

The Shell

November, 2011

St. James Episcopal Church ♦ 1307 North Main St.

Mount Airy, MD 21771 ♦ 301.829.0325

www.stjamesmtairy.org

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

This is the month of Thanksgiving...not only the celebration including turkey, stuffing and other goodies—but Thanksgiving to God for the abundance in our lives manifested in the image of harvest. We will celebrate the in-gathering of our financial pledges on Sunday, November 20th. As we present our pledge to Christ's mission and ministry, we are reminded that all that we have comes from God. Among the good things God has given us, we have our health, our particular gifts and abilities to enjoy and share, the wonder of this creation in which we live, and the gift of one another to support, encourage and toil together in God's mission field. These are difficult and often scary times. There are wars, signs of continuing economic turmoil, new laws and other legislation which are not always thought out for their implications for the future, and for many, life just seems to be getting more and more harried and less and less satisfying. But into all of this, God comes and with beacons of hope and possibility here and there, challenges us to keep the faith despite what we see all around us. Spread among and around us are signs of abundance and opportunity—whether that is creativity, time and/or treasure. Your financial pledge represents your willingness to share in the work God has called us to do. Your joyful giving back to God puts your faith into perspective.

On another but related note, it is important for us to look at how we do Thanks Living—in other words, how our lives, in what we say and do, reveal who and whose we truly are and how we give thanks. Peter Wagner in his book, Leading your Church to Growth, says that strong parishes have members who:

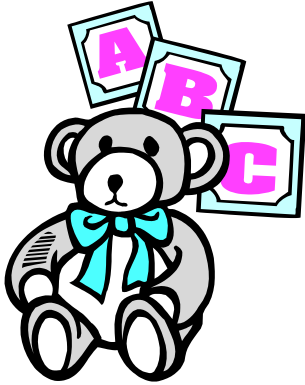
- + read their bibles regularly and seek to understand what they read in the company of others
- + pray daily for their own needs and for the needs of others and try to listen for God's voice
- + regularly participate in worship
- + are actively involved in various areas of ministry
- + actively support outreach and mission with time, talent and treasure
- + tithe their time and resources to the church
- + develop supportive and genuine relationships with one another and enjoy fellowship
- + live in a manner that reflects Christian faith and beliefs
- + attempt to share their faith with others by sharing their own faith journey stories and coming to belief in the power and grace of God.

One of the big surprises for folks comes with the Ministry Fair in September. They are often shocked at the number and variety of ministries at St. James'. Perhaps because we usually notice only what has particular importance to us. Like my kids stumbling over their possessions on the stairs only to tell me that they hadn't seen them! I cannot tell you how many times someone has said, "why don't we..." only for me to say, "we already do!" Gathered together, it is amazing to see how many lives are touched. In some cases publically but far more often, the most powerful are hidden from public view. Your time, talent and treasure are critically important to the work we are called to do together, both seen and unseen. May God grant us each the capacity to joyfully share what we have and a spirit of thanksgiving to acknowledge indeed from whom all our blessings flow.

Faithfully in Christ,

Portia

St. James Nursery School News



October was a busy month at the St. James' Nursery School. The children in the 2's classes visited Larriland Farms and the 3's classes visited Gaver Farm, they all enjoyed festive activities and picked pumpkins. At the end of the month the children had Halloween parties and costume parades for all of the classes with parents joining in on the fun. Lastly, the school holds a NAEYC accreditation and the administration is now working towards obtaining a Maryland State Accreditation so that the school will hold a dual-accreditation by the end of next year.

This November is busy as well. The Joe Corbi Pizza/Dessert fundraiser began in October and orders can still be placed with payment by November 9th. Just visit the nursery school office if you'd like to place an order or contact a parent of a child who is attending. Deliveries will arrive on November 14th and 15th. Proceeds will support the St. James' Nursery School. The 4's classes will visit the Sharp's at Waterford Farm to explore Native American heritage and the life of Pilgrims, a wonderful education experience to learn more about the history of Thanksgiving. To conclude the month, all of the school children will celebrate Thanksgiving with a "feast" and fun activities and crafts in their classrooms.

Crab Feast Wrap-Up



A crabby good time was had by the 92 people who attended the fourth annual crab feast at St. James' on Friday October 21st. The fund raiser netted \$2,495 – a super achievement. Thank you to everyone who set up tables and served crabs and cleaned up. Everyone left full of crabs and happy. Amanda Travers (John's daughter) won the wonderful Maryland Basket. Thank you to John Travers, owner of Crabby John's in Damascus, who donated one bushel of crabs and supplied eight bushels of crabs and 35 pounds of shrimp at cost; to J&P Seafood in Woodbine and K&L Crabs in Kent Island who donated a bushel of crabs each; to Knill's Farm Market, who donated the corn on the cob; to the parishioners who donated Cole slaw, desserts, and hush puppies; and to Linda Bonifant-Travers, who chaired the event. Plan to attend the fifth annual crab feast next October.

