

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

March 2011

FROM THE



It was the trip of a lifetime: the opportunity to travel with Bishop Provenzano and other clergy and spouses on a pilgrimage to the

Holy Land, to experience firsthand the places that Jesus knew, the places he lived and died. We climbed on the bus at 7:45 in the morning, and most days didn't get back until 6:00 in the evening. In between, we traveled Israel from north to south, from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. We saw Nazareth, where the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, and Cana, where Jesus turned water into wine. We visited Capernaum, where Jesus lived, Tabgha, where he fed the five thousand, the hill where he delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the place where he appeared resurrected and commissioned Peter, Caesarea Philippi, where Peter confessed him as the Christ, and Kursi, where he cast demons from two men into a herd of pigs. All of those places are around the Sea of Galilee; we also sailed there in a boat similar to the type that Jesus would have traveled in, and saw the remains of a 2000 year old boat recently dug up from the mud.

Not all the places we visited were associated

with Christ. We traveled to Mount Carmel in the north, where the prophet Elijah met the prophets of Baal, to Tel Megiddo, where archaeologists have uncovered twenty-six layers of civilization, to Beit She'an, where remains of cities going back before the time of King David and including Philistine and Egyptian settlements have been found as well as a well-preserved Roman city, to the desert rock fortress of Masada, taken in 73 A.D. by the Romans, to Qumran, where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered, and to the Dead Sea itself (and yes, you really can read a book while floating in it!). We also went to the Valley of Tears in the Golan Heights, where one of the major battles in the Yom Kippur War of 1973 was fought, and looked into Syria; traveling south in the Jordan Valley we were sometimes only feet away from the Israeli-Jordanian border. And we ate the best ever falafel in a Druze village near Mount Carmel.

It wasn't until the second part of the pilgrimage that we finally reached Jerusalem. We drove up a winding road through the mountainous desert from the plains of Jericho, past Palestinian villages, Bedouin encampments, and Jewish settlements, before seeing the city, and finally the golden dome of Temple Mount. We passed through the border into the West Bank to Bethlehem, where we visited Manger Square, the site of the Nativity, and

the shepherds' fields. In Jerusalem itself, we walked from the Mount of Olives down into the Kidron Valley to Gethsemane, then entered the Old City through St. Stephen's Gate to begin the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross. At each traditional station, we paused to pray and sing, all the while surrounded by the bustle of everyday life (and at one point being caught up for twenty minutes trying to cross the rush of people leaving noonday prayers at a mosque). Finally we arrived at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the place where Jesus is traditionally thought to have been crucified, and a couple of hundred feet away inside the same church (albeit a different section, cared for by a different denomination), the place of the Resurrection. We also went to the Dome of the Rock, the site of the Jewish Temple, prayed at the Western Wall and visited another possible site of the crucifixion and resurrection – one of the complexities of a place like Israel, with its long history of conflict and layers of settlement mean that often the only evidence for a site is tradition; archaeological evidence, at least in sites located in contemporary cities, is long gone.

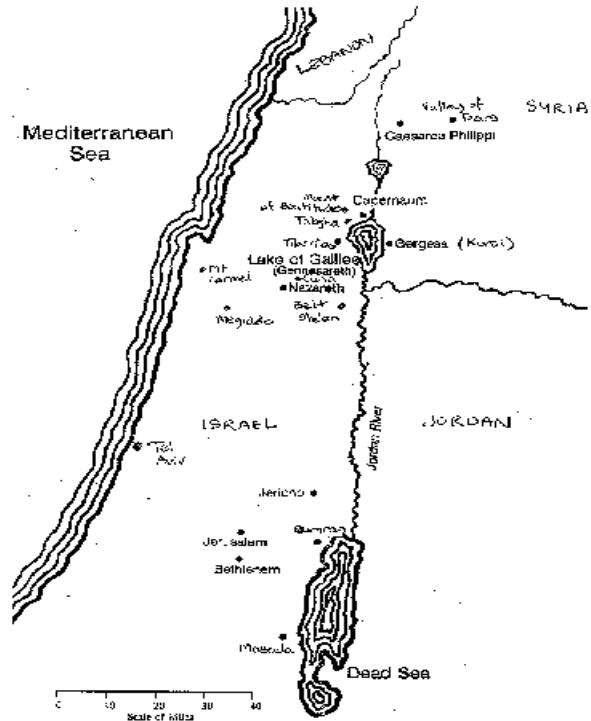
I learned a huge amount about Jesus and the context of his ministry; no doubt it will appear in sermons to come! But one of the things about pilgrimage is that you often discover things that you didn't expect. I was surprised to find that the places where I found it easiest to pray were the Muslim holy site of the Dome of the Rock, the Jewish site of the Western Wall, and Kursi. What they had in common was a sense of space. Most of the Christian sites have had churches built on them –

