

# Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

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February 2013

FROM THE



RECTOR

Yesterday was our Annual Meeting – once again a wonderful experience of our community worshipping God. It always takes a lot of work to set up (especially for the Altar Guild – thank

you!), and every year I have a momentary panic about five minutes before the service that we’ve forgotten something essential. And then the opening hymn begins, the crucifer and acolytes wind their way between the tables and the rhythm of worship takes over.

Some of you might remember how we began this. A few years ago we came into the church on Annual Meeting day to find the heat had failed. It was far to cold to hold the service in the church, so we moved over to Mills Hall – and discovered a new joy in worshipping together around tables. A few months later, I went to an academic presentation, and discovered that archaeologists excavating a monastery in Egypt that dates back to the first couple of centuries after Christ have unearthed round tables used for Eucharistic worship. So we were inadvertently following their pattern. And the early Christians typically celebrated the Eucharist in the context of an ordinary community meal so there is precedent for our brunch as well! (Thank you to Karen, Lindsey, and the Vestry for that).

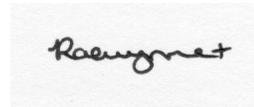
The word most commonly used for church in

Scripture is “ecclesia.” It comes from the Greek word “kaleo”, meaning “to call.” Add the prefix “ek-“, meaning “out” and church means “the people who are called out.” Meeting in Mills Hall reminds us that beautiful as our building is, it is not the church. We are.

Gathering round tables, so that we see one another’s faces rather than the backs of their heads makes the church tangible. The prayers truly are prayers of the people when we each add our words of thanksgiving – for this community, for the earth, for toys, for tigers, for my family – and respond with a reminder of the enduring mercy of God. Receiving communion from a seven year old or from a seventy year old reminds us that the words, “the body of Christ, the bread of heaven” and “the blood of Christ, the cup of salvation” are Christ’s words. Discussing the budget in the context of worship helps us remember that the reason we are here is that God has called us, and everything we have comes from him.

As we begin another year, it all reminds us of who we are and why we are here.

Blessings,



## THE WARDEN'S COLUMN

One journey ends and a new journey begins.

In life there are always changes. You can live in a house for a few years, or for a lifetime. You may pass people on a line in a store, or maybe you stop to chat and become lifelong friends. Changes might not be as dramatic as a change in your career, but each one of these situations, as well as many others, are crossroads in the journey we travel during our lifetime. I'm reminded of the poem "Footprints in the Sand" when I think of my journey and ours; that we always need to remember that in the toughest times it is God who is carrying us.

As I travel my new journey, whatever that may be (not that I am going anywhere), I will always remember what a great friend has reminded me of from time to time, and what I wish to remind my parish family of, is that...

You are never alone, God us always with you!

*Peace and Blessings  
Debbie*

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER & MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Mardi Gras is the traditional party of New Orleans the day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. It will be celebrated by our congregation with a duo of both the old fashioned Shrove Tuesday fare (pancakes and sausage) and HAPPY food with HAPPY cake. We will also process out to the cemetery to "bury the Alleluias" – which will not be resurrected until Lent. Come in costume, just masks, or JUST COME

Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Join in with our St. James community of believers before the quiet time of Lent begins.

*- Lil Moleti*

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

There will be services of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon and 7:30 p.m. All welcome, adults and children alike. Ashes will also be imposed at Family Bible study that evening.

## EXCITING NEW PROGRAM FOR LENT!

*The guarding of the God of life be upon me,  
The guarding of Loving Christ be upon me,  
The guarding of the Holy Spirit be upon me,  
Each step of the way,  
To aid me and enfold me,  
Each day and night of my life.*

*- Carmina Gadelica*

This year the Christian Formation and Education Committee is preparing what we know will be an enjoyable and enlightening program regarding Celtic Spirituality. The program will be kid friendly, though not kid-centric. After the enthusiastic response to our survey, it has been determined that each week we will have two opportunities to participate; on Sundays from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. The program will run for 5 weeks and all are welcome, so bring some friends who may be interested!

