



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

April 2008

FROM THE



RECTOR

I have a confession to make. My secret pleasure is murder mysteries—I read a couple each week. I don't usually expect to find theology in my mysteries (except

for the ones with religious characters). They are pure escapism.

But this week's mystery was different. Every Easter I struggle with how to put into words the difference the resurrection makes to us. And in this mystery, I found some of those words. It's a conversation between Peter and his wife Clara, who is grieving the murder of her friend, Jane: "Clara, I love you. And I know you. You have to figure out what you believe, what you truly believe. All the years you talked about God. You've written about your faith. You've done dancing angels, and yearning goddesses. Is God here now, Clara? Is he in this room?" Peter's kind voice calmed Clara. She began to listen. "Is he here?"... "Is Jane with him?" Peter pressed on. He knew where he had to go... "All those questions you and Jane debated about and laughed about and argued over, she has the answer to. She's met God."

Clara's mouth dropped open and she stared straight ahead. There. There is was. Her mainland. That's where she could put her

grief. Jane was dead. And she was now with God. Peter was right. She either believed in God, or didn't. Either was OK. But she could no longer say she believed in God and act otherwise. She did believe in God. And she believed Jane was with him. And suddenly her pain and grief became human and natural. And survivable. She had a place to put it, a place where Jane was with God.

Louise Penny, *Still Life* (St. Martins Minotaur), p. 77.

It reminds me of that vivid image from St. John Chrysostom's *Paschal Homily*, "Hell grasped a corpse and met God." That's what we believe – in death, we finally, gloriously, joyously, meet God. It doesn't remove the pain when those we love die. We still miss them terribly, desperately. But, as we are constantly reminded in the New Testament, we are not without hope.

Last week I attended the funeral of a friend, Frederic. There was, and will continue to be, sadness as we miss him. But the sadness of the funeral was punctuated with smiles and even laughter. Because we are not afraid, we are not without hope. We firmly believe that Frederic is not just a corpse. We celebrate his life with us, and know that he now has life with God.

- Raewynne

A WORD FROM THE WARDENS

Sunday, May 4 - Plan on joining the St. James parish family in honoring Carol and Dan Maybee for their many years of devoted service to St. James Church and to the community. They will be relocating to Florida, and we will gather after the 9:30 service to wish them well.

Help needed - A recycling program has been started in Mills Hall. By the door there is an orange container for plastic, glass, and aluminum. There is a green box for newspapers. These containers need to be emptied. Cardboard should be placed in the dumpster behind the office.

Coffee hour - We still need a volunteer to take charge of making sure that there are supplies available. Coffee hour provides us with the opportunity to get together, to share, to welcome new members. Please help.

Strawberry Festival - Mark the date: Saturday, June 21. Plan on getting involved!! Jam making, cleaning and pricing of donations, set-up, clean-up...new ideas for the Festival? Speak with Karen Douglass, who is chairperson of the Parish Life Committee.

Phone system - Due to a change in our system, there is not a working phone in Mills Hall. At the present time, if an emergency arises a cell phone will have to be used to call for assistance.

House sale - We have entered into a contract to sell the house at 493 North Country Road. The Vestry has determined that the profit from the sale will be invested to provide funds for the maintenance of our buildings and ground.

- Pat Westlake and Jeff Smith

APRIL IS FOOD PANTRY MONTH

April is St. James' turn to staff the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry. Parishioners are asked to volunteer at least one morning during the week to work at the pantry, assisting clients, packing bags of groceries, and stocking shelves, if needed. A calendar on which to sign up has been placed in Mills Hall. Please consider volunteering for at least one three-hour shift, if you are able to do so. Contact Claudette Plaschka at 543-4944 for further information.

The Pantry always needs donations of food. During the month of April we will have the shopping cart in the narthex, so you can drop any non-perishable food off as you come to church on Sundays. Items that are especially needed are juice, pork and beans, cereal, canned meat and fish, and tomato sauce. Donations can also be left in the hamper in the Christian Education building during the week. Volunteers are also needed to transport the food to the Pantry during the week. This can be done on your own schedule.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING COLLECTION

Jerilyn Glogg is spearheading a collection of clothing for children in foster care. As many of you know, Jerilyn has been active in caring for children in need for many years. She knows many families that need clothing for their children. If your child has outgrown his or her clothing, and you would like to donate it, there will be a box in the hallway of the Christian Education building for that purpose. Clothing is to be clean and in good condition, for children from infancy through twelve years of age. If you have any questions, you may contact Jerilyn at 499-6218.

THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED!

