



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

January 2009

FROM THE



A week in the life of...

Every so often, people ask me what a priest actually does. So a couple of weeks ago, I thought I'd log what I do. I seemed like a "normal" week in

the beginning, but things soon changed (as they often do)...

Two Sunday Eucharists

Prepare for Sunday services and education - print sermon, deliver various items around buildings, buy newspaper, make coffee, check in with Altar Guild, LEMS, greeters, acolytes, find reader for advent wreath prayer, choir.

Deal with usual Sunday morning crises - heat in SS wing, teacher for Sunday School class, reprint copies of Prayers of the People

Greet visitors

Check buildings locked

Schedule pastoral appointment

Follow up visitors

Prepare for meetings and baptism preparation

Baptism preparation

Pick A Star visiting

Prepare for funeral

Funeral service in church followed by burial in cemetery

Pastoral care of funeral family

Meetings with Wardens, Vestry, Christian formation committee at Rectory, music director

Clergy meeting

Home communion

Update website

Prepare "This week at St James"

Computer crash

Get computer repaired

Reinstall software, so that I can write sermon and update website

Write sermon (usually about 8 hours)

Deliver two misaddressed pieces of mail

Prepare Christmas bulletin

Answer office phone (8 times)

Unlock education wing for rental

Check church phone for messages (3 times)

Pastoral phone calls (10)

Buy supplies for Christmas Eve service

Prepare music CD for 8am Carols and Lessons

Respond to emails

Deal with parish related mail

Clear office desk

Respond to pastoral call, give last rites, keep overnight vigil with family, be present at death, offer prayers at the time of death, begin funeral planning

Pray

Thankfully not all weeks have so many crises, though most have at least one! When things are quieter, I do more home visiting and sometimes some reading. And I try to be in the church office on Monday and Tuesday mornings from 10am to 1pm, unless there are funerals or meetings at those times.

Meanwhile, I will be on vacation from January 5-19. I look forward to seeing you when I return.

Blessings
Raewynne

A WORD FROM THE WARDENS

On average, a monthly Vestry meeting lasts 2½ to 3 hours. We open with prayers for our church and all our members. We then have a short study session led by Raewynne before entering into the business session.

Written or oral reports are given by the chair of each committee: Buildings & Grounds, Cemetery, Christian Education, Outreach, Parish Life, Public Relations, Stewardship, Nominating, and Finance. There are also reports from the Rector, Wardens, and Treasurer.

Being aware of the news every day, we are sure that it will come as no surprise to members of this parish that a great deal of time at the December Vestry meeting was devoted to the 2009 budget. We do not have a budget that has much “fat,” yet the Finance Committee included cuts in many areas. We

have cut back on our cleaning service, decreased the size of our garbage container (yes, that will save over \$600 a year), discontinued the monthly exterminator and the bottled water delivery. We have reduced amount of printing, paper, and stamps by sending *Open Doors* out on email. We have removed \$2000 from the Outreach budget, canceled subscriptions, and are setting the thermostats a little lower (we also changed oil companies to get a lower price per gallon. These are in addition to cuts already in place: no upgrading or maintenance of computers, Rector paying 80% of clergy conference expenses, cuts to music budget, use of office supplies, rectory thermostat lowered 3 degrees, no purchase of web site software (Rector has to do it on personal computer). There is more work to be done, as the draft budget still has a deficit.

As we end our meetings we always go back to prayer. It brings us back to why we volunteer our time – why we spend hours on the business of the church – it is because we care, because we believe that we are a strong and faithful parish that is committed to moving forward, remaining active, and serving the spiritual needs of our parish family.

- Pat & Jeff

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 1, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. There will be ONE service only, at 9 a.m. The Vestry will provide the coffee hour/light lunch.

We encourage all members to attend (children are very welcome), as this meeting is very important. We are planning to provide child care. It is our time to gather as a committee of the whole. It is a time to reflect on the life of the parish. It is also a time to celebrate our fellowship.

The Annual Meeting will include reports about the various ministries of the parish, and the 2009 budget will be presented. There will also be time set aside to discuss the new times for church and religious education. **Those responsible for submitting reports for the meeting must do so by January 23rd.**

At this meeting, the Nominating Committee, chaired by George Krall, will present candidates for the following positions:

- * One (1) Warden for a two-year term (the expiration of Pat Westlake's second term).
- * Three (3) Vestry persons, each for a three-year term (expiration of the second terms of Edna Rousseau and George Krall; Charlie Kreussling's completion of an unexpired term).

Nominations may also be made from the floor. The requirements for these positions are as follows. Candidates must be:

- * Baptized
- * At least 18 years of age
- * Regular attendees at worship and contributors to the mission of

the parish for one year before the Annual Meeting.

- * For the position of Warden: Confirmed, or Received into the Episcopal Church.

- Pat Westlake

CHURCH CALENDAR

In the coming weeks we will be putting together the activities calendar for 2009. Having a master calendar will enable us to avoid conflicts (such as ten activities on one day!). Please call or email the office with dates for committee meetings, food pantry, YPF, Sunday school events, fund raisers, and dinners.

