



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

December 2017

FROM THE



RECTOR

Who would have imagined it, eleven years ago, that I would still be here now. In the search process, I said I thought I would stay for seven to ten years, so I've gone a

little past that - enough to make me the third longest serving Rector of St. James.

This is the last "From the Rector" column that I will write for Open Doors. It's a strange feeling to be leaving a parish after so long: we have shared so much together, both joys and sadness, and we have grown and changed together over the years.

One of the hardest things about saying goodbye as a priest is knowing that we cannot have the same relationship once I leave. That doesn't mean that I don't love you. I want the very best for you, and that means letting go of our pastoral relationship so that you can welcome the next Rector of St. James as your priest.

Our diocese has very clear guidelines about what it means for me to no longer be your priest. I won't be able to officiate at your weddings, funerals, baptisms, or any other services for at least a year; after that I can participate, but only at the invitation of the

new priest, and even then, it would be as a friend, not as your priest. If you reach out to me for pastoral care, I am required to redirect you to the new priest.

Again, all this sounds very formal. But the diocese - and the rest of the Episcopal Church - has seen what can happen if we don't have these sort of healthy boundaries; it makes it really hard for the next priest to minister among you. I want you to be able to focus on the future, rather than the past.

Would I like to stay in touch? Absolutely. My current cell phone number will no longer work in the UK, but I'd be happy to hear from you by mail or email (my new address is elsewhere in this newsletter), and if you are visiting London, do let me know - I even have guest rooms in my new home. I'm happy to stay friends on Facebook, but for the first year, you won't be able to read my feed, though I will respond to private messages.

I look forward to hearing the good news that God has in store for you all, and the continued wonderful ministry of this parish in this place. And of course, I will continue to pray for you all.

Blessings,

WARDENS' COLUMN

Color It Purple!

This coming Sunday, December 3rd, Raewynne will be celebrating her final Baptism and Eucharist as our Rector at St. James Church. Following the 9:30 service the Vestry is hosting a farewell luncheon for Raewynne in Mills Hall. We are hoping our fellow congregants, and friends from far and near, will join us for this final tribute, and say our last goodbyes to our Rector, priest and friend as she begins her next journey with our Lord and Savior.

And by all means **wear something purple!** A scarf, sweater, socks, leggings, belt, jewelry, whatever you might have. Purple, as you know, is Raewynne's favorite color. It would be fun to have her looking out from the altar into a sea of purple reflections on her last official "day on the job." So do color it purple.

*Oh Lord, support us all the day long
Until the shadows lengthen, and the evening
comes,
And the busy world is hushed, and the fever
of life is over,
And our work is done.*

*Then, in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging,
And a holy rest, and peace at the last.
Amen.*

(BCP page 833)

In God's love and peace,
Alex & Jennifer

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JAMES

Christmas Eve - December 24

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:30 p.m. Family service with Eucharist
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 31

9:30 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols

ADVENT EVENING OF PRAYER

On Thursday night, December 14th, the church will be open from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for a service of "Advent Lessons and Prayers". This joyful service will be an opportunity to decompress and contemplate the meaning of Christmas in this often hectic time of year. We hope you will join us!

- Chris Mauro

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

All parishioners are invited to the annual St. James Church Christmas Luncheon, which will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 12:30 p.m. at the Three Village Inn in Stony Brook. The cost of \$32.00 per person includes all. Contact Fjeril Deal (631-724-3720) to make your reservation today.

CHRISTMAS FAIR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

St. James parishioners are invited to do some of their Christmas shopping at the Christmas Fair, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Handmade gifts and decorations, a large selection of gently used Dickens Village collectibles, collectible ornaments and decorations will be offered for sale, along with delicious baked goods for the season. Books 'N' Things will be open for your shopping enjoyment.

BAKE SALE

Attention all bakers!!!! Start your ovens!!!
We need your delectable baked goods!!!!

Our Christmas Fair is right around the corner. We are gearing up and planning our yummy table. Please consider making the time to bake a batch (or two or three!) of your favorite recipe(s) to help us run another successful bake sale.