Each week will be centered around a particular Celtic Saint. We will provide information about the Saint, their history,

contributions, and their journeys around the British Isles. We will also have discussion points, some musical element, practical meditation, some type of easy hands-on activity, and prayer. During this period we will also be bringing elements of the program to our weekly music using music and prayer. We will end with a Celtic Eucharist in the early evening of Palm Sunday (March 24<sup>th</sup>).

In order to include all parishioners in the program, even if they cannot attend the meetings, we will be using the large bulletin board in Mills Hall to create a map of the British Isles where we can track the Saint's paths, highlight areas of interest, post photos, etc. We encourage all in the parish to add photos and/or information that they may have. The schedule for the program is as follows:

Feb. 17/20 - St. Patrick  
Feb. 24/27 - St. Columba  
Mar. 3/6 - St. Cuthbert  
Mar. 10/13 - St. Hilda  
Mar. 17/20 - St. Cedd  
Mar. 24 - Celtic Eucharist

Failte! All are welcome, we look forward to seeing you there!

- *Stephanie Coleman*

## **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

The Tuesday morning Bible study group will resume meeting again in Lent. Come celebrate the Eucharist and 9:30 a.m., followed by Bible study at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

## **PRAYER SHAWLS FOR NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

In the aftermath of the horrific shootings that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2012, a tide of anguish swept over our entire nation. Our country continues to mourn and grieve with the families of the victims, and generous outpourings and gestures of love and concern have flooded the small town in Connecticut.

A few days after the shooting, God placed it on my heart to collect prayer shawls for the families and friends of the victims. I checked the Prayer Shawl Ministry website ([www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com)), to discover that the founders, Janet Bristow and Victoria Gallo, had posted an appeal for shawls. In response to my inquiry, they sent me the name of the contact person in Newtown. I emailed requests to some of the different prayer shawl ministries in Suffolk County I am acquainted with to gather a supply of shawls for delivery to Newtown. Over the course of the next few weeks, I had commitments from many churches for shawls, and in the past few days, we have driven around collecting beautiful, lovingly made shawls. Each one has been tagged with the following:

“Crafted by hand and threaded with prayers of love and hope, this shawl is a gift from one of many Prayer Shawl Ministries on Long Island in New York. May it bring blessings of God's comfort, gifts of warmth and the knowledge that you are truly loved.”

The churches contributing to this collection are: St. Cuthbert's, Selden, Three Village Church, Setauket, Caroline Church of Brookhaven, Setauket, the Setauket Presbyterian Church, St. Mark's, Islip, Christ Church, Babylon, St. James Church,

St. James. On Martin Luther King Day I will take these gifts of prayer and hope to the United Parcel Store in Mt. Sinai, whose owner, Joel DeGregorio, has very generously offered to ship the shawls at no cost. The woman who is collecting the shawls in Newtown, Kathleen Desrosiers, wrote in an email: "Your gift comes at the perfect time. We are going to try to give every teacher and school staff member in town a shawl. We already took them to Sandy Hook school, but we feel we should reach out to the other schools as well during this difficult time. You can send them to me at P.O. Box 728, Newtown CT 06470. Please thank your group for this amazing generosity. People here are just in awe of the generosity and by the end of this week I will have given away almost 800 donated shawls."

We are so grateful to all who contributed so selflessly to this collection for the people of Newtown. We are reminded that small acts of kindness make up the fabric of life along with loss and suffering. This was truly an instance of God working through us to comfort those in need. May those who receive these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love, all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

- *Wylie Hunt*

## VOICES OF GODLY PLAY

If you traveled with the Wise Men to visit Baby Jesus, what gift would you bring Him?

I would bring my baby stuff that had when I was a baby. ~ *Jesse*

I would bring Him a rattle. And a sheep because sheep have wool and they're warm to keep Him warm. I would give Him my little blankie because it's little and it's warm and it's cuddly. ~ *Jake*

I would bring Baby Jesus love so He would have a sweet life. ~ *Sarah*

I would give Him a rainbow so He would let it be there. ~ *Maggie*

I would give Him a chest load of good things and food enough for His whole family and money so He could buy things that they need. ~ *Calvin*

I would give Him clothes, lots of clothes, so He would have proper clothes and not be wrapped in rags. ~ *Elizabeth*

I would give Him copper so He could sell it and buy stuff if He needs something. ~ *Eddie*

- *Carol Bluni*

## OUTREACH

**Be sure to read about Outreach in the Epistles to St. James (160<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting Report)** to see what this parish did to reach out to others in 2012.

