

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

July/August 2016

F R O M T H E



This week brought the news of another deadly attack, this time in the airport in Istanbul, Turkey, killing more than 40 people. It comes on the heels of the

attack in Orlando, and those in Belgium and before that, Paris. And so many more barely even make it into our news. Some of these are the work of terrorist organizations; some the work of lone attackers, prompted not only by religious or political extremism, but also fear, hatred, isolation, and mental illness. And each time these things happen, we are challenged as Christians about how to respond.

Since the time of the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century, the western world has been considered to be 'Christendom,' that is, Christianity has been the default religion. That is beginning to change, as more people follow other religions or no religion at all.

But our culture and laws have been largely shaped by Christianity, and in many cases, they continue to reflect, or at least be consistent with, our faith. But that's not true of everything. Jesus said many things that challenged the culture of his day, and of ours.

One of the places where the words of Jesus are a challenge are in how we deal with evil. The problem of evil has had a long history of discussion within Christian theology, largely focused on questions of how a good God can bad things to happen. But when we are faced with the killing of young adults in Orlando, or travelers in Turkey, when we can identify particular individuals taking actions that are indisputably evil, the question becomes much less academic. How do we respond?

There is of course the response that happens at the governmental level. But there is also the response that we make in our own hearts and prayers. And this is where our culture and our Savior collide.

Our culture says that someone who does an evil act is evil through and through, and should be punished. We are encouraged to fear and hate them. And if they die, their memory should be wiped from the earth.

And so often, that feels right. We want the world to live in to be fair, for people to live with (or die with) the consequences of their actions.

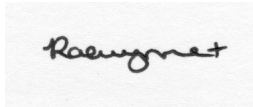
But Jesus said something different. In Luke 6: 27-28 he is recorded as saying, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate

you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."

I suspect that is one of the hardest things in the whole of the gospels for us to do. We don't want to pray for people who hate and hurt us. We want them to pay for what they have done. But that's not how Jesus sees it. "God loved the world so much that he gave his only son," he said. God loves us, all of us, every human being, and extends grace and forgiveness to us, no matter what we have done. And then God expects us to extend that grace to others. We might not be able to go as far as loving them like God does. But we can pray for them. We can pray that the living will know the grace and mercy and love of God, and that it might transform them. We can remember the dead as people who have done wrong, but who once held the promise that every child holds, and who have been lost.

It's hard. But it's the gospel.

Blessings



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!

THE WARDENS' COLUMN

Hello Summer!

As we rush headlong into the warm arms of summer the irony is that despite the longer days and docile weather, we just seem busier than ever. Play dates, picnics at the beach and traveling with friends and family, backyard BBQs and sports seem to take up all the extra hours. Attending church sometimes gets lost in the shuffle. Bible study can be put on the back burner. Spreading the word of the Gospel gets lost in the laughter of having fun and feeling free.

Yet ministry is never on vacation. There are simple ways to reach out to others without expending too much time or energy. A lonely neighbor, an elderly parishioner, a recently widowed friend can be embraced. A stranger can receive a smile. A hungry family can be fed. A store employee can enjoy a simple joke. These are small graces each of us can give. And the promise they provide not only sustains others but our own souls as well.

*It is worth any sacrifice...
To see eyes that were listless,
Light up again;
To see someone smile
Who seemed to have forgotten
How to smile;
To see trust reborn
In someone
Who no longer believed
In anything
Or anyone.*

- Dom Helder Camara

In peace and grace,
Alex & Jennifer

VESTRY RETREAT

The Vestry will be holding their annual retreat at the Knox School on Saturday, July 30. Please keep them in your prayers.

FEAST OF ST. JAMES JULY 31

This year, we will celebrate the feast of our patron saint on Sunday, July 31 with Baptism at the 9:30 a.m. service and a potluck lunch following. Please bring a dish to share. There will be activities for the kids to enjoy.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD-A-BACKPACK

Once again, St. James will be participating in the Build-a-Backpack program for Habitat for Humanity. This program provides school supplies and backpacks for Habitat kids for the upcoming school year, and are distributed at Habitat's "Back to School Picnic" in mid-August.

You are invited to participate by filling your own backpack, or providing supplies to fill them. We ask that all supplies be turned in by Sunday, July 31, so they can be brought to the Habitat office by Friday, August 5.

Here are the suggested supply lists:

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, markers, or colored pencils
Pocket tissues (2)
Ruler
Eraser

Middle School Backpack

Pocket folders (3-4)
Pencils & pens
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 (2)

High School Backpack

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

There will be a carton in the lobby of the C.E. building for your donations.



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 2016 RESULTS

This year, we combined some of the tables from our Harvest Festival into our Strawberry Festival. Despite the early afternoon showers, we were able to have a successful event. Thank you to all who participated, and especially to Donna Austin and her crew, who handled the finances. With the final receipts in for reimbursement, here are the results:

Table	Revenue	Expenses	Net Profit.
Baked Goods	\$617.06	—	\$617.06
Crafts	\$95.15	—	\$95.15
Gold Elephant	\$584.05	—	\$584.05
Grandma's Attic	\$825.45	—	\$825.45
Grandpa's Garage	\$819.50	—	\$819.50
Jam	\$1,456.00	\$207.40	\$1,248.60
Jewelry	\$769.20	—	\$769.20
Lunch	\$482.00	\$29.00	\$453.00
Plants	\$490.00	—	\$490.00
Strawberries	\$1,016.00	\$640.00	\$376.07
Totals	\$7,154.48	\$876.40	\$6,278.08

RECTOR VACATION

The Rector will be on vacation from July 11 - 28. During this time, please contact one of the Wardens, Alex Rich (631-365-9488) or Jennifer Lawrence (631-766-6641) for pastoral emergencies.



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

From July 11 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 an emergency when the office is closed, please call one of the Wardens, Alex Rich or Jennifer Lawrence.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Members of the parish bid a fond farewell to Jerilyn, Heidi, Jeremiah and Sean Glogg on Sunday, June 26. They were long time active members of the parish, who will be much missed. We wish them well in their new home at 923 East Main Street, Riverhead NY 11901.

PROTESTANT CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

The World Student Christian Federation - North America is seeking young adults, students and partners interested in contributing a chapter/article/reflection for a book on racial justice and indigenous peoples' rights. Pieces should not exceed 5,000 words or 20 pages in 12 point font, double spaced with citations and references. If you are interested, please send your piece in Word document for edits by September 30th to wscfna@gmail.com.

- Madelyn Cousins



JULY CALENDAR

- 3 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 4 **Independence Day**
Office closed
- 5 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 7 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 pm
- 10 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 11 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Morning Prayer 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 14 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 18 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Morning Prayer 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 21 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
- 24 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 25 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Morning Prayer 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 28 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Vestry retreat
- 31 Feast of St. James
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II with Baptism
9:30 a.m.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

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





AUGUST CALENDAR

- 1 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 4 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 pm
- 7 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 8 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 11 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 15 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 18 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
- 21 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 22 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 23 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.

- Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 25 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 29 Sr. Women's Exercise 7 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Knitters' group 11:30 a.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

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Jack Schultheis & Cathi 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

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR THESE UPCOMING
PARISH EVENTS**

September 11 - Kickoff Sunday and
Ministry Fair

September 25 - St. James Day - parish booth

October 2 - Blessing of the Animals
at the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes