



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

February 2015

FROM THE



On Sunday morning we had our Annual Meeting. It was, as usual, a time of great encouragement and celebration in the life of the parish.

Reading the letters parishioners have written about their ministries never fails to inspire me to give thanks to God for the people we have here, and their faithful service.

At the meeting I was delighted to be able (on Bishop Provenzano's behalf) to award the Bishop's Medal for faithful service. I nominated the recipient not only for her faithfulness in service in the life of the parish, but for the incredible work she has done in expanding the ministry of the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, raising awareness and money, improving the range of food available to clients, including staples like milk and eggs, and providing support for local church coordinators and volunteers. I am, of course, speaking of Pat Westlake – Congratulations!

I was also delighted to institute the Rector's Medal for Unsung Service - an award given to those among us who serve quietly in the background, with little fanfare or recognition. It was awarded to:

Donna Austin, for her service in visiting shut-ins
Carol Bluni, for her service visiting residents of local nursing homes
Charlie Kreussling, for his service working with our parish finances
Sue Krall, for her service as Secretary of the Board of Protestant Campus Ministry at SUNY Stony Brook.

Part of our time together at the Annual Meeting was spent discussing (around our tables) things for which we give thanks. They are listed below. There was an amazing sense of community, with so many of our thanksgivings for the ways in which we serve one another.

We also had the opportunity to talk about and write down our dreams for the parish. They will go to the Vestry, to consider how we can work towards them, and will invite parishioners to form teams to do this.

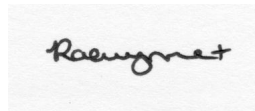
But something else was going on as well. On the floor in front of the altar, two little girls were working on a piece of art to hang on the altar. The theme was "Jesus". And they drew and wrote about their friend Jesus. At the offertory, one of them came forward and gave me a note. It said, "I love Jesus".



It was a reminder of why we are all here. Not just to care for one another, although that's an important part of our life together. Not just to do outreach, though that's also important. But because we love Jesus.

As we head into Lent, I invite you to think about what it means for you to love Jesus. How do you show that love? Do you talk to him? Do you spend time with him? Do you listen to him? Do you worship him?

Blessings,



VOICES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

At the annual meeting on February 1, parishioners were asked to think about the things at St. James for which they are thankful. Here are the results:

- *For Donna visiting Don in the hospital several times.
- *For several parishioners going to the home of Mike and Polly Neyssen to build a new deck and railing to make their entries safer.
- *For Kathy calling before the last snowstorm to see if they need anything.
- *For all the love and genuine affection seen at times.
- *For having the "friendliest church ever."
- *For Raewynne's open spirit and loving welcome, which spreads to members.
- *For those who brought meals and prayers to Alexis and Peter.
- *For those who donate to the Food Pantry; those who donate food, time, talents and treasures.

- *For long time fellowship, sharing in the good and the not so good.
- *For the opportunity to extend our care concerns outside the parish.
- *For showing newcomers our care and friendship so that many return.
- *For taking care of each other, whether food shopping, driving, phone calls, etc
- *For the Prayer Chain.
- *For the parents who bring children to church faithfully.
- *For our beautiful building and grounds.
- *For the people, our Rector, new members, new babies, love, and Godly Play.
- *For the Food Pantry.
- *For the positive effect on the young children.
- *For the commitment of the parishioners, the Vestry, and the Sexton.
- *For making our budget.
- *For maintaining and improving our historic cemetery, which serves the whole community.
- *For new members, especially younger ones with children, and those who are taking a role in the parish.
- *For reaching out to many others in the community and beyond.
- *For the music ministry of our organist.
- *For the growth and revitalization of our Sunday school program.
- *For the sacristy doors being fixed.
- *For all team leaders.
- *For Laurie, for her professionalism and her dedication to our parish members.
- *For the members of the Altar Guild.
- *For the acolytes.
- *For the Cemetery Committee and all of their hard work.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING VESTRY ELECTIONS

At the 162nd Annual Parish Meeting of St. James Church on February 1 the following parishioners were elected to the Vestry:

Douglas Dahlgard - Vestry. Doug is a retired Financial Executive with forty year's experience. He is an active member of the parish and local community, is married to Robin, with four adult children and four grandchildren. Doug is Mayor of the Village of Head of the Harbor, Trustee/Treasurer of Gallery North, an art gallery and community art center in Setauket, and is currently Treasurer at St. James. He was elected for his second three year term.

Frank Giardina - Vestry. Frank, a Roman Catholic, started attending services at St. James about 18 months ago. He and Amy will be married 34 years in April, have two children and an eight month old grandson. Frank graduated C.W. Post College in 1980 with a B.S. in Accounting. After graduating, he worked as an accountant for two years, and was hired in 1982 by the Suffolk County Police Dept., where he worked for 30 years, retiring in 2012. For 22 of those 30 years, he served as a detective. He and Amy have lived in St. James for about 22 years. Frank was elected for his first three year term.