often beautiful, but also often so elaborate that I found myself distracted by the icons and golden lamps and fancy decorations, and unable to focus on God. For me, the places that are the most conducive to prayer are the quiet, open, spacious places, whether open spaces, simple churches, or a quiet room.

Raewynne

To see photos
from the trip:
<http://s1208.photobucket.com/albums/cc377/HolyLand2011/Raewynne/>

P.S. It is possible that we could do a parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land, perhaps in 2013. If you might be interested, please let me know. The cost would probably be about \$2500 - \$3000 per person.



THE WARDENS' COLUMN

11 And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, 13 and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Clearly Jesus is not being punished. Prior to being sent away, we are told that God says “with you I am well pleased.” It’s counter cultural. For us a “time out” is punishment. “Go sit in the corner, and think about what you have done”; a statement that is the staple of parental disciplinary action. And yet in essence isn’t that what we do when we pray? Unwittingly, in the process of making our beloved child be “quiet,” we are enabling them to spend time with God. God does work in mysterious ways!

A “time out” is not punishment. It is a chance to “re-boot,” to return to your creator’s factory default settings. It is a time to be quiet, to listen to God, to discern His will, and get back on track. Our Vestry recognized this when they identified “growing in faith with scripture and prayer” as a core goal for the parish of St. James. Prayer feeds the spirit.

“With the first month of the new Vestry closing in, I have found myself in prayer many times. Not just at the obvious times – church, mornings, bedtime, but throughout the day as well. There is a road in front of me that I have not been down, and I will proceed with caution. I know I will be able to travel down this new road, with God’s help, because of my prayers. While many of us pray when we or others are in distress – I often find that while I am just going through my day, walking either down a hall at school, or in a quiet, restful situation with the sun shining down (even if it’s cold out), I thank God for everything around me. I too

pray when I am stressed or afraid of something. I may not immediately find the answers in my prayers, but I do find comfort.”

This Lent, the CFE Committee will present what has been affectionately referred to as a “vocational school of prayer.” It will not be an opportunity to learn about prayer, but rather a chance to learn to pray. It will be a time of fellowship when we will be able to try new things with friends, have fun, and most of all to pray together.

Another opportunity we would like to mention is that March is St. James’ month to serve at the Smithtown Food Pantry. It is an opportunity to “build relationships in Christ” and “to serve each other and the world,” our two goals here at St. James. Yes, the Food Pantry is only open during the day on week days. So, it will take a real commitment on our part to answer this call. Consider taking half a day from work and spending it with your spouse, or friends from church helping at the Food Pantry. As we have read in the Bible, transformation is a radical event. While it is often an evolution, sometimes it requires a radical action on our part. Perhaps even a half day of our time.

Peace and Blessings,
Debbie and Chris

At the Vestry meeting this week, we read the story of the widow’s mite from Mark 12:41-44 and each Vestry member was given a 2000-year-old coin (a real widow’s mite) from Jerusalem. We then spent time reflecting on what we bring to offer to God and the parish:

- * Laughter
- * Love of God and neighbor
- * Focus on Christ
- * Sense of dedication

- * Willingness to jump in where needed
- * A passion for God
- * Willingness to listen and help out
- * Love, time, preparation of the altar
- * Hands to work
- * Love of Christ
- * Friendship
- * Caring human spirit, support
- * Inquiring mind
- * Willingness to share
- * Compassionate spirit
- * Talents to help further the parish

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER & MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Come join in the fun on Shrove Tuesday, March 8th at 5:30 p.m. as we celebrate Mardi Gras with a Pancake Supper. Wear a costume or mask, or come as you are. See Stephanie Coleman for further information.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

There will be services of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, March 9th at 12 Noon and 7:30 p.m.

LENT 2011

Lenten Program on Prayer: Wednesday evenings of March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6 and April 13 (see separate article).

Friday Fasting: Fast during lunch on Fridays (or at another time that works best

for you) and donate the money you would have spent for your meal to Episcopal Relief and Development. Please clearly note "ER&D" in the memo line of your check.

Lenten Daily Readings: "Seeing Jesus through Fresh Eyes," with guidelines for praying scripture, will be available on Ash Wednesday.

A separate booklet of daily readings for Holy Week, "Journey to Easter," will be available on Palm Sunday.

Midweek Prayer and Eucharist: 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays during Lent.

LENTEN PROGRAM ON PRAYER

This Spring I hope you will consider joining us for our Wednesday evening Lenten program. I know most of you will look at this message and say, "I am so busy" or, "Really, I don't know enough to participate" or even just be plain intimidated. I know I spent many years participating in social events and teaching Sunday school and leaving it at that. The programs offered and Bible study were just not for me. I actually was intrigued, but figured that I was just too uneducated to be there with people who read the Bible on a regular basis and actually understand it! Sounds silly really, because of course the Bible is at the core of our worship. But I know I am not alone.

Two years ago when I was elected to the Vestry, I was asked to sit on the Christian Formation and Education Committee. Talk about feeling like a fraud. Now I would have to admit my shortcomings and feel like a fool amongst people I perceived as learned and more spiritual! Well, as you may have guessed, it hasn't turned out that way at all. I see my job on the committee as

representing the “silent majority” of people who attend St. James who are probably interested in learning more but are unsure about how to take that first step.

So here we are, approaching Lent, and I am encouraging you to join us during this program to learn about the very heart of our worship: prayer. How are we supposed to pray? I honestly have very little idea. I know how to ask for help and to be thankful for help given, I can recite the Lord’s Prayer (and still can run off the Hail Mary like nobody’s business, being brought up Catholic) but that is about it. I know there is a lot more, and I am pretty excited about what we have planned. We have a five-week program, and you don’t have to commit to all five nights; each one will be complete unto itself. The evenings will run from 7:30 to 8:45 as follows:

March 16 - The Book of Common Prayer - What is the remaining 95% of the book?

March 23 - Anglican Prayer Beads - We will make our own and learn how to use them.

March 30 - Walking a Labyrinth - Learn about labyrinths - let’s take a walk together.

April 6 - Praying in Color - Using our creative selves to pray.

April 13 - The Lord’s Prayer - We all know it, now let’s understand it.

I look forward to seeing you there!

- *Stephanie Coleman and the C.F. & E Committee*

Kathy Sides, Les Bengtson, Wylie Hunt, Chris Mauro, Jack Schultheis and Raewynne Whiteley

KNITTING FOR LENT

Once again, the Rector is inviting those knitters and crocheters in the parish to make scarves and hats for seafarers. The Seaman’s Church Institute is an Episcopal-affiliated organization that provides chaplaincy to seafarers, and provides them with handmade scarves, hats, and other warm clothing. Patterns are available on the web at <http://www.seamanschurch.org/484asp>. They are easy enough for beginners. They recommend 100% acrylic yarn. Raewynne suggests Caron Simply Soft.

PEOPLE IN THE PEWS

This month we feature Theresa Euler.

Tell us about yourself: Native to Long Island, I was born into a traditional Italian, Catholic family. With that being said, church and family have always played an enormous role in my life. I graduated from St. John’s University in 1984 and had a successful career in computer programming for 18 years. During that time I also married and had three beautiful children: Alexandra, Kristina, and Jack. After my first was born in 1993, I was received into the Episcopal Church, and have been a proud member of St. James since. It was shortly after Jack was born that I started my second career as a Chiropractic Assistant, which has enriched my life spiritually as well as physically. Charles Haanel once wrote, “there is a world within, a world of thoughts and feelings and power; of light and beauty and although invisible, its forces are mighty.” It is this type of creative thought that I have chosen to live the second half of my life with!

Roles played in the parish: At St. James, I am the Acolyte Director, an Altar Guild member, and a Sunday school teacher.

What do you like most about St. James?: I mostly enjoy the friendships I have created and the huge stained glass window above the altar. As most Sundays go, I sit in the balcony with my children, and on a sunny morning the view of the window can occasionally create that ‘perfect moment’ - you know, the one that makes you feel the love.

