

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

December 2011



On Thanksgiving evening, I caught the 6 train downtown from the friends' apartment where I had shared Thanksgiving Dinner to Hudson Street, to visit Occupy Wall Street. The first thing I saw was what is commonly referred to "the big red thing," a large sculpture on one corner, and then the many trees of the park, festooned with lights. Then there were the police cars, seven or eight of them parked along one street, and a dozen or so private security guards scattered around the perimeter of the park. After passing through the barricades and down a couple of steps, I came into the park.

There were a couple of hundred people there, mostly gathered at one end for what they call the "general assembly," a regular meeting where they make decisions on the basis of consensus. Because there are no microphones, the crowd repeats each speaker's words, so that it ripples out and everyone hears. Everyone is given a chance to speak on the issue at hand, then they are asked if anyone wants to block it. If not, the decision is made on the basis of consensus. If someone blocks, they continue to talk until everyone is satisfied. As well as

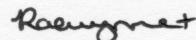
decisions, working groups make announcements - I heard about the 3000 meals cooked that day at the park, many of which were sent to homeless shelters; a project was announced to clear nature trails north of the city on Saturday; a woman invited people to join a working group on transport; people announced the recreation of an altar space, because they said "spirituality is at the heart of occupy."

Elsewhere in the park, I came across a small group on the ground chanting. People were talking together, breaking what are so often barriers of age and color and ethnicity and religion. Kids played; dogs enjoyed lavish attention, an "occupy librarian" hauled a crate of books - poetry, philosophy novels - through the crowd for anyone to borrow. A woman wandered around with sandwich-board signs. Some people looked like your stereotypical protesters; others more likely to be accountants or attorneys, judging from their dress.

I went to Occupy Wall Street because I've heard some many different things about the movement, both positive and negative, and I wanted to see for myself. What I saw was people who were passionate about what they believed and willing to stand up and do something about it - even when it meant discomfort and forgoing family traditions.

Whether you agree with their critiques of our political and economic systems or not, you have to respect their integrity in at least attempting to do something about it, rather than just sitting back and complaining.

And it made me wonder: I say I believe in Jesus Christ, the one whom, in this Advent season, Isaiah reminds us about:
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is. 9:6)
As his follower, I am called to work towards the justice and reconciliation and peace that is so close to God's heart, and so clearly articulated by both Jesus and the prophets. But how willing am I - how willing are we all - to stand up for what we really believe?

A small, rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to be "Nouwen".

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JAMES

Christmas Eve - December 24

- 5:30 p.m. Family service with nativity pageant
- 9:00 p.m. Traditional candlelit Christmas Eve Eucharist with music for the season.

Christmas Day - December 25

- 9:30 a.m. Christmas Eucharist

Christmas 1 - January 1

- 9:30 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

WARDENS' COLUMN

Advent prayer from the late Rev. Henri Nouwen.

May the Lord indeed help us quiet our hearts and listen for His voice each day. May we diligently seek to know His presence, rather than allowing our anxious thoughts to distract us and may He tune our ears to hear His counsel.

Lord Jesus, Master of both light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon preparations for Christmas.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for your complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek joy of your presence.

We are your people walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say "Come Lord Jesus!"

We would like to wish you and your family Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, this holiday season.

God's Blessings,

Debbie and Chris

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Bible Study is in full swing with all four groups meeting regularly. In the month of December the Monday evening family Bible Study will meet the 5th and 19th, Tuesday morning group will meet weekly, Wednesday evening will meet on the 14th and 28th. Please contact Kathy Sides for details of Tuesday evenings.

Book Group is currently reading Simply Christian by N.T. Wright and we will meet to discuss at 7:30 on Monday evening December 5th at Panera Bread in Lake Grove. All are welcome to join us, even if you have not finished the book. Our next book will be Prayer and Temperament by Chester Michael which can easily be found at Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

For Advent we have made available Weekly Reflections booklets and daily advent calendars. Both are available in the back of the Church or at the Church office.