MORNING PRAYER

At the last vestry meeting, as part of the budget discussions, it was decided that on some occasions when the Rector is on vacation, we would have Morning Prayer (saving the cost of a supply priest).

Morning Prayer is a beautiful and ancient liturgy of the Christian faith. Also known as Matins, Morning Prayer is one of the services of the Daily Office, comprising prayer liturgies for set times of day. In contemporary Episcopal practice, the Daily Office includes Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline.

The setting apart of certain times of the day for prayer was a spiritual discipline of biblical Judaism. In Psalm 119, for example, the psalmist sings to God, "Seven times a day do I praise you, because of your righteous judgments." In the Book of Acts, the apostles

Peter and John visit the Jerusalem Temple for afternoon prayers (Acts 3:1). Through the apostles and other early Jewish followers of the Way of Christ, the spiritual practice entered into Christian piety, later spreading especially through the development of monasticism in both the Eastern and Western churches. In 525, St. Benedict of Nursia wrote the first known manual in the Roman Church for praying the Hours. In the seventh century, the practice became part of a new religion, Islam, the third of the great Abrahamic faiths. As-salat, or prayer at five set times each day, is one of the pillars of Islam, compulsory for all Muslims.

Because Morning Prayer was the principle Sunday service in many Episcopal parishes before the late twentieth century, you may recognize the canticles (songs) and collects (prayers) that have been repeated by faithful Christians for centuries. You may also delight in praying Morning Prayer again on a Sunday morning. Although Saint James will remain a faith community whose Eucharistic worship is at the heart of our life together, the good news is you can still pray Morning Prayer. Anyone can pray the Daily Office, at home, in a park, either alone, or with a prayer partner, or in a small group. Perhaps this morning's worship will inspire you to do so, if you are not already.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Gospel of Mark Study for Winter 2009

Coordinating with the Sunday lectionary readings for 2009, the Christian Formation & Education Committee will focus on the Gospel of Mark during the months of January and February. To gain a sense of the flow of the gospel, we will begin by listening to a two-week oral reading by Mary Jane DeVito of the entire gospel on January 4 and 11. For the next six weeks (until the beginning of Lent), we will study portions of Mark (corresponding to each week's lectionary) using the LifeGuide study series. Join us in the Webster Room from 9:00 to 9:45 each Sunday.

In December, it was great to have the Senior High youth join the Adult Ed Advent study! And the intergenerational events on November 30 and December 28 drew tots to senior citizens. To all who participated, thank you; these events enrich our parish community.

- Kathy Sides

SNOW!!

Please remember that last year the Vestry made a policy that if a "Snow Emergency" is declared by Suffolk County, all church activities, including services, will be canceled. If it is snowing, but no emergency has been declared, non-essential activities will often be canceled, and the office may be closed, or open for shorter hours. A message will be left on the answering machine.

SNOW LOTTERY

During the winter months we need your help. We have a service that will plow the driveways and clear the walks, however, we need a parishioner (or two) at church prior to the 8 a.m. service to make sure that everything is cleared, and that ice melt and/or sand has been put down. The "lottery" is that you sign up for a Sunday. No snow = no work. If it snows, you win! Please contact Jeff Smith (862-6972) if you want to take a chance on the lottery.

LUNCH BUNCH

On Tuesday, January 27, the Lunch Bunch will meet at Noon at Hotoke Hibachi Steak House, 41 Route 111, Smithtown, in the Uncle Giuseppe's shopping center. All are welcome to attend. Contact Fjeril Deal (724-3720) to sign up.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

On Tuesday, December 23 we came together to celebrate the life of Marc DeSimone, who passed away on December 20. Please be sure to keep Deidre, and their children, James, Allie, Paul, and Melanie in your prayers in the coming weeks and months.

We also send out our prayers and condolences to Les and Joan Bengtson. Les' sister, Helen Vorpahl, passed away December 23rd.

As we were going to press we learned that Josephine Miley, mother of Jerilyn Glogg, passed away the morning of December 29.

Her funeral service will be held at the Commack Abbey Funeral home on December 31, with burial to follow in St. James cemetery.

On a happier note, we will be celebrating the Baptism of Matthew Thomas Donohue on Sunday, January 4 during the 10 a.m. service. Matthew, who is the son of Tom and Theresa Donohue, brother of George, and grandson of John and Florence Donohue, was born on January 16, 2008. We welcome Matthew into the St. James parish family.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 **New Year's Day** - office closed
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m. - Mills Hall
- 4 Donohue Baptism - 10 a.m.
Epiphany Brunch 11:15 a.m.
- 5 Buildings and Grounds 7 p.m.
- 6 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Bible study 10 a.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 12 Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Bible study 10 a.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 20 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Bible study 10 a.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 27 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Bible study 10 a.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jerilyn Glogg
Donald Scott
Felicia Van Praagh
Polly Neyssen
Rebekah Sides
Marge Cobb
Bill Bataller
Brian Noack
Samantha Celano
Matt Petschauer
Claude Deal
Melanie Cozzolino

“When the song of the angels is still, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost; to heal the broken; to feed the hungry; to release the prisoner; to rebuild the nations; to bring peace ... to make music in the heart.”

- Howard Thurman
The Mood of Christmas

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Ian & Felicia Van Praagh