



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

June 2009

FROM THE



Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of undertaking a pilgrimage, following in the footsteps of the seventh century Saint Cuthbert.

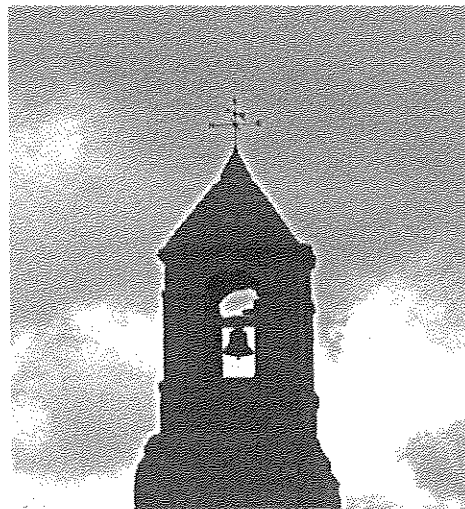
Cuthbert is one of the great saints of the Anglican tradition, beginning his life as a shepherd in the hills on the border of England and Scotland, serving as a soldier, and then becoming a monk at Melrose Priory on the Scottish side of the border. He was later sent to Holy Island, also known as Lindisfarne, to help the priory there shift from Celtic to Roman style Christianity. He later received permission to become a hermit, retreating to Inner Farne, a small island near Bamburgh, south of Lindisfarne. However he was eventually called back to the mainland to be bishop of Lindisfarne, serving for just two years before his death. Cuthbert is remembered in part for the miracles associated with his relics; but underlying these is his constant faithfulness. As prior and bishop, he spent much of his time walking the hills, reaching out to those who lived in the glens and on the moors.

As I walked across those same hills, I was struck by how significant that quiet faithfulness was. I had strong boots, wet weather gear, maps, a first aid kit, and a cell phone for emergencies. I had a warm bed

waiting for me each night. But I still got blisters, and I still got discouraged. But he, probably with simple leather shoes, a staff, and a woolen cloak, travelled tirelessly, risking his life for their sake.

Following in Cuthbert's footsteps reminded me of how much living our faith is a matter of simply putting one foot in front of the other, time and time again. Sometimes we come across unexpected beauty. Sometimes the journey is painful. Sometimes we join others for a time on the way. But always we have before us the call of God to be faithful, and the promise that God is with us, and will be with us all the way.

- Raewynne



The bell tower of the church of St. Mary the Virgin on Holy Island - a welcome sight at the end of 62 hard miles.

BISHOP WALKER BEGINS LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On Monday, June 1, 2009, Bishop Walker will begin a leave of absence until Saturday, November 14, the day his resignation as Bishop of Long Island takes effect. Bishop Walker has appointed Bishop David Joslin as Assisting Bishop and delegated to him all administrative and pastoral duties during this interim period. Bishop Joslin is the former Bishop of Central New York and Assisting Bishop of New Jersey and Rhode Island. Bishop Walker will represent the Diocese of Long Island in the House of Bishops at General Convention to introduce our Bishop-Coadjutor-elect to the House. Assuming the receipt of canonical consents to our election, he will be a co-consecrator at the ordination and consecration of Fr. Provenzano in September, and will preside at the Diocesan Convention in November until he bids the Diocese farewell and turns authority over to the new Bishop. Matters requiring the assistance of the diocesan staff should continue to be referred to the appropriate deputy, staff person or the Chancellor who will report to Bishop Joslin. Bishop Joslin and Fr. Provenzano will be meeting with members of diocesan boards, departments of Diocesan Council, and the Standing Committee in the days ahead to continue preparing for the transition in November.

Raewynne served under Bishop Joslin when he was an assisting Bishop in the Diocese of New Jersey, and is delighted that he will be joining the Diocese of Long Island. He is partly responsible for her decision to purchase her VW Beetle. He was the Presiding Bishop's observer at the election of the Rev. Lawrence Provenzano as the Bishop Coadjutor. He is a godly, gracious, calm, Episcopal presence.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL/ YARD SALE JUNE 13TH

As everyone should know by now, our annual Strawberry Festival/Yard Sale is set for Saturday, June 13th from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine. If you haven't yet done so, there is still time to do any of the following:

- * Donate items to sell at the yard sale.
- * Help out at any of the pricing sessions for Grandma's or Grandpa's Attics - see the monthly calendar for dates and times.
- * Bake some of your special treats for the Baked Goods table and bring them early on the day of the Festival.
- * Pot up some extra perennials you might have, and bring them to the Plant table on the day of the Festival.
- * Help out with the Strawberry hulling on Thursday, June 11th at 5 p.m.
- * Pitch in to make jam or condiments on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.
- * Call one of the table heads below to offer your assistance for the day of the Festival, don't wait for an engraved invitation!

