



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

January 2012

F R O M T H E



On New Year's Day here at St. James, we sang a hymn called "Now greet the swiftly changing year." It's a hymn that invites us to reflect on our lives

as they have been, and as we dream they will be, under the hand of God's grace.

Now greet the swiftly changing year
with joy and penitence sincere;
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
another year of grace.

For Jesus came to wage sin's war;
this Name of names for us he bore;
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
another year of grace.

His love abundant far exceeds
the volume of a whole year's needs;
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
another year of grace.

With such a Lord to lead our way
in hazard and prosperity,
what need we fear in earth or space
in this new year of grace.

"All glory be to God on high
and peace on earth!" the angels cry;

rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
another year of grace.

The tradition of New Year's resolutions is deeply Christian in character. Typically we look at those parts of our lives where we have not lived up to our own standards and expectations and hopes, and we strive to do better. We might vow to lose weight, to stick better to our budgets, to eat healthier, to spend more time with our families.

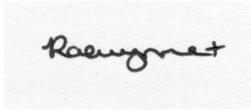
But it's also a time when we can look back at our own lives of faith, and see how we might better follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. One way is checking your life against the baptismal covenant: how have you lived up to it? I guess someone asked themselves if they'd stuck to the first promise, to "continue in apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers," because this week on Facebook I saw this status: "Attend public worship at church every Sunday morning. In just a few months your stress level and blood pressure will drop. Start this Sunday. And the studies show that you will live longer. Every Sunday. Even when it's not convenient."

Whatever you resolve this year, it seems appropriate to finish with a final verse of the hymn that didn't make it into our hymnal:

EPIPHANY BRUNCH

God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!
To all our pleas incline your ear;
Upon our lives rich blessing trace
In this new year of grace.

Blessings
in
2012,



St. James' annual Epiphany Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, January 8, following the 9:30 a.m. service. This is a potluck affair, so donations of brunch food and/or drinks are welcomed. Contact Stephanie Coleman (751-4151 or ssc6263@aol.com) to let her know what you will bring, or if you can help with set up or clean up.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ELECTION OF VESTRY

St. James' Annual Parish meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 5, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

A WORD FROM THE WARDENS

We are still celebrating the birth of Christ Jesus! We ran around shopping, wrapping, cleaning and cooking. Soon many will be taking down the decorations, forgetting why we have celebrated. So, in the cold days of winter ahead of us, PLEASE remember:

Joy in God's Creation

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God's Peace
Chris and Debbie

The annual budget will be presented and there will be reports from the Rector and various committee chairpersons. If you are the chair of a committee, or leader of a group or ministry, written reports must be submitted by January 30th.

The Nominating Committee will present candidates for the following positions:

- 1 Warden - two year term
- 3 Vestry - three year term
- Vestry Clerk
- Treasurer

If you are interested in serving in any one of these positions, please speak to any of the members of the Nominating Committee (Stephanie Coleman, Chris Mauro, Lil Moleti). Nominations may also be made from the floor. Names of those interested in serving as adult and youth delegates to the Diocesan Convention may also be submitted.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday evening Bible study group will meet on Wednesday, January 11th at 7:15 p.m. in the Webster room to discuss 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5, and again on Wednesday, January 25th to discuss the first chapter of Mark. All are welcome.

- Wylie Hunt

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Bible studies are all in session and ALL are welcome! The Tuesday morning group meets every week (please contact Les Bengtson if you have any questions). The Tuesday evening group will be meeting on January 10 and January 31 (please contact Kathy Sides for location). The Wednesday evening group will meet on January 11 and January 25 (see above for more information).

Book group: The Book Group has decided to read each book over a two month period to allow time for everyone to read the book and also to give everyone two opportunities to make meetings in case one night does not work. The book we are beginning is Prayer and Temperament: Different Prayer Forms for Different Personality Types by Chester P. Michael. This book is readily available online from both Amazon and Barnes and Noble. The first meeting to discuss this book will be Monday, February 6, 7:30 p.m. at Panera Bread in Lake Grove. Hope you will be able to join us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at ssc6263@aol.com or 751-1451.

- Stephanie Coleman

HEY KIDS!

Come join us for Godly Play. Learn about the Good Shepherd on 1/14, the Good Samaritan on 1/21, the Sower on 1/28, the Leaven on 2/12 and the Mustard Seed on 2/19. We're looking forward to seeing you.

The Godly Play Team

OUTREACH

The Smithtown Food Pantry needs donations of peanut butter, jelly, and juice. If you receive Christmas gifts of non-perishable food that you can't use and they are appropriately packaged for the Pantry, the Pantry will be happy to have them, too. Donations may be left in the cart in the hallway of the Christian Education building. If you see the cart is getting full, please take a turn dropping the food off at the Pantry during the week.

