



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

May 2009

FROM THE



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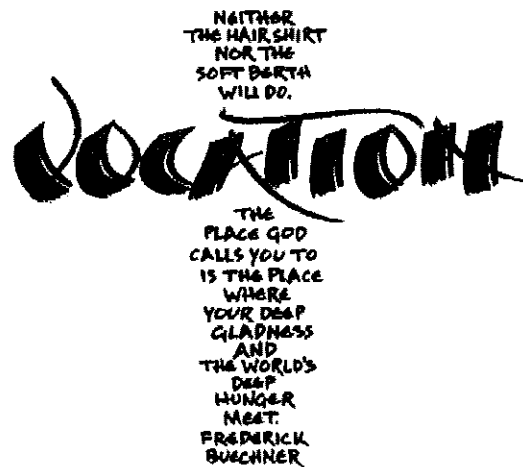
Recently a couple of my friends have been exploring whether they are called to be priests. We tend to use a shorthand for this: do they have a “vocation.” But that’s not entirely accurate. Vocation is something that applies to all of us – each and every one of us.

The word vocation comes from the Latin *vocare*, which means “to call.” As Christians, we all have a vocation. We are called to be followers of Christ. When Jesus was alive, some of his followers were called to a special ministry of being apostles. But the vast majority of people who met him and became followers went back to their regular lives—as fishermen or farmers or tax collectors or housewives. Remember the woman at the well? After talking with Jesus, she went back to her town and shared the good news. That is what all of us are called to do—to share the good news of God in Christ in our everyday lives (and some may be called to share the good news in the particular calling of ordained ministry). So how is God calling you to share the good news of Jesus Christ?

Rector away: The Rector will be away from the parish from May 5 - 27. She is taking two weeks’ vacation to visit family (including her godson) in England, and a

week of continuing education leave to go on a retreat in northern England. While she is away, please contact the office for pastoral needs.

Are you an Episcopalian? If you grew up in another Christian tradition, you might have been attending for years, or be a recent arrival, but never got around to formally becoming an Episcopalian. When the bishop visits, there will be the opportunity for parishioners to be formally received into the Episcopal Church. Please talk with the Rector (or while she is on vacation, let Laurie know) if you are interested. We will be having some preparation classes starting in June.



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A WORD FROM THE WARDENS

As we have reported in the past the Vestry now begins each meeting with a short study. We have been reading Philippians and how wonderful it was to read and discuss this passage prior to our business meeting:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

We certainly were blessed with fabulous weather for our Parish Work Day. A big Thank-You to all who helped. During the coming months the gardens will need to be maintained on a regular basis. Please think about "Adopting A Garden." The work can be done on your schedule - even a few minutes after church will keep them looking sharp.

Congratulations to Donna Austin who was appointed delegate to the Diocesan Convention and Kathy Sides who was appointed alternate. We appreciate their dedication and their commitment to reporting back to the parish members. It is our hope that two youth members will attend the convention next November.

Mark Saturday, June 13 on your calendar. Last year we had our most successful Strawberry Festival and Yard Sale. Maybe this year we can do even better!! Please plan on being here to help - early in the morning to set up - during the day - or at the end to clean-up (we can really use "fresh help" as people who have been at the fair all day are really tired!!!).

And don't forget.....many people are already working hard to prepare for the festival. Think about joining in.....a lot of work but a lot of fun and fellowship!

- Pat and Jeff

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL SET FOR JUNE 13TH

Preparations are underway for our annual Strawberry Festival, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 13th. Jeff Smith (862-6972) has again agreed to chair the event. This year's Festival will feature the following:

Strawberry Treats & Strawberries for Sale - to be chaired by Pat Pawelko and Edna Rousseau. They will need help hulling and slicing berries on Friday, June 12. They will also need volunteers to assist at the booth on Saturday. Contact Pat at 327-5863 or email her at pjp2cor517@optimum.net or call Edna at 584-7853 to offer your help.

