



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

January 2018

THE WARDENS' COLUMN

Happy New Year!

2017 was an extraordinarily busy and challenging year. We have many achievements to be proud of at St. James Church and many challenges facing us in the year to come. Sustaining St. James was a hugely successful campaign. It is a blessing, especially given the severity of this winter thus far, that our church roof and the Continuing Ed roof are fully replaced and not leaking, and the new windows in the CE building and administrative office have cut down significantly on the drafts and loss of heat. Our next project is the redesign of the office building outside and in. Hopefully the January thaw will eliminate the huge piles of snow blocking access to the roof and parking for the trucks and supplies we need to bring in. Once construction begins it will give everyone a boost at a time of the year when we can all use one. Additionally the land sale is about to close and we can begin to draw up plans for the renovation of Mills Hall.

But those are the physical challenges ahead. We have a bigger calling in finding a new Rector to lead us as our spiritual guide. The Vestry has met with the Diocese Canon for Transition, Rev. Claire Woodley, and she carefully, and in great detail, provided us

with a road map to seeking out our new priest. There is a precise protocol we are required to follow in our quest. She will be immensely helpful in our journey. And we are especially blessed by Father Gable's presence amongst us providing continuity, consideration and comfort for all of us.

The Vestry met this past Sunday to review all the candidates for the Search Committee. We were particularly delighted and encouraged by the number of parishioners willing to serve both on the committee and to fill vacancies on the Vestry. We will announce the committee members and prospective Vestry members at the Annual Meeting February 4. Please make every effort to attend this very important meeting. It is about our mission, our ministry and our future.

We need to come together, all of us, in deep prayer so that we can find the strength, the discernment, and determination to listen for God's word and to feel his grace and heavenly benediction as we search for our next Rector. Therese of Lisieux had a profoundly personal relationship with our Lord despite her tragically brief life. She dedicated herself to seeking the word and understanding and accepting God's grace. Here she describes her faith in the power of prayer:

“For me prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.”

In peace and in faith,
Alex & Jennifer

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

We will resume our study of the book of Acts on Thursday January 25th. Please join us at 7:30pm in the Webster room as we explore the gift of the Holy Spirit as it is revealed in this scripture. All are welcome!

- *Chris Mauro*

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On Sunday, February 4, 2018, St. James will hold its Annual Parish Meeting. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. The meeting will take place in Mills Hall following the 9:30 a.m. service. There will be reports, updates from the Wardens, and the presentation of the annual budget. New members of Vestry will be elected.

If you are the chairperson of a committee, please have your report of 2017 activities into the office by Monday, January 22, so that it may be included in the meeting booklet.

PICK-A-STAR

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to speak to me about this important outreach program. It is something that has been very close to my heart for many years, and I was truly worried that we didn't have enough interest to continue. However, this year we had some new people step up to the plate (Marge Cobb, and her daughter, Pam Riddle, as well as the Dineen family) and a few old timers (Claudette Plaschka, Nancy Petschauer, and my daughter Abby, and her boyfriend, Greg) were also able to make it. Special thanks to our incredible Santa, Peter Plaschka, as well as to newcomer Laura Beirne, who helped me to make special gifts for the staff at each of the five homes we visit. It was a wonderful few hours, and all the clients were so excited to see Santa. In fact, at one home a resident looked so sharp in a pressed shirt and tie that I asked if he were going out later. The staff said he had dressed carefully because he wanted to look nice for Santa!

Thank you all for your generosity in picking and wrapping the gifts. They were very much appreciated. I am looking forward to next Christmas when I hope even more people will join us on this special afternoon.

- *Stephanie Coleman*

ANTIQUÉ SALE JANUARY 19 & 20

Once again, Cathi Hart and friends will be holding an Antique Sale at St. James during the month of January. The dates are Friday, January 19 and Saturday, January 20 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in Mills Hall. If you are looking for a special piece for your home, or an addition to your collection, be sure and stop by to see what items are available.

In conjunction with the sale, Books 'N' Things will be open on the lower level, offering jewelry, household items, and books. You may discover the perfect find, or a book to enjoy during the long winter.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch plans their first meeting of the new year to be held at Spuntino's Restaurant, Route 25A in St. James (west of the church) on Tuesday, January 30 at 12:30 p.m. Please contact Fjeril Deal (631-724-3720) to let her know you plan on attending.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped with services during the Christmas season: the Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Acolytes, Ushers, our organist, Anna, and the members of the Choir, Altar Guild, pageant helpers, and all who contributed to making the season special.

SNOW POLICY

When the Smithtown schools are closed due to a snowstorm, the office is closed and parish activities are cancelled, unless otherwise noted.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Thomas LaMano, Sr., father of Tom, Jr., and father-in-law of Debbie LaMano, passed away on December 31 in Pennsylvania after an illness. Our prayers and sympathies go out to Tom, Debbie, and their children, Thomas III, Michael, and Joseph as they mourn their loss.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 **New Year's Day**
Office closed
- 2 Rectory clean-up 11 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 5 Asian painting class 10:00 a.m.
- 6 **Feast of the Epiphany**
- 7 **Epiphany 1**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Epiphany Brunch
Vestry business meeting
- 8 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 North Suffolk Garden Club Board
3:00 p.m.- M.H.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 12 Asian painting class 10:00 a.m.
- 14 **Epiphany 2**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Godly Play class
- 15 **Martin Luther King Day**
Office closed
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 16 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Special Connections group 6 p.m.
- 19 Antique Sale 9:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m.
- 20 Antique Sale 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Books 'N' Things Sale
- 21 **Epiphany 3**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Godly Play class
- 22 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 26 Asian painting class 10:00 a.m.
- 28 **Epiphany 4**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Godly Play class
- 29 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Lunch Bunch at Spuntino's
Restaurant 12:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

James & Kathleen Andrews
Bruce & Amy Jeffrey



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Donald Scott
Anna Betka
Polly Neyssen
Marge Cobb
Jean Sommer
Lillian Ercole
Brooke Prentiss
Ruth Ward
Madelyn Cousins
Brian Noack
Fairlie Grace Cox
Bruce Lawrence
Matthew Petschauer
Claude Deal