**Join the Mardi Gras Celebration and Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 12.** Fat Tuesday is the last chance to party before Lent! Costumes and/or masks are encouraged but not required. Volunteers are needed to help set up, cook, serve, and clean up. Please contact Lil Moleti at 675-0385. If you can donate some of the ingredients or bring a dish you have made for the occasion, please let Lil know that, too.

**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 macaroni and cheese, jelly, juice, and baked beans. When the cart is full, please take a turn transporting the food to the pantry (thanks, Bob Scott!). The next time St. James parishioners will serve at the pantry will be during the summer.

**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 and are transporting our love and prayers to others in need, as well. 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 near and far around the world continue to be great.

Please participate so St. James can give a generous donation.

**Protestant Campus Ministry at Stony Brook University continues to collect toiletries for Superstorm Sandy victims and women transitioning from domestic violence.** All those Christmas gifts you can't use, or small bottles saved from hotels, or gift bags from your dentist would be perfect. Donations may be placed in the basket in the narthex.

**The Outreach Committee will meet this spring** to determine how to allocate the money in the 2013 budget for outreach. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the date of the meeting.

*- Sue Krall  
Outreach Chair*

## ACOLYTING

The first time I got to be an acolyte on New Year's Day it was really cool. I got to see how to do it and how Raewynne does all the things on the altar.

It was really fun to be an acolyte. It was easy to do because Miss Carol practiced with me a lot.

It was special to be an acolyte and that's how I felt my first time acolyting.

*Sarah LeCluse*

## PRAY IT FORWARD

Last year I participated in a “pay-it-forward” exchange. I responded on the internet to a friend who asked for five people to get in touch with her, and she would send them each a handmade gift. Each recipient, in turn, then had to find five other friends to send a little present to, and so on and so on. These random acts of kindness unfolded in a sort of ripple effect, touching others with generosity and love. It was a lovely experience.

Last week I read on the Episcopal Church Foundations Vital Practices website about the “Pray it Forward” movement, and after speaking with Raewynne, we thought we would try to get it started at St. James.

*From the Episcopal Church Foundation:*  
“The pay-it-forward movement is interesting because it offers an opportunity for us to show our best selves. A random and unexpected kindness is a gift from God. It can transform a day, strengthen a relationship and build community. It offers a chance for us to be gracious receivers and gracious givers.

It might be fun for a congregation to start with one person giving to another a small gift or note of encouragement and a pledge to pray daily for the other, with the request that the recipient do the same thing for another parishioner. What would it be like if every person in our church was touched in 2013 by a random act of kindness? How would it impact our commitment to each other and to regular worship, knowing that someone was actively thinking of and praying for us?

We could share the stories on our church’s Facebook page, perhaps building some excitement and momentum. And other friends, not affiliated with our church or

maybe struggling to find a spiritual home, would see one way in which we are Christians by our love.”

So please pray about whether you are called to make a random gesture of kindness and prayer to someone in the congregation. Perhaps the recipient might be someone you don’t know very well, and might like to become better acquainted with. Perhaps the recipient might be a small child or an elderly parishioner. Imagine how touched you would be if someone just walked up to you with a little note and/or a gift and let you know they would pray for you on a daily basis.

If we are going to exchange gifts, please do keep them small, simple, and inexpensive, perhaps a homemade or home-baked item. The focus should be more on the prayer offered than on the gift, although the gift is certainly a symbol and an offering of love. In the Cursillo community, this prayer is called a “palanca,” which is a Spanish word meaning a “lever.” Just as a lever enables a person to move something which is beyond normal strength, palanca serves to lift the recipient closer to God. The person giving the prayer is not thanked, but rather God is praised.