Yard sale - each year we collect new and gently used items to be sold. **All items must be clean and in good condition.** We will start collecting smaller items (dishes, linens, gifts, toys, etc. beginning May 17th. They may be placed in the lobby of the Christian Education building. Larger items such as furniture can be brought to the lobby as of May 31st. We will need help in sorting and pricing the items. Watch the Sunday bulletin for information on pricing sessions. Debbie LaMano (584-3545) and Linda Misa (862-6421) will be heading up **Grandma's Attic**. Sales of electronic and sports equipment, tools, etc. for **Grandpa's Attic** will be overseen by Kurt Rettig (732-5875).

Bake table - Our baked goods table is always a success, and costs the church nothing to run. Please donate home baked cookies, breads, muffins, bars, and simple cakes for sale. They can be brought to the church early on the day of the sale. This table will be chaired by Karen Douglass (928-6633).

Plant sale - Spring is for planting! If you are dividing perennials, or have other plants you no longer want, please donate them. Plants can be brought to the church early on the day of the sale.

Jam table - Several jam making sessions have already taken place. We plan on making more jam on the following Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. in the Mills Hall kitchen, and invite you to join in: May 6, 13, 20, & 27; June 3 & 10. If you can't make jam, but would like to make a donation, we can use large bags of sugar, or cases of 8 oz. and 12 oz. canning jars. Call Nancy Rasmussen at 724-2083 for further information.

Hot dogs & burgers - Once again, our food will be ably prepared by Art Gureck, Ernie Harders, and Jeff Smith.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Regularly scheduled Sunday School classes will not be held on Mother's Day, May 10th. Instead, the children are invited to help with an inter-generational coffee hour event.

On Sunday, May 24th, Memorial Day weekend, the Sunday School classes will gather for a video.

The last day of Sunday School is June 7th. Further information as to the day's activities will be posted in the Sunday bulletin and June *Open Doors*.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION & EDUCATION

Following up on a question that emerged during the Lenten Series study of The Lord's Prayer, the CF&E Committee is sponsoring an evening discussion on the topic of "Heaven" on Wednesday, June 3, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

If you would like to propose a question regarding the Christian faith for discussion at a future CF&E event, please drop a note in the "Messages to the Rector" basket in the narthex.

And, if you are interested in joining an evening small group Bible study over the summer, please contact a member of the CF&E Committee: Les Bengtson, Stephanie Coleman, Christ Mauro, Jack Schultheis or Kathy Sides.

- Kathy Sides

BUSH FIRE RELIEF

St. James parishioners donated \$440 to send, along with a wonderful card, to St. Peter's Anglican Church, Kingslake, Victoria, Australia to aid in the rebuilding of the church which was totally destroyed in the recent bush fires.

MAY LUNCH BUNCH MEETING

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, May 26, 12 p.m., at the Port Jefferson Lobster House, 1 North Country Road, Port Jefferson. Contact Fjeril Deal (724-3720) to make your reservation. All are welcome.

OUTREACH

Outreach from the 2009 Budget:

* An outreach meeting was held on 4/6/09 to decide how to allocate the \$2,000 budgeted for outreach. We hope St. James parishioners will feel a connection to these ministries that goes beyond money:

* **Protestant Campus Ministry** has been sent \$1,500. They have a small base of supporters. PCM's Chaplain Jeannine will be at St. James to preach at the end of May. PCM's treasurer has sent a thank you to Raewynne and the parish for this contribution.

* **Habitat for Humanity** will be sent \$250. If you haven't given yet to Habitat for the year and you plan to, please wait until we designate a "Habitat Sunday," so we can pool all our donations and send them off together. Although we haven't managed to get a workday at Habitat lately, perhaps we could join another church who does get a workday.

* **Bread for the World** will be given \$250 in October. We might want to pool our personal checks for Bread for the World too. Or perhaps we could add to the \$250 with some profits from the Strawberry Festival or Harvest Festival.

