



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

June 2008

FROM THE



Raewynne is writing this from Australia.

In between spending time with family and spotting kangaroos and sheep, I was interested to read the

following in the diocesan newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle. These were some of the answers given by people in the street when they were interviewed for a video to be shown at the recent conference of Australian Anglican Bishops. I wonder what people in St. James would say?

What is a Bishop?

"He is someone high up in the church who has authority over the levels below him, right down to the laity."

"Isn't it a chess piece?"

"Almost like the middle management, I guess. I think there are different church structures."

"The dude that stands up the front wearing a white thing."

What do Bishops wear?

"Robes and big funny hats."

"A crown maybe, I don't know."

What do Bishops do?

"They probably do a lot of administration and hopefully pray a lot."

"Tell the people what they want to hear."

"I don't know if they're the ones who give the service or not."

When was the last time you went to church?

"When my niece got christened and the priest came and had a beer with us afterwards, which was good."

"I had to go to a christening once when I was 15, but it was pretty boring for me."

"A lot of people would go if they didn't have to, if you know what I mean. The symbolism of the church scares a lot of people."

"I used to go to Sunday school and stuff but the last time I went was about a month ago at a christening."

"I go on Sunday mornings and nights. I'm a regular churchgoer."

"The last time I went was in Florence in 1997. I don't know why I don't go. I regard myself as spiritual but I don't believe in the structure of the church. I find it a bit hypocritical but I do believe in the basic tenets."

"I'm quite spiritual but I don't believe in the Christian god per se."

What would you say to the church?

"I could tell the Vatican - share the wealth - I mean, dear oh dear. They do good things but there's a lot of money that could be used in other places."

"Probably that they need to rise up and meet a new generation. There's a lost world out there and they need God and the church needs to

become contemporary with them.”
“We appreciate them and think they’re doing a good job. There have been a lot of challenges for the church but the heart and soul of their message is right and they should keep doing a good job. Do what God tells them and be guided by Him just like we are.”

From The Anglican Encounter, May 2008.

- Raewynne

A WORD FROM THE WARDENS

We have been asked to include in Open Doors information from the monthly Vestry meetings. A copy of each month’s Vestry minutes is included in the binder outside the office.

At the May 12 Vestry meeting the following items were discussed:

- * Saturday Summer Services - there will be two services: July 12 and August 9. Following the services there will be a barbeque, pot luck supper, movies, or other activities.
- * New Parish Pictorial Directory - there will be a sign-up sheet to see who is interested.
- * New Website - Raewynne and Debbie LaMano have been creating a new site and we viewed what has been done to date.
- * Smithtown Nursery School - a contract has been agreed to for the 2008-2009 school year.
- * Classroom rental - A teacher from the Smithtown School District is starting a tutoring service for the summer. We have agreed to rent him a classroom for the months of July and August.

- * St. James Day - the Vestry has again decided to have a booth. The fair is to be on Sunday, September 28.
- * Sale of 493 North Country Road - some difficulties were unearthed during a title search. Ron Davies is working on the problem, but the sale will not be completed as early as planned.

During the Vestry meeting the Chair of each committee (Finance, Building and Grounds, Cemetery, Stewardship, Outreach, Christian Education, Public Relations, Parish Life) make a report. We have asked the Chairs to include an update in each issue of Open Doors in the future.

Have you noticed the flowers on the altar the past two weeks? They have been from our gardens. We have “regulars” who tend to the cutting garden and the Biblical Garden (and they are always eager to have new hands ready to join them). We do need volunteers to “Adopt a Garden” for the spring and summer. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the back of the church. You and your family or a group of friends can do a great service by taking care of an area. It can be done on your own schedule - morning, afternoon, evening. How about bringing the kids to the 8 A.M. service and spending some time afterwards tending to a garden?

- Pat and Jeff

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AND YARD SALE ON JUNE 21ST

St. James' annual Strawberry Festival and Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 21. This year, some changes have been made to widen the appeal of our Festival with the addition of different tables. There are many ways in which you can become involved in this important community-building fund-raising event. Take some time to read about the different areas of opportunity to see where your talents might be utilized.

Baked goods - homemade goodies are needed for sale. If you like to bake, we need cookies, bars, muffins, brownies and simple cakes to sell to hungry fair goers. Contact Karen Douglass at 928-6633, or kdouglass@optonline.net and let her know what you will make, or if you can contribute a couple of hours to work the table the day of the Festival.

Craft table - contact Pat Kregler at 863-1113 or patkreg@verizon.net or Linda Misa at 862-6421 or sassi0927@aol.com if you can help out the day of the Festival.