Perhaps you might like to share how this random act of kindness and prayer has touched you, either on the St. James Facebook page or in Open Doors. I love to imagine all this prayer and love swirling around our St. James family! We have an entire year ahead to make it happen! Will you join me?

- Wylie Hunt

## A PASTORAL NOTE

It's that time of the year again, with ice on the ground and long dark nights. What you can do to prevent falls:

- \* Remove area rugs
- \* Keep the floor, pathways and stairs clear of objects
- \* Have sturdy handrails for the stairs and bathroom
- \* Have bright lighting
- \* Walk in shoes, not barefoot or in slippers
- \* Consider wearing an alarm device or carrying a phone
- \* Get up slowly from a sitting or lying position
- \* Wear sturdy shoes with good grip when you are outside.

- *Raewynne*

## THANK YOU TO THE PARISH

I wish to thank each and every one of you for making my mother's funeral a true celebration of her life. Your hard work, generosity of spirit and warm embrace reminded me of all that Mom loved so much about her parish and the gentle souls she prayed with each Sunday in the church she loved for nearly seventy years. My prayer shawl is my constant companion as I make my journey toward peace in God's embrace and healing presence. And the moveable feast in Mills Hall was amazing. The food was fabulous, the room glowed with beauty and warmth, and being with all those Mom loved and cherished brought me face to face with our Lord's enveloping grace and light.

I will never forget your kindness, love and faith.

*Alexandra Rich*

## FEBRUARY LUNCH BUNCH

On Tuesday, February 26, the Lunch Bunch will gather at 12:30 p.m. to enjoy a meal at Lotus East, which is located on North Country Road (Rte. 25A) in St. James. All parishioners and friends are invited to join in the fun. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

After nearly 25 years in the fitness industry, Kathy Mauro has been chosen as a national spokesperson and part of a Master Trainer Team of three for a new program that will have three core pieces. Kathy will be the creative consultant, writer and trainer for the fusion based flexibility part that will combine the best of Pilates, yoga, and athletic stretching. The national launch will be in March.

Long time, beloved parishioner, Grace Rich went to her heavenly reward on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. She was 93 years old. A funeral service filled with music and fond remembrance was held at St. James on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Grace lived a rich and interesting life, working as a reporter, Latin and English teacher, and a founder of day and nursery schools. She was very much involved in activities at St. James Church, from Altar Guild to the creation of the Biblical Garden, and was a leading member of the morning Bible study group. Our prayers and sympathy go out to her daughter, Alex.

Congratulations to Justin Plaschka, who has broken eight (individual stroke) swimming records previously set at Hauppauge High School. If you missed the two page article in Sunday's *Newsday* you can see a copy on the bulletin board outside the office, or in

Mills Hall. It is quite a tribute. All his hard work has paid off!

Valerie Misa, daughter of Linda and Ken, has joined the marketing department of building materials manufacturer NyloBoard, LLC, located in Covington, Georgia. She relocated to Georgia this past November. We wish her much success in her new job.

## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

- 1 Nursery school movie night 7 pm  
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Annual Parish Meeting &  
Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
- 4 C.F.E. meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 7 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Nursery school valentine party  
10 a.m. - 12 noon
- 10 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II with Baptism**  
**9:30 a.m. and Children's**  
**Formation classes**
- 11 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
& Mardi Gras Celebration 6 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**Holy Eucharist & Ashes 12 pm**  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.  
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.  
**Holy Eucharist & ashes 7:30 p**
- 15 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**

- Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**  
**with Children's Formation**  
Celtic Saints program 4:00 p.m.
- 18 Presidents' Day  
Office closed  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Bible study 10:00 a.m.  
Smithtown Book Club 7 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.  
Celtic Saints program 7:30 p.m.
- 21 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Mills Hall rental 1 - 4 p.m.
- 24 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**  
**with Children's Formation**  
Celtic Saints program 4:00 p.m.
- 25 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Bible study 10:00 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.  
Celtic Saints program 7:00 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  
Gwen Mansbridge  
Amelia Bowden  
Kevin White  
Leah Tarantino  
Bruce Jeffrey

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Istvan & Edit Dioszegi

Raewynne's Ordination as Deacon