



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

July/August 2017

F R O M T H E



RECTOR

Summer is in full swing, and it's good to be back with you all after sabbatical. I am very thankful for the time away. It allowed me to rest, to pray, and to recover my sense of

where God is leading. Now that I've returned, I'm slowly catching up with what has been happening in your lives, in our parish, and in our local community, and reflecting on what I learned in those weeks of quiet.

One of the surprises about taking a sabbatical is that it's never quite what you planned. Your body demands attention; your soul leads you on; God gives gifts that you don't expect.

As I've looked back on my sabbatical time, one theme that emerged for me is what it means for us to be the church. Let me tell you three stories about that.

The first is the congregation I worshiped with most Sundays. They are very small, an average of a dozen or so each Sunday, worshiping in a borrowed space, with a priest who they only pay to work 6 hours a week. Three weeks a month they have a Eucharist; the other week, a lay person leads

Morning Prayer. Sermons are often half traditional sermon, and half Bible study. Someone occasionally shows up with an electric keyboard, but most Sundays they sing unaccompanied (including the Gloria). Sometimes there is coffee and cake afterwards, sometimes not. There is no bulletin, just a printed card with the service on it, and verbal announcements.

Freed from many of the constraints of administration, managing facilities, and so on, their energy outside of Sundays goes in supporting the local community. They raise over \$5000 a year selling jam, and donate the proceeds to feed the hungry, both locally and internationally.

The second is St. James Episcopal Church in Cannonball, ND (on Standing Rock Reservation). Five years ago, on the Feast Day of St. James, their small wooden church burned down in an arson attack. As they prepared to rebuild, they realized that they needed a church that would reflect their culture, hopes, and dreams, as well as be practical for their needs (for example, their average attendance is less than twenty people, but they run a youth group that has sixty members) and it would cost more than their insurance settlement. So an appeal was launched and they wrote to every St. James Episcopal Church in the country to ask for help. We were one of these churches.

I visited St. James, Cannonball, on my way across the country by train to a conference in Seattle. It's a three hour drive south of Minot, ND, and about an hour or so south of the state capital. To get to the church, you turn off the main road towards Lake Oahe (formed by damming the Missouri River), and eventually turn right at a t-intersection. Houses are few and far between, mostly trailer homes. And then St. James appears, from the outside a modest wooden church building with a hand carved sign propped on a bench outside.

But the inside is unexpected. My eyes were drawn immediately to the ceiling, which at first seems to reflect the pyramid-like shapes of nearby rock formations. But as I looked up, I could see the echoes of a teepee, and the woodwork created the feeling of being gathered in a dream catcher. It is full of space and light. There is a star quilt on the wall, with moveable chairs and a kitchen off to the side. When they dedicated the new church, the offering was given to help rebuild churches in Haiti.



The third story comes from the train trip. In western North Dakota, a couple with five children got on. They were an Amish family from Pennsylvania, who had traveled to a family wedding in North Dakota, and were

continuing on to the West Coast and then back across the country for their vacation. Being on the train for so long meant that I had the opportunity to talk with them, and in particular with the second oldest child. Their faith is expressed in almost every choice they make. We had a long conversation about clothing (white kapps are too hard to keep clean), school ("Our school is big. We have 29 children."), and her favorite food (vegetables fresh from the fields), and then began to talk about church. "We don't have a church house," she said. "We have church in different people's houses."

In the New Testament, the word that we translate as "church" is *ekklesia*. It literally means "called out", as in called out together for a meeting. Each of these three churches are very different expressions of church. The places they meet combine with the way they live, both as communities of faith and in their everyday lives, to tell us something about what being Christian means to them.

We are in the midst of an exciting time here at St. James, as we do much needed renovations that will allow us to continue our ministry in this place in years to come. Having a facility that is well cared for speaks to the community around us of the vitality we have here.

But this is only one part of what it means to be the church in this place. Being on sabbatical has made me wonder. What are other ways that we express our faith, both in our life together, and in our own everyday lives? How do we share what is most important to us? How do we more fully proclaim Christ in the world around us?

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raewynnet". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

THE WARDENS' COLUMN

On Your Mark! Get Set! Go...!

It has been two years since Buildings and Grounds first did its exhaustive review of all our structures on our church campus. Two years of analysis, prioritizing projects, interviewing roofers and examining construction proposals. Much work has already been accomplished in preparation for repairs and renovation. Water has been diverted from our buildings with dry wells installed at Mills Hall, the repaving of walkways, and new leaders and gutters at the Hall and on the Christian Ed. Building and the Administrative Office. And with the birth of "Sustaining St. James", Charlie Kreussling's dream to restore and renew our beloved church began in earnest.

