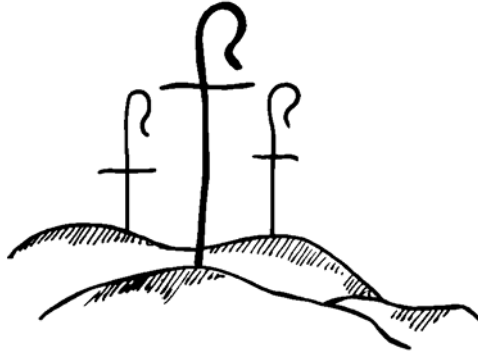


NEVERTHELESS

Newsletter of the Church of St. James the Less, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia
124 Beverly Road, Ashland, VA 23005 (804) 798-6336; Internet: www.stjamestheless.com

February 2008



The Liturgy and Worship Committee has been meeting for the last several months to reflect and discuss ways, which might open our eyes and heart even more to the real presence of Christ among us especially during the holy season of Lent. The committee, composed of The Rev. Barbara Blakemore, George Spagna, Jane Newchok, Lula Hopkins, Linda Ray, and myself, has kept the traditional elements of the liturgical season and explored ways of highlighting some of those elements as well.

New this year will be the addition of a beautiful second wood processional cross, made by our own Harry Hassell. The cross has been created to model the same one seen on top of the SJTL church roof. This will be a wonderful addition to our liturgical worship. We thank Harry for his incredible work and dedication.

Our SJTL **Pancake Supper** will be held on the Tuesday, Feb 5th at 6:00 pm. As is our tradition, at the conclusion of the pancake supper we are invited to move to the church for a short service with the imposition of ashes. An **Ash Wednesday Service** will also be held at 7:00pm on Feb 6.

On the **First Sunday of Lent** the *Great Litany*, the ancient litany of penitence, will be heard at both services. Throughout Lent we will use "Rite I" from the Book of Common Prayer, and say the psalm at all services.

Beginning with the **second through the fifth Sunday of Lent**, we begin the 10:00 am. service a little differently. At the opening of the service we will not have the usual opening hymn or procession. Instead we will ask that a period of silence be kept as far as possible in the church before the service so all may have time for prayer and reflection. Before the prelude begins you will notice the choir, acolytes and clergy, weather permitting, enter the church through the side door in the chancel and be seated in their customary places.

Then all of us will have an opportunity to listen to Bob Hooley play the prelude offering. After a brief moment of quiet we will stand and begin the service with the opening sentence. There will be a procession and hymn at the conclusion of the service.

On **Palm Sunday**, our 8:00 and 10:00 services will be as usual with the *Liturgy of the Palms* and the reading of the Passion. At 9:00 we continue our custom of meeting with other churches at the Henry Clay Elementary for a Liturgy of the Palms and procession back to our respective churches. At the 10:00 am service, weather permitting; we will begin the Liturgy of the Palms outside at the front steps of the church.

As you know on Palm Sunday we leave the church knowing that Christ has been arrested, taken away from the disciples, placed on trial and later crucified. Between Palm Sunday and Easter, Holy Week highlights the various events of the Passion. For a multitude of reasons many people have never attended Holy Week services. As a consequence some have never experienced Holy Thursday and the stripping of the altar symbolizing Jesus being taken away from us. In an effort to bring that experience to more people, we will add the stripping of the altar to the end of the service on Palm Sunday.

On **Holy Thursday** we will commemorate the institution of the Holy Eucharist at 7:00 pm., concluding the service with the traditional stripping of the altar.

Good Friday will continue to see our SJTL tradition of Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm, following the last hours of Jesus life and journey toward his death and burial.

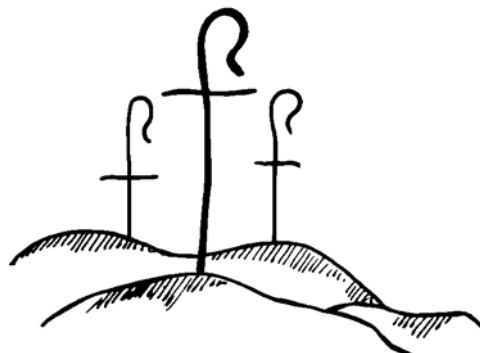
On **Easter Sunday, March 23 at the 9:00 and 11:00** services we will have a glorious celebration of the risen Lord with all processions and music returning.

Along with these liturgical experiences there will also be available a **Lenten Devotions** booklet from Episcopal Relief and Development. And like Advent, there will also be a **Lenten poster** available for every family. Both of these are wonderful gifts (and free!) to help us all grow closer to the one who gave himself for us, so that we all might be one with him.

May you continue to be blessed on your Lenten journey to experience the love, joy and blessing God holds for each one of us.

