

# Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

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April 2014

FROM THE



RECTOR

“I have a great idea!”

“I’d like to do...!”

“I’d like to give...”

These are words that every church leader loves to hear.

In our Vestry meeting on Monday, we began (as we always do) with prayer and Bible study. Our reading was from Romans 12, where it talks about the gifts that each and every Christian is given to do the work of God. And we talked about our own gifts, the things that we bring to this ministry of leadership in the church.

It is not only the Vestry who are invited and called to offer their gifts. It is each and every one of us, empowered and inspired by the Holy Spirit.. And that’s why we love to hear when people have a great idea or offer something to our parish!

So what happens when you have one of those ideas? What if you feel called to offer something? What should you do?

One of the things about the Episcopal Church is that we have particular ways of doing things. Most of these are set by our canons (church laws) and bylaws.

You can begin by talking with other

parishioners. Tell them your idea; listen to what they have to say about it. They may be excited and want to join in. They may know if we’ve tried something like that before. They may have wise words to offer.

You can also talk with me (the Rector) or one of the Wardens or a Vestry member. Tell them your idea; listen to what they have to say about it. They may be excited and want to join in. They may know if we’ve tried something like that before. They may have wise words to offer.

When you’ve done all that information gathering, write down what you want to do or give. In other words, write a proposal. It might be as brief as a sentence, or as long as a couple of pages.

Next, think about who is responsible for decision making about that part of our parish’s life. The Rector is responsible for everything to do with worship and some of the use of the property. The Wardens and Vestry are responsible for pretty much everything else. We have committees that offer leadership in various areas, but all their decisions have to be confirmed by the Vestry.

When you have your proposal, give it to the people who must (by canon law) make the decisions, and ask them to consider it.

## THE WARDENS' COLUMN

### Our Lenten Journey

Midway through Lent we should take time to investigate, inquire, pray, prepare, love, study, grow in self-awareness, truly repent, and focus intently on the necessity in our lives for God's grace and refreshment. We are blessed here at St. James to have a Rector committed to guiding us through this journey with wisdom, reflection, deep faith and understanding. Raewynne lifts us when we stumble, brings light and knowledge to the darkness of our souls. And she joins us in joyful celebration when we have been lost and wandering in the desert, looking for God's redemption, and then suddenly finding Him revealed, his mercy, forgiveness and hope spread before us.

*Create a clean heart within me, O God, so that it may become Your chosen shelter and the resting place of the Holy Spirit...I beseech the living God of the universe, may the Light of lights come to my dark heart so that I may live in the power of Your love. Pour down upon us from Heaven the rich blessing of your forgiveness...(Hymn "God Beyond Knowledge").*

As we continue our journey marked by fasting and sacrifice, introspection and prayers for forgiveness, we need to embrace the opportunities surrounding us to join one another in prayer and revelation. As the Bishop has instructed, our parish priests have been moved to renew their efforts in so many ways to make Lent a time of preparation and concentrated study and prayer. We have all been called to teach and learn of the sanctity of baptism, the renewal of commitment for those who have been separated from the church, to repent our failures and sins, to embrace the need for God's grace and forgiveness.

The questions the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry will consider are:

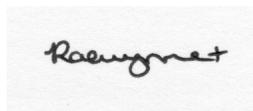
- \* Is this in accord with God's mission, to reconcile the world?
- \* Is it in accord with where God is calling our parish?
- \* Is it in accord with the Episcopal Church's canons (laws) and our own parish bylaws?

They will consider it and come back to you. Most of the time the answer will be "Yes, please!" Sometimes it will be, "We'd love this, but we have a couple of concerns." Occasionally it will be, "I'm sorry, but it really doesn't fit with where God is calling us. But perhaps we could rework it together."

Only when you get the official approval should you go ahead.

This may all sound terribly formal. But it's a way of ensuring that we remain focused on God's mission – and that we don't tread on one another's toes.

Blessings,



In our own parish alone we have added and expanded our prayerful interactions throughout the week. Sunday mornings Raewynne leads an examination of Episcopal traditions; Tuesday mornings after the Eucharist, Bible study focuses for these forty days in Lent on women in the Bible; a Wednesday evening Bible study has is centered on Isaiah; the Family Bible study group continues to meet every other Wednesday; and in early April our parish will have the opportunity for a retreat focusing on prayer and self-examination as we continue our Lenten journey and prepare for Holy Week.

