



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

April 2015

F R O M T H E



RECTOR

One of my favorite – and less well known – hymns at this time in our church year is called “Three holy days enfold us now.”

We sing it on Maundy Thursday, as

we begin the time traditionally known as the Triduum, the three days (counting from sunset to sunset) from Maundy Thursday evening to Easter Day resurrection. As the hymn reminds us, in these three holy days, “Jesus’ story is our own Life through death is God’s design.”

Last week in *This Week at St. James*, I linked to an article which talks about why we should give our children the opportunity to experience the fullness of Holy Week and Easter. The writer says, “As Christians, we need to experience Holy Week in its fullness – and we should include our children in that journey. By participating in Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and finally the Feast of the Resurrection on Sunday morning, we learn together that popularity is not all it seems, that service is a sign of strength, that empire will go to horrifying lengths to preserve itself, that innocent people are sometimes punished, and that good people sometimes suffer. We also learn that God loves the

world anyways and that God’s love is always stronger than hate and injustice.”

That’s true for all of us. We constantly need reminding that even in the deepest and darkest places, God is with us, and will lead us through them into new and glorious life. And one way to remind ourselves is to participate in the liturgies of the Triduum, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Day. Yes, it is a lot of church, but is it too much to spend time with one who gave his very life for us? And as those who have walked through the Triduum in this way will tell you, the gift we receive in response is immeasurable.

See you in church.

Blessings,

SERVICES FOR TO HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Tuesday - March 31

Chrism Mass 11:00 a.m. - Cathedral of the
Incarnation
Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m. in the church

Maundy Thursday - April 2

Supper and Eucharist 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday - April 3

Good Friday Liturgy 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
Easter Eve Vigil 7:00 p.m.

Easter Day

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

WARDENS' COLUMN

Our Vestry meeting this past Monday was extraordinary: long on prayer, mission and the “Dream List” for expanding our outreach to our wider community, and short and to the point on administrative details and finance. In a sense it was our renewal of our “vows” as Vestry to our parish, our community, and our Lord. We were also blessed to welcome two new members. Jack Harrington is filling the Vestry position vacated when Matt became Warden, and Amy Giardina is the new Clerk to the Vestry.

Holy Week is ahead of us, and while the Lenten season has been filled with prayer and opportunities for discernment, these words from former parishioner and Episcopal priest Suzanne Guthrie may help

us to focus anew on the powerful journey unfolding before us, and leading us to the Resurrection.

“In Holy Week the church provides the time to grieve, to break open our hearts of stone, to allow shattering and crumbling and the necessary softening to receive the sacred gifts only grieving confers. Hearts of flesh, perhaps. A new life, represented by deep and universal compassion.”

(from *At the Edge of the Enclosure*)

~ *Alex and Matthew*

EASTER INVITATION

Worship and prayer are at the center of our life together at St. James Church, and no day is more glorious than Easter Sunday. Easter is the day when we as a congregation are joyfully gathered together.

This is a suggestion for all of us to reach out during Holy Week, not to those we know who plan to attend church on Easter, but to someone or some family who might not be in church at all, and would be missing out on one of the most meaningful worship services at St. James Church. Please offer them a warm invitation to join you and our church family for Easter services and coffee hour.

~ *Doug Dahlgard*

**EASTER FLOWER
MEMORIALS & THANKSGIVINGS**

If you would like to make a donation towards the flowers for the Easter services, please be sure to have them in to the office by Monday, March 30, so that they may be included in the Easter bulletins.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER &
EUCHARIST**

We will observe Maundy Thursday with a potluck supper. The evening will begin at 6:30 in Mills Hall with readings, prayers and supper and continue on to the church for Holy Eucharist. All are welcome! You are asked to bring a dish to share. Middle Eastern food (or hummus, pita, olives, figs, etc.) is especially welcome. A sign up sheet will be at the back of the church on Sunday.