Beginning to pack for the journey,

Ed



TO EVERYTHING...TURN, TURN, TURN
THERE IS A SEASON....

When you receive this we will be coming to the end of Epiphany, a season when the Church's focus in worship is on Jesus' baptism and ministry; and our ministries as individuals and a congregation. This was particularly so in the parish this year as we celebrated Ed's induction as our rector, and as the vestry gathered to set new directions for ministry in the year ahead, But in a few days the emphasis will change as we move into the season of Lent, which comes very early this year.

In the Early Church Lent was a time to prepare converts to the faith for joining the "resurrection community" at Easter. For those of us already baptized the Church invites us on Ash Wednesday "to the observance of a holy Lent; by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial, (giving alms); and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" – the traditional time tested Lenten disciplines- meant to deepen our faith and draw us into a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Traditionally we talk about giving up something for Lent- something we need to lose or let go. We also speak of taking on or adding something. Both can be helpful. But if we are really honest with ourselves I believe each of us knows what would be most beneficial to draw us to the Christ within. And it may be different for each of us. What we need to learn....where we need to repent, to come back to ourselves and to God. What needs to "give" in order to give ourselves to God and those who need us.

A couple of years ago I found an image that has helped shape Lenten prayer and self-examination for me. It's from Maria DeCarvalho. She wrote " ...I had always thought of self-examination as the process of identifying defects in myself and asking God to perform a surgical strike on me,...or allow me the grace to shed them on my own. A process of Holy self-improvement, resulting in tidiness, presentability and productivity. Thinking of myself as a formal garden...(needing to be) perfectly maintained. I have since become aware that my spiritual life is much less like a manicured formal garden than an ordinary compost heap,"

A compost heap needs to periodically be turned over and stirred up if it is to become fertile soil for the nourishment of new growth. May this Lent be a time of stirring, turning, renewal and growth for each of us and all of us.

Barbara Blakemore

The Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons have been filled with special events in worship and education. Thanks to parents, teachers, and especially Sally Ellithorpe and Dani Pettit, for bringing the Cherubs and their gifts of music to us at the early Christmas Eve service and again on the Feast of The Epiphany. Thanks also to the Friedmans- John, Mary, Abby and "Baby Jesus" for portraying the Holy Family; Kings- Charlie Rosser, Garrett Ray, and Harrison Baker; Devon Ericksen (The Star!), Billy and Erik Rison (Narrators); Gwynyth Hooley who provided the song of the angels; Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar from the Adult Choir; Doris Hassell for decorating the King's Cake and Laura Baker for providing great crowns for those who found the surprises in the cake.

Barbara Blakemore



Christian Formation Calendar for February:

Lent is an important time in Christian Education as we prepare to observe Holy Week and Jesus' death and resurrection on Easter Day.

Come and Join us!

Sunday School for all ages begins immediately following the 10 o'clock service.

February 3- The Last Sunday in Epiphany

Adults-Spring into Lent

Children and Youth- A Holy Encounter- The Transfiguration

"Where do we see God?"

February 5- Shrove Tuesday

Bring the whole family for a pancake supper in Brydon Hall at **6:00 pm**. This will be followed by an Ash Wednesday Eve service, Imposition of Ashes.

February 6- Ash Wednesday

7:30 am: Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm: Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist

February 10- Lent 1

Adults- "The Lenten Season and Its Music"- Bob Hooley

Children and Youth- The Wilderness Encounter-Matthew 4:1-11

Accompanying Jesus as he gets ready to do God's will

February 17- Lent 2

Adults- Focus on "The Gospel" of Matthew - An overview, themes, and Matthew's story of Jesus' last days, the Passion.

Children and Youth- John 3:1-13

We learn about God's love through Jesus.

February 24- Lent 3

Adults- Gospel of Matthew continues. An overview, themes, and Matthew's story of Jesus' last days, the Passion.

Children and Youth- John 4:5-42- Water, Word & Witness

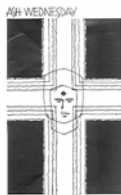
Jesus shares God's love with the Woman at the Well.

March 2-Lent 4

Adults- Gospel of Matthew continues. An overview, themes, and Matthew's story of Jesus' last days, the Passion.

Children and Youth- John 9:1-41. God's love has no limits.

This is a story of a man, born blind.





SENIOR HIGH NEWS

The ski trip was a great success, even though the snow was a bit wet. Again, thanks to all the chaperones. The adults will tell you they had a great time too, and Mary Field was even brave enough to try skiing for the first time ever!

January has been a time for the teens to “re-group” and plan for the spring. We’ll pack canned goods on Saturday Feb 2nd for the mission in Aylett and collect donations for our clinic after the 10 AM service on Feb 3rd for the “Souper Bowl of Caring”. Chandler Hubbard, Devon Ericksen, and their parents will be headed to Ocean Springs, Mississippi in February for a weeklong mission trip.

