the preschool in the form of remodeled bathrooms and a new door and security system. We look forward to a great 2012!

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.

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 cupcakes too!).

Very limited openings are still available for the 2012/13 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 Ugglia

February Birthdays

Cynthia Edge	February 1	Tim Steeves	February 15
Thomas Fredericksen	February 2	Victoria Lubwama	February 16
Bob Whitesell	February 2	Gerrie Greenleaf	February 17
Bruce Shipley	February 3	Taylor Ryan	February 19
Madeline Prior	February 4	Wayne-James Wesley-Bailey	February 20
Rita Hudecheck	February 6	Finley Torelli	February 22
Deborah Steeves	February 6	Dan Lindley	February 23
Maggie Wise	February 9	Regena Meadows	February 23
Matthew Esslinger	February 11	Erin Shann	February 23
Francesca Starling	February 11	Beth Sharamatew	February 23
Geoff Burgess	February 12	Jack Cerullo	February 24
Dawn Kirk	February 12	Pete McIlvaine	February 24
Devyn Trethewey	February 12	Will Rupp	February 24
Zeke Umile	February 12	Oliver Bennett	February 25
Melissa Snyder	February 13	Keith Coleman	February 25
Ken Leister	February 14	Liliana Holman	February 25
Ed Carpenter	February 15	Lauren Benne	February 26
Debbie Flint	February 15	Tip McCabe	February 26
Timmy Gemmell	February 15	Art Tompkin	February 28
Bethany Jane Heidelbaugh	February 15		

A Very Happy Birthday to...




We hope everyone had a restful and satisfying Christmas holiday and all of your expectations were realized. The Thrift Shop concluded a very successful year and we want to thank all our customers for faithful attendance to our shop. We also thank them for the scrumptious delectables laden

upon us during the season. We certainly appreciated our customers' thoughtfulness and enjoyed the sweets. We had an end of the year bag sale which cleared space for the upcoming Valentine extravaganza. The jewelry case is decorated and our valentine hearts and cupids decorate the walls. We will be putting a dedicated table of gifts for this occasion out by the time you read this.

As the season progresses we are currently accepting winter clothing as well as boots, scarves and gloves. Hopefully we will have a mild winter but we would like to be prepared to offer these items to our patrons when they are donated.

Be sure to come and ring in the New Year right here at the Thrift Shop!
Anna Filoromo

Free is Good

- Free first order of checks*
- No annual fee VISA® Debit Card
- Quickly and conveniently pay bills online 24/7
- Make one-time payments /schedule regular automated payments

Call 484-691-DNB1 or visit dnbfirst.com.

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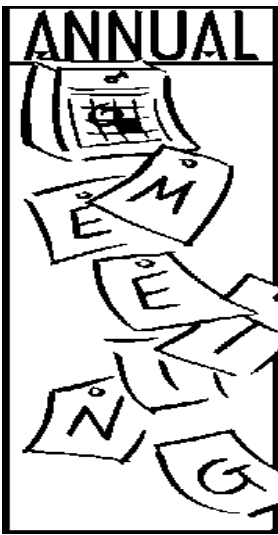
HUDSON L. VOLTZ, ESQUIRE
JANET J. SATTERTHWAITE, ESQUIRE

JOY L. VALANIA, 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



Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections February 5th

Please note service schedule change

7:45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

No Sunday School and Journey To Adulthood classes

**9:00am Coffee Hour, Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections
in Bartholomew Hall**

11:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Thank you to our
outgoing
Vestry Members
for their
service and
dedication to
St. James' Church.**

Diane Pitalue
Gwen Settle
Karen Samuelson
Helen Larson
Jack Mea

Vestry Nominees

Rich Carango
Dick Crompton
Brooke Giffi
Jennifer Harding
Bill Mason

Deanery/Convention Delegate

Sandy Hodson

Everyone is invited to attend the meeting. Additional parking is available at East Ward School and on Dustin Drive behind the church.

Sunday 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 and Coffee Hour in Bartholomew Hall
10:00am Sunday School and Journey To Adulthood Classes
10:10am Spiritual Literature Study Group,
11:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Traditional Music with Choir

Rector, The Rev. Timothy L. Steeves
timsteeves@verizon.net

Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper
Luann McIlvaine
sjcparishoffice@verizon.net

Church website: www.stjameschurch.ws

Parish Office
610-269-1774

Mon. – Thurs.: 9:00am – 3:00pm

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 2012		Vestry Members - Term 2013		Vestry Members - Term 2014	
Diane Pitalue	Home: 610-269-6138	Gene Sullivan	Home: 484-786-9381	Ron Meacham	Home: 610-269-9352
Gwen Settle	Home: 610-873-9782	Matt Ryan	Cell: 610-209-2849	Alison Pierce	Home: 610-466-9384
Karen Samuelson	Home: 610-383-1698	Tim Gemmell	Home: 610-431-7174	Bob Yuninger	Home: 610-380-7941
Helen Larson	Home: 610-594-2266	Bruce Shipley	Home: 215-368-0542	Dick McConnell	Home: 610-524-2447
Jack Mea	Home: 610-269-1739	Nancy Cianfrani	Home: 484-341-8051	Janice Keller	Home: 610-524-5222