

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

February 2014

F R O M T H E



RECTOR

A couple of weeks ago, I read an article by the Director of Stewardship Development for the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, Peter Misiaszek. In it, he asked the question, “Could you tithe your time?” Much of the time when we talk about stewardship, we talk about money (as we did on Sunday at our Annual Meeting – we face a significant deficit).

But stewardship is not simply about how we use our money, but how we use all of our resources. And one significant resource we all have is time.

Misiaszek breaks his average week down this way: Sleep - 49 hours, Work - 40 hours, Television/Internet - 15 hours, Meal Preparation and Eating 15 hours, Chores, Laundry, Cleaning - 15 hours, Travel - 15 hours, Family Time and Church - 10 hours, Exercise and Grooming - 9 hours
Total 168 hours in a week.

Each of us has a very different schedule (mine has more work and sleep, less travel, and a lot less cleaning!), but all of us have some choices about how we use that time. A tithe of our time sounds a lot, but giving

16.8 hours of our week to God isn't simply about doing more things for the church (though it might include that), but being more intentionally aware of God, and using small amounts of time to connect with God through prayer, reading, service and worship.

There's actually some precedent for this in our Scriptures. The people of God were to take the seventh day of each week, the Sabbath, for rest, rest that was dedicated to God. That was the minimum – daily prayers, worship, etc., came in addition.

In the article Misiaszek suggests a range of ways to dedicate time to God in our everyday life today – and I've added a few of my own.. Instead of listening to the radio, you might choose inspirational music (and yes, that includes much of the music of Bach and other classical composers, as well as Christian bands like....or even U2!) Or download a Christian audio book from the library. While walking or exercising (or in my case giving platelets), meditate. Challenge yourself to read 30 minutes of scripture each day. Take a few minutes at work to pray for your coworkers, or at bridge to pray for the other players, or if you watch the news, pray for the people affected by each of the news stories. Participate in a weekly Bible study and then volunteer in another ministry at the church. Attend

church services weekly. Volunteer for something outside of church in the service of God.

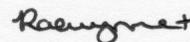
And consider the benefits, says Misiaszek: “How might the pace of life change if we consciously chose to use more of our time to serve God? How might our relationships with one another be enhanced? How might our Christian journey be more fulfilling? In finding ways to commit our time more intentionally to God’s mission we actually fulfill our baptismal promises.”

These are wonderful questions to ask us as we start a new year in the life of our church, with new wardens and vestry members. And with that in mind, I would like to thank those who have given so much of themselves to God as leaders in our parish. Chris Mauro served on the search committee for me, was on vestry, then served as warden for four years, the last one without a second warden. He has been a key leader during my first seven years here, and I am very thankful to him, and to Kathy, Emily, and Thomas, who have had to share him with us so much. He won’t disappear, but will become involved in other service to God in our parish. Katy Sacher served a three year term on vestry, and has been a constant thoughtful and practical voice among us – all this while ‘enjoying’ the unexpected arrival of Seraphina! She and her family are a mainstay of family Bible study, and will continue to be active in our parish life. Jeremy Dean filled a one year vacancy, and has constantly reminded us to think about the things we take for granted, and how we can help those new to the Episcopal Church to feel at home among us. He will continue to be involved in working on our new website and in other ways in our parish. Thank you all.

I am delighted that we have some wonderful new members of our parish leadership. Alex

Rich and Debbie LaMano have accepted nomination as wardens – Alex follows in her father’s footsteps, and Debbie offers her experience in filling the vacant warden term. Matt Trump returns for another term on vestry; James Andrews and Madelyn Cousins are newer parishioners who both serve as ushers. James came to St. James to get married, and stuck; Madelyn has also become involved in the Stony Brook Protestant Campus Ministry Board. We are delighted that they are willing to serve God in this way.

Blessings,



THE WARDEN'S COLUMN

It has been an honor and certainly one of the highlights of my life to serve as Warden to our parish for the last four years. I want to thank all the Vestry members, committee chairs and members, and staff for their support and dedication to your church during that time. I also want to thank Raewynne for all of her support and cooperation. More importantly, I want to thank her for being forward thinking, open minded, and always mission focused. The friendships I have made while in service to our parish will last a lifetime, as will the high esteem and respect I have for those I have had the opportunity to work with. I encourage and urge every member of our parish to get involved and to challenge yourself in these endeavors. In doing so you will find, as I have, a deepening of your faith, and love for our parish family.