2012 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE

As the 2012 Stewardship Campaign enters its final weeks, we are pleased to report that close to \$94,000 has been committed in pledges from 42 members of our congregation for our church's good works in 2012. We hope to raise a minimum of \$160,000 in pledges, a modest increase from the \$154,000 that was pledged last year. As you can see, we are more than halfway to our goal, but we still need to hear from at least 38 - 40 members of our church.

If you have not had an opportunity to turn or send in your pledge card yet, I urge you to do so right away. We need to have a clear idea by the next meeting of the Vestry on

December 19th of what we might expect in donations so that we can prepare a budget that is fiscally responsible, and as ambitious as it can be in fulfilling the work God calls us to do. Please send in your card within the next two weeks, or place it in the collection plate on Sunday December 4th or 11th. And as a reminder, please stay current with your 2011 pledge these last few weeks of the current calendar year so that we might be able to continue to fund at the expected levels all that we have undertaken for this year.

If you have any questions regarding our budget goals or stewardship aspirations for the upcoming year, please feel free to speak with the Rector, one of our Wardens, any member of the Vestry, or to me. Thank you to all who have been so generous in their pledges and we look forward with prayer and hope to a successful conclusion of this year's Stewardship Campaign.

*Duncan Marshall
Chair, Stewardship Committee*

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Our annual Christmas luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 12:30 p.m. at the Garden Grill in Smithtown. The cost of the luncheon is \$28, including tax and tip. All parishioners are invited to join the celebration. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to sign up.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE TO DECORATE GRAVE BLANKETS

The Cemetery Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 7 at 5 p.m. in Mills Hall to decorate grave blankets for the cemetery. Each year we process orders for many grave blankets for the families of those interred in our cemetery. Each blanket is decorated with pine cones, white birch twigs and a bow before it is placed on the grave. If you would like to help out, please join us. Christmas music will be played, and pizza will be served for all workers.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join with fellow parishioners as we go caroling to those who are shut-ins, or in local nursing homes on Sunday, December 18, at 5 p.m. Many voices are needed to provide some Christmas cheer. We will meet at the church, and car pool to the various locations.

OUTREACH

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry needs donations of canned meats, hearty soups and stews at this time. Juice is always in short supply also. Donations may be left in the cart in the hallway of the Christian Education Building. If you see the cart is getting full, and you have the time, please drop the food off at the Pantry during the week. Thank you to the many parishioners who served at the Pantry during October. We helped 136 families, a total of 511 individuals. Our parishioners are also helping Food Pantry Director Pat Westlake prepare and give out Thanksgiving baskets again this year. Thanks to all! We have a lot of generous parishioners and some are our teenagers. Michael LaMano comes to

mind... He donated hard-earned leaf-raking money to a family at school who otherwise would not have had a nice Thanksgiving dinner. Bravo, Michael !

Habitat for Humanity's Suffolk's Friends Reception will be held on Tuesday, November 29 at the Watermill in Smithtown. Habitat is honoring St. James Episcopal Church as a friend and faith partner. We not only donate outreach money to Habitat but also participate in work days, thanks especially to Ken LeCluse and Raewynne and also to a number of our hard-working parishioners. Call Ken at 588-1176 to sign up for future work days.

Wrapped Adopt-a-Family gifts are due back at church on Sunday, December 4. This year the Episcopal Church has given St. James three families, with a total of ten children, to shop for Christmas. Thanks to all who signed up. Are you wondering if you can still help? Contact Donna Guinaw at 269-4276. Thanks go to Claudette Plaschka and Donna for this outreach ministry !

Wrapped Pick-a-Star gifts, with the star attached for our developmentally disabled neighbors, are due back at church by Sunday, December 11. Santa and any interested parish members will deliver your gifts to the disabled the following Sunday. You are invited to join the fun! If you chose a star for one of our homebound parishioners, the address is on the star and you can deliver the gift whenever it is convenient for you before Christmas. Are you wondering if every star was picked? Contact Stephanie Coleman at 751-4151 / ssc6263@aol.com. Thanks, as always, to Stephanie for her devotion and to each of you who so lovingly choose the gifts !

Protestant Campus Ministry is blessed with an amazing part-time Chaplain, the Rev. Brenda Ford. The students and faculty alike on the Stony Brook campus are

"catching" the spirit ! This ministry is funded by St. James and several other neighboring churches. Raewynne reported that at the Episcopal Convention in mid-November, the Diocese decided to put \$5,000 in the budget next year to fund Long Island United Campus Ministry (LIUCM). PCM at Stony Brook University will be one of the ministries to receive some of this denominational money. Meanwhile this year, a collection was taken at the convention which raised \$2,200 for LIUCM. This is indeed good news to help pay Chaplain Brenda's salary which is always an issue. Contact either Raewynne or me if you haven't already had an opportunity this year to donate yourself.

Sue Krall

Outreach Chair

BABY HATS FOR SALE

Looking for a baby gift this Christmas? The Wednesday knitters are selling hand knit baby hats from newborn to toddler size, and bibs to raise funds for rebuilding in Haiti. The hats can be found in the basket in the entry by the sacristy door. The cost is \$20 each.

Raewynne

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

The Endowment Board is pleased to report that Douglas Dahlgard, who has significant experience in financial management, has agreed to join the Board, and will become the next Chairperson following the annual meeting in February 2012.

*Tony Bastin
Endowment Chair*

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF VESTRY

On Sunday, February 5, 2012, St. James will hold its Annual Parish Meeting. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. There will be reports from the Rector and various chairpersons of committees, and the annual budget will be presented. The meeting will take place in Mills Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service.

At this meeting, nominations will be submitted and elections held for the following positions:

- *Warden (1) for a two-year term
 - *Vestry persons (3) each for a three year term
 - *Treasurer (1)
 - *Clerk of the Vestry (1) - does not have to be a Vestry member
 - *Youth delegate (1) - age 18 and younger
- If you are interested, or would like more information, please speak with a member of the Nominating Committee: Stephanie Coleman, Chris Mauro, Lil Moleti, or Colette Tarantino.

*Stephanie Coleman
Chair*

REBUILDING HAITI

The Diocese of Long Island is asking for the help of parishes throughout the diocese to rebuild Holy Trinity Cathedral, which is the Cathedral of the Diocese of Haiti that was destroyed in the earthquake in January 2010. Information has been placed on the diocesan website (www.dioceselongisland.org) to inform you of the need and efforts being undertaken throughout the church.

Bishop Provenzano is asking each parish to contribute within its means to the Rebuild Our Church in Haiti campaign. Churches

may purchase any of the following:

150 bricks for \$1500

100 bricks for \$1000

75 bricks for \$750

Checks may be made payable to "Rebuild Our Church in Haiti." The gifts will be gathered and returned as a group before early February. See Raewynne for more information.

SHAWL MINISTRY

This month's Shawl Ministry meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 17 at 8:30 a.m. Please call Wylie Hunt at 751-5618 for the location.

- *Wylie Hunt*

GIVING THANKS

On Sunday, November 20th we continued our tradition of writing down thanks for the blessings we have received. Here are many of the responses:

In my life, I give thanks for....

My family

Good health

My faith

Our wealth

Wife

Children

Grandchildren

Friends

St. James Church

My Mom

Husband

Parents

My profession

Country music

Grandma & Grandpa

The Lord God

Love

Earth's beauty

Sweet deeds

Fun moments

All the wonderful years spent with my wife

Getting out of bed every morning

Food

Medicine

Pets

Hospitals

School

Another day of freedom from addiction

My cats

National parks

Seeing oceans and mountains

Avoiding wars

Life & happiness

Enduring relationships

Fire department

God's gifts

My brother & sisters

Food

Love of country

Extended family

Indwelling Holy Spirit of God

My brother's recovery

The L.I. Cursillo community

The incredible and undeserved blessings of my life.

Here at St. James I give thanks for....