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Once again this year, the offering taken during the service on Good Friday will be sent to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. This group supports the indigenous Arab Christians, who, as a religious minority, struggle to maintain the historic presence of Christianity in the land where our faith began. The offering assists the diocese and the Province of Jerusalem in the Middle East. Please note "Good Friday Offering" in the memo section if you are writing a check.

**ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL
BABY ITEM COLLECTION**

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 by May 1. Flyers will be in the Sunday bulletin again after Easter.

**CARE PACKAGES
FOR MARINE TROOP**

We are currently collecting hygiene items, food and financial donations (for postage) to create care packages to support a deployed troop from Norfolk, Virginia. A box for the donations is on the table in the hallway of the Christian Education building. Flyers listing needed items are on the table, and will be appearing in the Sunday bulletins again after Easter.

NEVA GIFT CARDS

At the Annual Meeting in February, outgoing Vestry members were presented with Neva micro loans gift cards to use as they saw fit. Art Strassle reports that he used his for a group in Kenya that wanted to purify the water in their village via chlorine dispensers.

- Madelyn Cousins

GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

St. James' annual Blood Drive will be held on Friday, April 3, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Mills Hall. Anyone in good health, ages 16 - 75, can give blood. See the eligibility criteria on the flyer at the back of the church for more information. Contact Edna Rousseau at 584-7853 to set up an appointment.

OUTREACH

An Outreach meeting was held on March 8 to determine the allocation of our 2014 \$1,500 surplus and our \$4,000 budget for 2015. The committee decided on the following, subject to the Vestry's approval.

\$1,500 2014 Surplus Distribution

Protestant Campus Ministry	\$1,000
Habitat for Humanity	500 (for build day)

\$4,000 2015 Budget Distribution

Protestant Campus Ministry	\$2,500 (\$500 now and \$2,000 in July)
Diocese of Jerusalem	500
Haiti Rebuild	250
Habitat for Humanity	500 (surplus for future date)
Bread for the World	250 (to be decided in the fall)
Emergency	250 (on hold)

Thank you to all who attended this meeting.

- Madelyn Cousins

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

St. James annual Strawberry Festival is scheduled for Saturday, June 6 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Information on how you can contribute to make this a successful fundraiser for the church will be available after Easter.

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.

FARM FRESH PRODUCE

Once again we have the opportunity to participate in a farm share (CSA) of fresh produce through the summer and fall. The pick up site will be here at St. James.

CSA is like a subscription or a vegetable-of-the-week club. You pay in full for your share before the distributions begin in early June, and in return for your commitment to the farm they provide you with just-picked organic produce at a good value. More information can be obtained at the Garden of Eve website:

<http://www.GardenofEveFarm.com/csa.htm>
or talk to the Rector.

APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 2 **Maundy Thursday**
Supper and Eucharist 6:30 p.m.
- 3 **Good Friday**
Good Friday Liturgy 12 - 3 p.m.
Blood Drive 3 - 7 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 **Holy Saturday**
Holy Saturday Liturgy 9 a.m. and
Decorating of Church for Easter
Easter Eve Vigil 7 p.m.
- 5 **Easter Day**
Celebration Holy Eucharist 8 a.m.
Celebration Holy Eucharist with
Baptism 9:30 a.m.
- 6 Easter Monday - office closed
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 10 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 13 Food addiction group 7:30 a.m.
- 14 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Piano lessons 3:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 17 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Safe Church workshop at St.
Thomas Church, Smithtown
Mills Hall rental 1 - 5 p.m.
- 19 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 20 Vestry meeting 7:00 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Piano lessons 3:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Special Connections group 6:30
p.m.
- 24 Nursery school movie night 6:30

- Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Mills Hall rental 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- 26 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 27 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Piano lessons 3:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

John McDonald
Kenny Grigoletto
Fjeril Deal
Heidi Glogg
Bryan Petschauer
Jesse Dean
Lindsey Noack
Richard Tracy
Arlyne Gureck
Joseph LaMano
Mike Neyssen



