A Letter from St. James

 Mill Creek Hundred

June 2012

***Rector’s Ramblings . . .*** *Galilee, Jerusalem, and Beyond*

Summer 2013 Eight-Week Bible Journey

Read on your own starting July 14th

Last summer’s 90-Day Challenge to read the entire Bible cover-to-cover was a challenge indeed! Over fifty people signed up although more than a few were lost along the way. One of the difficulties was trying to devote an hour a day for Bible reading and maintain that pace for three months. You don’t have to convince me how much time it took, for in addition to completing each day’s reading I also committed myself to writing a daily on-line blog about the material.

This summer I have another Bible challenge for you, perhaps a bit more manageable as well as focused in its content. It is 37% shorter in duration with only 25% of the daily reading requirement. Wow! What a deal! Imagine what you might learn in such a short amount of time, all in the comfort of your own home (or beach, if you’re lucky enough).

Sign up to join me as we begin on July 14th with the Gospel according Matthew, long esteemed as the premier gospel of the church. We’ll follow that up with a reading of Luke’s gospel account with its more inclusive nature regarding the gentiles, women and the marginalized of society. Then we’ll launch into a reading of the Acts of the Apostles as we trace the very beginnings of the Christian community and witness, and intersperse the reading of Acts with the letters that Paul was writing to the early church communities. We will end it all up with the poetic and grand imagery of the Gospel according to John.

Throughout the Eight-Week Bible Journey, I will be sending out periodic emails with information as well as posting daily to the blog I will set up for this Eight Week Bible Journey. You can sign up in church or contact the office to receive this information. The daily reading assignments will be posted on our website, or a printed copy can be picked up in church or in the office.

I hope you will come along on the journey!

Fr.Jim Bimbi

**What’s Brewing? A Men’s Retreat in Rehoboth Beach!**

The Women’s Retreat in Rehoboth Beach in February of this year was such a success that Fr. Jim has scheduled the weekend of October 25-27 for a Men’s Retreat to be held at Memorial House. Playing off the women’s retreat theme of “Know Chocolate for Lent,” the selected theme for the men’s retreat will be ***“Know Beer for Oktoberfest: Brewing Up Our Mission.”*** The cost is $200 for two nights lodging and 6 meals. Men – Get this on your calendar now, yeast ye miss this event! Fr. Jim has a few ideas fermenting and will be brewing up something special to uncork during the weekend.

**Holy Conversation on Marriage**

Enclosed separately in this newsletter is a letter and a proposed marriage customary to guide the practice of offering ceremonies and blessings to any couple connected to St. James’ who is able to enter into a legal marriage in the State of Delaware. You are encouraged to read this material and to attend a conversation regarding this matter in the Parish Hall on Sunday, July 14th at 11:00am.

**Training for New Lay Readers and Acolytes**

**Sunday July 21st at 11:00am**

There are always opportunities to serve others in our St. James’ community, and one of those ways is to become involved in our various worship ministries. Fr. Jim is hopeful to add several new lay readers and acolytes to the server lists beginning in August, and your name could be on one of those lists.

At St. James’, our trained lay readers participate at either the early or late service by reading scripture lessons, leading the recitation of psalms, offering the prayers of the people, and by ministering the chalice to communicants. They may also assist at times in setting and clearing the altar at communion.

Our acolytes participate at the later service by leading processions in and around the church while carrying a cross or a lighted torch, help set and clear the altar, and receive the people’s offering of bread and wine and alms.

**Food Shelf and Sundry Closet** -- Donations may be made any time during the month.  The following are in short supply:  jelly, tuna, canned meat, fruit in easy-open containers, spaghetti, Chef Boyardee pasta, single rolls of toilet paper, soap, shampoo…  Items with easy-open lids are helpful.  Please be sure to check expiration dates. With school ending some children will not be getting free or low cost breakfasts and lunches increasing the need for your generosity. Thank you for your donations to the food closet. Please do not bring clothing – We are a food closet only.

