

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

January 2015

F R O M T H E



RECTOR

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." John 14:6

It's a new year, and many of us have

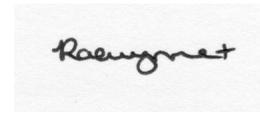
made New Year's resolutions. But sometimes the resolutions we really need to make are not to do something new, but to continue the good habits of the past.

Last year, our pledge campaign had the theme, "Walking the Way". During that time, we spent a great deal of time reflecting on what it means to walk the way of Jesus – not only in terms of our financial support of the parish, but in how we live our everyday lives. And part of that was (literally) walking together, using that time for quiet conversation, and praying for the community around us.

It's a little chilly now for walking outside, but we can continue that pattern of prayer and reflection as we begin this New Year and this season of Epiphany, when we celebrate the light of Christ come among us. Some questions you might like to think about:

What places in our neighborhoods shine brightly? Where can we see the light of Christ at work? And where do we still see darkness? How might God be calling us to shine as lights where we live, work, play, and pray?

Blessings,



THE WARDENS' COLUMN

Happy New Year one and all! Impossible as it is to believe, we are indeed in another new year and experiencing the usual hopeful anticipation of what is ahead, mixed with some degree of the unknown. If our Vestry meeting this past Monday is a talisman of our year ahead, then we should all take heart. It was a coming together of mutual respect, a shared sense of ministry and mission. There were creative ideas for Christian formation and outreach, an energizing review of the past year's accomplishments and renewed dreams of what can be achieved in this new year. Time did not drag as it can when reviewing the proposed budget, line by line. Instead the minutes and hours sped by, energized and enhanced by our renewed commitment to and deep belief in our calling as a parish here at St. James.

We will attempt to bring to all of you the good news of "old" year and the vision we embrace for the "new" year at our **Annual Meeting on February 1st**. With God's grace and blessing, 2015 will be a year of opportunity and fulfillment as we walk His way.

- Debbie & Alex

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On Sunday, February 1, 2015, St. James will hold its Annual Parish Meeting. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. The meeting will take place during the 9:30 a.m. service which will be held in Mills Hall. At this meeting there will be reports, updates from the Rector, the presentation of the annual budget, brunch, and kids activities. Nominations will be submitted and elections held for the following positions:

*Warden - two year term

* Vestry member - three year term

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

BOOK STUDY GROUP

Our book study group is beginning a new book! This time we are reading "Being Christian" by former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. It focuses on four areas: baptism, bible, Eucharist, and prayer. Some of the reviews by regular people (i.e., not theologians!) on Amazon said the following about it:

* Brief and excellent read!

* I wish this book was longer!

* Elegantly written and profoundly true.

This book is food for both the aesthetic and the spiritual senses.

* This book was most readable and most helpful in discerning what it means to be a Christian and how we practice and express our faith day by day.

* Great book, good theology!

Copies are available in the office for \$10 each, or you can buy it online. Our first two meetings will be Tuesdays, January 20 and February 3 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Education Building. All welcome to join us.

And, if you can't make that time, consider reading it at home, or gather another group of interested parishioners and friends to discuss it together!

- *Raewynne*

STEWARDSHIP

The results of the fall pledge campaign are in and we should be very proud of the results. We have received 70 pledges for a total of \$167,563. This is a substantial average increase from 2014 when 73 pledges were made for a total of \$161,976. On behalf of the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry, I want to express our sincere gratitude for the commitment made by our parish to support and further our mission here at St. James. I would also like to especially thank the 26 families who managed to increase their pledge this year.

If you are not aware, in 2014 the Vestry approved a budget with a deficit of approximately \$6,000. In order to meet this future deficit, and account for cost of living and expense increases, as well as expanding our outreach, a goal of \$175,000 of pledged income was set for 2015. If you have not already pledged or feel as if you can increase your pledge, your additional commitment will be greatly appreciated.

If it is of interest, a full review of our budget will be provided at our annual meeting next month. I hope to see you then.

