



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

February 2012

FROM THE



RECTOR

One of the things I found difficult when I first arrived in the U.S. from Australia was the difference in seasons. Spring, summer, autumn and winter followed the same pattern in Australia,

albeit six months later, but what was really disconcerting was having different seasons associated with the season of the church year. Imagine having lived all your life with Christmas in mid-summer, the Epiphany light of Christ reflected in the bright sunlight, and experiencing Lent with the leaves beginning to fall and growth gradually shutting down, a time that grows progressively quieter.

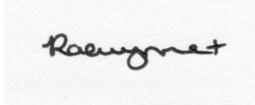
That is not true in the northern hemisphere. The rhythms of Lent run counter to the rhythms of the season. Here, while we are in a period traditionally associated with self-denial, the world around us is bursting with new life!

The sense of running counter to the rest of the world is not unique to Lent. We do it all the time. When the rest of the world is talking about Santa, we focus on a tiny baby, God-with-us. When our shops are filled with Easter eggs and bunny rabbits, we talk about a man hanging lifeless on a cross.

In a country such as ours, it is easy to assume that "everyone is Christian," and that being a "good Christian" is synonymous with being a

good citizen. But that isn't exactly the way the Bible thinks about it. Many of the values of Christianity – some of the Ten Commandments, for example – lead us to be good citizens; however, others lead us to question the values of the society around us. Do not covet. Set aside a day each week to worship God – a full day – and rest. Give away (to God) the first ten percent of all you earn or grow. Don't store up treasures for yourself on earth. Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you. All of these things run counter to dominant trends in our society. But they are what we are called to do as Christians.

This Lent, as you watch the new life emerging around you, I encourage you to spend some quiet time reflecting on what difference it makes in your life to be a Christian, and praying for wisdom in the decisions you make in your everyday life.



THE WARDENS' COLUMN

During some recent sermons here at St. James the focus has been on what is "The Good News of the Gospel?" Among other things, the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been shown to be news of love and forgiveness. But the need for forgiveness is only necessary when judgement has been made in the form of condemnation.

Matthew 7:1-5

"Judge not, that you not be judged. For with the judgement you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is a log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

James 4:11-12

"Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?"

There are many verses in the bible that tell us not to judge or condemn our brothers and sisters. Yet we all do. Lately, it seems everywhere I turn someone is judging someone else. Unfortunately, I am not innocent of this behavior either. So how do we keep ourselves from doing it?

I am not sure there is an exact answer, but I really do believe that it is something we can strive for. And it is important to distinguish

between making judgements and discerning God's will. Discernment is a judgement process, but one in which we keep Jesus Christ at our center. And discernment is vital to living into our lives in Christ.

Recently I heard some good advice about "a should list," a list of things that I should do. I think this advice can apply to making judgements. The advice was "it is O.K. to have your own 'should list,' but that doesn't mean that it is someone else's 'should list'." There is no one way to do something, or one way to act in any given situation. I am sure you have heard the old saying "don't judge a book by its cover." Do we really know what the story is about until we have read it? There are so many layers to every story and every situation.

Obviously, it is always easier to say something than it is to live by. So how should we live? To paraphrase the baptismal covenant: "Will we strive not to judge one another? Will we hold our judgement on our neighbor? Will we live in appreciation of one another? Will you extend an olive branch to someone you have insulted or condemned? Will you forgive someone who has insulted or condemned you?"

To which we respond, "I will, with God's help."

Peace and blessings,
Debbie and Chris

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ELECTION OF VESTRY

St. James' Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, February 5. The annual budget was presented, and reports were made by the Rector and various committee chairpersons.

Elections for new Vestry members and others were held, and the results are as follows:

- 1 Warden - two year term: Chris Mauro
- 3 Vestry persons - three year term:
 - * Stephanie Coleman
 - * Art Strassle
 - * Doug Dahlgard
- 1 Youth Member - Alec Douglass
- Treasurer: Doug Dahlgard
- Vestry Clerk: Karen Douglass
- Delegates to Diocesan Convention:
 - Delegate: Donna Austin
 - Alternate: Peter Cahill

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER & MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Come join in the fun on Shrove Tuesday, February 21st at 6:00 p.m. as we celebrate Mardi Gras with a Pancake Supper. Wear a costume or mask, or come as you are. If you've seen the photos in Mills Hall, you will know that this is a fun-filled evening for the whole family. If you can help out with food or decorating, please contact Stephanie Coleman at 751-4151 or ssc6263@zol.com.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

There will be services of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd at 12 Noon and 7:30 p.m. All welcome, adults and children alike.

FRIDAY FASTING IN LENT

Fast during lunch on Fridays or at another time that works best for you) and donate the money you would have spent for your meal to Episcopal Relief and Development. Please clearly note "ER&D" in the memo line of your check.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION & EDUCATION NEWS

And it was good

Please join us again this year as C.F. & E. is offering a five-session program during Lent. Similar to last year, we will be having five Wednesday evening sessions that will be interactive and inter-generational. They will include Bible study, prayer, planting, wind chimes, music, poetry, recycling, collage, and more!

You do not have to commit to attending all five sessions; they form a theme, but each evening will be complete unto itself. Sessions will run Wednesday nights, 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. Adults and children all welcome. We encourage you to bring your Bibles.

The dates and themes of the five sessions are:

- February 29** - "The hope of something new"
- March 7** - "The place of humanity in the created order"
- March 14** - "Jesus - the center and heart of all creation"
- March 21** - "Creation blesses the Lord"
- March 28** - "Creation groans in painful hope"

- Stephanie Coleman

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

As told by Calvin Dean in Godly Play

This is the Good Shepherd parable. We are acting out the story. The Good Shepherd let all the sheep out and they were following him and he was showing them the way to the good grass and the cool water and through the dangerous place. When they get lost, he looks for them.

The ordinary shepherd didn't know the sheep and they didn't know who he was so they all wandered off all over. The wolf came and the ordinary shepherd ran off, but the Good Shepherd didn't run off when the wolf came. He stands between the wolf and the sheep because he knows the sheep and he shows them the way.

OUTREACH

Be sure to read about Outreach in the Annual Report to see what this parish did to reach out to others in 2011.

Join the Mardi Gras Celebration & Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21. Fat Tuesday is the last chance to party before Lent! Costumes and/or masks are encouraged but not required. Last year the proceeds of the supper were given to outreach.

There will be a Habitat Work Day on Saturday, February 25. We will be working with parishioners from the Byzantine Church of Smithtown. No experience is necessary -- you learn on the job! To sign up, contact Peter Cahill (pjpc2000@aol.com or at 265-0719) who will be coordinating this work day while Ken LeCluse is in Florida. Bring lunch and meet in the Mills Hall parking lot.

Fresh cut daffodils are being sold to benefit the American Cancer Society by

the Women of St. James. An order may be placed on February 12 or February 19 for a bunch of daffodils for \$10.00. This year you can also order a potted plant for \$10.00 or a Boyd's Bear with cut flowers for \$25.00. If you choose the Gift of Hope for a \$25.00 donation, the ACS will deliver a vase filled with your bunch of daffodils to a hospitalized cancer patient. You may place an order by signing up on the sheets provided at coffee hour or by calling Pat Westlake (584-6628). Please pay when you order or by the last order date, which is February 26. Make checks payable to the American Cancer Society. Daffodils will be delivered at coffee hour on March 25.

Donations to the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry can be made at any time. They may be left in the cart in the hallway of the Christian Education building. Especially needed at this time are peanut butter and jelly, pork and beans, canned meats like chicken or stew, fruit, and juice. When the cart is full, please take a turn transporting the food to the pantry. St. James parishioners will serve at the Pantry during the month of May.

Hand-knit Baby Hats for Haiti are available in the Sacristy for \$20.00. We thank Woolly Wednesday's talented knitters for providing this outreach to help Haiti rebuild.

Seamen's Church Institute will again receive scarves and hats that our parishioners knit and crochet during Lent. Look in the narthex for suggested patterns, or see Raewynne.

Prayer Shawls are helping to keep our ill parishioners warm. If you would like to be part of this ministry, contact Wylie Hunt at 751-5618.

Our Friday Fast for Lent will continue this year. The money everyone saves from lunch

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.

Protestant Campus Ministry at Stony Brook University is collecting toiletries for women transitioning from domestic violence. Check your closets. All those Christmas gifts you can't use, or small bottles saved from hotels, or goodie bags from your dentist would be perfect. Donations may be placed in the basket in the narthex.