Habitat for Humanity presented St. James Episcopal Church with its Gold Hammer Award as a 2011 Faith Partner of the Year. Habitat Board member Ken LeCluse, Raewynne, and several St. James parishioners who have been on work days were on hand at the Watermill Restaurant to receive Habitat's thanks for our help. Habitat Suffolk has over 20 houses planned for the next two years and we can all be a part of it. St. James thanks Ken for his devotion to this important ministry! Speak with him to sign up for the next work day.

Your Adopt-a-Family Christmas gifts are bringing joy to 3 families with a total of 10 children this year. Imagine the smiles! Thank you to all who so generously shopped, to Jack Schultheis for delivering your gifts, and to Donna Guinaw and Claudette Plaschka for organizing this outreach ministry.

Santa delivered your Pick-a-Star gifts on December 18 to the squeals and delight of many UCP recipients. Again, thank you for your thoughtful shopping. Everyone received just what they hoped for! Special appreciation goes to Kurt Rettig, the caring man in the red suit, to Stephanie and Abby Coleman for their dedicated organization, and to the parishioners who went along for the fun. We all agree it is our favorite day of the year!

Caroling brought Christmas cheer to our homebound parishioners. Thanks to all who braved the cold weather, reached out to those who can no longer attend church, and to the Moletis, who invited carolers to their home to enjoy supper!

Protestant Campus Ministry is looking for donations of toiletries for women transitioning from domestic violence situations. Sometimes these women have to leave home with nothing, so PCM students at Stony Brook University are hoping to provide some essentials like soap, toothpaste and brushes, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, combs, pens and journals, etc. Check your closets. Those small containers you bring home from hotels would be perfect. I will place a container for toiletries in the front of the church. In addition, Chaplain Brenda Ford is looking for donated items for her ministry with the students. Contact me if you can donate any of the following: Starbucks gift cards * Packages snacks * Gift bags for handing our snacks * white paper * assorted colored paper * candles * assorted DVDs * small microwave for the office * HP color printer – all in one, fax and copy machine.

- Sue Krall

PEOPLE IN THE PEWS

This month we feature Kelly Lally.

1. Tell us about yourself. I was born in Brooklyn and raised in Hicksville. I attended Holy Trinity Episcopal Church for decades, was an acolyte for years, and got involved with the Trini-teens (our version of a youth group). My Dad died when I was only 18 (I've never stopped missing him); my Mom is still living today and we're very close. I got married in 1993. My first "real" job was at Manufacturer's Hanover Trust, I worked in the department that actually embossed the credit card plastic with names and account numbers (interesting stuff). I worked there for about 3 - 4 years. I left there to work at Grumman Aerospace where I started off storing sheet metal and tools in the warehouses, and by the time I left 13 years later, I had worked myself up to executive secretary for the vice president of the F-14 Program. I have had many part time jobs as well, while I was working my full time jobs (I was never afraid to work hard). I left Grumman when I became pregnant with Derek (1999), as I didn't want Derek raised in daycare. I had various part time jobs until I finally went back to work full time at the St. James Fire District, where I am currently employed as the District Secretary. I started there part time in 2004, and gradually increased my hours over the years. I am truly blessed to actually like my job, and am very happy there.

2. When did you first attend St. James? My son, Derek, was Baptized here in 1999 by Father Bartolomeo, and I started attending regularly when Derek turned 1 year old. I actually checked out the church to get married back in 1993 when Father Burnett was Rector, but opted to go back to my old parish where my former Rector came out of retirement to marry us. My wedding ceremony was held in my old church – it was very special!

3. Roles played in the parish:

I am currently a Sunday school teacher, and have been for about 5 or 6 years. I made jam with our "Jammers" a few times; I was on the "green team" for a short time, and took care of the cutting garden one summer. I always work at the spring and fall festivals (unless I'm out of town), and thoroughly enjoy doing it. I take the yoga classes regularly that are given in Mills Hall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. I learned yoga through Mary Jane DeVito, and she has truly impassioned my love of yoga. I'm sure I will continue to do yoga until I'm too old and decrepit to twist my body into those pretzel-like contortions! Hopefully, that will NEVER happen.

4. What do you like most about St. James?

THE TREES! Growing up in Nassau County there were much fewer trees there and less "nature" in general. I love Suffolk County and truly enjoy being a member of the St. James community, a small, close knit group of wonderful people that has been enhanced by my job at the St. James Fire District. We move here in 1993, and my husband, Phil, son, Derek, and I love it here!

5. Last book read: I'm always reading! Right now I've got two books I'm working on: Change Your Thoughts, Change Your Life by Dr. Wayne Dyer, and Pirates' Latitude by Michael Crichton.

6. Hymn you'd take to a desert island:

Any Christmas hymn! Half of them mean so much they bring tears to my eyes when I sing them (I know, how sappy is that?).

7. Favorites:

Color: now it's purple. It WAS green for many years and I still like it (it was a little scary for a while as everything I owned was green!).

Movie: That's a tough one, there are so many. Maybe "Under the Tuscan Sun" but I can't change the channel when "The Shawshank Redemption" is on, either.

Song/music: I enjoy almost all music, but I'm a "classic rocker" at heart! My favorite song writer is Eric Clapton - LOVE his music!