The Christian Formation and Education Committee would like to thank all who participated in the Lenten program, **Walking in the Wilderness**. We hope that the daily devotionals, Tuesday night prayers, and adult education study, *Hosanna*, have proven to be a faith building experience during the past season of Lent. For those who participated in the Friday "Fast for Lunch," if you have not already done so, please make your donations to St. James Episcopal Church with a memo "ER&D (Episcopal Relief and Development) for world hunger relief." Even if you did not participate in the fast, please consider making a donation as well. The committee will announce the amount collected on Sunday, April 13th.

- *Chris Mauro*

FESTIVAL OF FILMS AND FAITH

The Greater Port Jefferson-Northern Brookhaven Arts Council, Protestant Campus Ministry at SBU, and area religious institutions are again sponsoring the Festival of Films and Faith at Theater Three, 412 Main Street, Port Jefferson.

The first film, to be shown on April 10, is entitled "Snow Cake," and stars Alan Rickman and Sigourney Weaver. It involves a man haunted by a fatal accident, who is forced to confront his past when he meets the autistic mother of the teenage girl who died in the accident. Although she has sustained an unimaginable loss, she helps him to find his way back to a life once again filled with hope.

All films begin at 7 P.M. at the theater, and are followed by a discussion and reception. Free tickets are available in the narthex. Subsequent films in the series will be shown May 22 and May 29.

LUNCH BUNCH

The April meeting of the Lunch Bunch will be held on April 29 at the Good Steer, Route 25, Lake Grove, at the intersection of Hawkins Avenue. We meet at 12 Noon, and all are welcome. Call me at 863-1113 for information or to sign up.

- *Pat Kregler*

ST. JAMES' OUTREACH

Outreach at St. James Episcopal Church sometimes involves donating our money and sometimes involves donating our time, our concern and compassion, even our own blood.

Smithtown Food Pantry - Each person who visits the Food Pantry receives 3 days worth of food (9 meals) for himself and each family member living with him. April is St. James' month to serve the Food Pantry. Please sign up now in Mills Hall to help on weekdays between 9 A.M. - Noon. This is an important ministry!

Blood Drive - On Good Friday, parishioners and our neighbors donated 35 units (pints) of blood - 5 more than last year. Special thanks goes to Edna Rousseau, who coordinated the blood drive, to all those who helped Edna, and especially to all who gave this precious gift of life.

Outreach from the 2008 Budget - An Outreach meeting was held after church on March 30. About 10 parishioners attended. St. James' budget for 2008 allows \$4,000 (beyond our diocesan pledge) to be given in outreach this year. The group decided the money should be distributed as follows:

- *Protestant Campus Ministry at Stony Brook University\$1,500.00.
- *Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk County\$1,000.00.
- *Bread for the World\$750.00.
- *Little Portion Friary\$500.00.

This leaves \$250.00 to be allocated later, along with a percentage of our fundraisers like the Strawberry Festival/Yard Sale and the Harvest Festival.

Outreach beyond the Budget - Throughout the year parishioners at St. James generously contribute additional money to worthwhile causes. So far in 2008:

- *The YPF held a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 5 and raised \$133.00:
~ St. James' Church furnace fund received 90% or\$120.00
~ Episcopal Relief and Development will receive 10% or\$13.00
- *During February the Women of St. James raised funds for the American Cancer Society through the Cancer Society's Daffodil Drive\$440.00
- *During Lent parishioners gave up Friday lunches, and so far have donated \$635.00 which will be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development. It is not too late to add your Lenten donation to ERD.

Thanks to all who ate pancakes, bought daffodils, gave of their time and effort, and donated their Friday lunch money!

A new Outreach idea - Raewynne introduced the parishioners at the outreach

meeting to a new idea for helping to support a Millennium Village in Rwanda, Africa. The group expressed a lot of interest in this. When she has more details, we will hear more about this possibility. Meanwhile, look on a map of Africa and see if you can locate Rwanda!

All parishioners - You are always invited to attend outreach meetings to help decide where your money goes. Please keep your pledge up to date, so we don't have to delay writing checks to those who need our help.

- Sue Krall

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Alleluia

Wasn't it wonderful on Easter Day to see our children processing up the aisle waving "Alleluia" banners?! Our children are a precious and dearly loved part of our community here at St. James. But we need your help. We need more Sunday School teachers. We need people who can teach regularly, and people who can fill in in emergencies. We have a great curriculum, and it's easy to teach - we can even make use of your special interests and skills such as cooking, gardening, drama, telling stories, etc. Please consider if you could help out, whether it's one week, a month, or as a regular teacher, so that we can continue to be the wonderful and welcoming place that we are for our kids.

- Raewynne

HATHA YOGA FOR EVERYONE

I would be delighted to share my love and knowledge of yoga with anyone who is interested in changing their life forever. I have been a devoted student of this ancient practice since 1976. Let's get together at a time that is convenient for everyone and have some fun stretching, focusing our energy, and relaxing. It doesn't matter what your level of fitness is. **Everyone** is welcome and everyone will enjoy the practice. Yoga is gentle and meditative, but the results are **amazing**. You will feel rejuvenated and energized after the first class, so let's get started!