An Outreach meeting will be held this spring to determine how to allocate the \$2,000.00 in the 2012 budget for outreach. All are invited. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the date of the meeting.

- Sue Krall

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY

On Saturday, February 25th, St. James will participate in a Habitat for Humanity work day. Meet in the Mills Hall parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to car pool. Peter Cahill will be leading our group, which will include parishioners from the Byzantine Church of Smithtown. The house is located in Central Islip. We will be working on framing. Bring lunch; all tools will be provided at the site. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. No skills are needed, just a good heart. Please contact Peter at 265-0719 or pjpc2000@aol.com to sign up.

-Ken LeCluse

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Saturday, February 18th, 8:30 a.m. at the home of Wylie Hunt, 24 Knox Avenue, Stony Brook. All are welcome.

The North Shore Ultreya meets on Friday, February 24th, 7:30 p.m. at Caroline Church, 1 Dyke Road, Setauket. All are welcome.

The Wednesday Bible study will continue to meet every other Wednesday evening, but will be on hiatus until after Easter. We are studying the Gospel of Mark, and would welcome new members.

- Wylie Hunt

EPIPHANY BRUNCH

I would like to thank everyone who so generously donated food and drink to the Epiphany Brunch. It is so wonderful to start off the year with such a lovely affair.

I would especially like to thank my children, Matt and Abby, for all your help in setting and cleaning up, Karen and Brian Noack for being the best Kitchen Crew anyone could ask for. Also, Bob and Lil Moleti, Tony and Barbara Bastin, and Katy Sacher and Skyler Baez for all your help in setting up coffee and tea urns, and lugging all those plated and cups, and finally, Theresa Euler, who stayed cleaning up to the very end. I hope the rest of the year is as enjoyable as this event.

- Stephanie Coleman

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will hold their February gathering at Pita House, 100 So. Jersey Avenue, East Setauket (behind Wild by Nature) on Tuesday, February 28th at 12:30 p.m. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation. All are welcome!

- *Fjeril Deal*

CAMP DEWOLFE OPENING CELEBRATION

All parishioners have been invited to join the Bishop, staff, and Board of Camp DeWolfe to celebrate the renovation and reopening of the Camp.

The celebration will take place on April 15th from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the camp, 408 North Side Road, Wading River. It will open with Evensong at 4:30 p.m., Blessing/Ribbon Cutting at 5 p.m., appetizers/drinks at 5:15 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m.

Please R.S.V.P. to office@campdewolfe.org by March 30th.

HOST FAMILIES WANTED

Host families are needed for international students who will be arriving in the area next September to attend school. Information on the program is available at www.cetusa.org, or you can contact Christina Lanzillotto the CETUSA Community Coordinator at 790-6907.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

On Sunday, January 8th we celebrated the Baptisms of Abigail Florence Lanza and Patricia Jeanne Martinsen. Abigail lives with her parents, Michelle and Ronald in Nesconset. Patricia is the daughter of Stefan and Clair Martinsen, who recently moved from Rhode Island to Lynbrook. She is the granddaughter of Pat and Ralph Martinsen.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 1 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
- 2 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Holy Eucharist II, 9:30 a.m.
Annual Parish Meeting 10:45 am
- 6 Book Group at Panera Bread
7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 5.30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
- 9 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
- 10 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Nursery school valentine party
- 12 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation
- 13 Family Bible study 6 p.m.
C.F. & E. Committee 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
- 16 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 18 Prayer Shawl Ministry 8:30 a.m.
- 19 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation
- 20 President's Day - office closed
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Shrove Tuesday Pancake
Supper 6:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
Ash Wednesday
Holy Eucharist & Imposition
of Ashes 12 Noon & 7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8:45 p.m.
- 23 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
- 24 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation
- 27 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Lunch Bunch 12:30 p.m.
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
Lenten Program 7:15 p.m.

- Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
- Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
Lenten program 7:15 p.m.
- 8 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kerrick Wille
 Peter Cahill
 Sandy Grigoletto
 Annabelle Wille
 Joan Quinn
 Colette Tarantino
 Lorelei Allen
 George Krall
 Joan Mercep
 Kelly Lally
 Jimmy Allen
 Jeff Smith
 Maggie Lawrence
 Bryce Foley
 Kevin White
 Leah Tarantino

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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EARLY MARCH 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.
- 4 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation
- 5 Book group @ Panera Bread
7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.

