

The Shell

November, 2014

St. James Episcopal Church

1307 North Main St.

Mount Airy, MD 21771

301.829.0325 www.stjamesmtairy.org

Reflections for *The Holiday Season* ...

You have probably noticed that even before Halloween, Christmas displays were starting to pop up in the stores. You have likely heard friends and neighbors complaining about it too - about the commercialization of Christmas and the stretching out of the holiday season, and maybe even about the Baseball season too, and how the boys of summer are now the boys of spring and fall as well.

We keep a different calendar in church, of course. We don't recognize the World Series liturgically (or maybe at all since the Nats and the O's didn't make it), and Halloween is only a precursor of the two days that follow, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. And the twelve days of Christmas, at least inside our doors, go from December 25th through January 5th with Epiphany ending the season on January 6th.

Our religious preparation for Christmas, for celebrating what John's gospel calls "the light coming into the world," isn't a flurry of shopping and wrapping and making and checking lists and all that goes on in the world around us at this time of year, but a month of quiet contemplation, meditating on the cycling of the year, on the intersection of time and eternity, and on whether God's road to our hearts is straight and smooth or rough and winding. The serene blue of our vestments and hangings, the lighting of another candle each week in the Advent wreath even as the winter reaches its darkest days, and the chanting of *O come, O come Emmanuel* and the other *O* antiphons mark Advent as a season of special solemnity and mystery.

But this is not yet another complaint about how Christmas is observed outside of church. It seems that everyone in the Western World goes "Christmas Crazy" from Thanksgiving (or these days from Halloween) until Christmas, whether Christian or not, and then pulls the plug on celebrating completely on New Years' Day. And a lot of people, including many of my clergy friends, complain loudly and somewhat bitterly about secular Christmas and the way it obscures and tramples our sacred traditions.

(continued)

But not me. I love secular Christmas. I love the music and the lights and the trees and the parties and the cards and the struggle to find just the right gift for each person on your list. To be sure, I have a lot of problems with the commercialization of Christmas, and the way it distorts both the religious and the secular holiday. But I love hearing Johnny Mathis, and Fred Waring, and Nat King Cole singing about snow, and Santa, and chestnuts, and family. And I love decorating my house and seeing the gifts to the street that others make with their wreaths and lights and candles in the window. And who can resist the annual showings of *White Christmas*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *A Christmas Story*? Or *The Nutcracker*, and *A Christmas Carol*, and *Messiah* in all their many versions on area stages? And I especially love the parties and family meals and surprise visits from friends to drop off a little gift and share a cup of cheer.

And the reason I defend secular Christmas so strongly is this: When you take as a whole the making our homes as beautiful as we can, and filling our homes and the streets with light against the darkness of winter, and lifting our voices in song that we all know well enough to share, and going out of our way to please the people in our lives with our most thoughtful gifts and our most delicious food and drink, then the world begins to look a lot like the reign of God the way Jesus describes it. And when you put the solemnity and the glory of our Advent and Christmas observances in church together with the open-hearted pleasures and generousities of Christmas outside our doors together, it is easy to believe that the kingdom of God has come very near indeed, as Jesus tells us.

Jesus says that in God's household there are many mansions. Let your home, and our church, be among their number.

Bill +





Saint James' Episcopal Church Sunday School 2014-2015

Classes meet 9:30-10:15 a.m. in the lower level

Sunday School classes in the lower level are busy with activities. The preschooler Bible Story group organized by Yvette Allen, recently enjoyed pantomime skits led by the middle-high school youth; Betsy's K-2nd grade class had fun doing a lesson with Lego blocks; and the 3rd-5th grade class continues to make unique crafts with Robin and Cathy. This year, Peter and Joan are sharing lesson planning with the middle-high school group. The older youth have been a great help in assisting with our "4th Sunday Fun" group activities. Recently they led the younger children on an outdoor Bible Scavenger hunt.

It was wonderful to hear the children singing the gradual, *The Great Commandment*, recently during the 10:30 worship service. Thank you, Jon, for leading the children in song. Also, we give thanks for the older youth who participate in various ministries every 4th Sunday. Job well done!!

For your information.....

During November, Lucy Winston will lead a middle-high school class lesson on *prayer beads*. Thank you for sharing, Lucy. And, good news.....Cathy Schell joins the rest of the teacher volunteers in completing the required *Caring for God's Children* course. Thank you, Cathy!

We hope you have had an opportunity to thank our Sunday School teachers for their dedication and love of your children. We all enjoy working with them each Sunday.

Please know that teacher volunteers are always welcomed to join this meaningful ministry. The curriculum, *Living the Good News*, is user friendly and encourages **team teaching** as well as **term teaching**. For information you may contact Joan Fader (faderj1@juno.com) or speak with one of the volunteers listed below.