**Tickets on Sale for December 14th Concert**

At 7:00pm on Saturday, December 14, 2013, St. James’ will be hosting a very special concert in the church. *“Celebrating the Festivals of Light”* is the theme and Marty Goetz will be performing on the piano and singing his special brand of worship music. Marty has been called a modern day psalmist, and brings a special understanding of Jewish traditions to his faith in Jesus Christ. This concert promises to be a real highlight of our observance of the Season of Advent.

Tickets are required for this event due to the limited nature of the seating in our church, which, by the way will provide a wonderfully intimate setting in which to receive the musical gifts that Marty has to offer to us. Tickets are $15 each, and may be purchased online with a debit or credit card by going to http://martygoetz.eventbrite.com. Following the concert there will be a reception in the Parish House where you can greet Marty. CDs of his music will also be available for purchase.

If you are interested, please contact Fr. Jim and also plan to attend the training session on Sunday, July 21st. Other arrangements can be made for those persons who attend the earlier service and might not be able to return at 11:00am, or for those who will not be in town on the 21st.

THANK YOU!!

Our recent Family Promise host week consisted of 2 families of six with several delightful children! The families were thankful for their private rooms and delicious meals served by our volunteers. We treated the families to dinner out at the “Hometown Buffet” and to a Blue Rocks game. We would like to thank the following people for their ongoing and generous support: perhaps you donated breakfast or lunch items, perhaps you shopped and cooked for a delicious dinner, perhaps you stayed overnight, donated toys or games or the Wii gaming system, perhaps you helped setup the sleeping rooms and dining room at the start of our week, helped breakdown the sleeping rooms and dining room at the end of our week, or laundered the bedding, or you sewed a personalized pillowcase for the children or perhaps you prayed for our guests that their current circumstances would improve.

Whatever you were able to do we are truly thankful to the following people: Dick and Nancy Prettyman, Andrew and Jennifer Idell, Dave Winward, Gail Zimmerman, The Remedio Family, Deb Grello, Sam White, Tracey McCracken, Jerry Clark, Kate Brewer, Bruce and Jenny Vrana, Bob and Kay Meckelnburg, Kim and Donna Simpson, Louise Howlett, Gwen Gerety, Sandy Cornelia, Nancy Patterson, Barbara Anzilotti, Keith and Susan St John, The Joynt Family, Marlene Jackson, Mrs. Arzinger, Andy Taylor, Jeff Wright, Robin Reaume, Pat Minor, Carol Leach, Lynn Baker, Marion Phillips, Nicole and Donny Scalessa, Debbie McCullough, Kim Briscoe, Gail Anderson, Dorianne and Bill Short, Larry and Cathy Goldstone, Tom and Sharon Gannett, Elinor Knodel, Robert Buraczynski and Fran Mayhew.

We would like to encourage everyone to become involved in our Family Promise ministry we are always in need of volunteers. Please mark your calendars our next host week is August 18, 2013.

*Val Brunson, Dave Perry and Susan Winward, Family Promise Coordinators*

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**JULY 15-JULY 19 9AM – Noon**

**Children 3 years old and up. 12 and over can serve as junior counselors and earn service hours for school.** Cost is $25 for the week *(scholarships available- see Fr. Jim).*

Register early so that we know how much to order. The kids always have a great time! Tracey McCracken is coordinating the program for us. If you can volunteer to help, call her or Genia in the office. There will be crafts, games, Bible stories, music, and snacks. *A registration form is included with this newsletter. If you don’t have a child or grandchild who can use it, consider passing it on to a friend or neighbor.* **A great time will be had by all!**

**ST. JAMES CHURCH MILL CREEK**

**VESTRY MEETING MINUTES - June 3, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Fr. James Bimbi, Bruce Vrana, Carolyn Joynt, Ann Kauffman, Bob Meckelnburg, Moriah Niehaus, Debbie Nuss, Steve Prescott, Sister Julian Wilson, Nancy Patterson

**ABSENT:** Barbara Anzilotti, Kathy Kwiatkowski

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry of St. James Church Mill Creek was called to order at 7:15pm. Fr. Jim led the Vestry in an opening prayer.