Grandma's Attic/Grandpa's Attic - donate clean and saleable dishware, glassware, linens, decorative items, lamps, small appliances, sports equipment and furniture between June 2 and June 19. Come to the pricing sessions which are listed on the monthly calendar at the back of this issue. Volunteer to help out on the day of the Festival by contacting Debbie LaMano at 584-3545 or lamanoscorner@optonline.net or Donna Austin at 499-6050 or grandmamoxie@juno.com for Grandma's Attic, or Chris Mauro at 689-1419 or chris.mauro@cmsheattransfer.com.

Jam making - come to the jam making sessions in the Mills Hall kitchen on any of the scheduled days (see the calendar). Call Nancy Rasmussen at 724-2083 or nancyras@optonline.net. Donations of 8 oz. and 12 oz. jars, lids, and large bags of sugar are also appreciated.

Plant table - gardeners one and all, we need your extra plants. If you have cuttings, are dividing, or have too many plants, please donate them. We are accepting indoor plants, as well. Contact Peter Plaschka at 543-4944 or pplaschka@hotmail.com if you have plants, or can help him at the table the day of the Festival.

Strawberry treats - this year we will be selling fresh strawberries along with the strawberries and ice cream. Contact Edna Rousseau at 584-7853 or edna.rousseau@chsli.org or Pat Pawelko at 979-7380 or PJPIICOR517@aol.com if you can help out at this table.

Set up and Take down - help is needed early in the morning and late in the afternoon to set up for the Festival and clean up afterwards. Contact Jeff Smith at 862-6972 or jandksmith@optonline.net, if you can be of assistance here.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BRUNCH

June 8 is the date for our last day of Sunday school, which will be celebrated by a brunch in Mills Hall following the 9:30 A.M. service. Thanks are in order to Karen Noack, director, and all the dedicated teachers who gave of their time during the past year to work with our children on Sunday mornings.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS

On Sunday, June 8, our parish will again participate in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters; as it has done since 1987. As a Covenant Church in Bread for the World we have sent over 3,000 letters to Congress advocating for the poverty stricken and hungry in our own country and throughout the world.

Last year our focus was on the reform of the US Farm Bill; urging our representatives to redirect subsidies from large affluent and corporate farmers to smaller rural farmers who really need help, and to families struggling to put food on the table. Farm Bill reform is still in negotiations. Our letters, along with thousands of others, with the tenacity of Bread for the World's congressional negotiators, have forced protracted negotiations and we can expect a better farm bill and more funding for food stamps so that fewer people will run out of food toward the end of the month.

The 2008 Offering of Letters is concentrating on more poverty-focused development assistance. Thanks to Bread for the World and other, Congress has increased spending in this area by one billion dollars per year. However, to keep up with our Millennium Development Goals that we committed to in 2000, i.e., to cut world hunger in half by 2015, the U.S. should be increasing its poverty focused assistance by five billion dollars per year.

On June 8th, please join in this Offering of Letters during the 8:00 and 9:30 A.M. services. We can all make a difference; our children included. We plan this on the last day of Sunday school because the brunch is a

happy event; a time when we can put our Millennium Development Goal prayer into tangible action.

"The world now has the means to end extreme poverty; we pray we will have the will."

*- Ron Tebbutt
Bread for the World Representative*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION & EDUCATION

Final Spring Coffee Hour Discussion ~ "Now What? The Future Direction of our Parish

On May 18, the CF&E Committee hosted the second of three 40-minute coffee hour discussions to draw together the themes of our fall/winter book group discussion of Diana Butler-Bass's *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith*. Building on the strengths and themes identified in our first session, we spent the time "dreaming" about things that we would like to see incorporated into our parish life.

In our final session on **Sunday, June 1, 10:50 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**, we will explore how to turn dreams into reality around the major themes that surfaced from our May session. (*Special note to "8 a.m.ers" unable to make the 10:50 discussion on the 1st: We will meet between services on June 8 to review the results of the 1st.)*)

The focus on our session on June 1 is forward-looking. Most importantly, our ongoing core question will be, "What is God calling us to do?" and flowing from that, "Why is this important?" and "What can I do in this regard?" In other words, we are not trying to recreate

something we once had, but to follow God's lead for our parish today and to identify how God is calling each of us to be involved.

Following our discussion on June 1, the Christian Formation & Education Committee will pull things together and submit all the information to the Vestry.

Questions? Please contact Chris Mauro, Les Bengston, Jack Schultheis, or Kathy Sides.

- *Kathy Sides*

CHOIR NOTES

Choir members please note: Our last rehearsal was Thursday, May 22, but we will continue to sing as a choir through Sunday, June 8th.

Our first choir rehearsal in the fall will be Thursday, September 4th at 8 P.M., and we will sing together once again beginning Sunday, September 7th.

A special "thank you" to the members of both choirs who faithfully came out in all kinds of weather to sing all year long! Have a great summer.

- *Dara Linthwaite*

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!

Give our coffee hour volunteers a vacation for August. Volunteer to prepare and serve refreshments one Sunday in August. Our regulars will be appreciative. Contact Pat Kregler at 863-1113 to volunteer, or if you have any questions.