The offerings need not be involved or complicated. Often old-fashioned, simple family recipes are favorites! Pinterest has thousands of inspirational ideas and recipes for your browsing pleasure. Baking to support our parish would be a fun activity to do with children or grandchildren. Making a batch of cookies or cupcakes together with a young one might be a wonderful opportunity to teach about giving and sharing a tangible expression of love at Christmas time.

All donations are gratefully received!
Breads, (both yeast and quick breads), muffins, cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, shortcakes, and cupcakes are the norm, but be creative! Think outside the box! We have had donations of pretzels, crackers, spiced nuts, and even dog biscuits in the

past. Sugar-free and gluten-free goods are appreciated by many. Baked goods packaged attractively and beautifully always sell quickly. Often our bakers include the recipe for the item. Please carefully label your donations, especially if nuts are included, and bring them to the Fair either late afternoon of Friday, December 8th, or early in the morning of Saturday, December 9th. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call!

- Wylie Hunt
(631) 258-6848 or
wyliehunt@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

We have just come through a time of feasting and thanksgiving with family and friends. In church this last Sunday we had a wonderful time of prayer expressing our thanks to God for all he has blessed us. Giving back to God a portion of what he has blessed us with is what we are called to do and it is good for our hearts. If you have not yet sent in your pledge to support the work of St. James, we hope that you would do so this week. Grateful for your support,

Amy Jeffrey
Stewardship Committee

PLEDGES FOR 2018

As of November 30, 37 parishioners have made pledges of support for St. James for a total of \$114,668.00. It is not too late to make a pledge if you haven't done so. Pledge cards are available in the rack of the back of the church, or in the office. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday, or mailed to the church office. If you make a pledge, you

will receive a statement at the end of the year for tax purposes. Please prayerfully consider how you can make a difference by supporting St. James' programs and ministries.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

If you are participating in the annual Adopt-a-Family program, please be sure to have all gifts in by Sunday, December 3, so that they can be organized for transport to the pick-up site. Thank you to Donna Guinaw and Claudette Plaschka for organizing the program again this year.

PICK-A-STAR

If you picked a star off the tree on Sunday, November 26, please have gifts for those in the residential homes back to Stephanie Coleman by Sunday, December 10. Be sure to attach the star to the gift. Gifts will be delivered to those in the UCP homes on Sunday, December 17 at 1 p.m. All parishioners are invited to join Santa in this outreach event.

BAKE-A-BATCH FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

During the month of December many of us enjoy baking cookies for our families and friends. This month, when you are doing your baking, why not bake a batch for the clients of the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry who would really appreciate this special treat during the Christmas season? Cookies don't need to be fancy. They just have to taste good and travel well.

This is a great way to get the kids involved! You can use slice and bake dough, or your

own favorite recipes. Cookies may be wrapped by the dozen and brought to coffee hour on Sunday, or placed in the basket in the hallway by the Food Pantry cart. They will be collected for transportation to the Pantry each week. Share the joy of the season!

- Laurie Mannix

2017 PLEDGES

If you made a pledge for 2017, please be sure to have all contributions for the year into the office by December 31, 2017, so that you may be properly credited for tax purposes.

THANKSGIVING AT ST. JAMES

At our services on Sunday, November 26, parishioners were invited to share examples of what they are thankful for. Below are examples.

In my life, I give thanks for ...

- * My work, home, food, the people and animals in my life
- * My family and my friends
- * Hank, my dog; my dog, Beckwith
- * My life and health, my daughter and her husband; for all the Lord's loving care.
- * My children and grandchildren, the beauty of nature
- * A warm home and good food
- * My God, my faith, education
- * My cousins
- * The blessings and struggles I've been through to get me where I am today
- * My salvation
- * The generosity of others, my godchildren, my cat
- * The beauty of God's earth, for warmth and the bounty of food on my table
- * The opportunity to serve others

- * The love of my family; being safe
- * A job where my coworkers share my faith
- * The grace of God in redeeming broken relationships in my life
- * My recovery
- * Our continued sense of the Lord's grace and love
- * The community where I live
- * The gift from God or my wonderful parents
- * My children who are healthy and living productive lives
- * All my needs being met, and more
- * The peace and quiet of faith and hope and love