It is by working together that we can do the most good, and make this the most successful Strawberry Festival/Yard Sale ever!

People to call:

- Set up/break down - Jeff Smith (862-6972)
- Jam Sales - Nancy Rasmussen (724-2083)
- Strawberry Treats - Pat Pawelko (327-5863)
- Grandma's Attic - Debbie LaMano (584-3545)
- Grandpa's Attic - Kurt Rettig (732-5875)
- Baked Goods - Karen Douglass (928-6633)
- Plant Sales - Peter Plaschka (543-4944)
- Hot dogs, etc. - Jeff Smith (862-6972)

BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS

On Sunday, June 7, our parish will again participate in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters, as it has done since 1987. As a Covenant Church in Bread for the World we have sent over 3300 letters to Congress advocating for the poverty stricken and hungry in our own country and throughout the world.

Last year our Offering of Letters focus was on increasing our financial contributions to catch up our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. Bread for the World's efforts, along with others, helped to provide an increase of \$1.9 billion in additional funding for poverty-focused assistance and set the stage for this year's campaign for broader reform of foreign assistance.

The 2009 Offering of Letters will ask our Senators and Representatives:

- *To cosponsor and support the reform of foreign aid;
- *Provide systems to monitor and evaluate their efficiency;
- *Insure the public has full access to information on all foreign assistance programs.

Last week more than 4000 letters from 35 Offerings of Letters were sent to Washington, D.C. The Congressional bill HR2139 has just been introduced and the Senate bill will follow shortly, so our Offering is timely and important.

Please make a special effort to be in church Sunday June 7, as we honor our Sunday school and teachers. What better way to honor them than to advocate for reducing hunger; the main victims of which are children.

"The world now has the means to end extreme poverty; we pray we will have the will."

- Rob Tebbutt

Bread for the World Representative

OUTREACH

* **The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry** is being staffed by St. James parishioners (us!) during the month of June, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. A sign up sheet is available in Mills Hall during coffee hour. The Pantry has been very busy lately and can even use a third volunteer on most days. Please sign up to help. The Pantry is always in need of donations of nonperishable foods: hearty soups, stews, pork and beans, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, juice, cereal, etc. Please place your donations in the basket located in the hallway of the Christian Ed building. We also need volunteers to transport our food donations to the Pantry.

* **Bread for the World's Offering of Letters** will take place at St. James on **June 7th**. Please plan on participating to encourage Congress to reform our foreign aid programs. You can make a difference with your prayers and your letters.

* **Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk** will be celebrated here at St. James on **June 21st**. Ken LeCluse, who has served on Habitat's Board of Directors since its inception over 20 years ago, will give a short presentation on what this wonderful organization has accomplished. From our limited outreach budget we have committed to donate \$250 to Habitat. However, we would like to renew our practical support. In addition to the backpacks that we donate each year, there are opportunities to help build homes.

There will be a sign-up sheet if you would like to help work on a Habitat house in the future. (You don't have the necessary skills? Someone will work side by side with you to teach you!)

*** The Children's Rainbow Connection Baby Pantry** is a special ministry at Christ Church, Bellport, that assists families with baby needs from birth to 4T. This has been a vital asset to the Bellport, Brookhaven, and Patchogue areas. Currently, they are in desperate need of clothing, toys, baby furniture, etc., and would greatly appreciate any gently used items you may have. Donations may be dropped off at Christ Church office Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. or on Saturday by appointment. For additional information, call the church office at 286-0299.