Outreach Beyond the Budget:

* **Little Portion Friary** has been sent a check for \$100 from the Rector's Discretionary Fund. (We hope to pay this money back after a fundraiser.) I wrote the Friary asking them to inform us of their services and events so St. James parishioners become more connected to them. They always have interesting events at the Friary and it is such a peaceful setting. The committee decided to invite the Brothers to sell their bread at our Strawberry Festival and at our Harvest Festival to help them financially and to renew ties with our parishioners. I have not received a response yet, but I am already thinking about our wonderful home-made jam on their yummy home-made bread!

* **Long Island Blood Services** sent us a thank you letter for the 23 pints of blood we collected on Good Friday. Thank you to all who donated blood, made phone calls, or worked at the blood drive. Thanks go especially to Edna Rousseau for organizing this very important outreach.

* **St. Peter's Anglican Church in Australia** has been sent \$440 from the pancake supper and from your donations to help rebuild their church after the brush fires.

* **Episcopal Relief and Development** has been sent \$300 received from our Lenten Fast on Fridays.

* **Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society** has been sent \$155 from our Good Friday offering for Jerusalem and the Middle East.

* **Seamen's Church Institute** has been sent 20 scarves, 7 hats, and 1 pair of socks, all hand made by St. James parishioners, plus 56 toiletry items collected during Lent. Thank you to all contributed their time and talent for the seamen. (*We will continue to accept donations throughout the year*).

* **Family Service League of Long Island** will be receiving linens, clothing, and basic necessities for a family of 7. Sandy Grigoletto is organizing this project and is currently collecting items parishioners have signed up for. Items are due by May 3. She is also collecting cash for food cards. Checks may be made out to the Rector's Discretionary Fund with FSL on the memo line. Thank you to all who are reaching out to this family and to Sandy for carrying out her good idea.

* **Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry** continues to need our food donations. Please keep our hamper in the Christian Ed building full of basic necessities. It will be our turn to serve at the pantry in June. Please sign up to help when the calendar appears at coffee hour.

* **Parkinson & other worthy causes** have fund raising walks during spring, summer and fall. If you hear of such an event, let the church office know the details. We can't always contribute from our outreach budget, but we can participate in these events and help raise money for them. Even if you are not available or able to participate, maybe someone else will be. It is one more way we can reach out to others.

* **Thanks to all who have donated their time, talent, and money!** As you can see from all the above, St. James is making a difference. God bless you!

- Sue Krall

THE BISHOP IS COMING!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 26. That day, the Feast of St. James, is the day that Bishop James Ottley will visit our church to celebrate the Eucharist, join us for lunch, and meet with the Vestry.

FREE PHONE

Raewynne has a free pay-as-you-go phone available for anyone who may need one. If you are interested, contact Laurie in the office.

Rejoice
In the
LORD
Always!



NEW ORLEANS UPDATE

At the end of March George and I visited our son Daniel in New Orleans for several days. Since many of you have contributed to Episcopal Relief and Development and/or the Diocese of Louisiana, both of whom are helping New Orleans recover, I thought you might appreciate a firsthand reaction to how New Orleans is doing almost 4 years after Katrina.

As you know, the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana gutted hundreds of flooded houses with the help of volunteers from all over the country. Their Rebuild Program has now rebuilt over 50 houses. In Mrs. Madden's ERD column in *The Dominion* a couple months ago, she mentioned Ulysses' house. I read the column to Daniel and he remembers helping with this house. I said, "Let's drive by -- I want to see it." So we did and it looks great! I spoke with a trumpet player at Preservation Hall when we went to hear the jazz band. He told me the Episcopal Church has done wonderful work in New Orleans (helped some of his own family, I think) and that all the churches are the ones who have been rebuilding the city.