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

- * God's love and acceptance
- * The peace here
- * People who we can all care for; those who care for us without knowing us
- * A community of people who love each other
- * The many gifts and talents of all those who serve and minister, and especially for our priest, Raewynne
- * Coffee hour
- * The deity of Christ and the Gospel preached
- * Feeling welcomed and loved
- * The space to play; Godly Play, and the teachers
- * Sunday worship
- * The warm embrace of all who share the Eucharist together
- * The faithfulness of our children
- * Our wardens
- * My many blessings
- * The opportunities and help to grow in my faith
- * Being able to help the church
- * Acolyting
- * Raewynne's sermons because they always challenge me!
- * A loving God and family of St. James
- * Glorious music

- * The Food Pantry
- * Families that love God
- * The altar
- * Raewynne's ten years in St. James
- * Being able to sing in the choir and be on Vestry
- * The wonderful assembly of warm, loving, and friendly God-fearing people
- * Raewynne, who I will miss so very much
- * The support and love of parishioners
- * The beautiful church and area around it
- * The wonderful congregation
- * My friends in the choir
- * The companionship and love that flows from all in the church
- * The life and lively spirit of the church community and the children
- * The gift of super people to share the information of the Lord's presence in my life.
- * The blessings and gift of all that I receive from all in St. James Church!

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Raewynne's new address is 23A St. Augustine's Avenue, South Croydan, Surrey CR 2 6JN, UK, rjwhiteley@rjwhiteley.net.

On Sunday, December 3rd, we will officially welcome into the St. James family **Phineas Alwyn Linzee**, who is being baptized. He was born on November 2nd and lives with his parents, Jeremy and Virginia, and big sister, Beya, in Stony Brook.

Rachel Linthwaite married Daniel Sensale on November 4th in Sudbury, MA. They will be living in Medford, MA, just outside of Boston. Rachel is the older daughter of our former choir director, Dara Linthwaite. Congratulations to the happy couple!

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Asian Painting class 10 a.m.
Mills Hall set-up for Sunday Luncheon 1 p.m.
- 3 **Advent 1**
Holy Eucharist II with Baptism 9:30 a.m.
Farewell Luncheon for Raewynne
Adopt-a-Family gifts due
- 4 Books 'N' Things pricing & set-up 10 a.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Christmas Luncheon 12:30 p.m.
at the Three Village Inn
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Set-up for Christmas Fair 4 p.m.
- 7 Books 'N' Things set up 10 a.m.
Craft group meeting 10 a.m.
Set-up for Christmas Fair 2 p.m.
- 8 Books 'N' Things set up 10 a.m.
Craft group set-up 1 p.m.
Set-up for Christmas Fair 4 p.m.
- 9 **Christmas Fair 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**
- 10 **Advent 2**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Godly Play class
Pick-a-Star gifts due
- 11 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Service of Lessons & Prayers
7:30 p.m.
- 15 Mills Hall rental 6 - 9 p.m.
- 17 **Advent 3**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Godly Play class
Pick-a-Star gift delivery
- 18 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.

24 Advent 4

Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve

Family Eucharist 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eucharist 9:00 p.m.

25 Christmas Day

Christmas Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

26 Office closed

29 Mills Hall rental 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

31 Christmas 1

Lessons & Carols 9:30 a.m.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Audrey Ercole

Amy Jeffrey

Marty Scott

Julia White

Kathy Mauro

Robert Bennett

Jade Plaschka

Bob Scott

Pat Martinsen

Shirley Huenlich

Les Bengtson

Laurie Mannix

Ron Davies

Bill Reisenauer

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Igor & Debbie Sepulveda

Peter & Claudette Plaschka

**CHRISTMAS
FLOWERS & 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, giving thanks for a specific person or event in your life, or simply by giving thanks to God, by providing an offering to help defray the cost of the decorations. The names and purpose of this 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 which can be found at the back of the church. Please return your request to the office by Sunday, December 17, so that it may be included in the bulletins.

Offering for Christmas flowers & greens

Given by _____

In memory of: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____

Amount: _____

A
Blessed Christmas
to All