Sunday School News— Sundays 9:30— 10:15 at the lower-level classrooms

Hooray for our Sunday School students! The middle and high school classes did outreach work together at the Thrift Shop and plan to do so again on January 29th. Thank you all! The younger students are doing a wonderful job singing. If you missed hearing them singing “Pickin’ Grapes” recently, they will be doing an All Saints’ “special parade” on November 6th during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Come and support our students!

The children have already begun to sign up for our **annual Christmas Pageant**. It will be directed by Yvette Allen and held on Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 p.m. Please see Yvette’s information about rehearsal dates and times. There are many ways in which parents can participate as well.

We have some very **exciting news to share** with you about our youth. Beginning in January, every 4th Sunday during 10:30 a.m. worship will be **Youth Sunday**. Students will serve as acolytes, chalice, readers, ushers, do altar arranging and coffee hosting as well as providing music. Representatives from the Worship Team will visit classes (2nd grade and above) on November 6th and December 3rd seeking volunteers to participate. If your child plays a musical instrument, this is the perfect opportunity for them to share their musical gifts with our parish family. Please advise David Park, music director, or Jon Fader. We look to you for support in encouraging our youth to become active in this new Youth Sunday service.



Our “4th Sunday Fun” group activities continue and we will be doing an outreach project on November 27th. Thanks to Jeannie Pellicier and Nancy Nanavaty for leading the group in many fun and interesting projects. Thank you also to Betsy Davis for all the Bible stories she has put together for our preschoolers and the volunteers who read the stories each Sunday. You’re great! And the kids love “Mr. Banjo Man” Jon, and Mike Henyon’s guitar assistance. Such fun for all!

As always, we thank our dedicated staff of teacher volunteers who give so much to your children each Sunday. Can you lend a helping hand???

Betsy Davis – Preschool Bible stories and kindergarten-1st grade
 Robin Kaizer, Yvette Allen – 2nd-3rd grades
 Peter Sabonis, Blix Winston - 4th-5th grades
 Alina Schodroski – 6th-8th grades
 Joan Fader – 9th-12th grades
 Jon Fader - music



Raffle and Auction Wrap-Up

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 5th Annual Raffle & Auction fundraiser a huge success. The grand total was \$4,243, which was outstanding given the inclement weather during Fall Fest.

Thanks to the Thrift Shop staff and volunteers for the wonderful location, their help in setting up and cleaning up, and all the wonderful brand new items the shop donated for inclusion in our baskets. Thanks also to our hard working committee and the basket makers, ticket sellers, solicitors, transporters, bow-makers, to all who donated raffle items, auction items, and baskets, and everyone who worked during Fall Fest.

One silent auction item remains – a Snap Fitness gift certificate with a value of \$150. It includes one month of membership, waiver of enrollment fee, and one session with a personal trainer. Snap Fitness is located in the new shopping center near California Tortilla in Mt. Airy on South Main Street just north of Ridgeville Boulevard. If interested, contact Susan Winters at 410.489.9323.

Susan Winters & Betsy Davis

Co-chairs

Christmas Flowers

The deadline for donating toward Christmas flowers is Sunday, December 11th. Now is the time to submit your memorials and thanksgivings for Christmas, using the form below. Forms and envelopes will also be available on a table in the entryway. We hope to have lots of poinsettias and greens for the altar. Your contribution of whatever amount will help us make a glorious floral display. If you have any questions, please call Linda Bonifant-Travers at (301.703.8155) or Susan Winters (410.489.9323).

While there are no flowers on the altar during Advent, you may still sign up for memorials and thanksgivings, which will be recognized in the bulletin and during the Prayers of the People. Your contribution will help to underwrite altar and flower supplies.

Sign-up sheets for altar flowers for 2012 are now available on the bulletin board. When you sign up for a week on the calendar, please sign your name and the reason you are donating. Annotate your check to St. James with the notation “altar flowers.”



Christmas Greens & Poinsettias - Memorials & Thanksgivings

The Altar Guild will be decorating the church for our Christmas services with poinsettias and live greens. Memorials & Thanksgivings may be requested by completing this form, which you may place in the collection plate or mail to the Parish Office at 1307 North Main Street, Mt. Airy, 21771. Checks should be made payable to St. James' Church and marked "Christmas Greening."