The parishioners and the feeling of warmth here

Community & friends

Wonderful people in the congregation

My beloved parish family

Worship at our church

Having a second family

Raewynne

New friends

Community in Christ

Bible study

Love

A place to seek guidance when needed

The meaningful rituals and

ceremonies
A happy family
A community of supportive,
caring people
Worshiping Christ with family and
friends
The beauty of our hymns, the love
and the power of the Gospel
The concern of others
Learning to be a better human being
Peace
Teachings of God
Growing in faith
Raewynne's wonderful sermons
Sunday school teachers
The music
The windows
Friendship and fellowship
The caring, loving congregation
Coffee hour
The giving to one another
All the wonderful church fairs
Indwelling Holy Spirit
The choir and all its faithful
members
Traditions

A LETTER OF THANKS

I am finally sitting down to write to what I consider a very special family – St. James Episcopal Church !!

Most of you probably don't know that shortly after returning from New York and the famous hurricane, I had a house fire. I was very lucky – my smoke alarm went off.

So – that's my excuse for not writing to thank you ALL for the wonderful reception after the service for Dan. He would have loved it.

Please accept my sincere love and thanks.

Carol R. Maybee

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

On Saturday, November 26th we celebrated the marriage of Lorelei Kristen Glogg and James Michael Allen. Lorelei is a daughter of Jerilyn Glogg. Our congratulations and best wishes go to the happy couple.

This month, the Commack Library is showcasing a spectacular Lego collection assembled by Jeremiah Glogg. Jeremiah has loved Legos his whole life, especially the Star Wars series, and is affectionately referred to by his family as the "Lego King." He also loves putting together Bionicles. He has spent many hours building space ships and robots and has about 50 all together. With Christmas coming, he's looking forward to possibly receiving a new Star Wars ship.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Toastmasters group 9:30 a.m.
- 4 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Christian formation
Adopt-a-Family gifts due
Elder law seminar 11:30 a.m.
- 5 Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
Book group @ Panera 7:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:30 a.m.
Christmas luncheon at Garden
Grill 12:30 p.m.
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Grave blanket decorating 5 p.m.
- 8 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

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| <p>9 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>10 Life Line Health Screening
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>11 Holy Eucharist I 8:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Christian Formation</p> <p>Parish Life Committee 11 a.m.</p> <p>Pick-a-Star gifts due</p> <p>12 Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>13 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Bible study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Yoga class 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Recovery group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>14 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Bible study 7:15 p.m.</p> <p>15 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>16 Challenger Christmas Party -
5 p.m. - Mills Hall</p> <p>Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>17 Prayer Shawl Ministry 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Toastmasters group 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>18 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Christian Formation</p> <p>Pick-a-Star gift delivery 1 p.m.</p> <p>Christmas caroling 5 p.m.</p> <p>19 Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>20 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Bible study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Yoga class 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Recovery group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>21 Knitters group 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>22 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>23 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>24 Christmas Eve</p> <p>Family Eucharist with
pageant 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Eucharist
9:00 p.m.</p> <p>25 Christmas Day</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 9:30 p.m.</p> | <p>26 Office closed</p> <p>Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>27 Yoga class 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Recovery group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>28 Knitters group 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Bible study 7:15 p.m.</p> <p>29 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>30 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>31 New Year's Eve</p> |
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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1 - Holy Eucharist with
Lessons & Carols 9:30 a.m.

January 8 - Epiphany Brunch

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Florence Clark
Andrew Wiedersum
Marty Scott
Julia White
Kathy Mauro
Bob Bennett
Kathy Sides
Pat Pawelko
Jade Plaschka
Bob Scott
Pat Martinsen
Les Bengtson
Laurie Mannix
Ron Davies
Donna Wachter

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Peter & Claudette Plaschka

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS AND GREENS

Each year, members of the Altar Guild, along with other parishioners, do a beautiful job of decorating our church for the Christmas season. You can share in this by honoring your loved ones as a memorial, give thanks for a special person or significant event in your life, or simply give thanks to god by providing an offering to help defray the cost of the decorations. The names and purpose of the offering will be acknowledged in the bulletins for the Christmas services. Contributions of any amount are appreciated.

You may participate by filling in the form below, enclosing a check (payable to St. James Church) and mailing it to the office, or by using one of the envelopes found in the back of the church, and included in mailed copies of *Open Doors*. Please return your request by Sunday, December 18th, so that it may be included in the bulletin

Offering for Christmas Flowers & Greens

Given by: _____

In memory of:

In thanksgiving for:

Amount: _____