



Steeple Notes ~ March 2016

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

The Rev. John W. Symonds, Rector

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

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.*

Psalms 118:1

From Father John

The Election and Consecration of a Bishop

A Catholic priest in our area asked me recently exactly how Episcopal priests are placed at a particular parish. My best guess is that he may have wondered for some time about our process; moreover, with my having just arrived in Downingtown, now was his opportunity to find out. My short answer to him: it is a "competitive call" process. That is, candidates and parishes learn of one another through networking, through the usual Church advertising/ministry profile mechanisms (like the OTM- "Office of Transition Ministry" at national church headquarters), and, in some cases, through chance circumstance. Candidates either submit their names, or may be invited to do so. All of which can fall under--and hopefully does!--the guidance of The Holy Spirit. Consequently both the congregation and the cleric know when a particular call "feels right." The process for minting a new bishop is much the same. It requires prayer, patience, perseverance, and most importantly, an openness to witnessing where the Spirit is moving.

The Diocese of Pennsylvania will be calling a new Bishop Diocesan in 2016. The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel, Bishop Provisional, will be stepping down as a **new Bishop Diocesan will be consecrated on Saturday, July 16th, at New Covenant Church of Philadelphia, Germantown, Pennsylvania.**

However before the consecration, there will be a number of important steps in the process. First, this week, the five candidates:

- The Rev. W. Frank Allen, Rector, St. David's Church, Wayne, Pennsylvania, Diocese of Pennsylvania;
- The Rev. Canon Daniel G.P. Gutierrez Canon to the Ordinary, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief of Staff, Diocese of the Rio Grande, Albuquerque, New Mexico;
- The Rev. Canon John T.W. Harmon, Rector, Trinity Church, Washington D.C., Diocese of Washington;
- The Rev. Martha N. Macgill, Rector, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Cumberland, Maryland, Diocese of Maryland; and
- The Rt. Rev. Dean E. Wolfe, IX Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas and Vice President of the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church.

will be visiting a number of locales within the diocese. This will be done in order to afford individuals the opportunity to meet them through both formal and informal conversations and settings. This step in the overall discernment process is known as "Meet the Candidates." (In other dioceses throughout The Episcopal Church such meet-and-greets are called "Walkabouts.") **The closest such meeting for us will be at the Church of the Good Samaritan – Paoli, this Thursday night, February 18th, 6pm - 10pm.** There will be other "Meet the Candidates" offerings on Friday and Saturday.

The "Meet the Candidates" event coincides with other activities throughout the Mutual Discernment Week, February 17-20. Those other activities include meeting with Bishop Daniel and the Diocesan staff, touring the Diocese, and attending the other "Meet the Candidates" events. The additional Meet the Candidates opportunities are scheduled as follows: Trinity-Ambler, **Friday, February 19th**, 6pm – 10pm; African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Saturday 20th, 8 am-12 noon; and All Saints'-Torresdale, 3pm -7pm.

As a point of background information, and similarly to what parish vestries and discernment committees have to do in calling a priest, the group of individuals within our diocese that has been most involved with developing the names of the five candidates is the Bishop Search and Nominating Committee. This committee is comprised of 13 members, both lay and clergy. They have worked over the last year, striving to evaluate potential candidates for this important call. Part of their primary effort has focused upon individuals who have been able to discern the "strengths and heritage [of the diocese], and the very real challenges and emerging issues [within the

(Rector, Continued on page 3)



“CONFIRM NOT CONFORM” TO BE OFFERED BEGINNING PALM SUNDAY

This year’s confirmation class for the parish youth of St. James’ will be the Episcopal curriculum “Confirm not Conform.” There will be eight (8) classes offered on early Sunday evenings, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. beginning on Palm Sunday. The classes will run consecutively until May 15th [Pentecost Sunday] except that there will be no class offered on Easter Sunday evening. This offering will not include dinners; however, light snacks and refreshments will be provided for all attendees.