In Christ,
Chris Mauro
Stewardship Chair

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Have you ever been at a bible study where the thirst for knowledge and passion for God is almost overwhelming? Have you ever prayed with people who are thoughtful and faithful prayers? That's what you'll find at family bible study, along with laughter and love and pizza! We are a group of kids and grownups (including parents, grandparents, godparents, and friends) who meet together every second Tuesday night beginning on January 20, to share a meal, read and discuss the bible, and pray. Join us!

- *Raewynne*

EPIPHANY BRUNCH WARMLY WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR

We had a lovely day on Sunday for the Epiphany Brunch, and I believe a good time was enjoyed by all. Events like this take many hands and I would like to thank everyone for their contributions to our feast. I would like especially to thank Karen and Donald Noack and Lil Moleti for all their hard work and artistic talent in making Mills Hall beautiful for the occasion. And many thanks to Peter Plaschka who was there on Sunday working hard from start to finish. Madelyn Cousins jumped all in this year helping getting everything out of the kitchen and on the tables, and Fjeril Deal, and Patti and Andrew Prentiss were an amazing clean-up crew. Also thanks to our littlest helpers: Brooke Lynn and Maggie, who very carefully helped to clear tables and took the punch for a hair raising ride on the cart! I am looking forward to many more celebrations in 2015.

- *Stephanie Coleman*

OUTREACH

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry currently needs donations of cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, fruit, and ravioli/meat dinners. Donations may 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 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. Many thanks to those who baked Christmas cookies for the Pantry to give out. Needless to say, all who received your delicious treats were thrilled!

St. James donated the final \$500 in the 2014 Outreach budget as follows:

\$250 to Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk
\$250 to Protestant Campus Ministry at
Stony Brook University.

Thank you to all who were able to knit or crochet for the Seamen's Church Institute's Christmas at Sea Program. St. James Church sent 18 hats and 10 scarves and the Institute has sent us a thank you note on behalf of the grateful sailors who have received our gifts.

More thanks for your outreach this Advent and Christmas: Bless you for the toys you donated to the **Episcopal Health Services' Toy Drive.** Many more children experienced a special Christmas because of you. Many thanks to those who contributed gifts and money to our **Diocese's Adopt-a-Family Program.** Special thanks go to Donna Guinaw and Claudette Plaschka for coordinating this important outreach. **Pick-a-Star** is always a big hit for our UCP neighbors and St. James' homebound parishioners. Thank you to all who so thoughtfully shopped for the suggested gifts and wrapped them. Special thanks go to

Jamie DeFilippis for making the stars, to Kurt Rettig for his unparalleled job as Santa, and to Stephanie Coleman for coordinating this project. The smiles and excitement send a message of thanks back to all at St. James Church!

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. The Board of Directors of PCM gives thanks to St. James Episcopal Church and the individual members of our congregation for their loyal support during 2014. Your faithful commitment enables Chaplain Brenda D. Ford to continue her mission at the campus of Stony Brook University. Please keep her, her students, and PCM in your prayers.

Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk reports the following in their Winter 2014-15 newsletter:

Last month Habitat raised the walls of the 176th affordable home in Suffolk County. Last year, students helped build a home in Mastic Beach; this year students are building a home in Shirley. Thanks to Habitat's Build-a-Backpack Program (and us!), 64 Habitat children went to school this past September with new backpacks full of new school supplies. Habitat Young Professionals (HYP) had a Halloween Costume Build – an event full of characters, treats, and good fun! Habitat of Suffolk's first demolition ceremony brought down an old abandoned structure in the Town of Southold to make way for site preparation for the first new Habitat house in the Town of Southold in over 20 years. Habitat is starting an Acquisition Fund as land donations to Habitat are harder to obtain. They want to acquire land and abandoned or foreclosed properties. Each year Habitat must raise more than \$1 million to purchase construction materials. Now they need additional funds for future land purchases.

