



STEEPLE NOTES

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

The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel 3rd, Bishop Provisional

The Rev. Timothy L. Steeves, Rector

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June 2013

*Show us your mercy, O LORD, * and grant us your salvation. ~ Psalm 85:7*

From the Rector's Desk...

Saint Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

We don't actually know very much about the Apostle Philip. His Greek name means "lover of horses", and from John's Gospel we learn that he was originally from Bethsaida, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Although he is named in all four of the Gospels, making him one of the "first to follow Jesus" (as John Claypool so wonderfully puts it), only John's Gospel offers us any insight into what kind of a follower he was.

- We know that he began as a disciple of John the Baptist and that he met Jesus in Bethany where John was baptizing.
- In John's Gospel, Philip was the only apostle directly invited by Jesus to become a disciple of his with the words, "Follow me".
- Next, Philip finds Nathaniel and invites him to see Jesus with these words of testimony, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."
- Philip was the apostle who took charge of the provisions for Jesus and his followers, and it was to Philip that some Greeks came in hopes of gaining an introduction to Jesus.

Finally, it was Philip who, near the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, joined the chorus of bewildered and anxious apostles with these words of frustration and challenge: "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

Philip was not, perhaps, a "standout" apostle like, say, Peter, who usually lead the way when it came to saying things which succeed in gaining a rebuke from Jesus! But Philip does give voice to countless millions who struggle with their faith and long for the irrefutable certainty of "seeing for themselves" what they have been asked to believe. And Philip is not alone. Peter and Thomas were also deeply troubled by the events which were unfolding before them. When Jesus tells them of his impending crucifixion with gentle, tender words, "Little children, I am with you only a little longer..." Peter interrupts him by asking where he is going. A few minutes later, when Jesus announces to them that there are many rooms in the Father's house, and that he is now going on ahead to prepare a place for them (surely one of the most comforting moments in the whole Bible), Thomas literally butts in with the observation that the apostles "don't know where you are going, and how can we know the way?"

The final days of our Lord's time on earth were white-hot with anxiety – even dread – for the dazed and puzzled apostles. Against this background, Jesus says this in answer to Saint Philip's urgent request: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time?" It's not exactly a rebuke, in fact, it's almost a

(See Rector, continued on page 3)

The Discernment Committee

The Saint James Discernment Committee has met and launched its search process. There's good news and there's bad news. The good news is that Father Tim is with us and the bad news is that Father Tim is with us! How blessed we are that we have this difficult task of finding a new spiritual leader in the company of someone so beloved.

Having Father Tim with us through this process gives us a chance to honor him and his good work for another eight months. His early notice not only gives us a chance to express all that is in our grateful hearts, but also provides a smooth transition into new leadership . . .

. . . Yes, someone new. Father Tim has helped to grow the parish both pastorally and programmatically. Who will continue this work? What exactly brings us to St. James? 'We the people are the Church.' How will we use this to enhance our discernment? Questions abound as we reflect on who we are and where we are going. It is essential that you speak to us, the members of the Discernment Committee.

Whether through Focus Groups, online surveys, coffee hour conversations, your voice matters! Look for an online survey headed your way in early June; listen for frequent announcements at all the services and most of all, reflect on your wants and needs for our parish community. Make a spiritual wishlist . . . we trust He is listening.

Members of the Discernment Committee are: Cathy Renzulli, Pete Silvester, Mandy Watson, Dick McConnell, Peg Leister, Peter Glidden, Gwen Settle, Tripp Tyner, Bruce Shipley, Carol Ryan and Jim Craig. We ask for your prayerful support.

We Are Walking Again!

Please join me on Saturday mornings to walk along the Streubel Trail. It's a great way to make some new friends and take a few steps to getting or staying in shape. Sometimes there are just 2 of us, sometimes more, and all are welcome regardless of age or fitness level. Our youngest "walker" last year was 3 and our oldest was...mature! We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:30, and walk for about an hour at a pace that will be comfortable for everyone. Please call or send a text to 610-715-0473 to let me know so we wait for you if you are delayed.

