



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

July/August 2014

FROM THE



RECTOR

This morning in our weekly Tuesday Eucharist, we celebrated the Feast of St. Benedict of Nursia. Benedict, who lived in Italy from 480 to 543 (?), is often thought of as the father of Christian monasticism: his Rule he wrote for his own religious community was foundational for many of the religious orders formed since that time.

As Anglicans, we have our own connection with St. Benedict. When Pope Gregory the Great sent a mission to Britain in 595, he chose Augustine of Canterbury, a Benedictine monk, to lead it. Augustine of Canterbury is known as the “Apostle to the English,” and often regarded as the founder of the English Church; the Benedictine Rule shaped both our tradition of daily prayer and an approach to life that balances work and prayer.

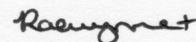
One of the readings set for St. Benedict’s feast day (which actually falls on July 11) is Luke 14:27-33, which includes these challenging words from Jesus: “So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

As we talked about the readings, we realized that Jesus never said who we are supposed to give up our possessions to. We often assume he means giving them away – to the church, the poor, whatever. But what if he means simply for us to give them to God? Just as in baptism, we give our lives over to Christ, perhaps we as Christians are called to offer everything we have, everything we own, over to God. To let go of our ownership, to understand that our possessions truly belong to God, and that everything we have is a gift from God.

That turns our discussions about tithing and pledges upside down. Instead of saying, “I have x dollars, and God wants me to give up ten percent of that,” it becomes, “God has x dollars (which I have custody of as God’s steward), and gives me ninety percent of that to spend however I wish.”

It’s still challenging, but it’s very different. Everything around us is a sign of God’s love for us; everything we have is infused with God’s grace. What a gift!

Blessings,



THE WARDENS' COLUMN

On Sunday our guest speaker Chris Appleby reflected on "A Royal Wedding Song" (psalm 45). How at weddings everyone is so happy – the groom and friends brush up nicely, the bride is wearing some romantic confection of a dress, and love is overflowing. How the King and Queen get married, how the King is Jesus and we, the church, are the bride. So, we are in a relationship with Christ Jesus – have you ever thought of that?

This is also the good news of the gospel. He notices us, we have his attention, and he wants to be in a relationship with us. But it is a relationship unlike any that we can truly understand. His relationship with each of us is very intimate, as being compared to that of a marriage. It is often said that the true love in a marriage is the closest we can come to understanding God's love for us. Likewise, he calls us into a relationship with each other, our Christian community. As with our relationship with Christ Jesus, our Christian relationships are like none other. In our baptism we are married to Christ and to each other – indeed it is an intimate relationship.

But we are human, and we fail at times to love God as ourselves, and we fail to love our neighbor as He loves us. And yet, God continually calls each of us back into relationship with him and each other. That is the good news of the gospel. He forgives us and wants to be with us. As Christians, we are called to do the same.

It was also mentioned how God's desire for us is that we will bear offspring in his name; not physical offspring, but spiritual offspring. He wants us to bring many sons and daughters to his kingdom. So how do you tell your friends of your faith? How do you share your love of Jesus? Invite them to

his kingdom – invite them to join the celebration on a Sunday with us!

Peace and Blessings
Debbie & Alex

FEAST OF ST. JAMES JULY 27TH

We will celebrate the feast of our patron saint on Sunday, July 27 with a potluck lunch following the 9:30 a.m. service. There will be many activities for the kids, including bubbles and a water fight (BYO water guns). Be sure to dress appropriately!

VESTRY RETREAT

The Vestry will be on retreat led by Diane DeBlasio on Saturday, July 26. Please keep the Vestry in your prayers.

A COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR 1914-1918 August 2 at 4 p.m.

This year marks the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of World War I. Although the United States did not formally enter the war until 1917, we were involved from the very beginning through efforts to negotiate peace, continued shipping to Britain (one of our major trading partners), the loss of American lives in attacks on ships (including the 128 Americans who died when the Lusitania was torpedoed in 1915, and the participation of individual Americans who volunteered to fight on behalf of other countries.

On August 2 at 4 p.m., we will have a service to commemorate the beginning of the First World War, including the laying of a wreath and prayers. It will be followed by a reception in Mills Hall, with a display of historical memorabilia and comments by military historian, John White. All are welcome – please invite anyone who might be interested.

- *Raewynne*

GODLY PLAY

From a blog entitled "Ministry to Children":

"In an age where we feel we need to meet children in their high-tech world, *Godly Play* is a unique way to present the beautiful and eloquent truths of the Bible in a very simple, natural form, with no bells or whistles. 'In most religious education, children are told who God is. In *Godly Play*, children discover who God is.' Using the principles of learning in the Montessori method, we respond to the child's request to 'help me do it by myself.' It shares spiritual education in a beautiful, peaceful, intimate manner, demonstrating the power and richness of God through meaningful and intentional presentations of His Word. This puts the teacher in the role of spiritual supporter or guide who fully accepts that each child has his or her own relationship with God already.

