

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

June 2015

F R O M T H E



RECTOR

The last few weeks in our congregation have been busy ones. Not only have we been preparing for special events such as the Open House for Smithtown's 350th Anniversary

and the upcoming Strawberry Festival, we've celebrated Pentecost and the Baptism of baby Madison, but we've had a number of parishioners or their family members having surgery, illnesses, and bereavements.

Much of what happens in our parish occurs under the radar, that is, it doesn't show up in our weekly calendar or news sheet. A new name on the prayer list might translate to a flurry of emails and text messages, pastoral visits and phone calls, prayers offered, meals provided, rides offered for church, and much more. A death of a family member likewise means similar levels of support. Many people are involved in this support, caring for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. And it's wonderful!

But one thing that sometimes gets forgotten is that in such life crises, people may have to withdraw from their ministries. And other people need to take over, if we are to continue with the work God is calling us to do.

We need your help. Matthew Trump has reluctantly resigned from being Warden. I am very thankful for his wisdom and commitment not only in the time he has been Warden, but in the years he has served on the Vestry. But now he needs to step aside to take care of family matters.

Therefore, we need someone to take on the role of Warden for the remainder of this year, working alongside Alex Rich. We need to share the load – and having two Wardens is also a legal requirement (one of the less known aspects of church life in the State of New York is that we are governed by the Religious Corporations Act – and technically, in the absence of a second Warden, the parish has no legal existence).

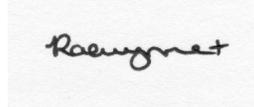
One of the great privileges of the leadership of any church – especially the Rector and Wardens – is to see up close the many amazing ways God is at work among us, especially the things that happen 'under the radar'. There is some hard work, and there is responsibility. But there is a huge amount of joy to be found in this work.

Please consider if God might be calling you to respond to this unanticipated need in our parish, to serve as Warden – or indeed, to help out in the other areas we unexpectedly need help in at the Strawberry Festival (strawberry treats, money, and general

coordination). This is as much part of being brothers and sisters in Christ as cooking meals and praying.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings,



STEWARDSHIP

Remember – the work of God continues through the summer. Please consider pre-paying your pledge or giving online if you are planning to be away.

WARDEN'S COLUMN

The first big weekend of the summer season is just past. Schools are winding down. The weather is warm at long last and we are caught up in the dreams of ocean breezes, fresh vegetables and leisure time. When life slows down its hectic pace and allows us breathing room we need to take this opportunity to reflect not just on summer pursuits and plans, but also on God and our relationship with our spiritual community.

The natural human tendency is to let out a deep sigh of relief as our schedules and demands for our time are lightened. Yet part of this intake and out take of breath should reflect the message of **Pentecost** this past Sunday. As the Gospel from the Book of Acts of the Apostles so movingly portrayed, this is also the season when God's promise was fulfilled and the breath of the Holy Spirit swept down like "*the rush of a violent wind*" upon us all.

We are called to respond to this union of the soul with God. It need not be complicated or burdensome. During this magical season bursting with beauty and the bounty of nature, we are asked to take the time to spread the Good News. Instead of sleeping in on Sunday we may see it as a precious and inspiring opportunity to come to the **Eucharist** without the weight of so many competing obligations. **Family Bible Study** continues throughout the summer, and while your winter schedule may prohibit your attending with your children, summer may give you the latitude to join us twice a month for pizza and prayer and readings from the Bible. You might think of it as a summer version of Godly Play. The **Strawberry Festival** is just two weeks away. Even if you cannot help out, you and your family can surely enjoy the berry-stained faces of young and old alike as we embrace this community and faith based

festival day. Two nights a month we also have a **Book Study** group where over the course of five or six weeks, with Raewynne's leadership, we explore topical books on faith and the Bible. And of course the **BBQ** and the **Feast of St. James** are ahead as well.

These are planned events. We can also explore some unplanned gatherings. Why not try a monthly **Movie Night in Mills Hall** where our younger families can gather to enjoy simple food, good conversation, and camaraderie, while the kids watch the movie? On an even simpler level, **Parish Life** keeps tabs on parishioners who are homebound, or who are facing a medical or family crisis, and are in need of food and comfort to get them through a difficult time. You can simply make a double batch of whatever you are having for dinner one night and provide it for someone who would view it as a blessed feast. Or possibly you have a neighbor who is mostly alone, and would find an unexpected bouquet of wild flowers a loving gift.