- *Pat Kregler*

LUNCH BUNCH JUNE MEETING

The June meeting of the Lunch Bunch will be held at Sun Dried Tomato Café, 127-3 Smithtown Blvd. Nesconset, on Tuesday, June 24 at 12 Noon. All are welcome. Call 724-3720 to reserve your space.

- *Fjeril Deal*

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

In addition to Jade Plaschka and Dana Wachter, who were profiled in last month's *Open Doors*, we are happy to note the following members of our parish who are graduating from high school this month:

Ashley Citron - will be attending Florida International University in Miami in the fall, where she will study International Business. She was awarded the Dean's scholarship for academic excellence, and will also continue her swimming career in college.

Rebecca Linthwaite - has chosen to attend Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston where she plans on majoring in Animation. She has received a four year "Presidential Merit Scholarship" based on her high school academic record and the art portfolio she submitted. Becky looks forward to (quietly) rooting for the Yankees at Fenway Park!

Chris Noack - has been accepted at Suffolk Community College, where he will specialize in Automotive Technology. Chris has always had a natural ability and interest regarding the "mechanics" of things, beginning with toys, transformers, to bicycles, dirt bikes and now cars. His parents, Karen and Donald, are proud of Chris for having such direction so

early in his life. He has a job at a local shop every day after school, and all day Saturday. His parents strongly support the fact that the career he is pursuing is interesting, and engages him, his ability and skills.

Matt Petschauer - Matt will also be attending Suffolk Community College in the fall. He intends to major in Liberal Arts.

We also have one college graduate this year:

Elizabeth Schultheis graduated magna cum laude from Colgate University on May 18. She will be home only a few days before she begins studying at Michigan State University right after Memorial Day. She has received a fellowship and will be pursuing her PhD in botany and environmental biology.

We have a fine group of young people, and their parents can be very proud of them all. We wish them much happiness and fulfillment as they transition to the next period in their life journey.

Marty and Bob Scott welcomed another grandchild into their family. Evi Adriana Baak was born on May 1 to their daughter, Laura, and her husband Martijn Baak, who reside in Holland. She was welcomed home by her siblings, Flo, Faye, and Jesse. Evi was baptized on May 25th at her family's church. Congratulations to the happy family!



JUNE CALENDAR

- 1 C.F.& E. Parish meeting
10:50 A.M.
- 2 Buildings & Grounds
Committee 7:30 P.M.
- 3 Yoga class 5 P.M.
Recovery Group 7:30 P.M.
- 5 Bible study 10 A.M.
Jam session 4:30 P.M.
Yoga 7 P.M.
- 8 Sunday School Brunch
- 9 Finance Committee 7:30 P.M.
- 10 Yoga 5 P.M.
Recovery Group 7:30 P.M.
- 11 Grandma's Attic pricing 6:30 -
8 P.M.
- 12 Bible study 10 A.M.
Grandma's Attic pricing
3 P.M.
Jam session 4:30 P.M.
Yoga 7 P.M.
- 15 **Father's Day**
- 16 Grandma's Attic pricing 6:30 -
8 P.M.
Vestry meeting 7:30 P.M.
- 17 Grandma's Attic pricing
3 P.M.
Yoga 5 P.M.
Recovery Group 7:30 P.M.
- 18 Grandma's Attic pricing
6:30 - 8 P.M.
Stewardship Committee
7:30 P.M.
- 19 Bible study 10 A.M.
Jam session 4:30 P.M.
Yoga 7 P.M.
- 20 Grandma's Attic pricing
6:30 - 8 P.M.
- 21 **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.
- 24 Yoga 5 P.M.
Recovery Group 7:30 P.M.
- 26 Bible study 10 A.M.
Yoga 7 P.M.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Anna Femino
 Stephanie Coleman
 Dara Linthwaite
 Jake Pryor
 Eric Mercep
 James Quinn
 Lindsay Petschauer
 Alex Rich
 Emma Hahn
 Dennis Guinaw
 Jamie DeFilippis
 Susan Knapp
 Peter Plaschka
 Lauren Tarantino
 Peter Bedrosian
 Ruth LeCluse
 Claudette Plaschka
 Catie Douglass
 James Cerrito
 Bill Bowden

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Harry & Betty Toop
 Ken & Linda Misa
 Kurt & Diane Rettig
 Ron & June Davies (50th)
 Paulette & Walter Schiff
 Charlie & Marge Kreussling
 Ken & Ruth LeCluse (50th)
 Art & Arlyne Gureck
 Ron & Ann Tebbutt
 Tony & Susan Knapp

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

We plan to place an order again in mid June. Descriptions of the coffee offered were in the April newsletter. Please give your orders and payments to Raewynne, or mail them to the church office.

Name:
 Phone:
 Email:

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

Make this a regular monthly order: Yes/No.

