A Letter from St. James

Mill Creek Hundred

March 2013

 As I write this article, the President of the United States and Congress are staring down each other over the matter of ***sequestration*** of expenditures in the Federal budget. What this seems to mean in the political arena is that unless clear decisions are made by a predetermined date on how to handle our monetary deficits, then spending cuts will automatically go into effect.

The decisions before our elected officials are significant to the overall health and future of our economy, and they deserve our prayers as they slog their way through their differences. However, no matter which side of the issues you come down on, there seems to be a lot of game-playing going on. I can’t pretend to understand all the in’s and out’s of economic policy, but I can sense when there’s a general avoidance to dealing directly with the problems at hand. It happens in public policy debates as sure as it happens in matters of our spiritual well-being.

With all the political connotations being applied to ***sequestration***, I thought I’d look up the meaning of the word in the dictionary. The two primary definitions are 1) separation or exile; and 2) a withdrawal into seclusion. Well, I thought maybe the Church as well as politicians could make use of this word, especially during the Lenten season. Lent is that time when the Church talks more about ***sin*** and its effect on our lives. Sin most certainly causes a separation to build up between ourselves and other people. To persist in sinful actions, to fail to address the unrepentant side of our nature, certainly contains the potential to leave us exiled from the goodness that God offers to all who believe. To use the word sequestration in this way could shake us all up more than a little bit. The word ‘hell’ doesn’t seem to bother anyone these days, so maybe talk of the possible ‘sequestration of our souls’ might get our attention.

On the other hand, we could make use of the meaning to ‘withdraw into seclusion.’ Instead of talking about taking time away from our normal activities and schedules in order to tend to our spiritual needs, we could say we have gone into ‘sequestration.’ It certainly sounds more impressive than saying we have gone on a retreat. At times I wish there was some automatic trigger to my spiritual life, so that when I haven’t attended to my spiritual or physical health I would be whisked away to some secluded place and forced to deal with them in a positive way. To coin a new word, it could be my ‘sequestrationary’ time. Hmm, maybe there’s the title of the book I’ve wanted to write.

Ok, that’s enough *Ramblings* about our world for this month. Be blessed by what God places before you this Lenten season, and I look forward to celebrating Easter with you on March 31st.

Fr. Jim Bimbi

Funeral Lunch Committee.tif***FUNERAL LUNCHEON COMMITTEE***

This service continues to be offered to the families of St. James. The committee is currently updating their list of members. We are in need of volunteers to assist with serving, providing desserts and clean up at the luncheons.

If you would like to join our committee please contact Nancy Patterson at

239-7649 or call the church office.

***THANK YOU.***

adult classes.tif

Sister Julian will be leading the Adult SMACA class in March, using the NT Wright series "Surprised by Hope".  Come join her in a lively discussion of Heaven, Hell, the Afterlife and what the Bible really says about these things.  
  
Sister BJ is leading a discussion on Mystical Theology at the Interfaith Resource Center for 5 Tuesday nights, beginning on Feb 26th.  There is a charge for these classes of $25, payable to the Interfaith Resource Center.  Please join us and learn about the writings of the holy people of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, and how they can act as spiritual mentors for us today.

**eastr19c.tifEASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS**

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find an envelope that you can use to give a memorial to loved ones or a tribute to someone special or commemorate a special event as we beautiful God’s House as we celebrate Easter.

**SATURDAY MARCH 30th 11:00 AM**

**egg4c.tifNeighborhood Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Dog Lunch**

We invite neighborhood children to join our own youth for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. All are asked to congregate in the parking lot at 11AM.

Following the hunt, the hunters and their families are invited in to join us in a hot dog lunch. It’s a great way to meet our neighbors and introduce them to our parish.

There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer of the parish house for needed food for the luncheon.

**fleamarket1877c1_print.tifMARCH 23, 2013 8 AM – 3 PM**

Get your donation in now! We need to heave time to set them up and get them priced.

Can you help with pricing and/or clean-up?

Sign-up sheets are posted in the foyer of the parish hall. This is a major fundraiser for the parish and the help of all is needed. Even if you can’t help, plan to come that day and shop and have lunch. It’s a fun time and by working together we get to know each other better.

**annual lmeeting - owls.tif**

**Put April 28th on your calendar now!**  On that Sunday we will have one service at 9 AM followed by our **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING and brunch**.

**CALLING ALL MINISTRY LEADERS:**  Please have your report for the annual meeting into the office by April 1st in order to have time to collate them all in a booklet for you.

**Thank you for your support**.

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March 24th Palm Sunday – Worship Services at 8 and 10:15 AM.

March 28th Maundy Thursday – Worship Service at 7:30 PM with foot washing and the commemoration of the first Lord’s Supper.