When you recycle a vehicle, you can help Habitat build more homes. Go to carsforhomes.org or call (877) 277-4344.

The Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen, Assistant Bishop of Long Island since September, reports she will oversee Episcopal Ministries of Long Island (EMLI). Two existing organizations in the Diocese of L.I., Episcopal Charities (EC) and Episcopal Community Services (ECS), will now come together in a collaborative partnership as one united ministry. Soon we will be receiving an appeal from Episcopal Ministries. This replaces the Episcopal Charities Appeal of the past. Assistant Bishop Knudsen thanks us for our continued support. The Episcopal Diocese of L.I. hopes we will be able to give generously.

- Sue Krall

TITHING

Here at St. James there has been much discussion about tithing as the standard of Christian giving, and how to do it. Working towards giving a tithe of your income to charity is a serious commitment. Have you considered tithing your bonus income or income tax return as a start to this process? While many of us expect a tax return or holiday or year end bonuses we don't necessarily count on them. Please consider offering 10% of these types of income to charity. It is a meaningful step towards tithing and an excellent way to help change the world without deeply impacting your monthly budget.

Chris Mauro

PRAYER CHAIN

For the past four years I have been the coordinator of the Prayer Chain. It is now time for me to step aside, and we are very fortunate that Wylie Hunt will be taking her turn in this role. Our Prayer Chain is a permanent part of the spiritual life of St. James, and there are currently 27 members who pray for others on an ongoing basis. We are committed to praying regularly, confidentially, and individually for the people and concerns that are requested of us. Any member of the Prayer Chain can initiate or receive a prayer request, which can be done by contacting Wylie at her email address, wyliehunt@gmail.com or her cell phone number, 631-258-6848. In addition, you may contact Raewynne for prayer requests at stjamesrector@optonline.net, or Laurie in the church office (Sunday bulletin sick list only), stjamesc@optonline.net. The requests with the name and also their concerns, if provided, are then passed by the coordinator to all the Prayer Chain members via email. A person for whom we are praying does not have to be a member of this parish or Christian in order to be on this chain. We are a devoted and committed group with a lot of heart! You may also want to join us in this ministry of prayer.

- Joan Mercep

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will hold their January get-together at Spuntino Restaurant, 420 North Country Road, St. James, on Tuesday, January 27 at 12:30 p.m. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

A number of people have asked for a “How To” guide for church etiquette. How is it appropriate to act in church with proper respect yet without feeling uncomfortable. Here are a few things to guide you:

1. What do I do when I arrive in church?

At the 8:00 a.m. service, pick up the printed sheets of readings and announcements; at the 9:30 a.m. service the usher will give you a bulletin. Activity bulletins are also available for children. When you look for a seat, please remember to leave the very back rows for people with young children. Please move into the pews, so that others feel welcome to join you. And before you are seated, please turn off your cell phone!

2. Are my kids welcome?

Kids are always and joyously welcome. We have a high level of tolerance and understanding for the unusual noise of our younger members – in fact, we love to hear them participating in worship in their own individual way. Encourage them to participate as much as they can, whether it’s learning to say “Amen”, humming along with hymns, or, when they begin to read, following the service. We do ask you to minimize chatting during the service, and encourage our children to use “church voices” if they need to talk to you about something.

We reserve the two back pews for families with young children, so they have a safe place to play. It’s fine to feed your kids in church (including breast feeding). It helps all of us worship if you only bring quiet toys with you. If you need a quiet private place to change diapers or feed your child, there is a nursery room in the education wing.

3. What should I do before the service?

It’s appropriate to spend the pre-service time in quiet prayer or reflection.

4. How do I follow the service?

AT 8:00 a.m., we ordinarily use Rite One, beginning on page 323 of the red Book of Common Prayer. At 9:30 a.m., we print a bulletin which has all the congregation parts in it. You can follow this, or use the Book of Common Prayer beginning on page 355. Our hymns come from the blue Hymnal. If you get lost, ask someone near you to show you where we are. During the service, be mindful that this is a time for worship and prayer. Try to avoid conversation with those around you, as it can be distracting.

5. What if I need to leave church?

If you feel unwell, please seek the help of an usher immediately. If you need to use the bathroom, your kids are antsy, etc., try to leave and reenter during hymns or the peace.

6. How do I remember when to stand, sit, or kneel?

Here’s the typical rule of thumb: stand during hymns, the Gospel reading, the Creed, and the Peace; sit during the readings, sermon, and offertory; and kneel or stand for prayer. During the Eucharistic prayer, it’s acceptable to either stand or kneel.

7. What is the Peace?

After we have confessed our sins and received absolution, we greet one another with a blessing of peace, as a sign of the forgiveness God has offered us and we offer one another. We shake hands and say “Peace be with you” or simply “Peace”. It’s not really a time to chat – that can wait for coffee hour!

8. What is the offering for?

Our church is primarily supported by the donations of parishioners. Some put their cash donations or checks weekly in the offertory plate; others pay monthly, quarterly, annually, or online. The gifts that people make in the offering plate pay for the

expenses of the church. This is our primary source of income to meet our expenses. An offering is not required and no one will be offended. Whatever amount you feel like contributing is fine.

9. How do I receive Communion?

Traditionally you go forward to the altar rail. At 8:00 a.m., you come up in the order in which you are sitting – people closest to the front up first. At 9:30 a.m. during the school year, the kids and their teachers come up first; they will go straight out for Godly Play (pre-K and elementary) and J2A (teenagers). Then the ushers will direct the remaining congregants to come forward. You can kneel or stand at the rail. You'll receive the bread first. If receiving from the common cup of wine, you can consume the bread first. When the chalice bearer come to you, either take a small sip from the chalice, or dip the bread into the chalice, then take it in your mouth. Normally you should wait at the altar rail until the person two places to your left has received., so that you do not disturb their prayer when you leave.

10. What should I do if I'm not receiving?

It's okay if you choose not to receive, for whatever reason. If not receiving, you can go forward, and just cross your arms over your chest to indicate you are not receiving. The priest will give you a blessing instead. If you cross your arms again when the chalice bearer comes by, they'll go on to the next person. You can also simply stay in your pew.

11. What if I am disabled and can't go forward?

Let an usher know, and they can have the priest bring the sacrament to you in your pew.

12. And after the service?

You will have an opportunity to greet the priest as you're leaving. After the 9:30

service, please take the time to come to coffee hour and gather together in fellowship.

- Raewynne

ALTAR GUILD

Would you like to honor your loved ones as 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 the purpose of the offering will be listed in the Sunday bulletin on your requested date. Openings are available for January 25, February 1, 8, and from April 19 onward. Contributions of \$35 are suggested, but donations of any amount, small or large, are appreciated, and will be acknowledged equally in the bulletin. Forms can be found in the back of the church, or you can call the office with your request.

DIANE DEBLASIO TO BE ORDAINED

On January 31 at 11 a.m., Bishop Provenzano will ordain Diane DeBlasio to the diaconate at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City. We are all invited! Come and support Diane as she takes the next step in her journey; we will be seeing more of her this Spring, as she will be studying preaching with our Rector, and will preach here at St. James on occasion.

DO YOU NEED A HAIRCUT?

David, one of our parishioners, is an experienced hairstylist, who will cut your hair for \$30.00 and give back 25% to the church. If you are interested, you can contact him at 686-6538.

WINTER CONCERT WITH PIANIST ANDREA LODGE AND THE SOURCE/LODGE DUO

Pianist Andrea Lodge has been called a “Must See” (The Telegram, St. John’s, Canada). A specialist in the performance of contemporary piano music, she has premiered new works by composers Herbert Deutsch, Salvatore Macchia, and C. Curtis Smith, among others. Andrea was awarded top prizes at the Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition for the Performance of New Music. Her recordings of works for voice and piano by Margo Richter with tenor William George has just been released by Resift Music Society.