With sincere thanks to our dedicated teacher volunteers:

Co-Directors: Yvette Allen, Betsy Davis, Joan Fader

Yvette Allen (Bible Stories for Preschoolers coordinator)

Betsy Davis (Kindergarten - 2nd Grades)

Robin Kaizer and Cathy Schell (3rd - 5th Grades)

Joan Fader and Peter Sabonis (Middle School-High School)

Jon Fader (Music) ~ Nancy Nanavaty (Group Activities)

Thrift Shop News ...

St. James' Thrift Shop Holiday Bazaar



November 15th, 10 am - 4pm
234 S. Main St 301.829.0314
Children ages 5-15



**Shop for neighbors, teachers, bus drivers, siblings,
parents, & grandparents**



Gifts available for all budgets!



Gift wrapping available to keep it a surprise!



Hot beverages and snacks for the parents, while
hiding out!"



Volunteers will be available to help children find
treasures!



St. James' Nursery School News

The St. James' Nursery School Board Notes

The St. James' Nursery School staff continues to excel in planning and preparing many, many fun activities for the children. In October, they went on farm trips, participated in yoga sessions, chapel times, bookmobile visits, St. Jude Research Hospital Trike-a-thon, the children have been busy painting, and creating beautiful artwork, and let's not forget the Halloween fun parties!

The children have a great time learning educational material but they also are learning self-help skills for success in school and life. Children feel empowered when they solve problems themselves, learn to express their emotions (negotiating conflicts), and learn from their mistakes. At St. James' Nursery School, age-appropriate skills are utilized and children are provided ample time to work on these important tasks which helps them to be an important part of their classroom family.

Sleep deprivation affects how children are doing in school. Below are some general guidelines by age.

Age	Hours of Sleep	Bedtime	Notes
15 months – 3 years	12-14	6:00 -7:30	Naps may end during this period, or be inconsistent. Move bedtime earlier to help adjustment to no nap.
3 – 6 years	11-13	6:00 – 8:00	Your child will likely drop the afternoon nap. Once your child is no longer napping, he will need an extra hour of sleep at night, so adjust bedtime accordingly.
7 – 12 years	10-11	7:30 – 9:00	School age children are still experiencing enormous growth, are very active, and require a lot of sleep. Adequate sleep helps with school performance, behavior, attention, memory, and more.
Teenagers	9+	See note	Many teens need to be up early for school. Count backwards from wake time to find the bedtime that ensures they are getting enough sleep. Keep in mind it takes kids an average of 15 minutes to fall asleep, and likely more if they have a lot on their minds.

Source: <http://www.sleepsisters.com/bedtimes-by-age/>

Continued ...

Thanks to a grant from Target families and children will be participating in a reading program again this year. Every child receives a calendar for the months of October, November, December and January. Every day the child reads together with a parent/family member for least 15 minutes a smiley face is drawn on the calendar for that day. If 20 days out of the month are covered with a smiley faces the child may select a new book complements of Target.

This year St. James Nursery School is celebrating 40 years of community support and to honor this is hosting a Holiday Extravaganza on November 15, 2014 from 10am to 4pm at the Main Street Location. All proceeds go to the Mt. Airy Net to help families in our neighborhood who need assistance during the Holidays. Please mark your calendar to attend this worthwhile event. Everyone is invited!

Maryland Model of School Readiness (MMSR) Training - "Setting the Stage" began on Oct. 18th and eleven staff members from St. James Nursery School are attending this training. School readiness remains a focus of this training. Our Nursery School staff is very dedicated and does their best to help children get ready to enter a primary school in Maryland. Please remember to visit St. James' Nursery School's Facebook page for information and photos updated regularly and click like and share to help spread the word about the wonderful school we have.

The St. James' Nursery School Board wishes everyone blessed days and a great fall!



Search Committee Updates ...

Everyone in the parish should have received their Pastoral Survey last week in their email. In case you need it, the link you can use is: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/stjamesmtairy>. We are asking that every person in your household, 9th grade and older, fill out their own survey by midnight, November 9th. This survey is very important to the search for our new Rector so please take your time when answering these important questions!! The Search Committee is very happy with the degree of enthusiasm and participation offered by the parish in the search up to this point. Please continue with your great support as we move forward in our search together!!!!



Stewardship at St. James ...

It's a wonderful time of the year. We're looking forward to Thanksgiving and being with family and friends. Then comes Christmas when we try to think of gifts to give to those who are special to us. Happy and hectic all at the same time.

Since this is about stewardship I'd like to try and tie my thoughts together and encourage you to see how remembering St James' at Thanksgiving and Christmas is an important part of the this special time of the year.

At Thanksgiving we try to think of all the things we're thankful for. The General Thanksgiving in our Book of Common Prayer begins with "Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side."