Peace and Blessings,
- *Chris Mauro*

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

At the 161st Annual Parish meeting of St. James Church the following parishioners were elected:

Alexandra Rich - Warden. Alex was born and raised in St. James Church. She went to college in Virginia and has a background in journalism. She was elected for a two year term.

Debbie LaMano - Warden. Debbie was born and raised in Queens, and has been a member of St. James since 1993. She currently works part time as a teacher aide in Mills Pond Elementary School.

James Andrews - Vestry. James is a new member at St. James. He has an M.S. in accounting and finance, and is currently the Assistant Deputy Commissioner of SWEP. He will serve a three year term.

Matthew Trump - Vestry. Matthew grew up in Port Jefferson, attended Boston University and SUNY Binghamton, and was raised at Three Village Church in Setauket. He is currently the Director of Facilities and Grounds at the Knox School. This is his second three year term on Vestry.

Madelyn Cousins - Vestry. Madelyn was nominated at the Annual Meeting. She has been attending St. James for about a year, and works at Stony Brook University. She will serve a three year term.

FOOD PANTRY

February is our month to staff the Food Pantry. We are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. It has been very busy and we could use four (4) people per day!! Please see Claudette Plaschka at church or call her at 543-4944 to volunteer.

Can't help during the day? There are other ways to help with this important outreach:

*We need people to shop for us (you will be reimbursed).

*We need help stocking the shelves. It can be done late in the day or on Saturday or Sunday. Students can receive letters for community service.

Call Pat Westlake (584-6628) to offer your help.

- *Pat Westlake*

OUTREACH

Be sure to read about Outreach in the *Epistles to St. James* (161st Annual Meeting Report) to see what this parish did to reach out to others in 2013.

February is St. James' month to staff the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry.

Please sign up in Mills Hall. Three people are needed each day, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. The Pantry especially needs donations of juice, canned fruit, tuna fish, and cereal at this time. Toiletries are always welcome. Donations can be left in the cart in the hallway of the Christian Education building. If you see that the cart is getting full, please take a turn and deliver the food to the Pantry, which is located at St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Smithtown. This ministry is more important these days than ever. Director Pat Westlake reports the Pantry gave out 237 Thanksgiving baskets. During 2013, the Pantry assisted 1,920 families (6,976 individuals) !!! The turkeys (and all the other foods) you donated and the delicious Christmas cookies you baked were greatly appreciated. And thank you to all who serve in person at the Pantry and to Claudette Plaschka for coordinating our service there!

Adopt-a-Family and Pick-a-Star gifts were joyfully received this Christmas.

Thank you to all parishioners who generously gave to support these two outreach projects.

Protestant Campus Ministry at Stony Brook University invites you to meet their Chaplain, the Rev. Brenda D. Ford, and hear "Why Campus Ministry Matters" to her students on February 23 from 5-7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Smithtown. Dr. Pablo Lavandera, First Presbyterian's Music Director and faculty member at Stony Brook University, will play

some piano selections. Light refreshments will be served. When you meet Chaplain Brenda and hear her students, you will see why St. James continues to be among PCM's most ardent supporters. High school students who are thinking of applying to Stony Brook University are most welcome to attend, too.

The Annual Mardi Gras Celebration and Pancake Supper will be held on Tuesday, March 4. This gives you extra time this year to plan your costume and/or mask (both optional). Watch for a sign-up sheet sometime in February. Join the fun: Fat Tuesday comes only once a year!

Register as bone marrow donor at www.bethematch.org. This registry is international. Although some potential matches have been found for Raewynne's nephew, Laughlin, many others are still waiting for their match. If you belong to an organization of people between the ages of 18 and 59, encourage them to register too. Meanwhile, continue to pray for Lockie and his whole family.

The Outreach Committee will meet this spring to determine how to allocate the money in the 2014 budget for Outreach. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the date of the meeting.