Dates to put on your calendar:

Feb 24 (Sunday)	Applications for Work Camp 2008 are due
Mar 28-30	Senior High Weekend at Shrine Mont
May 4 (Sunday)	Senior High Service, 10 am

Another Order for St. James the Less Sweatshirts!

We’re making another order for St. James the Less sweatshirts – deadline February 10. Colors available (we hope) are true red, cardinal red, Carolina (light) blue, and navy. Sizes are Adult S-M-L-XL-2XL-3XL and Youth S-M-L. Adult sweatshirts are \$30; youth are \$25. Profits will go to the Senior High Youth Group. Order forms are in the church office, or you may email Jane Jones at janejhones@comcast.net with your order.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH UPDATE

We have a new addition to our leadership group, *Christin May*. She has been with us for a few weeks now and is a very welcome addition!!! Thanks to Christin for joining us.

It is almost time again for the annual middle school youth service (February 3rd) at the 10:00 a.m. service. It will once again be a service not to be missed.

We have had a few youth visitors coming to some of the meetings. Newcomers are always welcome. If you know of any 6th – 8th grade children who would enjoy a safe, fun place to come on a Sunday evening, please have them join us.

Please don’t forget to donate your newspapers for our newspaper recycling project. The bin is out back next to where the van is parked. Please do not put paper or plastic bags in with the newspapers. The money from this project goes directly to the youth group.

As always, if anyone has questions about the youth group, feel free to contact any of the advisors.

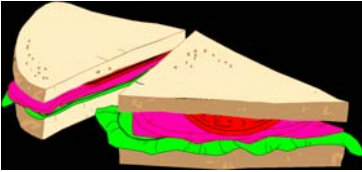
Thanks goes out to the church and parents for their continued support of this important part of our church life.

Your Middle School Youth Advisors

PK Kinser Vicki Morison Steve Pace Janet Taylor Christin May



COLLEGE MINISTRY



Can you provide sandwiches for one of our Lenten Sandwich Suppers at R-MC? We need about 10 sandwiches each Sunday evening of Lent beginning February 17. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

R-MC

Time to get the Spring semester started! Carol has Lenten Study Guides available. Get in touch with her to get yours!

EALF will continue having a service of Evening Prayer on Sunday's at 5:00 in the Upper Room. During Lent, we will share a simple "sandwich supper" and discussion. We'll be finished by 6:30.



EALF will also continue to meet Thursday evenings in Estes to share dinner and informal conversation between 5:00 and 7:00. You are welcome to come when you can or leave early if you need to. Carol will also continue to be available in the Campus Center on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00. And, of course, you can always call to see her some other time!



Service Trip to Guatemala

By the time you read this, 20 of us will be on our way to the Guatemalan Highlands to build stoves with the Highland Support Project. We are really excited by our opportunity to serve the HSP! We will be working with Quiché Mayan families near Quetzaltenango. Here is some more information about this fascinating country!

Guatemala's 36 year civil war officially ended in 1996, but violence and corruption have continued to haunt the country. Women are especially at risk. Over 3,000 women have died violent deaths since 2000. Guatemala has the highest Gross Domestic Product in the Central American region, yet it also has the highest rates of illiteracy and infant mortality. 80% of the population lives in poverty, 66% of them in extreme poverty. The World Bank has described the indigenous people in Guatemala as "the poorest of the poor."

There are two major groups of Guatemalans. The Maya are the indigenous people and continue to follow Mayan traditions. The Ladinos are of mixed ancestry and follow Western culture. The Maya have often been used as cheap or forced labor for the rich landowners and continue to be treated harshly and paid poorly.

Tourism and agriculture are the main industries in Guatemala. Chief exports are coffee, bananas, cotton, macadamia nuts, cardamom, textiles and clothing. Shopping for "Free Trade" products is one way to help improve economic conditions in Guatemala as well as in other poor countries.

We will bring back our stories for next month's NTL!

As I write this, some of you have not even returned to school after Christmas break! As you receive this, some of you are making your Spring break plans! Gosh! How Time flies! I'd love to hear what's going on at YOUR school! Send Carol your stories (and pictures) to share with everyone back at home.

Saint James the Less Free Clinic – February 2007

Happy New Year! By the time you read this, Shiloh Baptist Church should have the eye care facility up and running at their church with eight volunteers. This clinic will be open twice per month. Formerly Dr. Haine was carrying out the eye care services at his office.

Equipment news: We purchased an EKG machine and have used it successfully on a number of patients. We will soon purchase a new optical chair for the Shiloh facility and new dental chairs to replace obsolete ones for the dental portion of the clinic.