Sunday Ministries

Your help is needed! We need volunteers for the following ministries:

Greeters *Ushers* *Acolytes*
Lectors *Chalicians* *Flower Delivery*

Please consider joining us. You are called upon no more than once a month and given notice so that any conflicts can be handled. If you are unsure of what is required someone will help you get started. You'll find it very satisfying to know you are assisting in our worship. Please contact Nancy Cianfrani by email at cnfrn@comcast.net or by telephone at 484-341-8051.

Recycling

At St. James', we participate in a full-cycle recycling program. The paper we place in the green and yellow bin in the back parking lot is used to make newsprint. After serving its purpose, this newsprint can then be recycled to start the process again. Please bring your newspaper, magazines, catalogues, school and office paper, and unwanted junk mail to our bin. We are paid for the paper we recycle and the money is used for our youth programs. Remember: **no plastic, no cardboard** of any kind, and put shredded paper in paper bags. Books can be recycled if the covers are removed.

Coffee Hour Coffee

The official coffee of the St. James' coffee hour is Juan Ana coffee. Did you know that you can also enjoy it at home? Juan Ana coffee comes from independent farmers in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. It is available in ground regular roast, regular roast whole bean and dark roast whole bean. The cost is \$9 for a 17 ounce bag. If you are interested in purchasing this coffee, contact Barbara Monaghan or the Parish Office during regular hours.

Online Church Photo Membership Directory will be available very soon!

Watch for information in the coming weeks in the Sunday Bulletin and the Weekly Parish News Email. If you do not receive the weekly email it means I might not have your current email address. Email the parish office at sjeparishoffice@verizon.net and I will add you to the distribution list. I will also need your email address to send you a link to the new online directory!!



(Continued from page 1)

lament. Even after all this time, after all these miles we have walked together, after all those multitudes we have fed and taught and healed, after all this, how can you not know me?

One of my “guilty pleasures” is to read and enjoy the Sherlock Holmes mysteries by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (my wife calls it my “secret shame”). In a story called “The Crooked Man”, Holmes is called upon to solve a murder mystery where a man and a woman have been found shot in a room where the doors were “locked from the inside” (a common occurrence in Victorian murder mysteries!). Upon investigation, Holmes notes that the window near the far end of the long dining table had been opened, but only for a little while. When asked how he knows this, he replies that the candle on that end of the table is more guttered than the candle closer to the door, thus indicating that a brief exposure to the outside air coming through an open window had caused the increased guttering.

- “How in the world did you ever notice that?” someone demanded to know.
- **“I noticed it,” Holmes replied, “because I was looking for it.”**

What are we looking for in our relationship with God? What are we expecting God to do? Do we expect God to abandon us and leave us as orphans fending for ourselves in a cruel and unpredictable world? The apostles, in their anxiety and uncertainty about the future, seem to have translated their fears into their expectation! In answer to this, Jesus calls us to expect the unimaginable! By the Holy Spirit Jesus calls into existence a community of faith:

- a people who can remember all that God has done,
- a people governed by the promises of the future which God has made,
- a people who expect God to find a way to be with us in any and all circumstances with those eternal promises of hope, new life and renewed possibility!

The Bible is the story of a God who finds a way! When we discover a way to make that our expectation, perhaps then we’ll notice how God is always at work, even in the everyday occurrences that seem to pass through our days without much notice. What Jesus finally gives to Saint Philip (and to us) is worth much more than simply “seeing with our own eyes”. Jesus gives him release from the very fears that have lately so bedeviled them: ***Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***

God bless, Tim

LOOK WHO HAS GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL!

Laurel Glidden
Henderson High School
Arcadia University

Creative Writing and Communications

Marisa D'Andrea
Downingtown East High School
MECA - Maine College of Art

Nathaniel Belluso
Downingtown West High School
Penn State University Main Campus - Criminal Justice

Zach Voltz
Downingtown West High School
University of Pittsburgh - Undecided

Softball Season is here!