March 29th Good Friday – Good Friday Episcopal Liturgy at 10 AM

Ecumenical Service of the Mill Creek Ministerium at Noon

March 30th Holy Saturday – Prayer Service at 9 AM

March 31st **EASTER DAY!** Festival Eucharist at 8 & 10:15 AM

**♫ ♫ ♫ Lenten Concert ♫ ♫ ♫**

A collaborative Lenten concert combining the choirs of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, ***St. James Episcopal Church***, New Castle Presbyterian Church and singers from St. Helena’s RCC. The concert will be held on **Sunday, March 17 at 4:00 p.m.** at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 2800 Duncan Rd., Wilmington, DE. The program will consist of:

Ave Verum Corpus W. A. Mozart

Sure He Has Borne Our Griefs Michael Larkin

The Lenten Sketches Joseph Martin

A 40 minute cantata accompanied by orchestra.

This ecumenical concert of beautiful Lenten music will most certainly be a moving and spiritual experience for both performers and audience. A love offering will be accepted with monies collected after concert expenses donated to Episcopal Relief and Development for relief of victims of Hurricane Sandy. A reception will follow the concert.

BazaAR ANNUAL.tif***The dates for the 2013 Bazaar are:***

# **Friday, November 1st & Saturday, November 2nd**

# **The Bazaar Ladies are back. They returned on Tuesday, February 5th. During their winter break they were busy finding new creations to make.**

# **Nancy Patterson and Eleanor Bowers are the co-chairs again this year.**

***Woodworker Needed***

We are in need of someone with woodworking skills. We have several wood projects that have to be cut out. Most are small wooden shapes except for the corkboard frames that need to be cut and assembled. We have samples of each item. If you would like to help with these projects please contact Nancy Patterson at 239-7649.

***Items Needed***

We can always use the following items:

**Corks -** not the plastic kind, only those made of cork.

**Jewelry –** Our jewelry designers will recycle your unwanted jewelry.

**Baskets, Buttons, Yarn, Empty Paper Towel & Toilet Tissue Rolls**

All items can be left outside the Bazaar Room at the bottom of the stairs in the Parish House.

Remember to save your Zingo receipts. There is a container in the hall closet of the Parish House marked “Zingo’s Receipts”.

**ST. JAMES CHURCH MILL CREEK**

**VESTRY MEETING MINUTES**

**February 11, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Fr. James Bimbi, Bruce Vrana, Sister B. J. Brown, Olivia Jessup, Ann Kauffman, Kathy Kwiatkowski, Debbie Nuss, Bob Meckelnburg, Steve Prescott, Gail Zimmerman, Nancy Patterson

**ABSENT:** Carolyn Joynt

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

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Approved

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Nothing new at this time.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Thank You Notes** – Bruce Vrana will send a thank you note to the Bishop.

**Civil Unions** – A parishioner told a Vestry member she would like to see more

discussion as to where we stand on this issue. Fr. Jim, Carolyn Joynt and Steve

Prescott have met and framed a proposal of guidelines for weddings and civil

unions. An overview of the proposal will be presented at the Annual Meeting on

April 28, 2013. At a later date a parish meeting will be held to give everyone

an opportunity to discuss the issues.

**Capital Campaign** – Stan Diver is now our liaison with the Diocesan Advancement

and Development Fund. Fr. Jim, Bruce Vrana and Steve Prescott will schedule

a meeting with Stan Diver.

**Diocesan Convention** – Everything went well at the Convention. St. James will host

the 2014 Convention. A committee will be put together to plan next year’s

convention.

**Annual Meeting & Elections** - The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, April 28, 2013.

The following members, who are eligible to run again, let the Vestry know what

they plan to do:

* Sister B.J. Brown – Will not run
* Olivia Jessup – Will not run
* Kathy Kwiatkowski – Will run
* Gail Zimmerman – Will not run

The Nominating Committee will include the departing members and the Sr. Warden.

**VESTRY GREETER REPORTS:**

**8:00am –** One new person from Christ Church

**RECTOR’S REPORT:**

**The Small Church** - There was a discussion about an article from the Alban

Weekly, titled **The Small Church**. Discussed were the positive things about

belonging to a small church:

* It is easier to be involved in church activities
* Everyone knows everyone
* Members are there for each other

**Marty Goetz Concert -** St. James will host Marty Goetz on December 14, 2013.

Mr. Goetz is a trained classical pianist. His songs are scriptures beautifully

set to music. The concert will be a ticketed event.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**WORSHIP:**

The Worship Committee held a meeting. Lenten plans were made. Rite One

will be used this year. Keith St. John discussed the Community Event to be held March 17th at St. Barnabas. The choirs from St. Barnabas, St. James Mill Creek, New Castle Presbyterian and St. Helena’s Roman Catholic Church will perform.

**PROPERTY:**

The Property Committee did not meet.

**Geothermal Heating & Cooling Project** -Bob Meckelnburg has arranged for an engineer to prepare an estimate. There will be no charge for the estimate.

**FINANCE:** Nothing to report at this time.

**PARISH LIFE:** Nothing to report at this time.

**TERCENTENNIAL/HISTORY:**

Fran Mayhew sent an email to the Tercentennial Committee with the Schedule of Events attached. The March meeting of the committee has been canceled.

**MISSSION/OUTREACH/FAMILY PROMISE:**

**Family Promise** – St. James will host Family Promise the week of March 31st.

**EDUCATION:**

**Sunday Morning Adult Class** – For the 6 Sundays in Lent Sister Julian will present a video-inspired discussion of N.T. Wright’s **Surprised by Hope:**

**Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church**.

The sessions will be held in the Lounge at 9:00am.

**Intro to the Mystics** – Beginning February 26, for 5 Tuesdays, Sister B.J. will present a class at the **Interfaith Resource Center, 913 Wilson Rd.** from

7pm–9pm. The subject is **Intro to the Mystics**.

**Lenten Book Study** – Fr. Jim will host a Soup Supper and Book Discussion

Tuesday evenings during Lent at 6:15pm in his home. The book to be discussed is **Pearl in the Sand**.

**SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT**

**Family Promise –** Family Promise submitted their **Certificate of Insurance.**

**** There being no further business, the Vestry meeting concluded at 8:45pm with the Order of Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Patterson

Clerk of the Vestry

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**March 10th**

Don’t forget to set your

Clocks ahead one hour

**March and April Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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**March**

2nd John Gillespie III

Cathy Goldstone

3rd Trevor Phillip

4th Barbara Bowser

Justin Dunford

Deborah Hollstein

5th Laura Vrana

9th John Fauerbach

Natalie Popham

Doris Stampone

Jenny Vrana

10th Ann Healey

Kayleigh Aichele

11th Val Hall

James McCracken

12th Arnold Green

Wes Loveland

13th Kathryn Gannett

15th Frank Hickam

Fran Mayhew

Lisa McGee

16th Ann Merrill

17th Alexander Dunford

Sam White

20th Sue Strecker

21st James White

22nd David Seeman

23rd Carley Bond

24th Britta Bimbi

Georgine Sukeena

25th Christine Haywood

26th Madison Morales

27th Alexander DelleDonne

29th Randy Dill, Jr.

**anniv30c.tif**

**Anniversaries**

**April**

1st Andrew Taylor

2nd Ariana Niehaus

Bill Short

3rd Tanner Haywood

4th Joanna McCauley

5th Joan Hontz

Joan Huhn

6th Christine Carrow

8th Shirley Alexander

Bruce Vrana

9th Trevor Adams

Ruth Griffin

Corrine Metcalfe

10th Eleanor Bowers

11th Keiran Haywood

Betty Luker

Bruce White

12th Emily Malusa

13th Joshua Luff

Sean Joynt

14th Carolyn Eldridge

15th Chase Haywood

16th Sam Malusa

Haley Short

17th Justin McGee

Kyle Dennis

21st Darren Mooney

Julia Pomeroy

22nd Kaitlyn August

23rd Dick Cornelia

24th Debra Nuss

26th Billy Carrow

Sarah Hoppenjans

27th Raymond Logue

30th Andrew McCracken

**March**

5th Nancy & Dick Prettyman

17th Tabby & Craig Galante

22nd Cindy & John Fauerbach

28th Sherry & David Cernos

**April**

16th Esther & Jim Insinga

17th Bonnie & David Metcalfe

Victoria & Arthur Loveless

20th Marsha & John Wilson

25th Sue & Dan Strecker

30th Roxanne & Jeffrey Swift

Susan & Keith St. John

*If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the office and let us know. You are an important member of our parish family.*



**A Letter from St. James**

**March /April 2013**

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St. James’ Episcopal Church

2106 St. James’ Church Road

Wilmington, DE 19808

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Rector: The Rev. James M. Bimbi

Senior Warden: Bruce Vrana

Junior Warden: Carolyn Joynt

Office Contacts

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Website: stjamesmillcreek.org

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Tuesday – Thursday

Closed Monday and Friday

**Service Times**

**Sunday- Schedule**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

10:15 AM Family Choral Eucharist

**Wednesday**

10:00 AM Eucharist & Healing Service

6:15 PM Evening Prayer Service

Palm Sunday – March 24

Maundy Thursday – March 28

Good Friday – March 29

Holy Saturday – March 30

Egg Hunt – March 30 EASTER DAY - March 31