Now is the fun time. Now we get to see the fruits of our long labors. In August, our church proper will have its distressed and leaking cedar shakes replaced with a stunning (and life long) shingle roof. The roof of the C.E. building will follow, and the redesign of the flat roof over the offices will take shape. This will be a truly thrilling summer to remember. It may get a little noisy and messy for a couple of weeks, and your patience may stretch a little thin, but the beauty and progress unfolding before us should calm us all.

As the labors begin, let us offer a prayer of thanksgiving to our beloved Charlie and our Lord.

Grant that your church,
being bound together in
love and obedience to you,
may be united in one body
by the one Spirit...
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you...
(BCP page 255)

- Alex & Jennifer

PICK-A-HYMN

Some people have asked what is happening to pick-a-hymn this summer. One of the joys of pick-a-hymn is that we get to sing people's favorite hymns. Some of our favorites are well known, but others can only be described as obscure, and are more difficult to sing.

Because we have a reduced budget this year for music, we do not have an organist for a couple of months over the summer. That means we are relying on your singing voices, supplemented by the occasional instrumentalist (we hope – volunteers welcome!) and by recorded hymn music. Because of this, it's particularly important that we sing hymns that we know well. So this summer, I have continued to choose the hymns, as I do all year, focusing particularly on well-known hymns. I welcome your suggestions of ones to include!

- Raewynne

ST. JAMES FEAST DAY

Potluck picnic, Sunday, July 30, 2017 following the 9:30 a.m. service. Come celebrate St. James! Bring a lawn chair or a blanket for seating, a dish to share, and join in the fellowship, food, and fun. Watch the Sunday bulletin and "This Week at St. James" in the coming weeks for further information.

VESTRY RETREAT

The Vestry will be on our annual retreat on Saturday, July 29 at the Knox School. Please keep us in your prayers.

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 9:00 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

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

A MILLION THANKS! The Strawberry Festival is a huge undertaking!!! Months before the event the work begins – the organizing, the jam making, the sorting, the pricing, the phone calls, the baking, the shopping, the crafting, hulling strawberries...the prayers for good weather... And then the day of the Festival – start at 7 a.m. and finish at 8 p.m. – the set up, the lugging, working all day, clean up, counting the money... Much hard work, but much JOY and LOVE among ALL who give your time, your effort, your hard work. You are truly a blessing to this church family. My thanks and appreciation for a job well done!

- Pat Westlake

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL FINANCES

Thanks to the hard work of Festival Treasurer, Donna Austin, and her crew, with all expenses and additional revenue in we can report the following results:

| <u>Table</u> | <u>Revenue</u> | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>Net profit</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Baked Goods | \$704.50 | ---- | \$704.50 |
| Books & Things | \$351.96 | ---- | \$351.96 |
| Crafts | \$181.05 | ---- | \$181.05 |
| Gold Elephant | \$915.00 | ---- | \$915.00 |
| Grandma's Attic | \$700.80 | ---- | \$700.80 |
| Grandpa's Garage | \$1596.80 | ---- | \$1596.80 |
| Jam | \$1155.00 | \$56.75 | \$1098.25 |
| Jewelry | \$245.41 | ---- | \$245.41 |
| Lunch | \$412.95 | ---- | \$412.95 |
| Plants | \$575.00 | \$194.39 | \$380.61 |
| Strawberries | \$1336.00 | \$793.00 | \$543.00 |
| Children's Table | \$21.35 | ---- | \$21.35 |
| Totals | \$8195.85 | \$1044.14 | \$7151.71 |
| General Fund contributions 6/25/17 | | | +\$75.00 |
| Grand Total | | | \$7,226.71 |

FOOD PANTRY
*Guide our hearts and minds
as we assist those in need*

August is our month to staff the Pantry. We need three (3) volunteers every day. Please contact Claudette Plaschka to sign up (631-965-2211) or look for the sign up chart in the back of the church or in Mills hall during coffee hour on Sundays.

If you are not available during the day, we need assistance with shopping, sorting, and stocking the shelves. This can be done in the evening, or on weekends. Students can receive community service hours for working at the Pantry.

- Pat Westlake

**BUILD-A-BACKPACK
FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Once again, St. James is participating in this annual program, which introduces Habitat kids to a continual emphasis on education, hard work, and community involvement.

Using the supply list below, you may fill an entire backpack, or shop for items for the various age groups. Label the age range and drop them off in the lobby of the Christian Ed. building by Sunday, July 30. Thank you for your participation.

