



# Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

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July/August 2015

FROM THE



Over the last week and a half, the Episcopal Church has been meeting in Convention in Salt Lake City. This is one of the major ways that the

Episcopal Church differs from the Roman Catholic Church – major decisions are made not by bishops alone, but by bishops, clergy, and lay representatives together. Each diocese is represented by their bishop(s), four clergy and four laypeople (plus four alternates each for laity and clergy). General Convention meets every three years, at a different site each time. It's one of the largest conventions in the country. While there are about 900 or so participants, the triennial gathering of Episcopal Church women is held concurrently, and a huge range of organizations and businesses also exhibit, from clergy haberdashery to books to organ builders, green power companies, camps, and more! Typically, over 10,000 people are present at some part of Convention. I've heard it described as being like a big family reunion!

Among the major tasks of this General Convention are the election of the new Presiding Bishop, who will hold office for 9 years, approval of the national church

budget, and resolutions to help our church move forward in mission. You can read about the many activities at [episcopaldigitalnetwork.org](http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.org).

The election of Bishop Michael Curry of North Carolina as Presiding Bishop was historic. Not only will he be the first black Presiding Bishop, this is the first time a Presiding Bishop was chosen on the first ballot.

During a video interview after his nomination was announced on May 1, Curry said the “our hand must be on the Gospel plow.” “We are followers of Jesus – Jesus of Nazareth – and the truth is we’ve got a message to proclaim, a life to live and something to share and offer the world”, he said. “There’s a lot of suffering in this world. There’s a lot of heartache, there’s a lot of nightmare. We are people who believe that God has a dream and a vision for this world, and that Jesus has shown us how to follow him in the direction of that and how to help this world live into God’s dream and vision for us now.”

“Our work is actually the work of participating in the Jesus movement, which seeks to realize God’s dream and seeks to accomplish God’s mission in this world”, Curry said.

“The church must help form disciples who will live like Jesus. Such formation must become a priority so that the church is not just creating members, but disciples of Jesus who actually live out and struggle to live out the teachings of Jesus in their lives and make a tangible difference in the world.” If such church wide formation combined with Episcopalians’ individual commitments to imitate Jesus, “we would transform this world.”

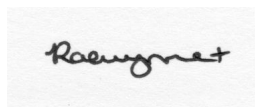
“After formation, there’s evangelism and I know sometimes folks are afraid of that word, but I’m not talking about evangelism like other folk do it,” he said. “I am talking about the kind of evangelism that is as much listening as it is sharing.”

Episcopalians must also be willing to “witness in the social sphere, witness in the public sphere, through personal service that helps somebody along the way...prophesying deliverance...(and) being a voice for those who have no voice,” Curry said.

Accepting his election, Curry said The Episcopal Church is “the church where I learned about Jesus.” “This is a good and wonderful church and we are good and wonderful people and I thank God to be one of the b fellowship on the day of the . baptized among you,” Curry said, adding, “my heart is really full.” “We’ve got a society where there are challenges before us and there are crises all around us. And the church has challenges before it,” he said. “We got a God and there really is a Jesus, and we are part of the Jesus Movement. Nothing can stop the movement of God’s love in this world.”

It’s great to be part of a church with such inspiring leadership.

Blessings,



## WARDEN’S COLUMN

Hello All,

I just wanted to express how excited and honored I am to be serving as an interim Warden for the next few months. There are several reasons that I volunteered to do this. First, it is an opportunity to further some ideas that the Stewardship Committee has identified as of interest. I elaborate on these in my column on Stewardship. It is also my understanding that we currently have an extraordinary group serving on Vestry at this time. I want to be a part of that! It is also an opportunity to work with Alex in a very meaningful way. I think anyone who has served as a Warden, co-chair of a committee, or co-taught Sunday school will tell you that these are experiences that build life-changing friendships. Finally, it is a chance to finish some unfinished business. It was a goal when I was co-Warden with Pat Westlake to put together a “Warden’s Playbook.” It is my hope that Alex and I will be able to complete this in the coming months. And that it will be a resource for future Wardens to help ease the concerns of accepting the position.

Peace and blessings,  
*Chris Mauro*

## **THE VERY REV.**

Bishop Provenzano has asked the Rector to assume the role of the Dean of the Northwest Suffolk Deanery (which stretches from Huntington to Wading River, and down to the LIE). She will be responsible for gathering the clergy monthly for mutual support, and clergy and lay leaders quarterly (or thereabouts) to develop shared ministry. She remains our Rector, but adds the title “The Very” before her name!

*- Alex and Chris*

## **ST. PATRICK**

One of the themes that was identified by the Stewardship Committee in its commitment to year-round activities is stewardship of the lay leadership. When we hear the word stewardship our attention normally becomes focused on the fall pledge drive, balancing the church operating budget, taking care of the buildings, and volunteering our time. Certainly our lay leadership here at St. James is one of our many blessings. As good stewards it is important that we care for and help develop that lay leadership.