Fr. John Symonds will be leading the classes. Moreover he will be assisted by Laura Harting and Jack Edmunds as well. All confirmands will be preparing for receiving of the sacrament of Confirmation by Bishop Lee during his visit to our parish on Sunday, May 22nd [Trinity Sunday].

THE SYMBOLIC AND THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CELEBRATING MAUNDY THURSDAY IN LENT

Lent is a special time within the Church Year. One of the reasons that this is so, because after the anticipation of Jesus’ birth which occurs in Advent, the joy of Christmastide, and then the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ being revealed to the entire world during the Epiphany, Lent is that reminder that life is not all fun and games. Or stating it another way, it is the season of the church that most poignantly reminds us that life is challenging and quite difficult at times. Lent, as it begins with Ash Wednesday, is the Church’s intentional time for recognizing how much pain and suffering there is in the world. Jesus’ trip to the cross is that ultimate metaphor for the pain and suffering that we will all face within our own lives. The Season of Lent, to borrow a more modern-day colloquialism...is certainly about “keeping things real” for we who call ourselves Christians. To preach a Jesus Christ Risen, Our Savior has to first go through the pain and suffering of the cross.



Some of the most sacred, symbolic acts in which we can participate in Lent is to worship the Maundy Thursday liturgy and celebrate the Mass together. (Maundy Thursday can be thought of as “Commandment Thursday” referring to the Latin *mandatum*, since it is the moment biblically [John 13:34] when Jesus offers his disciples the New Commandment: That they love each other, as he has loved them.) The intimacy and vulnerability of washing each other’s feet; celebrating Eucharist even in the midst of Judas’ kiss of betrayal; the starkness of stripping the altar (thereby signifying the bare wood of the cross); and offering the altar of repose is to remind us that the Reserve Sacrament has moved from beyond the tabernacle where we would normally expect it to be. Keeping vigil in the quietness of the nave, in the midst of the overriding darkness of night, is a very authentic way of remembering that the body of Jesus will be taken away as a result of his death on the cross. St. James’ will be offering these essential liturgical practices once again on Maundy Thursday in 2016.

Lent is furthermore that intentional time for us to be aware of the trappings of this life. For the unhealthy ways in which we are living that are moving us further away from God, are very real examples of the differing types of pain and suffering that we are called to challenge. Part of being Christian is recognizing that we cannot do everything by ourselves. Thereby in realizing our own brokenness before God and His unconditional Love for us even in the midst of pain and suffering, we discover that we may too have the power to assist others. Empathy comes as a result of such self-examination. Usually when such a revelation as this is made, a whole new level of vulnerability is recognized.

Lent reminds us that we can journey with trusted brothers and sisters in Christ. They can be our advocates, and they can assist us when we are about to stumble. They can intentionally pray for us, and they can walk with us in the midst of our sufferings. Through a mutual discipline of sharing and listening, steadfast and firm encouragement, a renewed bond of discipleship is created.

Lent is our invitation to prepare ourselves for the always-available Good News of Jesus Christ. That is, that Jesus was born, that he ministered, that he suffered and was crucified, and then on the Third Day he was resurrected. He was given eternal life through His Father in heaven, so that the story could be told, and so that others could be invited to be his disciples, and follow the New Commandment.

PROPERTY – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Our Committee is responsible for providing “Tender Loving Care for the Church of Saint James”, if you would like to volunteer to serve on our committee, please give me a call or email. Thank you for your continued support. Tom Hudecheck 484-888-1021 or Tomrita@verizon.net



HOSPITALIZATION REMINDER

It is important to notify the rector or parish administrator when you or a family member is in the hospital. Due to privacy laws, hospitals are no longer able to give the church information. **Please let us know when you are in the hospital.** After hours pastoral emergencies, our rector can be reach at 610-314-5482. **Do you need help with meals?** Our Ministry of Meals can help. Contact the parish administrator or Mandy Watson

(Rector, Continued from page 1)

Church].” They have discerned within the candidates the requisite gifts required for “leading the diocese” and “participating in the councils of the church.” Their charge originally was to offer a slate of three (3) to five (5) candidates. The Bishop Search and Nominating Committee had presented the full slate of bishop candidates to the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania on January 26th, at which time the entire slate was unanimously approved as presented.