We all know that every journey begins with a single step. This first attempt to move forward is often the hardest. So let us hold out a hand to one another, to steady those who falter, to warm those chilled by uncertainty, to welcome the hesitant with full faith and unerring belief in the comfort and spiritual rewards that await all of us in God's embrace.

*May I tread the path to the gates of glory.  
On your path, O my God, and not my own,  
be all my journeying.  
Rule this heart of mine that it be only yours.  
We look for solitude. In solitude we learn to  
grow and love, to grow in love for God, to  
grow in love for others...May I tread the  
path to the gates of glory.*

Continuing the journey, seeking God's peace and grace.

*Debra LaMano and Alexandra Rich*

## **PARISH INTERN**

I am delighted to announce that we have been assigned a parish intern for the next year or so. Diane DeBlasio is training for the priesthood, and is currently serving at St. John's in Huntington. She will gradually transition over to our parish, beginning with one Sunday a month, increasing to 12 hours per week in the fall. Please welcome her!

*- Raewynne*

## **DIANE L. NEULS DeBLASIO An Introduction**

"Wow! Look at the view from here!" my son, Mike, pointed toward the waves crashing against the seawall far below us. My daughter Kathy and I peered over the edge, the spray from the waves splashing up at our faces, the shadow of the lighthouse to our side protecting us from the strong rays of the sun. On this recent day, we were sharing precious time together at Montauk Point State Park. Kathy, 24, had just completed her second year of studying Physics in graduate school at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque; she was home for a short week before having return to her summer job. Mike, 25, a Merchant Marine Officer, was waiting for his next assignment and had taken the day off from his duties in our home town of West Islip as a Volunteer Firefighter. Making sure projects were in order, I had taken a personal day from my job as a technologist at the West Babylon School District. Time together as a family was rare in the course of a year, which made me appreciate all the more the day's adventure. We would spend time during the week doing some of what I loved to do: visiting family, friends and hiking and picnicking at several state parks

We continued our hike along the seawall, Kathy taking the lead this time, Mike and I following in a line behind her. We navigated the ragged path made by the broad boulders and huge rocks, taking care at the gaps. The rocks we were stepping upon were unique in shape, color, texture, size.

In a way, my life is like this strong rocky path I was on: each diversified rock representing people I've met and the many varied experiences I've had, forming a strong foundation for ministry. I look forward to sharing these experiences with you during our time together at St. James, as we continue building onto this foundation together with new people and experiences.

I am very excited to be interning here at St. James, and look forward to this opportunity to grow and learn from all of you. This internship is part of my formation process. Bishop Provenzano admitted me as a postulant in February 2012, and I began my process of non-traditional formation for the priesthood. Instead of attending seminary full-time for three years, I am working my full-time job, Reading for Orders with clergy for my formal academic studies, working as a member of the Diocesan Missional Vitality Team with Canon Stephanie Spellers, interning at St. John's, Huntington and beginning the transition to internship here at St. James. My Clinical Pastoral Education includes training as a counselor at the Long Island Crisis Center. Making a nod at my vocation, a clergy friend refers to me as the Bishop's Beta Test; I have the privilege of being the first person in non-traditional formation under Bishop Provenzano.

My first writing for Open Doors is to be this brief introduction about myself. I'm looking forward to sharing more in future editions. I invite you to visit my blog: [SeeingGodintheOrdinary.com](http://SeeingGodintheOrdinary.com), where I share how to see God in the Everydayness of our

lives. In here you'll find a story about my favorite food: ice cream!

- Diane DeBlasio

## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

### **Palm Sunday - April 13**

Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with  
Palm Procession and reading of the Passion

### **Maundy Thursday - April 17**

Celebration of the Institution  
of the Lord's Supper 6:30 p.m.

### **Good Friday - April 18**

Good Friday Service 12 Noon  
Blood Drive 3:00 - 7:30 p.m.

### **Holy Saturday - April 19**

Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.  
With lighting of the new fire

### **Easter Day - April 20**

Celebration Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.  
Celebration Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

### **Easter 2 - April 27**

Visitation of Bishop Provenzano  
Holy Eucharist with Baptism, Confirmation,  
and Reception 9:30 a.m.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY  
CELEBRATION OF THE  
INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S  
SUPPER**

The Maundy Thursday service will begin in Mills Hall at 6:30 p.m. with readings, prayer, and a soup and Middle Eastern food supper, and continue with Holy Eucharist in the church. All are welcome! You are asked to bring some Middle Eastern food dish (or hummus, pita, olives, figs, etc.) to share. You can contact Colette Tarantino at llcol10208@aim.com or 751-7932 to let her know what you will be bringing or just show up with your food.

**GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE**

St. James is holding its annual Blood Drive on Good Friday, April 18 from 3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in Mills Hall. Donors must be between 16 and 75 years old, be at least 110 lbs., and have no tattoos for the past six months. You will need a form of ID with a signature or photo. For questions concerning medical eligibility, call 800-688-0900. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, contact Edna Rousseau at 584-7853.

**GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING**

Once again, the offering collected during the service on Good Friday will be sent to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. This offering provides essential funding to strengthen the visibility of the Christian presence throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. That funding is critical to the ongoing ministry of the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, owned and operated the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and the Ras Morbat Clinic, part of Christ Church in Aden and sponsored by the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf.

**FRIDAY FAST FOR LENT**

If you have been participating in the Friday Fast for Lent (and it's not too late to start), the money you save from lunch each Friday will be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development again this year. The needs around the world continue to be great. Please participate so St. James can give a generous donation. Your contributions can be placed in the offering plate on a Sunday, or mailed to the church. Please note "Friday Fast for Lent" so it can be directed to the proper place.

**THE BISHOP IS COMING!**

Our Bishop, Lawrence Provenzano, will be coming to St. James on Sunday, April 27. On that day, there will be only one service, at 9:30 a.m. The Bishop will be preaching the sermon, and will baptize, confirm and receive new members into the Episcopal Church. Following the service, there will be a festive coffee hour. The Bishop will meet with the Vestry following coffee hour. Be sure to mark your calendar for this special event, and come early to get a seat.

**WHY KNITTING FOR MARINERS  
MATTERS**

As many of you know, St. James has been participating in a program sponsored by the Seamen's Church Institute by knitting hats and scarves for mariners. Why do we do this? SCI is involved in serving human beings, putting all their resources into services for the maritime workforce. Their volunteer knitting program creates a marvelous link between people and land and the men and women on the water.

Handmade items symbolize valuable time. They represent the special care taken by a knitter to craft a garment designed for a life on the water. And knitters and crocheters mark their items with humanity – the individuality of someone’s hand creating a one-of-a-kind gift. Mariners value very highly the handmade garments. The knitters and crocheters give something extraordinary – something mariners want and deserve. Knitting for mariners matters.

If you are interested in participating in this program, speak to Raewynne for more information.

## OUTREACH

**The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry currently needs donations of juice, tuna fish, and spaghetti sauce.** Donations can be left in the cart in the hallway of the Christian Education building. If you see that the cart is getting full, please take a turn delivering the food to the Pantry. The Pantry, located at St. Thomas of Canterbury in Smithtown, is open from 9 a.m. to Noon weekdays.

**You are invited to participate in our Friday Fast for Lent again this year.** The money you save from lunch each Friday will be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development. The needs around the world continue to be great. Please participate so St. James can give a generous donation.

**St. James’ Annual Good Friday Blood Drive will take place on April 18 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Mills Hall.** Those aged 16-75 and in good health are eligible to donate blood. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Edna Rousseau at 584-7853.

**Would you like to honor or remember**

**someone on Mother’s Day? If you make a donation (either monetary or new baby items) by May 1,** we will pass them on to St. John’s Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway and send a card to your nominated addressee in time for Mother’s Day. See the pink sheets in the back of the church to make your donation. Baby items may be left in the box in the hallway of the Christian Education building.

**Thank you to those who attended Protestant Campus Ministry’s Celebration in February and heard from Chaplain Brenda and her students “Why Campus Ministry Matters.”** The students’ testimonials were especially powerful about how the Chaplain and this ministry have literally changed their lives. Jerrold Stein, Dean of Students at Stony Brook University, told how much the University greatly appreciates PCMs Chaplain, the Rev. Brenda D. Ford, and her ministry, which is part of the Interfaith Center. But this ministry does not run on praise alone. It depends on local churches to keep PCM in their budgets. It also depends on individuals in our congregations to pray for Chaplain Brenda and her students and to donate whenever they can. If you were unable to attend the celebration, it is the middle of the Spring semester and PCMs treasurer wants you to know every dollar you or our church mail in will immediately be put to good use. Checks to Protestant Campus Ministry can be sent to Herta Wulff, PCM Treasurer, 11 Hamilton Road, Setauket NY 11733.