We have a great team and they need our support. So grab your lawn chairs and come out to cheer the team on to a winning season. Below is the schedule. All games begin 6:30pm sharp

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Field</u>
May 23	THURS	MANOR
May 29	WED	MANOR
Jun 3	MON	YMCA2
Jun 12	WED	FAIRVIEW
Jun 20	THURS	MANOR
Jun 26	WED	WAGONTOWN
Jul 1	MON	FAIRVIEW
Jul 8	MON	YMCA2
Jul 18	THU	FAIRVIEW



Vacation Bible School ~ “SonWest Roundup”

Break out those cowboy boots and ten gallon hats! The Old West theme Vacation Bible School 2013 will be happening here at St. James' during the week of July 22nd-July 26th, from 9:00-11:30 am. Each day, Father Tim will teach an uplifting Bible story, and we'll be “traveling down the trail through the Old Testament stories of Moses to discover God's ultimate plan of salvation in Jesus”. The lessons will include:

- **Monday:** “Just as God had a plan to free the Israelites and sent Moses to rescue them from slavery in Egypt, he sent Jesus to rescue us from the slavery of sin”. (John 3:16)
- **Tuesday:** “Just as God showed His power to Moses at the burning bush, he showed His mighty power to us through Jesus' life and miracles”. (John 16:33)
- **Wednesday:** “God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt-even saving them from death! We'll then discover salvation and life forever with Jesus, made possible through his death and resurrection”. (John 11:25)
- **Thursday:** “God provided for His people in the desert” and “Jesus provides for us every day and in every way”. (John 6:35)
- **Friday:** “As we hear about the time when Moses received God's commands at Mt. Sinai”, we'll discover how loving Jesus means following His example and caring about others in our words and actions”. (John 13:34-35)

Along with lessons, the fun and active mornings are filled with creative skits, songs, crafts, games and snacks, all closely related to the daily lessons. Children ages 4 through 12 are cordially invited to attend, and they will be well supervised, in small groups, by counselors and adults.

Gail Gilbert and Judy Benne are directing the program, with the support of our Christian Education coordinator, Charlene Miller. We welcome teens and adults who would like to join in helping us with this summer's program. No experience is necessary; just a willingness to share in the joy of working with children as they learn more about our loving God. **New** and **returning** volunteers are both warmly welcomed and appreciated!!! Our experienced youth counselors and adults agree that VBS really is a lot of fun and the children have been delightful!

Registration flyers were distributed during Sunday School and they will be mailed, too. You can also pick up forms in the display area near Bartholomew Hall.

If you have other questions, please contact:

Gail: gailsusanstuart@gmail.com Judy: sbenne@dejazzd.com Charlene: sjcsundayschool2@verizon.net

New volunteers welcomed, needed and appreciated!
Please contact Judy Benne at sbenne@dejazzd.com

June Birthdays

Pilar Pitalue	June 2	Carol McConnell	June 18
Leah Umile	June 3	Nicole Kosits	June 21
Frank Torelli	June 4	Barb DiOttavio	June 23
Janice Keller	June 5	Nathaniel Johnson	June 23
Jack Hiller Jr.	June 6	Zoey Lindner	June 23
Karen Samuelson	June 7	John Morgan	June 23
Carol Parsons	June 8	Gwen Settle	June 23
Alice Smith	June 8	Chris Kerr	June 24
Charlie Kimber	June 9	Megan Craig	June 25
Olivia Halpin	June 11	Kyle Flanagan	June 25
Ryan Halpin	June 11	Amanda McCann	June 25
Andrew Leister	June 11	Liam Rupp	June 25
Jake Harding	June 14	Cameron Scott	June 26
Tim Edge	June 15	Ed Engel Jr.	June 28
Carys Wallace	June 15	Sis Lonsdale	June 28
Cathy Dazio	June 16	Seth Adams	June 29
Rachel Hess	June 16	Charles Hess	June 30
Charlotte Barger	June 18		

HOSPITALIZATION REMINDER



It is important to notify Father Tim or the parish administrator (610-269-1774) when you or a family member is in the hospital. Due to privacy laws, hospitals are no longer able to give the church that information. **Please let us know when you are in the hospital.** Private messages may be left for Father Tim at 610-873-1065. After hours pastoral emergencies: 610-306-7059.