Secondly, and also as part of the Mutual Discernment Week, the five candidates will:

- Will meet with Bishop Daniel and the diocesan staff;
- Will tour the Diocese; and
- Participate in four (4) meetings where the whole Diocese is invited to “Meet the Candidates” talks (event on Thursday, February 18th already described above). The other churches hosting talks are: Trinity-Ambler, **Friday, February 19th**, 6pm – 10pm; African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Saturday 20th, 8 am-12 noon; and All Saints'-Torresdale, 3pm -7pm.

Following all of the meetings and gatherings during the Mutual Discernment Week, the next important step in the overall call of our new bishop will be the election. Formally referred to as **the Call Convention, this event will be Saturday, March 12th, at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral.** Generally, the call convention occurs within these parameters:

- Each clergy person who is canonically resident within the Diocese of Pennsylvania has a vote;
- Each parish has a vote (which the lay delegate from the parish casts); and
- The Call must be confirmed by a majority of the Bishops of the Episcopal Church and the Standing Committee of The Diocese of Pennsylvania.

During the Call Convention, the candidates are not present, as is similar to our national conventions held every four years by our two most prominent political parties.

Following the election, the next step in process will be **the Celebration of Bishop Dan’s Ministry, held on Saturday, April 30th, at the Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli, Pennsylvania beginning at 4pm.** This celebratory Eucharist service will honor Bishop Daniel for his devoted and transformative ministerial leadership within the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Again, as is similar to the local parish, the diocese has an Electing/Transition Committee which is charged specifically with assisting Bishop Daniel during his last months in office as our bishop, preparing for the Meet the Candidates events, overseeing the Call Convention, introducing the bishop-elect to the Diocese and the our entire region, as well as other transitional ministry needs. The Electing/Transition Committee is made up of fifteen (15) members from throughout the Diocese, both lay and ordained.

Finally, the entire process of searching for a new bishop culminates with the consecration service. So mark your calendars now for the installment of our **new Bishop Diocesan which is scheduled for Saturday, July 16th, at New Covenant Church of Philadelphia, Germantown, Pennsylvania.** Let us prayerfully and patiently await this exciting event within the life of our Diocese!

With Blessings for a Holy Lent,
Fr. John Symonds

IT’S TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE AUCTION!

Please consider donating an auction item:

- Jewelry, vacation properties, artwork, crafts, unique experiences, baskets filled and empty, antiques, dinner parties, tours, tickets, gift cards . . . the list is endless.
- Donations can be brought to the Church Office, or we can arrange pick-up. Please be sure to give us your name when donating so we can thank you personally.



Plan to invite family and friends to the Auction April 23 at 6:00 p.m.

It’s a fun night of fundraising with a professional auctioneer who keeps things lively.

There’s plenty of great food, beverages and gourmet desserts.

And don’t forget your auction raffle tickets ! \$1.00 each or a book of six tickets for \$5.00

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The March book for March 18 will be

Our Souls at Night by Kent Haruf, whose breakthrough novel was Plainsong. Haruf wrote this novel as he was dying, and it takes a lively look at love in our twilight years.

The discussion will be great on this one.

Consider joining us, Peg Leister



With an early Easter this year, March is even busier than ever at St. James Preschool. We are looking forward to a month of fun-filled activity. We look forward to a visit from that mischievous leprechaun and always hope his trail of gold coins leads to a pot of treats for us. As always we will celebrate Easter with our annual egg hunt out on the playground (let's hope the groundhog was right and that spring is around the corner) and also a special visit from the Easter bunny. It's always fun when he comes hopping to St. James. We also look forward to our professional Pre-K graduation pictures—it's so fun to get a sneak peek of the little ones in their caps and gowns—bittersweet to imagine fast forwarding to their senior year, which seems to come in the blink of an eye!

The Spring Outgrown Sale is coming up on March 5, 2016 from 8 am – noon.

There are great bargains to be had on children and infant clothing, toys, and equipment, maternity clothes and MORE. Please stop by to shop for your favorite young person and support the St. James' Preschool PTO.