When we speak about St. Patrick, the legend of him driving the snakes from Ireland is often mentioned as one of his miracles. But as I indicated, that is lore. I personally consider the fact that while Bishop of Ireland he helped found several hundred parishes, which in turn built church buildings. Several hundred! Surely he had the help of a lay leadership. Were all these lay leaders just wandering around in the woods? Was there a BOCES cranking out graduates of a lay leadership program? Or was it divine intervention and inspiration?

Whatever the reason, it is clear that the lay leadership of St. Patrick was empowered and cared for. In the coming months, in addition to the fall pledge drive, the Stewardship Committee, with the help of Raewynne and the Wardens, will be focusing on the pastoral care and development of our lay leadership. Following the example of the apostles, as found in scripture, our first step will be to make sure all our leaders work in pairs. It is a good model – share the burden and provide support for each other. Yes, it means more people involved and in some cases more work, as “just doing it yourself is easier.” But it was how Jesus commissioned and sent out his disciples, in pairs.

We will be discussing this and working on this in the coming months as a parish. I ask that we all start praying on the idea.

Peace and blessings,  
*Chris Mauro*

## **GOD DOESN'T GO ON VACATION**

Our worship continues on its usual schedule over the summer, with Eucharist at 8 and 9:30 a.m. on Sundays, and at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. Sometimes, missing worship is unavoidable, but other times it's easy just to not get 'round to it.

We miss you when you aren't here. The whole church is the poorer for your absence. And if you are traveling and visit another church, please bring back a copy of their bulletin, or even better, a “selfie” in front of the church, and put it on the notice board in Mills Hall. It's a great way of sharing our journeys on land and in faith!

*- Raewynne*

**FEAST OF ST. JAMES  
JULY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

We will celebrate the feast of our patron saint on Sunday, July 26 with a potluck lunch following the 9:30 a.m. service. Please bring a dish to share. There will be activities for the kids to enjoy.

**VACATION**

The Rector will be on vacation the weekdays of the week beginning July 26.

**VESTRY RETREAT**

The Vestry will be holding their annual retreat at the Knox School on Saturday, July 25. Their facilitator will be the Rev. Dr. Penny Gadzini, a Methodist pastor who also attends Episcopal churches and teaches at the George Mercer Jr. Memorial School of Theology in Garden City. Please keep us in your prayers.

*- Raewynne*

**SUMMER CAMP FUN**

Just over a week ago, I received a request for assistance to help kids from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flatbush go to Camp DeWolfe. It costs about \$600 per camper per week to attend. Thanks to your generosity, we have now raised \$1320! Further donations are still being accepted. Please make checks out to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, and put "Camp" in the memo line. Thank you all!

*- Raewynne*

**VISITING PRIEST**

On Sunday, August 30, we will have the pleasure of welcoming to our parish the Very Rev. Canon John P. McGinty, S.T.D., Dean of the George Mercer Jr. Memorial School of Theology. Dr. McGinty was ordained in 1983 and received as an Episcopal priest in November 2011. Prior to coming to Long Island and the Episcopal Church, Fr. McGinty served parishes in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, taught at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, and served as the acting director of the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Center at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. He holds a doctorate in theology. His visit will enable our Rector to go and hear Diane DeBlasio preach in her own congregation, as part of her formation for the priesthood.

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!**

I am so grateful to everyone who helped organize and support the Smithtown Religious History Day. The visitors spoke glowingly about our beautiful church, rural country cemetery, and historical displays. All mentioned how knowledgeable the docents who accompanied them on their tours were.

It was fun to watch the children playing 1853 games. And, of course, our hot dogs, lemonade and treats were a big hit.

Many members put a lot of work into making this day special and meaningful. Please know how much I appreciate all of your efforts.

*- Pat Westlake*

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL  
2015 RESULTS**

Thank you to Donna Austin, Festival Treasurer and her crew of counters, Barbara LoPresto, Madelyn Cousins, and Kathy Mauro for their work on the financial end of the Festival. Here are the results as of 6/21:

	Net		
Booth	Revenue	Expenses	Profit
Baked goods	\$342.50	----	\$342.50
Crafts	\$146.90	----	\$146.90
Grandma's Attic	\$1,053.23	----	\$1,053.23
Grandpa's Garage	\$678.45	----	\$678.45
Jam	\$1,358.00	\$240.86	\$1,117.14
Lunch	\$356.02	\$136.26	\$219.76
Plants	\$371.50	----	\$371.50
Strawberries	\$851.50	\$501.94	\$349.56
 Totals	 \$5,158.10	 \$879.06	 \$4,279.04

Whether you worked for weeks before preparing your table, worked the day of the fair, or came, shopped, and enjoyed the fellowship, you were instrumental in making the Festival a success. Thank you!

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY  
BUILD A BACKPACK**

Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk will again be giving backpacks of school supplies to their homeowner's children this year. Watch for a list of supplies sometime during the summer. If you see supplies on sale now, perhaps you could pick them up in advance of the collection.