Godly Play Bible stories are told gracefully and beautifully using simple hands-on figures, made of natural and meticulously designed materials. The story teller serves as a 'guide' to the truth being told. Then, sits back and asks, 'I wonder...?' allowing the children to find their own way. Children are encouraged to explore their thoughts, ideas and feelings about the story through expressive art following the presentation.

One child, continually drew himself playing soccer. Frustrated by the irrelevance to the story and the repetition of his work, the teacher asked how the picture showed him God. He replied, 'Sometimes I cam scared to play soccer out there by myself, but then I look at the great big sky and remember that God is with me.' She smiled and moved on."

Although we have traditionally ended *Godly Play* in June, and we reconvene in September, this summer we are going to try something new. We will meet twice during the month of August, on August 10 and August 24. As we do during the school year, the children will receive Communion and then all go to one classroom, where they will have an opportunity to spend the time doing some expressive art and enjoy the feast. Please mark your calendars, and make every effort to have your children participate in these special sessions.

- *Wylie Hunt*

OUR LAST CLASS

June 22nd was the last class of *Godly Play*. We did something important.

Miss Carol visits a 99 year old woman named Doris who lives in a nursing home. For years Doris has been making a scrapbook of animal pictures with Bible quotes. It is Doris' favorite thing and she gave it to us to keep in our *Godly Play* classroom and enjoy.

We decided we would pray for Doris. We also decided we would make pictures for her, and thank-you cards. Sarah gave Doris one of the beautiful crosses she painted.

Doris was very, very happy when she saw

the pictures and the cards. She said she would always treasure the gifts and asked God to bless each and every one of the children. Sarah's cross was hung on the wall at the end of Doris' bed where there was a nail. She said it will be the first thing she will see when she opens her eyes in the morning and she will remember the children who are praying for her.

Thank you, boys and girls, for being kind to Doris and for being good followers of Jesus.

- Carol Bluni

PRAYERS FROM GODLY PLAY

Thank You for baptizing me and showing me the Holy Spirit and all these things.

Jake

I pray for the sad people and I give them money to buy good things.

Jeremy

Thank You for all the beautiful things and all the toys. Please help all poor people who worry about getting sick. Make them better.

Jesse

I love the grass.

Finn

Thank You for the wonderful world and for everything in it, and for creating me.

Kenny

Thank You for these wonderful people and all the good things You gave us. Thank you for the best buddies You gave us and so many to love.

Jesse

Thank You for food and for a safe day on earth.

Matthew

Thank You for the miracles You made.

Kenny

Thank You for creating the universe, the galaxy, the solar system, and the world.

Jake

Thank You God for the bread and for the water on my head (Baptism).

Jeremy

Thank You for telling us these amazing stories for us to learn from.

Annabelle

Thank You for this day and for this church. Thank You God that we were made to love and care for others. Thank You for food and houses. Help others in other lands that don't have food and houses.

Eowyn

Thank You for all the things You created. Thank You for loving us and guiding us.

Annabelle

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL RESULTS

The numbers are in! With all the hard work and the beautiful weather, we did quite well with our Festival this year, coming in just \$141.27 under last year's figures. Here are the individual table breakdowns:

<u>Table</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net Profit</u>
Grandma's			
Attic	\$963.73	-----	\$963.73
Grandpa's			
Garage	\$782.76	-----	\$782.76
Baked			
Goods	\$481.31	-----	\$481.31
Crafts	\$77.35	-----	\$77.35

Garden			
Decor	\$107.50	-----	\$107.50
Jams	\$1575.00	\$225.37	\$1349.63
Lunch	\$440.50	\$151.99	\$288.51
Plants	\$348.00	-----	\$348.00
Strawberries			
	\$876.50	\$419.95	\$456.55
TOTALS			
	\$5652.65	\$797.31	\$4855.34

Thank you to Art and Joan Strassle who served as Festival Treasurers, and to Art for delivering the final report.

OUTREACH

Our Strawberry Festival and Yard Sale is a big source of St. James' outreach money. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make it a success. The day was perfect, the strawberries were ripe and delicious, we made some money, and everyone had a great time.

On Sunday, June 22 and 29 our parish participated in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters. As a Covenant Church in Bread for the World, we have sent over 3,000 letters to Congress advocating for the poverty stricken and hungry in our own country and throughout the world. Thank you to all who signed letters and to Sandy Grigoletto for organizing this important outreach.

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry currently needs donations of canned fruit, juice, and canned pasta with some protein like ravioli. Some treats would be welcome, as children will be home from

school for the summer. Donations can be left in the cart in the hallway of the Christian Education building. If you see that the cart is getting full, please take a turn delivering the food to the Pantry. The Pantry, located at St. Thomas of Canterbury in Smithtown, is open from 9 a.m. to Noon, weekdays.

Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk will again be giving backpacks of school supplies to their homeowners' children and we can help. The list of supplies needed for Elementary, Middle School, and High School students is inserted in the Sunday bulletin, or found in the narthex. Please check out the Build-a-Backpack for Habitat list and see how you might be able to contribute to a successful school year for these children. Please drop your items off at church by Sunday, August 3 with a list of what you have purchased enclosed. Donations can be left in the pew in the hallway of the Christian Education building, near the Food Pantry cart.