- Sue Krall

WOMEN'S CELTIC PILGRIMAGE

Join Jeanne Provenzano and Raewynne Whiteley for a 62.5 mile pilgrimage through the borderlands of England and Scotland where St. Aidan, St. Cuthbert, and other Celtic saints carried the Gospel to the Anglo Saxons in the seventh century. You will walk an average of 13 miles a day through the farmland, remote glens, moors, and finally the Pilgrim Trail across the sand to Holy Island, staying in local B&Bs and pubs. The pilgrimage will take place May 9-16. The cost is \$720 for the ground portion, plus airfare and some meals. An informational meeting is set for Saturday, February 8, 10:30 a.m. at the Mercer School in Garden City. Email the coordinators at womenscelticpilgrimage@gmail.com if you plan to come to the meeting and/or would like more information.

DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

Maybe you wanted to join the choir, but couldn't make the Thursday evening rehearsals. Beginning in January, the choir rehearsals have been scheduled for 11:15 a.m on Sunday mornings, to allow more interested singers to join. If you are thinking about singing with the choir, you are invited to come to one of our rehearsals on Sunday mornings to see if this works for you. New members are always welcome!

30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SMITHTOWN EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry was dedicated on March 4, 1984. Since that day we have been assisting all who come to us and say they are in need. In the first 8 months the family was open 100 families received assistance. Today we are assisting 160 families a month.

On that first day the Invocation said:

"Almighty God, on the mountain you showed your glory in the Transfiguration of Your Son. Give us the vision to see the King in all his Glory, and also the faith to follow Jesus down from the mountaintop that we might see those among us who are poor, hungry, and dispossessed and then give of our time and wealth to help through your Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

Join us on Sunday, March 2nd as we honor the volunteers and all those who support the Pantry.

- Pat Westlake

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. James,

I want to thank you all for your love, support, encouragement, prayers, and your generous gift to me.

That last Sunday was overwhelmingly wonderful and bittersweet and I will hold the many images of that day in my heart for many years to come. On a cold, dreary, and dangerously icy January morning, St. James Church was aglow with both physical and

spiritual warmth. The altar was decked in its last hour of Christmas splendor as the Magi, at last, had finished their journey towards Bethlehem to see the tiny baby Jesus.

You, as a congregation, and I, as a seeker of a new congregation, are still in the midst of our journey. Even as God blesses us, He calls us to take those same gifts to be offered to each other. This is how we see God with us, here, every day.

I have indeed seen the face of God in all of you at St. James. I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity to be part of this congregation for these past twelve years.

May you continue to go in peace, to love and serve the Lord!

Love,
Dara Linthwaite



NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

We are sad to report the passing of the Rev. Blair Hatt on January 26. Father Hatt served as Interim Priest at St. James in the late 1990s. He was living in North Carolina, and had been suffering from health issues.

Our sympathies are extended to Donna and Dennis Guinaw on the passing of Donna's brother, Craig Jackson, who passed away on February 1 after struggling with pancreatic cancer

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 2 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. with Annual Parish Meeting
- 3 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Winter Clergy Day 10 a.m.
Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
- 5 Knitters group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 6 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with Children's Formation classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
- 10 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
- 13 Nursery School Board meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with Children's Formation classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
- 17 **President's Day** - office closed
Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Smithtown Book Club 6:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 20 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with Children's Formation classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
- 24 *Open Doors* deadline
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 25 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Knitter's group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
- 27 Nursery school parent workshop
7:00 p.m.
- 28 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Bishop is coming! Bishop Provenzano will be visiting St. James on Sunday, April 27 at 9:30 a.m. If you wish to be baptized, confirmed, or received into the Episcopal Church while the Bishop is here, please speak with Raewynne.

Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Celebration, Tuesday, March 4. Don your masks, beads, and costumes as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a Mardi Gras party and pot luck supper. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information.

Ash Wednesday, March 5. We begin the Lenten season with Holy Eucharist and the imposition of ashes at two services on March 5.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Kerrick Wille
- Peter Cahill
- Sandy Grigoletto
- Annabelle Wille
- Colette Tarantino
- Lorelei Glogg Allen
- George Krall
- Joan Mercep
- Kelly Lally
- Jimmy Allen
- Jeff Smith
- Maggie Lawrence
- Gwen Mansbridge
- Amelia Bowden
- Kevin White
- Leah Tarantino
- Jeremy Dean
- Bruce Jeffrey

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Istvan & Edit Dioszegi