Step by step basics
Easy gentle movements
Breath control for relaxation
Postures for strength and flexibility
Guided relaxation and meditation
Integration of mind, body, and spirit
for optimum health and well-being

Wear loose or stretchy clothing in layers to adjust to body and room temperature. Bring a yoga mat (available at any store that sells sports or exercise equipment including Marshalls or Target), water, and your bare feet.

I am available to hold classes in Mills Hall on the following days during the following times. Please select one time and one alternate time. I'm very flexible and will gladly hold two classes a week if there is an interest.

Starting April 15th

Monday	4 P.M. - 5 P.M. 7 P.M. - 8 P.M.
Tuesday	5 P.M. - 6 P.M. 6 P.M. - 7 P.M.
Wednesday	3 P.M. - 4 P.M. 7 P.M. - 8 P.M.

Thursday 4 P.M. - 5 P.M.
7 P.M. - 8 P.M.

If you have any questions, please call me, or catch me on Sunday during coffee hour.

I will be posting a sign up sheet in Mills Hall during coffee hour, on which you can select your day and time preference.

YOGA CLASSES ARE TYPICALLY CO-ED, SO MEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN.

- *Mary Jane DeVito*
750-5414

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Have you ever wondered about assisting in our liturgy by serving the chalice, or about taking communion to our homebound members? These are jobs done by Eucharistic Ministers, and they are trained and licensed by the Diocese.

We will be hosting Eucharistic Minister training for the Diocese in May. May 3 is for those who want to assist in the liturgy; those who wish to do home communions are required to attend an additional day of training on May 10.

Please consider prayerfully if God might be calling you to one of these ministries, and talk with the Rector about it. You are welcome to sign up for the training, even if you're not quite sure yet. If you are interested but can't make these dates, please talk with the Rector; there are other dates coming up.

- *Raewynne*

ARE YOU AN EPISCOPALIAN?

Yes, St. James is an Episcopal Church, and we who worship here generally consider ourselves to be Episcopalians. But have you ever taken the step of formally becoming an Episcopalian? (Or are you a closet Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, or even Baptist?) Now is your great chance! There are a number of services scheduled in coming months where members of other denominations can be received or confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Please talk with the Rector if you are interested.

- Raewynne

REACHING OUT

Did you know that our church supports Habitat for Humanity, Bread for the World, The Protestant Campus Ministry at Stony Brook and Little Portion Friary? At our meeting last week, the Outreach Committee voted to continue our financial support for these ministries. But we also made a commitment to something new. For the next 5 years we have committed a minimum of \$500 per year (and the more we raise, the better!) To help build a Millennium Village in Africa. This will be a village built by churches, which will sustainably lift 5,000 people out of extreme poverty, and achieve all eight Millennium Development Goals. There are eighty Villages already up and running in Africa. This is exciting – we can make a real difference in our world!

- Raewynne

CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND EDUCATION

Spring Coffee Hour Discussions “Now What?” The Future Direction of Our Parish

During April, May, and June, the CF&E Committee will host three 40-minute coffee hour discussions to draw together the themes of our fall/winter book group discussion of Diana Butler-Bass' *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith*. As the primary focus of three coffee hours, we will continue to clarify how we already see God at work in our parish and how He is moving us corporately forward at this particular time.

Our first session on **Sunday, April 20, 10:50 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.**, will be geared toward “Discover” – what themes leapt out at us in the book? What is already working well in our parish? What is becoming a strength? How do these strengths fit within the characteristics of thriving churches, as defined in the book? What doesn't fit within these categories? (*Special note to “8 A.M.ers” unable to make the 10:50 discussion on the 20th: we will meet between services on April 27th to review the results of the 20th.*)

Watch the Sunday bulleting for confirmation of the discussion dates for May and June. To continue your own reflection, copies of the Discussion Summaries from the fall and winter are available in the narthex.

- Kathy Sides

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

At Easter, we think of resurrection ... but in order to get to resurrected life with God, first we have to die. It is important to many of us that our funerals reflect the faith that has sustained our lives. We now have available a funeral planning booklet that you can fill in; we can keep a copy on file here at the church, and you can give a copy to your family members, attorney, or whoever else you think might need it. They are available from the church office at \$5 each.

- *Raewynne*

CAMP DEWOLFE

Camp DeWolfe, at the Diocesan Retreat and Conference Center in Wading River, will open for the season on July 6. The theme for 2008, "Caring for Creation," celebrates ecology and stewardship in many activities, Bible study, and worship. Campers will explore what it means to live in loving relationship with God, each other, and creation, with an emphasis on how to care for creation.