Habitat for Humanity recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary in Suffolk County. St. James Church was a Charter Member and has supported Habitat for all 25 years. Ken LeCluse has been an active Board member for all those years, too, until his recent "retirement" from their Board. Thank you, Ken, for your many years of service! Ken still helps us get work days scheduled for members and friends of St. James Church, so watch the Sunday bulletins for our next work day, probably a weekday in the fall. No experience is necessary. Habitat has crew chiefs who will "size up" our volunteers and then show us "how to" do the task at hand. Sometimes we nail studs in place, or put up wallboard, or paint, or put on the roof, and some folks landscape and/or clean up the grounds. Whatever our assignment, it is always an exciting day. It is a great feeling to go home knowing that you helped build a house for a deserving

family! And by the way, Habitat says their Suffolk Homeownership Program is "A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out. By no means are our houses given away." Families who apply are thoroughly interviewed and investigated before being chosen. They need to meet certain financial criteria. Habitat holds the mortgage, but the homeowners pay the principle back to Habitat (no interest) and pay taxes to the town. The applicants' current living conditions are taken into consideration when they are being chosen. If they are living in an over-crowded or unsafe situation, they may be chosen over a family in a safer, more comfortable environment, all other factors being equal. All chosen families are required to put their sweat equity into building other Habitat houses as well as their own. They learn skills along the way. To prepare for home ownership, several courses are required and given by Habitat from finances to home repair. By the time the keys are handed over, the new homeowners are definitely on the road to success. And all are eternally grateful to Habitat and to you, the VOLUNTEERS! Habitat believes "Build-a-Backpack introduces Habitat kids to our continual emphasis on education, hard work, and community involvement." Since 1988 Habitat of Suffolk has build affordable homes for over 380 children. Other things you might like to know:

- *This year, 34 high schools and colleges built a "Student Build" house in Mastic Beach and raised over \$55,000.
- * You can recycle a vehicle to help Habitat build more homes. See www.carsforhomes.org/EDor call 877-277-4344.
- *If you need windows, tile, or something new for your kitchen, check out www.suffolk/restore.com.
- *The 16th Annual Roger Metcalf Memorial Golf Classic will be held at St. George's Golf & Country Club in Stony Brook on Monday, October 13, 2014. Save the date.

For more information on Habitat, go to www.habitat.suffolk.org or call 631-422-4828.

Raewynne becomes Chairperson of Protestant Campus Ministry Board of Directors in July. The Rev. Brenda Ford, PCM's Chaplain, will be hard at work in mid-August welcoming new and old students to the fall semester. Meanwhile, the Board of Directors welcomes donations from individuals as well as churches to fund the Chaplain's salary, health insurance, and programming. If you would like to donate, tax-deductible checks made out to "Protestant Campus Ministry" may be sent to Herta Wulff, PCM Treasurer, 11 Hamilton Road, Setauket NY 11733. And thank you to those who have already done so in 2014.

- Sue Krall

CRAFTER ALERT

Early warning alert to all Crafters: Your talents are needed to create your handmade objects for the Craft Table at our Harvest Festival in October. Woodworkers, artists, scrapbookers, knitters, crocheters, sewers, et. al., are asked to put on your thinking caps and create something unique for our table.

Linda Misa, Laurie Mannix, and Pat Kregler have been working at this for years. We need your ideas to help to make our table a success. If you have any questions, please contact me at patkreg@verizon.net or call 863-1113.

- Pat Kregler

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.

During the months of July and August the Rector will be taking off Thursdays and Fridays, as there are a lot of pastoral services scheduled for Saturdays.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Karen Noack is working on an art project in Riverhead this summer. She will be painting store windows with flowers to beautify the area. There will be a special event scheduled for August which will incorporate music and performances as well as the visual art. For more information, and to lend your support check out this site: www.kickstarter.com/projects/878697711/the-language-of-flowers-window-mural

JULY CALENDAR

- 1 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 4 **Independence Day** - office closed
- 6 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 7 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Bible study/Book Club 7:00 p.m.
- 10 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.

- 11 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Holy Eucharist I 8:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 14 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 18 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Knitters' group 7:30 p.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Bible study/Book Club 7:00 p.m.
- 24 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Feast of St. James
- 28 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth DeFilippis
Abby Coleman
Nancy Caponegro
Johnny Sommer
Pat Kregler
Hunter Grennan
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

- 1 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 World War I memorial 4:00 p.m.
- 3 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 4 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Bible study/Book Club 7:00 p.m.
- 7 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Holy Eucharist I 8:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Godly Play class
- 11 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 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.
- 18 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Knitters' group 7:30 p.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Bible study/Book Club 7:00 p.m.
- 21 N.A. meeting 7:30 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.
Godly Play class

- 25 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 29 Food addiction group
- 31 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Danielle Dineen
Kathleen Andrews
Sarah LeCluse
Marisa Hillman
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

Build-a-Backpack for Habitat for Humanity Families

Once again, St. James will be 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 shop for items for the various age groups and drop them off at the church by Sunday August 3. Donations can be left on the pew in the hallway of the Christian Education building, near the Food Pantry cart.

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
 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



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