**FURNITURE MINISTRY**

The Long Island Council of Churches has announced that Setauket Presbyterian Church has a wonderful new ministry collecting furniture (only furniture) for people in need on Long Island. If you have furniture you no longer need, someone from Setauket Presbyterian will pick up your furniture and take it to someone who needs it, at no cost to them. I have been told that you will receive a receipt from the church for your donation. I suggest you call Setauket Presbyterian's Parish Administrator at 941-4271 for all the details, and to schedule a pick-up.

*- Sue Krall*

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

From July 1 through Labor Day the office will be closed on Fridays. Regular hours of 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. will be in effect the rest of the week. In case of emergency when the office is closed, please call one of the wardens.

**FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

Diane DeBlasio will be ordained priest on Saturday, September 12 at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. All welcome!

The next day, Sunday, September 13, will be kickoff day for the new school year, with our Ministry Fair and introduction to Christian Formation for Children and Youth.

Our Harvest Festival is scheduled for October 3, and the Blessing of the Animals for October 4; that day we will also be blessing animals at St. James Day!

## DIANE DEBLASIO IN THE NEWS

In a recent article in *Newsday* regarding church safety precautions in the wake of the shootings in South Carolina, Diane, who serves as Deacon at St. Boniface Episcopal Church said that the shooting has jolted members of her congregation but it wouldn't deter the church from its mission. "We are people of God," she said. "We've been tasked with a job to do for him, and we intend to keep on doing it."

*(Newsday, June 29, 2015)*

## NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

**Joseph LaMano** graduated Smithtown High School East in June. He was awarded Smithtown High School East & West School of Business Award for outstanding achievement in Math and Financial Applications. He will be majoring in Business at Suffolk Community College in the fall. Congratulations!

**Thomas LaMano** finished his pre-pharmacy program at University of North Carolina, Wilmington a semester early, and has been accepted into Post Brooklyn Pharmacy Graduate program beginning in August with a scholarship. He has been working at CVS as a certified Pharmacy Technician and has been asked to apply for their Pharmacy Internship Program. Congratulations, Thomas!

**Michael LaMano** will be in his second year at Suffolk this fall, and is working as a Certified Security Guard at a power plant in Holbrook.

**Justin Plaschka** (who holds dual U.S. and Jamaican citizenship) recently competed at the XXIX Central American and Caribbean Swimming Championships (CCCAN) in

Barbados. He won gold in the men's 18 and over 100 meters freestyle and the 50m and 100m butterfly events. In the 25m butterfly, he established a new senior national record. Congratulations, Justin!

## A NOTE OF THANKS

Your loving support after Aunt Honey's passing is appreciated and will always be remembered. We are so very grateful for all of the sympathy, kindness, and comfort we received. It is truly a blessing to be a part of this church family.

*- Pat and David  
Westlake*

## JULY CALENDAR

- 1 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 2 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Office closed for July 4<sup>th</sup> observance  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 **Independence Day**
- 5 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**
- 6 Nursery school day camp opens  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Nutrition class 6:00 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.  
Buildings & Grounds Committee  
7:00 p.m.
- 9 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.  
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 McAteer/Whitehead wedding  
4:00 p.m.
- 12 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**
- 13 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 14 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Nutrition class 6:00 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 16 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**
- 20 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Nutrition class 6:00 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 23 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.
- 24 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Vestry retreat
- 26 Feast of St. James  
**Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**
- 27 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Nutrition class 6:00 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 30 Last Nursery school day camp  
Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.
- 31 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

### **JULY BIRTHDAYS**

Elizabeth DeFilippis  
Abby Coleman  
Nancy Caponegro  
Joseph Ercole  
Pat Kregler  
Ken LeCluse  
Margo Goodman  
Ariel Rung  
Raewynne Whiteley  
Barbara Bastin  
Joan Bengtson  
Jasmine Green  
Eowyn Jeffrey

### **JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

Les & Joan Bengtson  
Donald & Karen Noack  
Donald & Lisa Scott  
Robert & Cynthia Bennett

### **AUGUST CALENDAR**

- 2 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**
- 3 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Nutrition class 6:00 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 6 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.  
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**
- 10 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Nutrition class 6:00 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 13 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**
- 17 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Nutrition class 6:00 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 20 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**
- 24 Vestry meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Nutrition class 6:00 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.

- 27 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 M.H. rental
- 30 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**
- 31 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

Danielle Dineen  
Kathleen Andrews  
Sarah LeCluse  
David Westlake  
Justin Plaschka  
Kevin Dineen  
Donna Guinaw  
Lucas White  
Ralph Martinsen  
Robert Bennett  
Debbie LaMano  
Ashley Reid

### **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

Jack Schultheis & Kathy Hart  
Bob & Lil Moleti  
Matthew Trump & Wylie Hunt  
Tony & Mary Jane DeVito  
Claude & Fjeril Deal  
George & Sue Krall  
Ken & Lani Wille  
Tony & Barbara Bastin  
John & Nancy Caponegro  
Walt & Pat Kregler  
Mike & Polly Neyssen