Do you need help with meals? Our Ministry of Meals can help. Contact Father Tim, the parish office or Mandy Watson at 610-518-0399.

Vestry Members - Term 2014

Ron Meacham Home: 610-269-9352
 Alison Pierce Home: 610-466-9384
 Bob Yuninger Home: 610-380-7941
 Dick McConnell Home: 610-524-2447
 Janice Keller Home: 610-524-5222

Vestry Members - Term 2015

Rich Carango Home: 610-518-0399
 Brooke Giffi Home: 610-594-2712
 Nancy Cianfrani Home: 484-341-8051
 Judy Benne Home: 610-286-6141

Vestry Members - Term 2016

Matt Ryan Cell: 610-209-2849
 Tim Gemmell Home: 610-431-7174
 Bruce Shipley Home: 215-368-0542
 Matt Wagner Home: 610-873-2419
 Tricia DeBlander Home: 703-403-9003

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 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

★ **The 3rd Annual
Ladies Night Out** ★
June 5 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Please join us for an evening of fellowship and light refreshments in Bartholomew Hall. Lets reconnect with each other, welcome our new members, and just enjoy a relaxing evening among friends.

Please bring a simple appetizer or dessert. Ice tea and lemonade will be provided. BYOB

We are hoping to provide babysitting this year.

RSVP to the parish office by May 31 at sjcparishoffice@verizon.com, 610-269-1774, or look for the sign up sheet on the bulletin board

This event is hosted by the

***Celebrate Your Faith Night
with the Reading Fightin Phils!***
June 20th

Fightin Phils vs. Portland Seadogs
Bus leaves at 4:30pm sharp from the church parking lot. Game starts at 7:05pm

Join us on the bus for an exciting trip to see the Reading Fightin Phils play ball. We will meet with some of the players before the game and learn how their faith has made a difference in their life. The cost is \$9 per ticket.

***The Bishop is coming,
The Bishop is coming... Sunday, June
2nd, 10am Service***

The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel 3rd, Bishop Provisional will be visited on June 2 for confirmations, receptions and to meet the members of St. James' Church.



Looking for a way to get more involved with St. James'? Do you have two or three hours a month to help inspire the Youth of our Parish through Christian Education?

Look no further!

The Christian Education Program is looking for 15-20 volunteers to help **Team Teach** the youth of our parish starting in the Fall of 2013/2014 school year. Team Teaching is a new approach to Sunday School. A Team of Teachers (3 to 4 people) will be assigned to a specific grade/

class room. A schedule will be made and teachers will rotate being the "leader" or teacher for that Sunday. A curriculum is provided for each class with readings and craft ideas to do with the children. The benefit to the Team Teaching approach is it allows flexibility so you are not tied down to every Sunday.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact Charlene Miller at sjcsundayschool2@verizon.net



Summer Sunday Service Schedule

NEW 10AM
SERVICE FOR THE
SUMMER



7:45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00am Fellowship and Coffee Hour in Bartholomew Hall
10:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Traditional Music
Nursery care during the 10am service

COFFEE HOUR
BEGINS AT 9AM



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

Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper
Luann McIlvaine
sjcparishoffice@verizon.net

Christian Education Coordinator
Charlene Miller
sjcsundayschool2@verizon.net

Church website:
www.stjameschurch.ws

Parish Office
610-269-1774
Monday : 10am - 3pm
Tuesday - Thursday: 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