**CONVENTION:**

 Cynde Bimbi, Secretary of Convention, explained St. James’ responsibilities as Host

Parish of the Convention:

 **Diocesan Convention Agenda Committee**

* 2-4 members from St. James (includes Rector)
* Approximately 2 members from Diocesan Council, assigned by Bishop
* Monthly meetings Sept. through Feb.

**Responsibilities of the Committee**

* Agenda & Planning
* Theme
* Information Booth
* Monitor hearings
* Host giveaways and planning, if any

**Host Presentation**

* 5 – 8 minute (power point) presentation about St. James

**Volunteers Needed at Convention**

* Registration (8), preferable to meet in advance of Convention
* Worship (14)
* Election (8 – 12)
* Youth (as many as possible)
* Many volunteers can have double responsibilities
* All volunteer contact information must be given to Secretary of Convention by February 1st
* Diocese will provide 4 hotel rooms for parish. Must notify Kathy Moore before appointed deadline to receive these rooms

**Other Possibilities that Host Parish May Consider**

* Welcome tote bags
* Breakfast bags
* Coffee mugs or disposable coffee cups

Fr. Jim is in the process of forming the Worship Committee.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Approved

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Things are positive this year. Revenues are ahead of Budget

 and the deficit is much lower than last year.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Thank You Notes –** The Vestry will send thank you notes to Nancy Prettyman for preparing the Baptism receptions and to Cynde Bimbi and Susan St. John for all they did with the youth this year.

 **Capital Campaign –** The Co-Chairs for the Capital Campaign are Valerie Brunson and

Jenny Vrana. Engineers and architects will be at St. James on Tuesday, June 4th, at 9am. They will discuss renovations that need to be done. The Advancement & Development Committee will meet next Sunday, June 9th.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**VESTRY GREETER REPORTS:**

The Vestry Greeter schedule was distributed to Vestry Members.

**RECTOR’S REPORT:**

**Delaware Marriage Equality -** The Diocese has not offered any new clarity. Clergy are

to develop and adhere to consistent and congruent practices and standards for preparing and counseling couples.

**Conversational Meeting -** It was decided to have a Pot Luck Luncheon to give everyone an opportunity to express their position. The meeting was tentatively scheduled for July 14th at 11am**.**

**Marriage Customary -** Fr. Jim and the Vestry will prepare a Marriage Customary to be presented to the congregation.

**Website Redesign -** There will be a Pre-design Meeting with Lee Ann Walling on

Wednesday, June 5th at 7pm. Fr. Jim, Cynde Bimbi, Skip Cook, Genia Thomas, Debbie Nuss and Nancy Patterson will attend the meeting.

**E-Formation Conference (Boot camp) -** Fr. Jim, Cynde Bimbi and Sister B.J. attended the Conference at Virginia Theological Seminary, May 31st.

 **Property -** Cemetery projects reported last month are still pending.

 **Safe Church Procedures -** Still Pending

 **Upcoming Worship Schedule -**

Summer Schedule begins June 2nd through September 1st – 8am & 9:30am

 Kick Off of Tercentennial will be Sunday, September 8th.

 **Newcomer BBQ at The Bimbi House –** Fr. Jim and Cynde hosted a BBQ to welcome

 newcomers to St. James on Saturday, June 1st.

**Travel/Professional Development/Vacation**

* **Professional Leave** – Monday, June 10th to Monday, June 17th (Richmond, VA)

Sunday, June 16th – Rev. Louise Howlett

* **Vacation** – Friday, June 28th to Friday, July 5th (Memorial House)

Sunday, June 30th – Rev. Celeste Cox, recently retired from Christ Church, Dover

* **Vacation** – Monday, July 22nd to Sunday, July 28th (Colorado – Family wedding)

Sunday, July 28th – Rev. Celeste Cox

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**WORSHIP:** Had a meeting. They looked at the 1662 Liturgy and talked to Keith

St. John about music for fall and summer. Another meeting was planned.