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Contributed by: _____

Check Enclosed \$ _____



Community Service Schedule for November–December

November

5th— Charlotte Oswald
 12th— Lynda & Bill Ellis
 19th— Larry Schodroski
 26th— No Work
 Thanksgiving Weekend

December

3rd— TBD (Quartermania)
 10th— Karen Dulany
 Susanna Uchida
 24th— No Work
 Christmas Eve
 31st— No Work
 New Year’s Eve



Do you REALLY Know...

Former Judge of the Orphan's Court, Tim May, will speak on Monday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m. This is the second of a two-part series targeting families with children--do you REALLY know what would happen to your children if you died without a will. Death is rarely easy to talk about but when it strikes, it can leave you totally unprepared. Parents who do not leave wills establishing child guardianship and trustee provisions, are leaving their children to the will of the State of Maryland. Tim can tell you stories about the disasters this can set into motion. Grandparents--offer to babysit so your children can attend! This is important!



Weather ...

OK, so it has already started! This is not a good omen of things to come! If it is decided that we must close due to weather, an announcement will be put on the church answering machine at 301.829.0325 by 7:30 a.m. Typically we only close if there is really severe weather like blizzard conditions or ice. For the most part, we will be open for those who can safely make it.

Westminster Ringers Concert--Sunday, November 20th at 4:00 p.m.

Don't miss this wonderful concert! There is a \$2 per ticket discount for tickets purchased in advance. For tickets purchased at the door: \$15 adults, \$12 seniors (65+), \$10 child. Talk to Portia+ for tickets. Invite friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. Take flyers (in the Narthex) and spread the word! This group is well known in Maryland and Pennsylvania. This is a rare opportunity to hear them this close to Frederick. Children LOVED the bells last year and the ringers were delighted to spend some time after the concert showing them the bells. There will also be a bake sale (Thanksgiving oriented). If you are able to provide baked goods (quick breads, pies, etc.) or "gifts in a jar" (like brownies, scones, soups, etc.), please sign up in the Narthex so we can plan accordingly.



Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 p.m.



Rehearsals will begin in November this year so that there is plenty of time for preparation and to reduce the time "little lambs" have to hang around! If you are willing to assist, please let Yvette Allen know. This is a "no cut" opportunity for youth and adults alike! If you never got to be in a pageant when you were little, here is your chance! If you play an instrument or enjoy working with lighting or costumes--you are encouraged to step up! A reception with punch and cookies will follow--your contributions are welcomed and greatly appreciated! Put this event on your calendar NOW. Invite family and friends to this wonderful time to remember the reason for the season.

Next Baptism...

Christmas Day at 11:00 a.m. or Baptism of Christ, Sunday, January 8th.
If you are interested in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, please speak with Portia+.

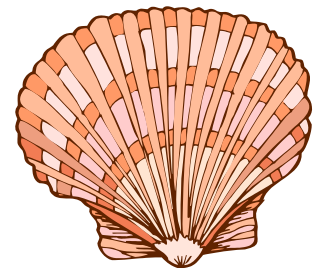


The Shell

All articles and announcements to be included in *The Shell*, should be sent to Carla Kaufman no later than the 25th of the month. It is preferred that the articles be sent by e-mail or by e-mail with a Microsoft Word attachment. If you have any questions regarding *The Shell*, please contact Carla Kaufman.

carlabarry38@yahoo.com

Cell: 301.814.1465



November Birthdays



1	David Echeverria	11	Stefin Burlew	18	Paul Fetzer
2	Kyle Mark DelRegno		Dennis Sautter		Tom Patterson
	Evan O'Rourke	12	Daniel Barazotto	19	Ryan Perry
3	Carter Lemig		Brian Spradlin	20	Charles Riel
4	Katie Dulany		Leon Straus		Maxwell Schult
	Elias Etzler		Richard Straus	22	John Sorna
	Lynda Ellis	13	Suzanne Franklin	25	Steven Stowell
5	Bill Dulany	Cliber			Winks Winkler
8	Peter Davis	14	Alexa Franklin	26	David Oland
	Susan DeLizia	15	Jeannie Pellicier	30	Patricia Chalk
10	Grace Christensen	16	Maria Pellicier		
	Barbara Fishell		Lisa Sorna		
	Jeremy Williams	17	Kimberly Schult		
	Kelly Wilson		Kyle Wellen		
	Holten Moreno				

November Wedding Anniversaries



11/4/72	Sharon & Ernie Hansen
11/11/00	Michelle & Hoff Inglesby

In Memory Of...

Minnie Buchman on her November Birthday