*** We each have opportunities to change the world!**

- Sue Krall

THANK YOU CHOIR

Thank you to the members of the choir, who spend almost every Thursday evening from early September through mid-June in rehearsal for Sunday services. We also appreciate the hard work of Dara Linthwaite, our choir director, who selects the anthems and hymns each week, rehearses the choir, and occasionally provides guitar music for the Sunday services, and of István Diószegi, our organist, who spends time rehearsing the choir and playing on Sundays. After June 14th the choir will take a summer hiatus, but you will be sure to hear some of them singing alongside you in the pews at the 9:30 a.m. service each week.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet 12 p.m. Tuesday, June 30 at the Thai House, 53 West Main Street, Smithtown, across from Mande's. Contact Fjeril Deal (724-3720) to make your reservation. All parishioners are welcome to share the good food and fellowship.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION & EDUCATION

What does the Bible have to say about heaven? Wednesday, June 3, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Following up on a question raised during the Lenten series, join the Rector and members of the Christian Formation and Education Committee on Wednesday evening, June 3, for a discussion about "heaven" as it is presented in scripture. Teenagers welcome!

Mid-summer movie night

Watch the weekly e-mail newsletter and Sunday bulletin for the date, time, and topic of a mid-summer movie and discussion night.

- Kathy Sides

PADDLE YOUR OWN CANOE

Harry Toop has a 15 foot fiberglass canoe with paddles that he is offering to any member of the parish free for pickup. Contact Harry at 543-9209 if you are interested.

BOOKS

If, while you are packing up your donations for the Yard Sale you come across some books you no longer want, we will be accepting those donations as well. We would appreciate it if you kept them separate from any Yard Sale donations, however, to make it easier on those who are sorting and pricing for the Yard Sale. The books are sold at the Book Nook during the Harvest Festival in October.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

St. James has three graduates this year, all from Ward Melville High School:

Matt Coleman is heading to SUNY Fredonia to study Early Childhood Education and will be swimming for the Blue Devils. He hopes his parish family will send him warm thoughts, because it gets awfully cold in Buffalo!

Leah Tarantino plans to attend St. Joseph's College, majoring in Secondary Education English with a minor in Special Education.

Kevin White will be attending the University of Hartford, in Connecticut, and majoring in Multimedia Web Design and Development.

Congratulations to our graduates and their families! We wish you much luck, happiness, and many blessings as you face this new chapter in your lives.

JUNE CALENDAR

- 1 GreSheeters Anonymous
7:30 p.m. - Mills Hall
Buildings & Grounds 7:30
- 2 Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Grandma's Attic pricing
1 - 4 p.m.
Jam making 4:30 p.m.
C.F.E. discussion 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Bible study 10 a.m.
Grandpa's Attic pricing
12 p.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 7 Trinity Sunday
Grandpa's Attic pricing 8:45
a.m.
Wicks Baptism 9:30 a.m.
Last day of Sunday School
- 8 Grandma's Attic pricing
3 - 5 p.m.
GreSheeters Anonymous
7:30 p.m.
- 9 Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Grandma's Attic pricing
1 - 4 p.m.
Jam making 4:30 p.m.
- 11 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Strawberry hulling 5 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 12 Grandma's Attic pricing
5 p.m.
- 13 **STRAWBERRY
FESTIVAL/YARD SALE
9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.**
- 14 Parish Life committee 10:45
a.m. - Webster room
- 15 GreSheeter's Anonymous
7:30 p.m.
- 16 Yoga class 4:30 p.m.

- 18 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 21 **Father's Day**
- 22 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
GreSheeter's Anonymous
7:30 p.m.
- 23 Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
- 27 Toastmaster's group 9:30
a.m.
- 30 Lunch Bunch 12 p.m. at
Thai House restaurant
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

***JUNE IS FOOD PANTRY MONTH!
HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO HELP
STAFF THE PANTRY?***

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- Stephanie Coleman
- Dara Linthwaite
- Jake Pryor
- Eric Mercep
- James Quinn
- Lindsay Petschauer
- Alexandra Rich
- Chris Mauro
- Dennis Guinaw
- Peter Plaschka
- Lauren Tarantino
- Ruth LeCluse
- Claudette Plaschka
- Catie Douglass
- Bill Bowden

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- Harry & Betty Toop
- Ken & Linda Misa
- Kurt & Diane Rettig
- Ron & June Davies
- Paulette & Walter Schiff
- Charlie & Marge Kreussling
- Ken & Ruth LeCluse
- Art & Arlyne Gureck
- Ron & Ann Tebbutt