Let me stop there and make a slight change to the last paragraph: We thank you for the blessing of our church family and friends and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side here at St James'.

When I stop to think about my St James' family I realize it is a group of people who are very special as individuals and also fit together into a warm and loving whole that makes me feel at home. "At home" meaning a place where I can express my faith, my spiritual concerns, say prayers and ask for prayers among those with whom I am comfortable sharing those parts of myself.

Being thankful can make us feel very full; a "my cup runneth over" feeling and we respond with wanting to give back. We want that feeling to continue and so the place and people it comes from need to be nourished and supported. So what can we do the repay in some small way for this? We can give of ourselves, sharing our gifts (yes we all have them!) and supporting our church by planned giving from our income. And so we turn from Thanksgiving, the giving of thanks, to Christmas and the giving of gifts.

This is not about Advent *per se*; that is a very special part of our church year and has a place all its own in our thoughts and worship. Rather this is about giving gifts to our church so our church family can not only remain a very special part of our lives but can grow and make us all richer in return. Sounds like a great investment to me! Where else can I give money that will bring happiness and fulfillment not only to me but to my church family as well?

Lucy and Blix Winston, Stewardship chairs



Four County Lions Club Quartermania Fundraiser

DATE: Friday, Nov. 7, 2014

Time: Doors open @ 6pm and game starts @ 7pm

Held at: St. James' Episcopal Church in Mt. Airy

1307 N. Main St., Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Cost: \$5.00 Reserved Advance tickets – will receive 2 game paddles

At door (if available): \$8.00 – will receive 1 game paddle

Extra paddles cost \$2.00 each

(NO REFUNDS & All monies will be collected at the door)

Food & Refreshments will be available

To reserve your tickets or for more information call

Judy @ 240-674-1961 / e-mail: judysquartermanias@aol.com OR

Tim Shipley @ Timshipley@comcast.net

(put in subject area Quartermania or I won't open it)

Vendors to include but not limited to and are subject to change with out notice:

lia sophia jewelry

****Tastefully Simple***

****Pampered Chef***

****Partylite***

****Judy's Creations***

****Longaberger***

****Tealightful Tea***

****Candy Blooms***

****Scentsy***

****Tupperware***

****Handyman Tools***

****Cat's Treasures***

****Origami Owl***

70-90 Prizes to be given away with 40 paid admissions

Less than 40, number of prizes given away will be adjusted



Westminster Ringers Return !!!

Start your Holiday Season with the Westminster Ringers Handbell Ensemble returning for their annual concert. Children of all ages are delighted and excited to listen, watch and even participate!



Join us on Sunday, November 23, 2014 here at 4:00 p.m.

Tickets available at the door and prices are as follows:

- Children (4 and under) Free
- Children (5 to 10) \$ 5.00
- Adults \$ 12.00
- Seniors (60 +) \$10.00



Adult Forum Continues ...

The Adult Forum series on the history of the Bible is meeting every Sunday at 9:30 am in the Rector's office. We will be looking at the complex and fascinating story of how the various parts of the Bible were written, preserved, collected and organized, who decided what was included and what was omitted. All are welcome. If you want a companion book for this series, find a copy of Karen Armstrong's *The Bible: A Biography*.

Parish Directory Updates ...

Please check with the ushers on Sunday to confirm that your information is up to date in our Parish Directory before we publish a revised version. You only need to initial one of the two copies.



New E-mail Addresses ...

We are in the process of shifting all of our electronic communications to e-mail addresses in our new domain. The old addresses will continue to work for a while, but please update your address books when you can.

The new office e-mail is office@stjamesmtairy.org

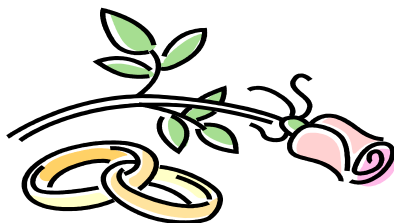
Bill's new address is rector@stjamesmtairy.org.

November Birthdays !!!



2	Kyle Mark DelRegno Evan O'Rourke	10	Barbara Fishell Jeremy Williams	16	Lisa Sorna
3	Carter Lemig	11	Dennis Sautter	17	Kyle Wellen
4	Katie Dulany Elias Etzler	12	Daniel Barazotto Brian Spradlin	18	Tom Patterson
5	Bill Dulany		Leon Straus	20	Charles Riel
8	Peter Davis Susan DeLizia		Richard Straus	22	John Sorna
10	Grace Christensen	15	Jeannie Pellicier	25	Steven Stowell
		16	Maria Pellicier	26	Winks Winkler
				30	David Oland Patricia Chalk

November Wedding Anniversaries !!!



11/4/72 Sharon & Ernie Hansen