Andrea lives in New York City, where she performs regularly as a soloist, with the Source/Lodge Duo, and with Ictus+ new music collective. In 2014 she joined the faculty of the nief-norf contemporary music organization. Andrea has been a featured artist at festivals such as Sound Symposium, NYC Electroacoustic Music Festival, UNPLAY Festival, International Computer Music Conference and “Qubit Noise Non-Ference.

As an educator, she coaches chamber music with the Stony Brook University Community Chamber Music and Pre-College Music programs, and is on faculty at Suffolk Community College. Andrea received her Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University, where she studied

with Gilbert Kalish and Christina Dah.

Jay Sorce is a classical guitarist noted for his “unique blend of refinement, intensity, and virtuosic technique”. An accomplished soloist and ensemble musician specializing in contemporary music, Jay has been featured in concerts and festivals in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Europe. Jay recently completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Stony Brook University with Jerry Willard. He earned his M.M. from the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he studied with Tom Patterson, and his B.M. from the Manhattan School of Music where he studied with Oren Fader and David Starobin. Jay is currently a faculty member at SUNY Suffolk.

Andrea uses our facilities to teach piano, and is offering this concert as a fundraiser in support of our parish. The concert is scheduled for early February. Watch the Sunday bulletin or This Week at St. James for details. Invite your friends!

DO YOU HAVE LEFT OVER CHRISTMAS CARDS?

Did you buy more Christmas cards than you needed this year? Do you have some left over? Consider giving them to us – we will repackage them and sell them next fall as a fundraiser. Please drop them off in the Rector’s basket at church, or at the office.

ANTIQUÉ SHOW & SALE

Are you looking for that special gift or piece for your home? Cathi Hart and friends will be holding an Antique Show and Sale in Mills Hall on Saturday, January 31 from 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Many varied items will be offered for sale. Be sure to stop by; you may discover the perfect find

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Nancy and Jim Petschauer have become grandparents! Their son, Matthew, and his wife Samantha have welcomed their son, Andrew James. He was born on January 5, and was 8 lbs., 6 oz., and 20". Andrew is also great grandson to Bob and Lil Moleti. Congratulations to all!

Tim Beirne, a history teacher at the Stony Brook School, has been appointed the History Department Chair at the school. Congratulations, Tim!

DIOCESAN JOB OPENING

The Diocese of LI has an opening for Program Director of Episcopal Ministries of Long Island. The Director is the senior program staff member, who, with support from team members, is responsible for developing and sustaining all programs sponsored and approved by the board of directors of Episcopal Ministries of Long Island. The heart of this effort is to enable congregations to develop services and projects that are needed by their local communities and strengthen the health and welfare of their members.

For information as to specific responsibilities and qualifications involved, see the posting on the bulletin board at the back of the church.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 New Year's Day
- 2 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 **Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**
Epiphany Brunch
- 5 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 9 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Nursery school Open House 9:30 a.m. - Noon
- 11 **Holy Eucharist I 8:30 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 12 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 16 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 **Holy Eucharist I 8:30 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 19 Martin Luther King Day - office closed
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Family Bible study 5:30 p.m.
Book study group 7:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 23 Nursery school Zumbathon 6:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 **Holy Eucharist I 8:30 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 26 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Lunch Bunch @ Spuntino 12:30p
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

- 28 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 30 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Antique Show 9:00 a.m.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

Do we have your birthday or anniversary in our files? If not, we would love to be able to include you in our newsletters and Sunday bulletin prayers. Please email your birth date or anniversary date (month/day) to the office: stjamesc@optonline.net, and we will be happy to add you to our lists.

Would you like to add a name to our prayers for the sick, those expecting children, or other special need in our Sunday bulletin? If so, please email the office: stjamesc@optonline.net so we can take care of it for you.



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

James & Kathleen Andrews
 Bruce & Amy Jeffrey