March is Read Across America month to promote literacy. The children will be bringing in their favorite books to show and tell with their classmates and we will be inviting parents in to visit as VIP readers to share some of their family's favorite stories. It's always so special when mom, dad, or grandparents come to school to share in the fun.

We hope you all find time to enjoy Spring Break with your family and hopefully by the end of the month we'll see some signs of spring here at St. James. We wish you all a Happy Easter!

Suzanne Diodato and Johanna Uggl



We are already through the Valentine shopping season and the shop has done quite well selling off our stock. Since we did not have an abundance of these items we would gladly accept Valentine articles any time to restore our dwindling supply.

Our shop has made quite a few improvements in the last couple of weeks. Of course the new windows look great but the snow sitting on them has obscured the light and shadowed the back wall. Hopefully the snow will disappear real soon.

Another addition to the shop has been the crystal clear glass top to our jewelry counter. What a difference clarity makes! One can actually peruse the jewelry from the top instead of having to take all the pieces out to show to customers. Many years of placing purchases on the counter caused numerous scratches that obscured a clear view to the interior. Thank you Vestry

We have also been assessing the limited space situation and have revamped our book area. We have reduced the amount of bookcases and reorganized the hardbacks and paperbacks. Please keep in mind we would like to have fairly current issued books and of course no textbooks or encyclopedias. Also, if the dog chewed the book of knowledge, please let him keep it. Ripped and torn books only get discarded.

We want to thank Judy and Sam Benne for donating many hours on Martin Luther King Day to haul old books, National Geographics, VHS tapes etc. out of the shop as well as some shelving which had gotten quite abused from the many floods. Now the books are not so encumbered and patrons have better access to reading material. Appearance makes a much better seller.

Thank you for your support!
Anna Filoromo

BOUNCING BACK

Dear People of God at St James': Thank you so much for your support of our coffee hour on January 31 to help children of divorced parents. We want to say a special thank-you to everyone who donated financial support as well as those who signed up to offer prayer support. Thanks to you, we now have enough money to place another bulk order of books for high-school students. Please join us in praying for the kids who will be receiving these books in coming months.

In His service, Don and Laura Harting

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We continue to meet in the church library. Newcomers are welcome and there's no homework. We have three simple ground rules: 1) begin and end on time 2) mutual respect and 3) complete confidentiality. Meetings run from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays through March 23. Co-facilitators Rob Deitcher and Don Harting follow the tried-and-true small group study format contained in the Serendipity Bible. Brought to you by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Questions? Contact Rob rwd5k@virginia.edu or Don donharting@verizon.net.

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Mr. Voltz is a member; serving the St. James' Community
for Real Estate, Family, Business and Estate matters for the past 20 years

March Birthdays

Bill Barger	March 1
Jeannie Carroll	March 1
Hailey Heurich	March 1
Marilyn Miller	March 1
Linda Coleman	March 3
Marcia Rosenberg	March 3
Sarah Ellis	March 4
Peggy Leister	March 4
Ray Shea	March 4
Rita Montgomery	March 6
Gregory Brink	March 7
Emma MacDonald	March 10
Adam Carango	March 11
David Brink	March 12
Chelsea Feeley	March 13
Mackenzie Long	March 13
Rick Crompton Jr.	March 14
Gene Sullivan	March 14
David Torone	March 15
Pete Silvester Jr.	March 17
Dawn Filetti	March 18
Johanna Uggla	March 18
Kelly Feeley	March 20
Jim Florio	March 20
Rebecca Ward	March 20
Don Harting	March 21
Kyle Mea	March 21
Isabelle Schweiger	March 22
Hud Voltz	March 24
Rich Bryant	March 25
Kay Miller	March 26
Mary Engel	March 27
Rich Carango	March 28
Charlotte Craig	March 28
Spencer Uggla	March 28
Chet Whiting	March 28
Maria Lewis	March 29
Aidan Rieder	March 31

March Altar Flowers are offered in loving memory of

Easter Sunday, March 27

Helen R. Petrie

Sara Schmid

George Fritze, Sr.

