



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

January 2014

FROM THE



The New Year has arrived – as it does without fail every year! – and we’ve heard the prognostications of the experts about what this year will

look like. Of course, no one actually knows much at all. Predicting the events of the year ahead is even less reliable than forecasting the weather!

And alongside the forecasts are the New Year’s resolutions – to eat better, to lose weight, to save more, and so on.

This last week I spent much of my time in Lion Ward at Great Ormond Hospital, where my nephew, Laughlin, is being treated. Lion Ward focuses on hematology and oncology, and most of the kids I met were waiting for stem cell transplants. They included Margot, a sixteen month old whose curly red hair always displays a bow, who is learning to walk and who has a double form of leukemia, Oscar*, who might have lost all his hair, but is full of energy and spent New Year’s Eve organizing a light show with the older brother of another patient, for which they made hand written invitations for all the other patients, and Hassan*, not yet walking, who solemnly watches the world pass with

his one good eye, but occasionally breaks into a toothless grin. And of course, Laughlin, who is obsessed with Lego and loves beating his Daddy in battleship.

What you notice about these children is not so much that they are sick – though the pumps they drag behind them, the feeding tubes, and the hair loss are a constant reminder – but how much they love life, and enjoy it. Their illnesses are the backgrounds to their lives, but do not define them.

Our New Year’s resolutions all too often focus on those background things – whether material or physical. But what if our resolutions were more about life – to live more fully, more joyfully, more generously. To take seriously Christ’s words in John chapter 10, verse 10, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

Blessings,



BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday evening Bible study group will resume on January 14 at 7 p.m. in the lobby of the Christian Education building, and will continue January 28 and every two weeks thereafter. Family Bible study resumes on Wednesday, January 15 at 6 p.m. The Tuesday morning group begins at 9:30 a.m. each Tuesday morning with Holy Eucharist. All parishioners are welcome to attend any of these groups.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On Sunday, February 2, 2014, St. James will hold its Annual Parish Meeting. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. There will be updates from the Rector and the annual budget will be presented. The meeting will take place in Mills Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service. At this meeting, nominations will be submitted and elections held for the following positions:

*Warden (2) - two year term

*Vestry member (3) - three year term

If you would be willing to serve in any of the above positions, please speak to Raewynne or Chris Mauro.

CHRISTMAS

Thank you to all who participated in making our Christmas services so beautiful and meaningful again this year.

EPIPHANY BRUNCH

Thank you to Stephanie Coleman, Karen Noack, and Lil Moleti for coordinating a wonderful Epiphany Brunch on January 5, and to all who helped by contributing food or cleaning up.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

In early December eighteen parishioners helped to decorate 130 grave blankets which had been ordered by family members of those interred in our cemetery. The blankets were adorned with snowy white branches, bunches of pine cones, and festive red ribbon. Workers enjoyed seasonal music and, when all blankets were done, pizza, holiday cookies, and a glass of wine. For those visiting the cemetery the finished blankets are a moving reminder that loved ones are honored at this time.

- Robin Dahlgard

OUTREACH

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry especially needs donations of juice, canned fruit and jelly at this time.

Donations can be left in the cart in the hallway of the Christian Education building. You may continue to leave toiletries for the Pantry in the card or in the brown basket in the back of the church. The Pantry was able to give 237 families Thanksgiving turkey dinners this year, thanks to parishioners from our church and other supporting churches. Thank you to all who donated turkeys and the fixings to make so many people very thankful! Thank you also to all who have baked Christmas cookies for clients at the Pantry. This surely has brought them special joy for the holidays!

St. James' Habitat for Humanity work day will be re-scheduled for 2014.

Unfortunately, our day planned for December 13 had to be canceled due to a lack of available participants. Watch *Open Doors* and the Sunday bulletin for our next scheduled day. Contact Ken LeCluse at 588-1176 if you hope to join the group. We want to show Habitat we are serious

supporters! Habitat is unveiling its new web site soon. It will be www.HabitatSuffolk.org.

Thank you one and all for purchasing gifts for Adopt-a-Family and Pick-a-Star!

The JOY this brings can not be over-stated. Pick-a-Star delivery was held on December 22. We thank Kurt Rettig for his faithful role as Santa and Stephanie Coleman for her faithful preparations to make Pick-a-Star a success. And thanks go to Donna Guinaw for her faithful coordination of the Adopt-a-Family program.

Register as a bone marrow donor at

www.bethematch.org. This registry is international and you could help save Laughlin Whiteley's life. 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 Raewynne's nephew, Lockie, and his whole family.

Thank you for all the ways you have reached out to others during the Advent and Christmas seasons!

- Sue Krall

ANTIQUE SALE

On Saturday, January 18, Cathi Hart and friends will hold an Antique Sale in Mills Hall. If you have been to their previous sales, you know that this group offers many treasures for those of you looking to feather your nest, or to buy a special gift. Please be sure to stop by to see what they have to offer this year.

LUNCH BUNCH

All parishioners and friends are invited to join the Lunch Bunch at their get-together on Tuesday, January 28, 12:30 p.m. at the Olde Street Pub in the Branch Shopping Center at the intersection of Rte. 25/25A and Rte. 111 in Smithtown. You may make your reservation by contacting Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 or talk to her during coffee hour on Sunday mornings.

NEWS FROM CAMP DE WOLFE

Winter Camp 2014: This is a program for 4th - 8th graders. With the same values as summer camp programs, it is a residential winter weekend for campers to develop and grow as young leaders in a safe community and experience the love of God in the natural setting. Winter camp runs Friday, January 24 at 6 p.m.- Sunday, January 26 at 1 p.m. Only boys spaces left. Registration must be made by January 15. Contact the Camp at etees@campdewolfe.org.

Listening to God Adult Retreat: This is an overnight retreat for adults on February 7 - 8, facilitated by Dr. John McGinty of the Mercer School of Theology. Participants will be led in a mixture of teaching, prayer, sharing, and reflection times in order to discern God's voice. Accommodations will be in the Benson House and all meals are provided. Call 929-4325 to register by February 1.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

We had the sad news that Felicia (Flicka) Van Praagh passed away early Christmas morning. A memorial service was held at St. James Church on Saturday, December 28. Our prayers and sympathy goes out to her husband, Ian and family.

On Sunday, January 5, at the Epiphany Brunch, we bid a fond farewell to our choir director, Dara Linthwaite, who is moving on to another pathway in her life. Dara has been a parishioner since the late 1990s and choir director for many years. The choir (especially) and the congregation will miss her very much.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 **New Year's Day**
9:30 a.m. Prayers for the New Year
- 3 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 DeMato/Andrews wedding
4:00 p.m.
- 5 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
De-greening of the church
Epiphany brunch
- 6 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 **Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 9 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Nursery school Open House
10:00 a.m. - Noon
- 12 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Baptism
Children's Formation classes
- 13 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 **Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.**
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
- 16 Nursery school parent seminar
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
- 17 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Antique Sale 10:00 a.m.
- 19 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 20 **Martin Luther King Day**
Office closed
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 23 N.A. meeting 7:30 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.
Children's Formation classes
- 27 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
Open Doors deadline
- 28 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Lunch Bunch 12:30 p.m. at Olde Street Pub, Smithtown.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
- 31 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jerilyn Glogg
Donald Scott
Polly Neyssen
Marge Cobb
Bill Bataller
Jean Sommer
Brooke Lynn Prentiss
Ruth Ward
Brian Noack
Bruce Lawrence
Matthew Petschauer
Lucy Corbo
Claude Deal

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bruce & Amy Jeffrey