We timed our visit to be between Mardi Gras and JazzFest, to avoid crowds and traffic. We stayed in a hotel in the French Quarter so we could entertain ourselves while Daniel worked a couple days during our visit. It was great to see that the tourists are back. People were happily riding in carriages, shopping, enjoying the still great food, and listening to the wonderful jazz. The tourist areas like the French Quarter and the Garden District never suffered from water damage as they are built on higher ground. We found a wonderful Mardi Gras museum with beautiful costumes still intact. Except for the ride from the airport, visitors might never see what this city has been through.

We didn't rent a car -- you don't need to if you stay in or close to the French Quarter and are willing to take a cab back and forth -- but Daniel drove us around to see the harder hit areas like the Lower Ninth Ward. We saw Brad Pitt's project there, where 150 homes designed by international architects are slowly being built. They have front porches because people in New

Orleans love their porches, but they are also on high pilings because who can trust those levees?? The attics have escape hatches. [See January's *Architectural Digest* at the library.]

Then we went to a Crawfish Festival in St. Bernard Parish (which also flooded) near Daniel's house. This was one big crowded place with amusement rides, any imaginable southern food, flea market items and crafts for sale. I noticed that little kids who had grown up on crawfish were much more adept at getting some actual food out of those shells than us Yankees.

We came home with a renewed hope that New Orleans is surviving and starting to thrive. We also brought home a book Daniel recommended we read. It is called 1 Dead in Attic by Chris Rose. It is a collection of stories that appeared in the *Times-Picayune* Newspaper for a year and a half after Katrina. He was awarded a share in the newspaper staff's Pulitzer for Public Service. The daunting title refers to the messages the National Guard scribbled on houses as they checked each one. I'm glad we didn't let this title deter us. It turned out to be a great read. Yes, I cried a couple times, but we both literally laughed our way through the book. The irony in his stories is astounding. I noticed when we were visiting that many people had to laugh (what is the alternative?) at what they had been through. One shopkeeper even told me she was better off after Katrina. It seems her house was destroyed but she was able to buy the house next door to her elderly parents and now, when they call her in the middle of the night, she doesn't have to drive way across town! This, of course, is only one woman's story. There are surely many more sad stories. But if nothing else, I learned from Chris Rose that New Orleans has an indomitable spirit that will not die. The folks who are still there love the place.

If you have been reluctant to visit, don't be. The beignets alone are worth it. And if you go, invest in Frommer's Guide to New Orleans. He has checked it all out. If you still want to help with the recovery effort, checks can still be made out to the "Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana" with "Rebuild Program" on the memo line. Send them to:

Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana Office of
Disaster Response
PO Box 5026
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-5026

- Sue Krall

MAY CALENDAR

- 2 Mills Hall rental 2:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Mills Hall rental 2 - 7 p.m.
- 4 Buildings & Grounds 7 p.m.
Eating disorder group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Yoga class 5 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Jam making 4:30 p.m.
- 7 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 10 **Mother's Day**
- 11 Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.
Eating disorder group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Yoga class 5 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Jam making 4:30 p.m.
- 14 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 17 Parish Life Committee 11:15 am
Mills Hall rental 2 - 7 p.m.
- 18 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Eating disorder group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Yoga class 5 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Jam making 4:30 p.m.
- 21 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 23 Toastmaster's Club 9:30 a.m. -
12:30 p.m. - Mills Hall

- 25 **Memorial Day** - office closed
- 26 Lunch Bunch 12 Noon - Port
Jefferson Lobster House
Yoga class 5 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Jam making 4:30 p.m.
- 28 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Matt Coleman
Maria Bataller
Karen Noack
Barbara LoPresto
Allyssa Green
Jeremiah Glogg
Cathi Hart
Alec Douglass
Thomas Mauro
Bob Moleti
Dana Wachter
Andrew Linthwaite
John Donohue
Allie Brady
Joan Strassle
Walt Kregler

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

John & Florence Donohue
Bill & Maria Bataller
John & Jean Matheson