There are no flowers on the altar during Lent

Altar Flowers can be given each Sunday (except during Lent) in memory of or in thanksgiving of a loved one. Please fill in the date you would like in the Altar Guild Flower Book located on the corner table near the main entrance. Envelopes for payment (\$45) are next to the book.

EASTER LILIES FOR THE ALTAR

You can offer a lily in memory of or in thanksgiving of a loved one to be placed around the altar on Easter Sunday. The cost is \$15 for one plant (please order just one plant and there is no limit on the number of names). Order envelopes can be found on the glass display case in the Chapel or call the parish office. **Orders are due by March 20th**



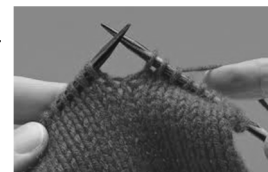
ALTAR GUILD MEETING March 19th at 10am IN BATROLOMEW HALL

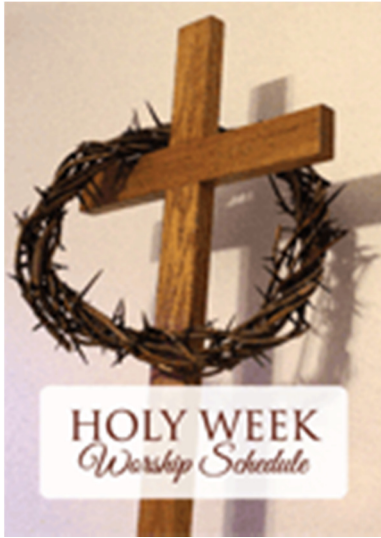
This will be a meeting to discuss all the upcoming Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter services. There will be a sign up sheet for volunteers to assist the March team with these additional services. Contact Judy Craig if you have any questions or cannot attend.



LADIES CRAFT NIGHT

Have you always wanted to learn how to Knit? Come join us for Ladies Craft Night in March to learn the basics. If you already know how to knit, come too, you can help us newbies. Lori Engel will be our instructor as we learn how to cast on, knit and purl. We will meet on Wednesday, March 9th at 7:00 pm in Bartholomew Hall. Bring a pair of knitting needles and a ball of yarn. Any questions about supplies should be directed to Lori at purpleflrp@verizon.net. Please RSVP by using the form on our website or by texting Carol at 610-547-9182. Snack volunteer is needed





Palm Sunday, March 20

7:45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 9:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Contemporary
Nursery care during the 9am and 11am service
 10:00am Fellowship, Coffee Hour in Bartholomew Hall
 11:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Traditional

Maundy Thursday, March 24

7:30pm - Holy Eucharist Rite II with Foot Washing

Good Friday, March 25

Noon and 7:30pm
 Good Friday Liturgy

The Great Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 26

7:30pm Easter Vigil and Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Traditional

Easter Day, March 27

7:45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 9:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Contemporary
Nursery care during the 9am and 11am service
 10:00am Fellowship and Coffee Hour in Bartholomew Hall
 11:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Traditional

Sunday Service Schedule

7:45am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 9:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Contemporary
Nursery care during the 9am and 11am services
 10:00am - Fellowship and Coffee Hour in Bartholomew Hall
 10:00am - Sunday School Classes
 11:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Traditional

Rector

The Rev. John W. Symonds
 sjcrector@verizon.net

Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper

Luann McIlvaine
 sjcparishoffice@verizon.net

Christian Education Coordinator

Beth Sharamatew
 sjcsundayschool2@verizon.net

Parish Office ~ 610-269-1774

409 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335
 Monday - Thursday: 9am to 1pm, Closed Fridays

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

Vestry Members - Term 2017

Laura Harting
 Peggy Leister
 Dick McConnell
 Ron Meacham

Vestry Members - Term 2018

Judy Benne
 Rob Deitcher
 Jack Edmonds
 JoAnn Mattia

Vestry Members - Term 2019

Rebecca Barger
 Mary Anne Feeley
 Tom Hudecheck
 Carol Ryan