The camp has day and overnight sessions for children aged 7 to 17, with separate programs for those 14-17. Scholarships are available, and requests must be made by May 1. Forms are available in the office, or you may find more information on their website: www.campdewolfe.org or call 929-4325.

SUMMER VEGETABLES

Do you look forward to fresh seasonable organic vegetables? Join with the Rector in supporting local Long Island agriculture. The pickup is every second week from mid-June through mid-November in Bayport (we can share pickup duties!). You can subscribe for any or all of the shares below:

Vegetables: Organic, includes heirloom tomatoes, mesclun salad mix, zucchini, baby corn, summer squash, cucumbers, lettuces, beets, carrots, plus pumpkins, gourds and winter squash. \$255

Fruit: Starts out in June with strawberries, then cherries, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, peaches, apricots, plums, and pears in July and August, and mainly pears and apples September through November. Fruits are very fresh and flavorful, not organic, but grown on a neighbor's farm using lots of compost and low-spray technique. \$135

Flowers: A gorgeous weekly bouquet of fresh-picked flowers, grown organically, different every week. Includes zinnias, snapdragons, sunflowers, gladiolus, black-eyed Susan, and much more. \$85

Eggs: Receive a half dozen farm-fresh eggs every pickup from pastured, free-range hens, fed no hormones or antibiotics. \$35

All of the above: \$495

Please send your name, which type(s) of share you want, and your check (made out to Garden of Eve) to the church office by the end of April.

- *Raewynne*

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GALA DINNER**

Grace Episcopal Church, Whitestone, where Father Blair Hatt is currently serving as Rector, is ending its year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the church with a gala dinner on Sunday, October 12, from Noon until 4:30 at a Whitestone catering hall. If anyone is interested in attending this dinner, please contact Donna Austin (499-6050) before the end of April for more information. The cost of the dinner is \$75.00 per adult, and \$20.00 per child.

- Donna Austin

APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 C.F. & E Committee 7:30 P.M.
- Recovery Group 7:30 P.M.
- 3 Bible study 10 A.M.
- Choir rehearsal 8 P.M.
- 4 - 6 Vestry retreat
- 8 Recovery Group 7:30 P.M.
- 10 Bible study 10 A.M.
- Choir rehearsal 8 P.M.
- 14 Finance Committee 7:30 P.M.
- 15 Recovery Group 7:30 P.M.
- 17 Bible study 10 A.M.
- Choir rehearsal 8 P.M.
- 20 C.F. & E. Spring coffee hour discussion 10:50 A.M.
- 22 Recovery Group 7:30 P.M.
- 24 Bible study 10 A.M.
- Choir rehearsal 8 P.M.
- 29 Recovery Group 7:30 P.M.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Hank Hull
Sarah Arthur
Amanda Mercep
Kenneth Grigoletto
Fjeril Deal
Heidi Glogg
John Matheson
Bryan Petschauer
Lindsey Noack
Mike Ledgerwood
Rhi Ledgerwood
Chris Noack
Thomas LaMano
Richard Tracy
Arlyne Gureck
Will Ledgerwood
Joseph LaMano
Mike Neyssen

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Dan & Carol Maybee
Christine & Scott Eckert
Hank & Eileen Hull

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

COFFEE ORDER FORM

We've switched to fair trade, shade grown organic coffee for coffee hour. And even better, you can now buy your coffee through the church – you pay less than retail price, help underwrite the cost of our coffee hour, and help support small farmers overseas. We plan to order approximately monthly, but it helps if we know in advance how much to order. Please fill in the form below and return it with your check (made out to St. James Episcopal Church) to the church office; if you want to have a standing order, just give us a check for the first month.

Coffee varieties are:

Morning Blend: Mexican Altura is combined with Guatemalan to create this medium bodied brew with good acidity and a nicely balanced flavor.

Pacific Blend: Full-city roasted Guatemalan and Sumatra Mandheling are combined with a touch of French roasted Mexican to create a uniquely individual blend. Intense and rich with a pleasing acidity and a full, well-balanced flavor.

Santa Cruz Blend: A passionate courtship of full-city roasted Sumatra Mandheling and French roasted Mexican Altura. Heavy bodied, rich and exceptionally smooth, with an intense flavor and deep aroma.

- Raewynne

Name:
Phone:
Email:

Quantity	Type	Cost per lb.	Total cost
_____	Morning Blend Regular	\$10	_____
_____	Pacific Blend Regular	\$10	_____
_____	Decaf	\$10	_____
_____	Santa Cruz Blend (if we have enough orders) Regular	\$11	_____
_____	Decaf	\$11	_____
	Total (enclosed)		_____

Make this a regular monthly order: Yes/No