



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

January 2016

FROM THE



RECTOR

One of the things that is most perplexing for people new to the Episcopal Church is the way our denomination is structured. In some ways we are like the

Roman Catholic Church; in other ways we are like Protestant Churches. But we are different from both of them!

Most of these things are determined in our canons, the laws of the church. The basic unit of our denomination is not the parish but the diocese. The diocese is a geographical grouping of local parishes. A diocese will sometimes be an entire state, but most states are broken up into several diocese. Each Diocese elects a Diocesan Bishop from among all priests and the Diocesan Bishop is the overseer of that diocese. The word “episcopas” in Greek simply means “overseer” or bishop.

All of our diocese together make up the Episcopal Church, which itself is part of a larger body called the Anglican Communion, which is a fellowship of nearly 40 national autonomous churches which find their origins in the Church of England. The Archbishop of Canterbury England is the figurative head of this organization, but each

national church rules itself and makes its own policies and procedures.

The Episcopal Church in the United States of America is structured on a national level much like our National Government (and they both came into existence at about the same time). Every three years, Episcopal delegates from across the nation gather in something called the General Convention. This is our national governing body and is composed much like Congress with two “houses”. The House of Bishops is made up of all Bishops and is akin to the Senate. The House of Deputies is made up of both Clergy and Lay People elected from parishes. The number of which is based on population much like the House of Representatives. The Presiding Bishop is elected for a 9 year term from the House of Bishops and presides at the General Convention which meets triennially to establish the canons and policy of the Episcopal Church in America.

As well as national policies, decisions are made at diocesan level by the Diocesan Convention (which meets annually and is made up of clergy and lay representatives of parishes), by Diocesan Council (elected at Convention; it makes decisions in between Conventions) and the Bishop. And while some decisions are up to us as individual parishes (e.g., when we have services, what

our annual calendar will be, what activities we hold), many are determined at the diocesan level.

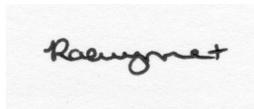
There is no such thing as an independent Episcopal Parish – to be Episcopalian is to be part of a diocese and under its governance. And Episcopal clergy have to promise to follow the guidance of their bishop when they are ordained.

Each congregation in the diocese, in consultation with their bishop, calls a Rector from among the priests to assist the bishop in its spiritual oversight. The Rector is in charge of all things “spiritual” in a parish, including worship, Christian education, and the use of all facilities for these purposes, and is required to communicate all decisions of the Episcopal Church and of the diocese to the parish. According to the canons, all staff of a parish work for the Rector. The Vestry is in charge of all things “temporal” or secular, such as money, finances, and building upkeep, although the Rector asks for their input on many other matters.

Finally, the canons also talk about the role of all members of the church, everyone who is baptized. The section on ministry begins (Canon 1) by stating that “all baptized persons are called to minister in Christ’s name, to identify their gifts with the help of the Church and to serve Christ’s mission at all times and in all places ... and are called to sustain their ministries through commitment to life-long Christian formation.”

This is probably more than you ever wanted to know, but is helpful as we continue to serve God in this place, and particularly as we approach our annual meeting.

Blessings,



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On Sunday, February 7, 2016, 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 - One (1) position for a two year term

*Vestry members - Two (2) positions for a three year term

If you are interested in serving in any of the above positions, please speak to Colette Tarantino, or one of the Wardens.

If you are the chairperson of a committee, please have your report of 2015 activities into the office by Monday, February 1 so they can be included in the meeting booklet.

CRAZY CHRISTIANS!

“We need some Christians who are as crazy as the Lord. Crazy enough to love like Jesus, to give like Jesus, to forgive like Jesus, to do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God – like Jesus. Crazy enough to dare to change the world from the nightmare it often is into something close to the dream that God dreams for it. And for those who would follow him, those who would be his disciples, those who would live as and be the people of the Way? It might come as a shock, but they are called to craziness.”

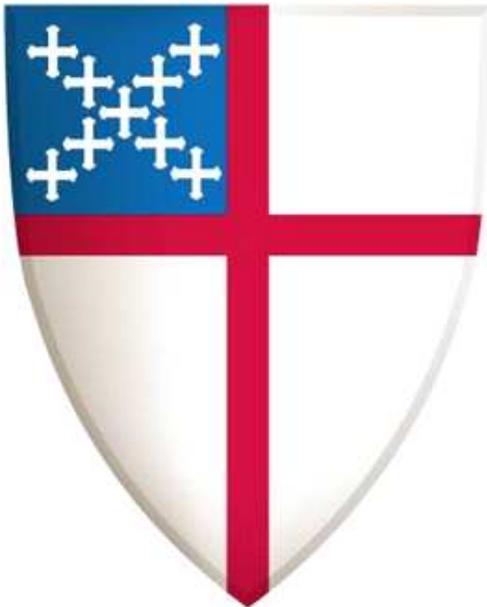
These words of our new Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, were originally preached at General Convention in 2012. They are now

published in his book, *Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus.*”

The Vestry has decided that this would be a great book for us all to read as a parish. We plan to have discussion times between the services and mid week as well.