Suggested Supply List -

Elementary Backpack:

Pocket folders (3-4)
Marble notebooks (2-3)
Pencils
Pencil case
Safety scissors

Glue sticks (2-3) or Elmer's glue (1)
Crayons or markers or colored pencils
Pocket tissues
Ruler
Eraser

Middle School Backpack

Pocket folders (3-4)
Pens & pencils
Pencil case
Looseleaf paper & binder
Notebooks (2-4)
Glue sticks (2-3) or tape
Markers or colored pencils
Ruler
Index cards (1 pkg.)
Highlighter
Scissors
Pocket tissues

High School Backpack

Pocket folders (2-4)
Pens & pencils
Looseleaf paper & binder
Notebooks (2-4)
Glue sticks (2-3) or tape
Highlighter
Ruler
Colored pencils or markers
Index cards (1 pkg.)
Pocket tissues (2)

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet for a pot luck swim party on Tuesday, July 18, 12:30 p.m. at the home of Barbara Deal, 7 Lincoln Avenue, Smithtown (off Terry Road). Please speak to Fjeril Deal (631-724-3720) to make your reservation.

ANTIQUÉ & COLLECTIBLE SALE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

We are planning a special sale on October 21 which will include many special items that have been recently donated. Books & Things will also be open this day.

We invite any parishioners who have items to sell to rent a table (\$35 for parishioners in good standing). If you are interested in taking a table, please call the office as soon as possible – before we open it up to the community).

- Pat Westlake

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Each year on Good Friday, we take up an offering for the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. As part of its mission, AFEDJ supports Christian schools in Israel. Christian schools consistently rank at the top of all Israeli schools for academic success. They have the highest matriculation rate (students eligible for higher education) in Israel. Yet Christian schools have seen their financial support from the Ministry of Education cut dramatically over the past several years. The Ministry also has put restrictions on tuition and fees for Christian schools, which it regards as “recognized but unofficial.” These realities present challenges for many of the schools. For more information on how your donations are put to work, and to read an article featuring one of the schools, go to www.afedj.org and see their Spring 2017 newsletter.

SUFFOLK COUNTY MARATHON TO SUPPORT VETERANS OCTOBER 29

Parishioners and friends are invited to participate in the Catholic Health Services third annual Suffolk County Marathon, Half Marathon, 5K or new 4-member marathon relay to support our veterans on October 29, starting at 8 a.m. in Patchogue. All new proceeds benefit Suffolk County veterans. To date, \$300,000.00 has been raised.

After the races start, the Freedom Fest/Taste of Long Island Festival will begin, featuring foods, wines and beers crafted on Long Island. The festival includes entertainers and special events for kids.

For more information, or to register, see <http://www.suffolkmarathon.com>

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Lindsey Noack, a recent graduate of Centereach High School, plans on attending Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey as an undergraduate studying biology. She plans on becoming a pharmacist, and receiving her PhD. Lindsey was named a two year all county field hockey player and she plans to continue playing field hockey at the university. She received a \$34,000 scholarship from Fairleigh Dickinson University and additionally received \$3,000 from Centereach High School based on academic, musical, athletic, and community involvement. Congratulations and best of luck to you!

JULY CALENDAR

- 2 **Pentecost 4**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 3 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 **Independence Day**
Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Office closed
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 6 Rector & Wardens' meeting
9:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Book study group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 **Pentecost 5**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Architect meeting 10:45 a.m.
- 10 Rector at Soul Brew Café
10 a.m. - Noon
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 13 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Book study group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 **Pentecost 6**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 17 Rector at Soul Brew Café
10 a.m. - Noon
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Lunch Bunch at B. Deal's 12:30
p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 20 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Book study group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 **Pentecost 7**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 24 Rector at Soul Brew Café
10 a.m. - Noon
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 25 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 27 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 29 Vestry retreat
- 30 **Pentecost 8 - Feast of St. James**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 31 Rector at Soul Brew Café
10 a.m. - Noon
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Phil Coward
Abby Coleman
Nancy Caponegro
Joseph Ercole
Pat Kregler
Lucas Roseto
Ken LeCluse
Margo Goodman
Raewynne Whiteley
Barbara Bastin
Joan Bengtson
Igor Sepulveda
Eowyn Jeffrey

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

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

AUGUST CALENDAR

- 1 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 3 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 6 **Pentecost 9**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 7 Rector at Soul Brew Café
10 a.m. - Noon
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 10 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Book study group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 **Pentecost 10**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 14 Rector at Soul Brew Café
10 a.m. - Noon
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 17 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 20 **Pentecost 11**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Rector at Soul Brew Café
10 a.m. - Noon
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 24 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 27 **Pentecost 12**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 28 Rector at Soul Brew Café
10 a.m. - Noon
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 31 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

*Kathleen Andrews
Sarah LeCluse
David Westlake
Ava Ercole
Justin Plaschka
Mila Grimaldi
Donna Guinaw
Sterling Carter
Lucas White
Bob Bennett
Cy Carter
Debbie LaMano
Matt Roseto*

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

*Bob & Lil Moleti
Matthew Trump & Wylie Hunt
Tony & Mary Jane DeVito
Claude & Fjeril Deal
Ken & Lani Wille
Tony & Barbara Bastin
John & Nancy Caponegro
Walt & Pat Kregler*