The point is to view the summer as a time – a fertile field if you will – for spiritual growth as well as BBQs and vacations and trips to the beach. It is a period when our burdens feel lighter, and our hopes are revived, and when we may embrace our faith with a depth and vibrancy we do not feel we have the time or energy for at other times of the year.

*And God said to the soul:
I desired you before the world began,
I desire you now
As you desire me
And where the desires of two come together
There love is perfected
(Mechtild of Magdeburg 1207-1297)*

- Alex Rich

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL JUNE 13, 2015 9:30 A.M. - 3 P.M.

The days are flying by, and St. James annual Strawberry Festival is coming up in a few short weeks. Your support is needed to help make this a successful event. Here are some ways in which you can help:

Grandma's Attic (Debbie LaMano and Jennifer Lawrence, Chairs): Do you have unwanted "treasures" in your attic? We are looking for donations of housewares, linens, decorative items, dishes, etc. Please NO books, tapes, CDs or clothing. Watch the Sunday bulletin for pricing sessions. Donations will be accepted through Friday, June 12 at 1 p.m. in the lobby of the Christian Ed. building. Contact Debbie at 774-4271 or dlamano67@gmail.com or Jennifer Lawrence at 862-0243 or jenlawrence@msn.com.

Grandpa's Garage (Bob Moleti, Chair): Is your garage or basement overflowing with "stuff" ? Donations of tools, sports equipment, furniture, and electronic equipment, clean and in working order are needed, and can be brought to the lobby of the Christian Ed. building by Friday, June 12. Contact Bob at boblil2@optonline.net or 675-0385.

Baked Goods (Wylie Hunt and Colette Tarantino, Chairs): We would love donations of home-baked cookies, breads, muffins, simple cakes or pies. Gluten-free items are also appreciated. Please be sure to label your donations and especially indicate if they contain nuts. Donations can be brought to the table early on the morning of the Festival. Contact Wylie at 258-6848 or wyliehunt@gmail.com or Colette at 751-7932 or llcol0208@aim.com.

Plant Table (Peter Plaschka and Tony DeVito, Chairs): If you have extra perennials or seedlings to share, pot them up, label them, and donate them to the Plant Table. Please bring them the morning of the Festival. Contact Peter at 748-6101 or pplaschka@hotmail.com or Tony at 774-1233.

Jam Table (Louise Harders and Laurie Mannix, Chairs): Do you like to cook? Join the St. James' Jammers in their jam sessions during the week. Watch the Sunday bulletins for day and time. Contact Louise at 585-7511 or louern@aol.com

Strawberries for Sale: Help will be needed to hull the berries before the sale and to sell the berries and treats the day of the sale. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.

Set-up and Clean-up (Chris Mauro, Chair): Do you have some time (and a strong back)? Help is needed on the day of the Festival to set up tables and tents in the morning and chris.mauro@cmsheattransfer.com or 689-1419 if you can help.

Staffing tables: Help is needed on the day of the Festival to assist at the many tables. Even if you only have a couple of hours, your help is needed and will be much appreciated. Contact any of the people listed above to offer your help.

Don't forget to come out on the day of the Festival to shop the tables, buy some strawberries, visit with fellow parishioners and support your church!

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Several years ago Raewynne offered a program entitled "What is Prayer?" Here are some of the answers that came from the discussions:

Communion and communication with God
Remembering God's acts
Silent or aloud
A cry for help
Transformative
Compulsion/Commitment
Thanksgiving
Reflection and meditation
Praise
Deep intercession for others
Standing in the breach with courage and boldness
House blessing
Grace
Songs
Peace
Public and private
Forgiveness

LUNCH BUNCH

All parishioners and friends are invited to join the Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, June 30, 12:30 p.m. when they anticipate meeting at Azafran Restaurant, 430 North Country Road, St. James. This is a new spot for the Lunch Bunch, and they are looking forward to trying the food that has gotten good reviews. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

PARKING

The traffic on Route 25A is especially busy during the summer months. Please be careful when parking on Sunday mornings. If you park too close to the parking lot driveway entry, either on 25A or in the

driveway, those leaving the lot cannot see oncoming traffic. There is additional parking behind the office. Please consider parking in that area if you are able.