Peter Plaschka - Vestry. Peter and his family have been attending St. James for almost 15 years, ever since they followed their priest, Father Michael, here from St. Mark's in Islip. From the very beginning, they felt right at home. Peter has been married to his beautiful wife, Claudette, for almost 30 years, and they raised two amazing kids, Jade, 24, and Justin, 18. He has been in software development for most of his career and currently works in the city at Bank of America as a Business Analyst.

He has been an usher and coffee hour host for many years, in addition to assisting with the annual Harvest and Strawberry Festivals. He is looking forward to furthering his involvement in the Church and contributing to its growth. Peter was elected for his first three year term.

Margo Goldman - Vestry. Margo offered to serve at the Annual Meeting. She is a long time resident of the St. James area. Margo is an actress, and has recently completed a course of study at the Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi University. Margo was married to the late Don Goodman for many years, has a daughter and son, and two step-sons. She was elected to complete a one year term vacancy on the Vestry.

OPENING FOR WARDEN

We have a vacancy for the second Warden's position. Several parishioners were asked to step forward to serve, yet could not answer. Nobody stood up at the Annual Meeting and thus Debbie must remain until the position is filled.

Perhaps many in our congregation feel adding one more "job" to an already overly full schedule is more than they can handle. I would like to have you think about being Warden in a different light. Personally, as one who holds one full time and two part time jobs, I view being Warden as a "calling" not a job title. It is a gift rather than an obligation.

I have always been connected to my church even when I was physically removed. My soul has always been in direct contact with my St. James parish and with God. The two are nearly synonymous to me. Yet, within this past year I have felt a connectivity that

is even stronger than the one I have known throughout my life. I have indeed felt the breath of the Holy Spirit, and known Jesus' tight embrace. Without my connection to the Vestry and the administration of our parish I would have missed all this, and never even have known what was lacking in my journey.

The Vestry of 12 includes our Rector, Wardens, and Vestry members. We are a team: a remarkably diverse group with an incredible depth of talent, experience and faith. We have all traveled different routes to Christian belief and have arrived at the table to share, to inspire, to lead, to build. We are blessed with a priest who has limitless belief, an astonishing knowledge of Scripture, a gift for words, and a burning energy most of us can only wish to clone. We have arrived in this New Year with a budget surplus thanks to all of you. We have a central core of faithful followers. What is so difficult or challenging about moving forward with all this strength within us?

Forward is the operative word. We on the Vestry have an opportunity to influence the future of our parish. I do not want to leave this mortal plane, as my father called it, without the assurance that our plan for the future is advancing. This is part of the "gift" before you. Think of our four babies! Think of our baptisms and our members getting married this year! Think of the people in our community we could reach out to who have so little and would be so enriched to be welcomed into our community!

Think and pray to see if you can respond to this calling of leadership, fellowship, and faith. Our gift, and our Lord's gift, to you will be revealed each and every day. Being a Warden is a blessing waiting to be discovered.

*Kindle in your hearts the flame of your love
That in the darkness of the world
It may glow and reach to all forever.*
- (Hymn) "Come Holy Spirit",
Jacques Berthier

With peace and hope,
Alexandra

KIVA GIFT CARDS

At the Annual Meeting, Raewynne gave \$25 Kiva gift cards to those retiring (and one re-upping) Vestry members. Kiva enables the donor to give a micro loan to entrepreneurs (more information can be found at kiva.org). At press time, the following card recipients had already made their loans:

- *Stephanie Coleman - for Christina, who started a Pilates studio, the Reformation Station, in December of 2013 in the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood of Los Angeles.
- *Wylie Hunt - for Mildred in the Philippines, to enable her to buy feed and vitamins for her chickens.
- *Matt Trump (from last year) - for Doctors Without Borders Emergency Relief Fund.



**SHROVE TUESDAY
MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

Don your masks, beads and costumes (optional) as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a Mardi Gras party and pot luck supper. The festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. in Mills Hall. There will be music, the hiding of the “Alleluias”, and a fun time will be had by all!

We will be serving the traditional pancakes, but please bring a dish to share. You can contact Stephanie Coleman at ssc6263@gmail.com to let her know you are coming and if you can help out, or just show up with your dish.

ASH WEDNESDAY

We will begin the observation of Lent with services of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at 12 Noon and 7:30 p.m. on February 18.

The Rector invites you to join her to hit the streets and welcome St. James to a Holy Lent. Last year, a small group of parishioners had an incredible time on Ash Wednesday morning offering ashes at the St. James railway station and Tic Toc Café. We are planning to do it again this year! Join us – sign up on Sunday.

LENT

Lent comes in just a couple of weeks. We are still making final plans for our Lenten series – stay tuned to the Sunday bulletins for details!



*Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.*

PLANNING AHEAD FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

The week from Palm Sunday to Easter Day is the most solemn and glorious of our church year. It's the time when we hear the story that makes us who we are, the people of God, saved by Christ, forgiven and invited into resurrected life. Please mark the services on your calendar, and make worshiping and thanking God a priority for that week.

- *Raewynne*

Palm Sunday, March 29 -

Holy Eucharist with Palm Procession at 8:00 and 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 2 -

Supper & Eucharist 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3 -

Good Friday service 12 Noon - 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 4 -

Easter Vigil 7 p.m.