**PROPERTY:** Nothing new to report.

**FINANCE:** Nothing new to report.

**PARISH LIFE:** A meeting is scheduled for June 19th.

**TERCENTENNIAL/HISTORY:** Nothing new to report.

**MISSSION/OUTREACH/FAMILY PROMISE:** St. James will host FamilyPromise the week of June 9th. There is still a need for overnight hosts.

**EDUCATION:** Nothing new to report. SMACA is finished for the year.

Cynde Bimbi and Rev. Louise organized a Spiritual Retreat for the Youth Group. It will be held in the Poconos.

**SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT:**

Contact information for Vestry Members was distributed.

The Capital Campaign will require a lot of time for the Vestry.

There being no further business, the Vestry meeting concluded at 9:15pm with the Order of Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Patterson,

 Clerk of the Vestry



♥ **July Anniversaries ♥**

2nd Georgine & John Sukeena

3rd Arwen & John DeConstanza

12th Dolores & John Soviak

14th Kathy Kwiatkowski & Jim Craig

18th Jessica & Wes Loveland

**July Birthdays**

1st Janice Sukeena

4th Jesse Taylor

5th David Cernos

 Ethan DeConstanza

 Fr. Bill Archer

7th Brian Hall

 Jason Elliston

9th Karl Alexander

11th Eric Dunford

12th Carolyn Joynt

15th Cindy Fauerbach

 Ralph Stampone

 Manny DelleDonne

16th Mason Rickey

17th John Gannett

21st Liliana Garcia

22nd Chuck Haywood

24th Kerri Fauerbach

25th Victoria Loveless

26th Calinda Taylor

27th David Perry

28th Laura Adams

30th Joe Atz

31st Colton Morris

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

Legendary Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden often inspired his team with stories. Here’s one that former players cite as a favorite:

As a college baseball player, Bowden had never hit a home run. Finally, he hit one down the right-field line, into the corner. He ran past first base and looked to the coach, who waved him on.

Bowden made it home and hit the plate, thrilled to have his homer. But as he was accepting his teammates’ congratulations, the opposing pitcher took the ball and threw to the first baseman. The umpire immediately called Bowden out because he’d neglected to touch the base.

Reflecting on the incident, Bowden said, “You have to take care of first base. If you don’t honor the Lord first, then it doesn’t matter what else you do.”

 **Whatever your summer plans, have fun, be safe, drive carefully when you travel, and join us on the Sundays you are home. Don’t take a vacation from church!**

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Wilmington, DE

**A Letter from St. James**

**July 2013**

 St. James’ Episcopal Church

 2106 St. James’ Church Road

 Wilmington, DE 19808

 Address Service Requested

**September Anniversaries**

6th Loretta and Bill Perry

8th Jane and Harry White

13th Marisa and Mark Morales

18th Debbie & Eric Dunford

19th Jennifer and Mark Idell

28th Carolyn and Sean Joynt

Summer brought us new guests at Family Promise.  We would like to thank the many volunteers who helped set up, provided the food, overnight hosts, take-down crew and those who did the laundry.  We were delighted with the musical talents of one of the young boys who played the piano for our hosts on Saturday night.

If you have not had the opportunity to become involved in this worthwhile ministry, there are many roles you can participate in.  It is never too late to become involved and get to know your fellow parishioners.  Our net host week is **September 25th**.  Look for the sign-up sheet in the bull on the Family Promise bulletin board in the Parish Hall.  Please contact Susan Winward or Jennifer Idell for host questions, Dave Perry for dinners, Val Bragg for food donations and Gail Zimmerman for laundry needs.

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 Rector: The Rev. James M. Bimbi

Senior Warden: Bruce Vrana

Junior Warden: Carolyn Joynt

Office Contacts

Phone: 302-994-1584 / Fax: 302-994-3778

Email: office@stjamesmillcreek.comcastbiz.net

 Website: stjamesmillcreek.org

 Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.

 Tuesday – Thursday

Closed Monday and Friday

**Service Times**

**Sunday- Summer Schedule**

 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

 9:30 AM Family Choral Eucharist

**Wednesday**

 10:00 AM Eucharist & Healing Service

 6:15 PM Evening Prayer Service

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**July 14 – September 8**

*See Rector’s Ramblings – Page 1*