PARISH GRADUATES

Jamie DeFilippis graduates from Smithtown East on June 24 with honors. She will be attending SUNY Albany in the fall majoring in Political Science (Pre-Law).

Lauren Tarantino graduated from Stony Brook University on May 22 with a B.S. in Social Welfare. She will be leaving for a two month internship in California in mid-June.

Ryan White graduated on May 30 from the University of Delaware with a B.S. in Nursing. He will be taking the Nursing licensing exam this summer, and plans to work as a R.N. in an Emergency Room setting.

Congratulations and best wishes to all our 2015 graduates!

HABITAT BACKPACKS

We anticipate participating in the Build-a-Backpack program for Habitat for Humanity again this summer. Keep your eyes open for sales on school supplies.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

On Sunday, May 24, we Baptized **Madison Cassidy Beirne**, who was born on September 28. Madison lives in Stony Brook with her parents, Tim and Laura. Tim is Chair of the History Department at The Stony Brook School.

Tom Cahill, brother of **Peter Cahill**, passed away on May 26 in Philadelphia, after a short battle with an aggressive form of ALS. Our prayers and sympathy go out to Peter and Alexis as they deal with their loss.

GARDEN OF EVE FARM

Once again, we will host a community supported agriculture pickup here at church. Garden of Eve is dedicated to providing delicious organic vegetables, fruits, eggs, cheese, and beautiful flowers. You can sign up for weekly or bi-weekly shares. For more information go to their website: www.gardenofevfarm.com/csa.htm.

LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Fresh Market is bringing approximately 90 new jobs to the Smithtown area. The Fresh Market is a specialty grocery retailer focused on providing high quality products in a unique and inviting atmosphere with a high level of customer service. The store will open in 2015 in the Branch Plaza Shopping Center, 126 East Main Street, Smithtown.

They will be hosting a Career Open House on Tuesday, June 9, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the UPSKY Long Island Hotel, 110 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, Hauppauge. They are currently seeking Assistant Dept. Managers, Bakers, Meat Cutters, and Specialists. Prior to attending the Open House, prospective employees must apply online at careers.thefreshmarket.com, search jobs using keyword 210.

JUNE CALENDAR

- 1 Grandma's Attic pricing 10 a.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Family Bible study 5:30 p.m.
Weight Loss Solutions 6:00 p.m.
Grandma's Attic pricing 6 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Grandma's Attic pricing 10 a.m.
Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Grandma's Attic pricing 6 p.m.
- 4 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.
- 5 Yoga class 3:00 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Godly Play/J2A final classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
- 8 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Weight Loss Solutions 6:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Book group 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Yoga class 3:00 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 **Strawberry Festival**
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 14 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's ice cream party
- 15 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Family Bible study 5:30 p.m.
Weight Loss Solutions 6:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 18 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Yoga class 3:00 p.m.
Girls' Self Image Workshop 6 p
- 21 **Father's Day**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 22 Vestry meeting 7:00 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Weight Loss Solutions 6:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Special Connections grp 6:30 pm
Book study group 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Yoga class 3:00 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 28 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 29 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Lunch Bunch 12:30 p.m.
Family Bible study 5:30 p.m.
Weight Loss Solutions 6:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Stephanie Coleman
Lindsay Petschauer
Alex Rich
Chris Mauro
Skyler Baez
Dennis Guinaw
Jamie DeFilippis
Peter Plaschka
Lauren Tarantino
Ruth LeCluse
Sydney Reid
Claudette Plaschka
Bill Bowden

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Ken & Linda Misa
Ron & June Davies
Bill & Gabi Reisenauer
Ken & Ruth LeCluse
Art & Arlyne Gureck
Bruce & Jennifer Lawrence

****DO WE HAVE YOUR DATE?***

We'd love to celebrate your birthday and/or anniversary. Please email the office at stjamesc@optonline.net with the month and day of your special event, and we will add it to our list. We will acknowledge birthdays and anniversaries in the monthly issues of *Open Doors* and in our Sunday bulletin.