Easter Day, April 5 -

Celebration Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

LUNCH BUNCH

The January meeting of the Lunch Bunch was snowed out, so they will meet at Spuntino Restaurant, 420 North Country Road, St. James, on Tuesday, February 24 at 12:30 p.m. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

OUTREACH

Be sure to read about Outreach in the *Epistles to St. James* (162nd Annual Meeting Report) to see how God has been at work during 2014 in St. James' Outreach Ministry, growing our faith, building our relationships, and calling us to serve one another.

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry currently needs donations of pork and beans, tuna fish, peanut butter and jelly, and cereal. Donations may be left in the hallway of the Christian Education building. If you see that the cart is getting full, please take a turn delivering the food to the Pantry. The Pantry, located at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church in Smithtown, is open from 9 a.m. to Noon, weekdays. Our own Pat Westlake, Director of the Pantry, reports that 2,280 families/8,628 individuals were served by the Pantry in 2014. So keep your donations of food coming!

Protestant Campus Ministry students continue to collect toiletries for women transitioning from domestic violence. Please place your donations in the basket at the back of the church. As the spring semester begins, the Chaplain, the Rev. Brenda Ford, and students will be enthusiastically packaging your donations for some very appreciative women and their children. Thank you to all who have supported PCM financially as well during 2014. This ministry depends on your thoughts and your prayers.

When the weather warms up (!) we are hoping to have a Habitat for Humanity work day. Please be sure to contact Ken LeCluse if you would like to help when we do get a date set up. No skills are needed. We learn from the best "on the job!"

The Seamen's Church Institute's Christmas at Sea Program received 18 hats and 10 scarves from St. James parishioners! Thank you to all who knit and crochet to warm the hearts and bodies of seamen around the world at Christmas time.

Our Annual Mardi Gras Celebration and Pancake Supper will be held on Tuesday, February 17. Costumes and/or masks make the party a lot of fun (but are optional). Watch for the sign-up sheet soon.

From the budget of \$2,500.00, St. James gave the following in 2014:

- \$ 250.00 Bread for the World
- \$ 500.00 Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk
- \$1,750.00 Protestant Campus Ministry at Stony Brook University

Beyond the Budget, St. James gave the following in 2014:

- \$ 267.00 Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (Good Friday)
- \$ 450.00 + Baby items to new Moms at St. John's Hospital in Far Rockaway (Mother's Day)
- \$ 25.00 Episcopal Relief and Development (Lenten fast)
- \$ 25.00 Super Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund (Global Giving card)
- \$ 25.00 Orphans into Families in Tibet and West China (Global Giving card)
- 22 Units of blood to Suffolk Blood Services (Good Friday)
- 250 Bread for the World letters to Congress
- 27 Backpacks of school supplies, plus extra supplies, for Habitat children

18 hats + 10 scarves to Seamen's Church Institute
Many Pick-a-Star gifts to our home bound and UCP neighbors
Many Adopt-a-Family gifts to the Episcopal Diocese of LI

Thank you all for your generosity!

The Outreach Committee will meet this spring to determine how to allocate the money in the 2015 budget for Outreach. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the date of the meeting.

As I said in the Annual Report, it has been my honor and privilege to serve as St. James Church's Outreach Chairman for the past several years. Soon George and I will be moving on to a new phase of our lives nearer our son and daughter-in-law. Madelyn Cousins has graciously accepted the role as Outreach Chair and will undoubtedly do a wonderful job with your help. Thank you to Raewynne, Laurie, and the many others for all the help you have given me over the years. Blessings to you all!

Sue Krall

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

For those of you who haven't heard, on January 18, Pat Westlake fell in her driveway on her way to church, dislocated and fractured her right wrist, and has since had surgery and is in a cast. She is recovering nicely, but can use some help with transportation, shopping, and the occasional meal. You can contact Pat at 584-6628.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 1 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Annual Parish meeting
- 2 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Clergy Day (Rector)
Family Bible study 5:30 p.m.
Book study group 7:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 6 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Piano/guitar concert 4:00 p.m.
- 8 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 9 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 12 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Nursery school Valentine's
party 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- 15 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 16 President's Day - office closed
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Mardi Gras party 6:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 **Ash Wednesday**
Ashes to Go at train station and
Tic Toc Café, early a.m.
Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist with Imposition
of Ashes 12 Noon
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Holy Eucharist with Imposition
of ashes 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes

- 23 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Lunch Bunch @ Spuntino's
Restaurant
- 25 Knitters group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 26 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

CHURCH SNOW POLICY

We follow the lead of the Smithtown School District in the event of inclement weather. If the schools are closed, the office is closed and all activities are canceled. If the schools are on a two hour delay, so is the office. Sunday services are only canceled if a snow emergency is declared, and motorists are advised to stay off the streets. Be careful out there!

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
Amelia Bowden
Kevin White
James Andrews
Leah Tarantino
Jeremy Dean
Bruce Jeffrey



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Istvan & Edit Dioszegi