Get your copy now from the office, or order it through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or your favorite bookstore.

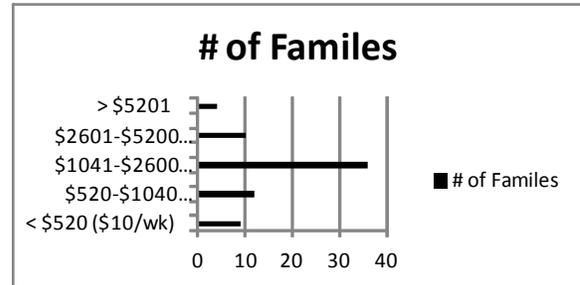
- Raewynne



STEWARDSHIP

Last month we reported that our fall pledge drive raised \$176,032 in support of our ministries here at St. James for 2016. Below is a graph which breaks down how we give. We thank you for your generous support!

Annual Giving at St. James for 2016



- Chris Mauro

THANK YOU

Once again, members of the Altar Guild and other parishioners did a beautiful job of decorating the church for the Christmas season. Thanks also go to those who contributed to making the Christmas services so meaningful this year.

We also thank Joan Bengtson, Stephanie Coleman, and all those who organized last Sunday's Epiphany Brunch, and to those who contributed the many delicious treats which were enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

OUTREACH

From the surplus budget of 2014, St. James gave \$1,000 to the Protestant Campus Ministry.

From the budget of 2015, St. James gave the following:

- \$2,500 Protestant Campus Ministry
- \$ 250 Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society for Jerusalem
- \$ 250 Haiti Rebuild - Episcopal Relief and Development
- \$ 250 Bread for the World

Beyond the budget, St. James gave the following in 2015:

- \$1,320 Sent four students to Camp DeWolfe
- \$1,200 Nepal disaster relief donation through E.R.D.
- \$ 890 Episcopal Diocese Refugee Appeal
- \$ 195 Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (Good Friday)
- 31 Units of blood to Suffolk County Blood Services (Good Friday)
- 20 Backpacks of school supplies collected for Habitat children
- 12 Toys collected for the Episcopal Church Toy Drive
- * Many baby gifts for St. John's Hospital in Far Rockaway for Mother's day
- * Many Pick-a-Star gifts for our homebound and UCP neighbors
- * Many Adopt-a-Family gifts for the Episcopal Diocese of L.I.
- * Many scarves and hats were donated To the Seamen's Church Institute
- * Several prayer shawls were donated to the families of the victims of the South Carolina church shooting

Thank you all for your donations and contributions in 2015.

- Madelyn Cousins

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will hold its January get together on Tuesday, January 26, 12:30 p.m. at Golden Dynasty Restaurant, 416 North Country Road, St. James. All parishioners and friends are welcome to attend. Please contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

ANTIQUÉ SHOW & SALE

Are you looking for that special piece for your home, or an addition to your collection? Cathi Hart and friends will be holding an Antique Shoe and Sale in Mills Hall on Saturday, January 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Be sure to stop by. You may discover the perfect find.

OPEN DOOR EXCHANGE

The Rev. Kate Jones Calone of the Setauket Presbyterian Church has begun a furniture ministry at the church called the Open Door Exchange. The furniture mainly goes to clients of the Long Island Council of Churches offices. Do you have furniture you no longer need? You can donate it by contacting Pastor Calone at katecjones@yahoo.com, or call 631-941-4271. They will pick up donations anywhere within a 30 minute drive of Port Jefferson Station. They cannot accept mattresses or appliances, but would be glad to receive small household items and lamps in addition to furniture. Volunteers are also needed at their warehouse in Port Jefferson Station, or to pick up donations.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Jack Harrington joined the law firm of Campolo, Middleton & McCormick in Ronkonkoma as counsel. He was previously a senior associate at Clinton Brook & Peed, in Manhattan. Among other benefits, the move affords him more time with his family, and a shorter commute. We wish him well in his new position.

Amanda Mercep graduated in December with a Master of Public Health degree from Columbia University. She received a promotion from Goldman Sachs and is transferring in March to their office in Hong Kong.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 **New Year's Day**
- 3 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Epiphany Brunch
- 4 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Women's Yoga group 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 11 North Suffolk Garden Club Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.
Food addiction group
- 12 Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Women's Yoga group 7:00 p.m.
- 14 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes

- 18 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
Office closed
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Women's Yoga group 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 25 Vestry meeting 7:00 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Lunch Bunch at Golden Dynasty Restaurant 12:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Challenger Teen group 5:30 p.m.
- 28 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Antique Show & Sale 9:00 a.m.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jerilyn Glogg
Donald Scott
Polly Neyssen
Marge Cobb
Jean Sommer
Lillian Ercole
Brooke Prentiss
Ruth Ward
Madelyn Cousins
Brian Noack
Bruce Lawrence
Matt Petschauer
Claude Deal

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

James & Kathleen Andrews
Bruce & Amy Jeffrey