Season: I enjoy all of them, but I'd have to say summer is my favorite.

Sports team: I really don't care much.

Pastime: I always loved horseback riding.

Way to spend Saturday morning: If I'm not at an exercise class of some kind, then of course, it's sleeping late, then making a big breakfast for my family!

8. Education and interests: Hicksville High School, Molloy College, Health Care Management, and MANY business training courses over the years between all of my jobs.

9. If you were to start another career, what would it be? As a child, I always loved animals and thought it would be neat to be a veterinarian, but when I realized I was allergic to animals I thought that might be an "uncomfortable" career choice. I would probably still like to do that, or maybe even be a nurse.

10. A verse from Scripture that is especially meaningful to you? I love the verses "Footprints in the Sand."

ALTAR FLOWERS

Thank you to the members of the Altar Guild, and other parishioners who did a wonderful job of beautifying the church for the Christmas services.

Would you like to honor your loved ones in a memorial, give thanks for a special person or significant event in your life (birthday, anniversary, graduation, etc.) or simply give thanks to God? One way you can do this is by providing an offering for the flowers, wine, bread, and candles that are on the altar each week. The names and purpose of the offering will be written in the Sunday bulletin on your requested date.

Contributions of \$35 are suggested, but donations of any amount, small or large, are appreciated, and will be acknowledged in the bulletin. Forms are available in the rear of the church. Checks can be made payable to the St. James Altar Guild.

JANUARY BLOOD DRIVE

On Saturday, January 21st, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., I am hosting a scholarship blood drive in the Stony Brook area. This time of year always brings a great need for blood, and it will not interfere with the time elapse requirement for Good Friday's drive. Your donation would be greatly appreciated. Please call me at 525-2046 to make an appointment. Thank you very much.

- Kristina Euler

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The January meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry group will be on Saturday, January 21st, 8:30 a.m. at the home of Wylie Hunt, 24 Knox Avenue, Stony Brook. All are welcome to attend. Please call me at 751-5618 for directions.

- Wylie Hunt

LUNCH BUNCH

The January meeting of the Lunch Bunch will be held at Graston Street Pub, 1261 Veteran's Highway, Hauppauge, on Tuesday, January 31st at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in the fellowship and enjoy the food. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to sign up.

- Fjeril Deal

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

The Chamber Music Workshop at Stony Brook University will have its winter concert on Sunday, January 22nd at 3 p.m. The concert is presented by amateur and semi-professional musicians in ensemble groups who have trained and rehearsed together with a coach during the semester. Matthew Trump is playing in two different groups in this concert. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

- Wylie Hunt

**ANTIQUÉ SHOW
AT ST. JAMES CHURCH**

On Saturday, January 2st from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a multi-dealer Antique Show and Sale in Mills Hall. Many interesting items will be offered for sale. If you attended last year's show, you know what delights await you. If not, you are in for a treat! You may just find that special item you are looking for.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Long-time parishioner, Florence Clark, passed away on December 14th. A funeral was held for her at St. James on Saturday, December 17th. Florence had been a member of the Vestry and Director of the Altar Guild, two among many of her activities during her membership at St. James. Shortly before her passing, we received the following email from her son, Andrew:

*Dear Parishioners,
On behalf of my mother, Florence Clark, I wish to thank you for your Christian kindness. Your good deeds have helped improve her quality of life and warmed her heart. She is not able to thank you herself, but the good Lord knows of your kindness. God bless each of you. On behalf of her family, thank you.*

*Kind regards,
Andrew L. Clark*

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 **New Year's Day**
8:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols with Eucharist
9:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols with Eucharist
- 2 Office closed
Book group at Panera Bread 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Knitters group 10:30 a.m.
- 5 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Baptism with Holy Eucharist
Godly Play & Journey to Adulthood classes 9:30 a.m.
Epiphany brunch
- 9 C.F.E. Committee 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Knitters group 10:30 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 12 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
- 13 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Mills Hall rental 4 - 9 p.m.
- 15 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Godly Play and Journey to Adulthood classes
- 16 **Martin Luther King Day**
Office closed
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 17 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Knitters group 10:30 a.m.
- 19 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Antique show - Mills Hall
- 22 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Godly Play and Journey
to Adulthood classes
- 23 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Knitters group 10:30 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 26 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Toastmaster's group 9:30 a.m.
- 29 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Godly Play and Journey
to Adulthood classes
- 30 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jerilyn Glogg
 Donald Scott
 Felicia Van Praagh
 Polly Neysen
 Marge Cobb
 Bill Bataller
 Aislin Foley
 Brian Noack
 Matthew Petschauer
 Claude Deal
 Melanie Cozzolino

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Ian & Felicia Van Praagh

*Would you like your birthday or anniversary
 to be acknowledged, too? We would be
 happy to include your special day in our
 Sunday bulletin and monthly newsletter if we
 had it. You don't even have to reveal the
 year of your birth! Please call or email the
 office, and we will add you to our list.*