**Camp DeWolfe is holding Service Saturdays on April 5, 12, 25, and May 10 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** This is an opportunity to participate in the stewardship and physical care of our diocesan camp. Service projects include painting, landscaping, gardening, beach clean-up and more. Lunch is provided. The camp is located at 408 North Side Road in Wading River. Gather a bunch

of your friends and sign up by calling the camp at 929-4325 or email [office@campdewolfe.org](mailto:office@campdewolfe.org).

**United Veterans Beacon House is sponsoring a clothing drive until April 13 to help support veterans and their families.** They are looking for donations of clothing (for adults and children), shoes, accessories, bed and bath items, draperies and curtains. Trucks are available for pick up by calling 516-547-6853, or you may drop donations off at Beacon House, 301 Main Street, Farmingdale.

**An outreach meeting was held on March 23 to determine how to allocate the \$2500 in the church's budget for outreach.** The committee decided on the following, subject to the Vestry's approval:

\$ 250.00	Bread for the World
250.00	Habitat for Humanity
1,500.00	Protestant Campus Ministry
<u>500.00</u>	To be decided in the fall
\$2,500.00	Total

Thank you to all who attended the meeting.

- Sue Krall

### ALTAR GUILD

*"So we are to use our different gifts in Accordance with the grace that God has given us..."* Romans 12:6

*"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues thorough all generations."* Psalms 100:5

I want to thank and acknowledge the individuals and families that have given specific gifts to our Church for all or our use during our services. During this liturgical season, I also want to remind you that the flowers around the altar for Easter can be given in memory of or thanksgiving for

loved ones.

Every year, William and Amelia Bowden give a gift of our Paschal candle. This has been taking place for over twenty years, in memory of their parents. The Altar Guild is so grateful for this thoughtful and ongoing gift. They have once again donated a beautiful Paschal candle again this year. This candle is lit for the procession into the Easter Vigil and at each service during the Eastertide season. The Paschal candle is also used for baptisms and funerals.

We were blessed this year to have received additional donations for specific gifts. David Westlake gave a contribution in memory of his mother, Edith Westlake, to be used towards altar linens. Our linens are used each week for every service, and were becoming worn and threadbare. They are an integral part of our worship service. The Corporal is placed on the altar for the preparation of the gifts and is intended to have the entire Eucharistic sacrifice placed upon it and it alone as something to catch anything that spills. The Lavabo Towel is a simple hand towel used when the celebrant needs to dry her hands following the cleaning ritual. The Purificator is used to wipe away any drips from the chalices and is considered to be the most important linen in the Eucharistic ritual. All of these linens are embroidered with a small cross. The Women of St. James gave a donation in memory of Lillian LaLone who was a former Altar Guild member, and those who served on Altar Guild and ECW. These funds were also put towards the linens for our altar.

Carl and Darcy Smith Borden purchased cinctures and robes for the acolytes. Beautiful cruets that are used at the 8 a.m. service were also donated by the Bowdens and Westlakes. We deeply appreciate their kindness. These are truly gifts that keep on giving.

We are thankful to each of you who have given financial support for the purchase of our altar flowers and our numerous supplies. Your donation not only pays for the flowers, but also gives the bread, wine, candles, oil for the candles, the altar linens and their cleaning. It also provides for all of the vestments, the altar hangings and their care. We hope that you will continue to remember memorial and thanksgiving donations to the St. James Altar Guild. We cannot operate and provide weekly Eucharist without your spiritual and financial support.

During this season, we look to have beautiful flowers around the altar and Church to decorate for the Easter services. You may wish to give thanks for any blessings, or to honor the memory of a loved one by making a donation. Envelopes are available at the back of the church, or you may use the form included in this newsletter.

- Colette Tarantino

### **PRAYER ANSWERED !**

The Rector's nephew and godson, Laughlin Whiteley, who was diagnosed in November with a rare form for chemo-resistant leukemia, received a stem cell transplant in late February. This week we had the good news that the transplant worked! In a test of 10,000 cells, no cancer was found; all his blood cells show donor DNA; and best of all, the chromosomal abnormalities (one copy of chromosome 7 had gone missing) have totally disappeared! He still has a long road ahead: a couple more weeks in hospital, physical therapy, assistance in school, hormone therapy, doctor's visits, rebuilding his strength and weight, etc. But we are very thankful to God and to all who have prayed so faithfully.

Laughlin's parents have set up a charity "Unlock a life for Lockey" to encourage stem cell donation and support children with cancer and their families. You can find it at [www.unlockalifeforlockey.co.uk](http://www.unlockalifeforlockey.co.uk). The Rector is doing two projects to raise money for it: she is making earring and necklace charms for sale, and she will shave her head at the beginning of May (before her vacation - so you won't have to look at it bald!) and invites people to sponsor her. You can talk to her directly or sign up at [www.unlockalifeforlockey.weebly.com](http://www.unlockalifeforlockey.weebly.com).