We are able to make these purchases thanks to donations, fundraisers and grants. When you see Curtis Shifflett, please thank him for the wonderful service he does for the clinic by coordinating all grant writing efforts. His special talent in this field has made a significant difference in clinic finances. Thank you, Curtis, for sharing your time and talent with the clinic. We are truly blessed to have you.

Melissa Roberts also deserves a very special mention, currently for her efforts in coordinating each Wednesday evening meal at the clinic. For all of the volunteers, especially those who don't have a chance to grab dinner before clinic, the meal is exceptionally important. In addition to coordinating the meals, Melissa has played many roles instrumental in the initial start up and continuing operation of the clinic including board member, executive director, patient screener and volunteer trainer to name a few – even while holding a full time job during the day. And she has done all of this with a gentle and warm presence that exemplifies our clinic mission statement to serve with compassion, dignity and respect. Melissa has made time at the clinic a family affair by getting her mother, Sandi Shirey, her son Chip and daughter Kathryn involved in the clinic as well. Thank you, Melissa, for all that you bring to the clinic.

More thanks go to Ricki and Jim Carson for donating a TV, VCR and stand. We soon will be using it to educate patients on smoking cessation among other things.

Other tidbits of news: We provided flu shots this month with the help of Jen MacDonald and the Hanover County CSB. Duncan Memorial added us to their Missions Mart and we received some donations from their parishioners over Christmas. The Hanover Association of Businesses and Chamber of Commerce has added us to its list of charities to which they will donate. We are very grateful for the consideration of these organizations.

If you are interested in making an ongoing pledge to the clinic or have any questions about making a donation, you can call our Board president, Lee Chambers at 798-6647 or send us a note with your intention. Checks can be placed in the collection plate payable to “Saint James the Less Free Clinic” or mailed to us at “Saint James the Less Free Clinic, PO Box 117, Ashland, VA 23005”. Thank you.

If you would like to call the clinic for an appointment, a question, or to determine eligibility for services, please call 798-8890 to leave a message and we will call you back.

-- Julie Ericksen

Outreach Dinner--Sunday, February 24

We will be serving baked lasagna/spaghetti, green beans, tossed salad, garlic bread and sherbet and cookies.

There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board beginning Sunday, Feb. 10.

Volunteers to provide food, set up, serve, clean up and provide transportation are always welcome.

For more information, contact Linda Ray (798-1905) or Dani Petitt (798-6548).



Love Thy Neighbor... Give to A.C.E.S.

In February we think of Valentines and love. Let's all show our love for our neighbors in need this month by continuing to bring non-perishable food and clothing to church to donate to Ashland Christian Emergency Services (A.C.E.S.). Please place your donations in the basket in the Narthex or in the A.C.E.S. boxes in the hallway. THANKS!

Questions? Call Lee & Susan Chambers (798-6647) or Sarah Sanders (798-7435).

And please remember to bring food and toilet articles for distribution to the Peter-Paul Development Center. Questions? Call Lula Hopkins at 798-5401.



Dinners for the Clinic Volunteers

At St. James the Less Free Clinic, there are as many as 20 volunteers every Wednesday night and the first Thursdays of every month. Many of these volunteers come either directly from work or from school to carry out their duties. This means there are many hungry people at 6:00pm when the clinic opens.

We have reached into the community where many church and neighborhood groups have brought dinner to these volunteers every one of the nights the clinic has been open. There have even been many of our own St. James the Less congregants who have provided dinner as well! Finding organizations to bring these volunteers dinner not only feeds but further heightens the awareness of the clinic in our community. If any of you belongs to a civic organization that could make a dinner for 20, please give me a call to schedule a date.

I coordinate the dinners and am scheduling 2008 now.

If you don't belong to a civic organization but would like to get a few friends together to bring us dinner, that would be just as terrific!

This is an easy way of helping out. More details if you call me at 672-2007.

Thank you! ~Melissa Roberts



[St. David's Free Clinic in Aylett](#) needs 5-6 people one Saturday per month from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 to help pack canned goods. We would like to extend an invitation to have you join the Senior High Youth Group with this outreach project. Please contact Susan Hubbard (798-7927) or Jane Jones (798-6919). Thank you.

[The Altar Guild](#) will meet in the sacristy at 9:00 am on Sunday February 17. We will discuss the duties of the team captains and the use and maintenance of the linens and the ceramic candles.

Needed: [extra volunteers for Nursery duty for the 9:00 and 11:00 Easter services!](#) Contact Danah Massey @ 550-7420 or masseycrew@comcast.net.

[The ECW of Central Hanover](#) will meet at Fork Church at 11:00 am on Monday February 4. Dr. Talbot will speak on Paul's journeys in Asia Minor. Bring a sandwich.