- Raewynne

### **"IS GOD NECESSARY FOR MORALITY?"**

On Friday, April 4, from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., The Stony Brook School will host John E. Hare, Noah Porter Professor of Philosophical Theology at Yale Divinity School for a public lecture, "Is God Necessary for Morality?" The lecture will be given in the Carson Auditorium at the school, which is located at 1 Chapman Parkway in Stony Brook. For more information, contact: [sean.riley@stonybrookschoo.org](mailto:sean.riley@stonybrookschoo.org).

### **THE GREAT DIVORCE**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Yaphank presents Anthony Lawton in a performance of his one-man stage adaptation of C.S. Lewis' The Great Divorce on Saturday, April 26, 7:00 p.m. at The Stony Brook School, 1 Chapman Parkway, Stony Brook. Advance purchase tickets (adults \$25, students \$20) are available through St. Andrew's website [standrewsyaphank.org](http://standrewsyaphank.org) or by mailing your check, payable to St.

Andrew's Church to P.O. Box 240, Yaphank NY 11980. Tickets are also available at the door (adults \$30, students \$25). Contact St. Andrews at 647-5127 or email [standrewsevent@optonline.net](mailto:standrewsevent@optonline.net).

### LUNCH BUNCH

The April meeting of the Lunch Bunch will take place at the Istanbul Café, 412 North Country Road, St. James on Tuesday, April 29 at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

### OFFICE ANGELS NEEDED

Laurie will be on vacation the week of April 28. If you are available for a few hours to cover the office during that week, please contact her at 584-5560 or via email at [stjamesc@optonline.net](mailto:stjamesc@optonline.net).

### A NOTE OF THANKS

The Gureck family would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers, concerns, and lovingly prepared dinners during Art's recent surgery and seemingly endless hospitalization.

We are so grateful to all of you and appreciate your kindness more than we can ever express. Thankfully, Art is recuperating well and our lives are getting back to normal.

God bless,  
*Arlyne & Artie*

### NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Margaret (Margie) Kreussling, a long time member of St. James Church, passed away on March 20 following a long illness. Her life was celebrated at a service on Tuesday, March 24 and she was laid to rest in the churchyard. Our prayers go out to Charlie and his family at this sad time. We will miss her.

### GOT PLANTS?

If you are planting seeds this spring, when the time comes to thin the plants out, please consider potting some up to sell at the Strawberry Festival in June.

### APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Bible study 10:00 a.m.  
Bible study 7:15 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.  
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.  
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
- 3 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**  
**Children's Formation classes**  
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.  
Lenten retreat 11:30 a.m.
- 7 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Bible study 10:00 a.m.  
Nursery parent workshop 7 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.  
Bible study 7:30 p.m.

- 11 Nursery parent workshop 7 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Mills Hall rental 5 - 9 p.m.
- 13 **Palm Sunday**  
**Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**  
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
- 14 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Rector at Chrism Mass - G.C.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 18 **Maundy Thursday**  
Middle Eastern Supper and  
Holy Eucharist 6:30 p.m.
- 18 **Good Friday**  
Service 12 Noon  
Blood Drive 3 - 7 p.m.  
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 **Holy Saturday**  
Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.
- 20 **Easter Day**  
Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
- 21 **Easter Monday** - office closed  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 25 Nursery school family night 7 pm  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 **Bishop Provenzano visitation**  
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. with  
Reception following  
Vestry meeting 11:30 a.m.
- 28 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Lunch Bunch 12:30 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- Karen Douglass
- David Douglass
- Kenneth Grigoletto
- Fjeril Deal
- Heidi Glogg
- Bryan Petschauer
- Jesse Dean
- Lindsey Noack
- Thomas LaMano III
- Richard Tracy
- Arlyne Gureck
- Joseph LaMano
- Mike Neyssen

**EASTER FLOWERS**

Each year, the Altar Guild decorates the church for the Easter services. They invite you to give thanks for any blessings, or to honor the memory of a loved one by contributing money towards the purchase of flowers. This can be done by using the envelopes that will be available in the back of the church in the weeks before Easter, or by completing the blank below, and mailing it with your check (payable to St. James Church) to the church by Monday, April 14.

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**Easter Flower Offering**

In thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_