Last book read?: The Saint, the Surfer, and the CEO by Robin Sharma.

Hymn you’d take to a desert island?: O Holy Night.

Tell us some of your favorites:

Color - Pink

Movie - “Serendipity”

Song - “Angel” by Sarah McLachlin and “Sweet Child O’ Mine” by Guns and Roses.

Season - Fall

Sports team - any that my son plays on

Pastime - chatting with friends

Saturday morning - very funny; I work.

Interests: After my children’s needs are fulfilled, I enjoy exercising, martial arts, and reading anything to inspire me.

If you were to start another career, what would it be? Recently, I have been soul searching for a possible third career ... I’m open for suggestions and/or a part-time job!

A verse from Scripture that is especially meaningful to you? Psalm 34.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

I am always amazed that every time a prayer shawl is completed without a specific recipient in mind, God always places the perfect person in our hearts to receive the shawl. This was the case this past Sunday when a beautiful shawl made by Colette Tarantino was blessed by Raewynne, and by the end of the service someone mentioned a friend who is ill with cancer. Colette’s shawl will be taken to the gentleman this week by a parishioner.

This has happened countless times in this ministry, and frequently the recipient will tell us that the shawl is perfect, and their very favorite color! How powerful and marvelous is that still silent voice that speaks to us so persistently!

We continue to meet the third Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in each other’s homes to work on our shawls, share a light breakfast, fellowship, prayer and meditation. This month our group will meet at the home of Beth O’Connor in Setauket.

In April, we will host a larger prayer shawl gathering in Mills Hall, with other shawl ministries from several churches across the Diocese. The meeting will take place on Holy Saturday, April 23rd, at 9:00 a.m., and we will be blessed to have Jeanne Provenzano as our guest speaker. Please mark your calendars to join us and meet our new Bishop’s wife. I pray that many of the ladies of St. James will attend this Saturday morning. You do not have to be part of a shawl ministry to join us as any of our meetings, and this Holy Saturday meeting promises to be a peaceful, meditative interlude before Easter.

- *Wylie Hunt*
(751-5618)

OUTREACH

March is St. James' month to staff the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry. Please sign up at coffee hour in Mills Hall. The Pantry has been very busy lately. It is best to have at least three people each day from 9 a.m. to Noon. If you have never helped at the Food Pantry before, sign up with someone who has. The Pantry always needs donations of juice. At this time they also need tuna fish, peanut butter and jelly, and canned pasta such as ravioli. Please check the basket in the hallway of the Christian Education building and take a turn transporting the food to the Pantry.

If you ordered daffodils to benefit the American Cancer Society, they will be distributed at coffee hour on Sunday, March 20. St James will be sending \$355.00 to the ACS because of your support. Thanks to all. Special thanks also go to Fjeril Deal for getting folks to sign up and to Ruth LeCluse for placing our order.

Seamen's Church Institute will again receive scarves and hats that our parishioners knit and crochet during Lent. Look in the narthex for suggested patterns, or see Raewynne.

Our Friday Fast for Lent will continue this year. The money everyone saves from lunch will be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development. We continue to see worldwide disasters, so the needs are great. Please participate so St. James can give a generous donation.

- Sue Krall

FOOD PANTRY

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry cordially invites all committees of the St. James Episcopal Church to join us in “building relationships in Christ” during the month of March Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - Noon (especially Mondays & Tuesdays) *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I with them.”* (Matthew 18:20)
R.S.V.P. A.S.A.P.
sign up sheet in Mills Hall

There has been a continuous increase in families turning to the Food Pantry for assistance. In January 2010 we served 110 families - 431 individuals. In January 2011, 116 families - 514 individuals. **We need your help!**

- Claudette Plaschka

THE BISHOP IS COMING!

On Wednesday, May 18th Bishop Lawrence Provenzano will make his visitation to St. James Church. He will be the Celebrant and preach at a service of Holy Eucharist that evening. Adults who wish to be Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church on that evening can speak to Raewynne.

FRESH FARM PRODUCE

Once again we have the opportunity to participate in a farm share (CSA) of fresh produce through the summer and fall. The good news is that this year the pick-up site is here at church, on Wednesday afternoons/evenings.

CSA is like a subscription, or a vegetable-

of-the-week club. You pay in full for your share before the distributions begin in early June, and in return for your commitment to the farm they provide you with just-picked organic produce at a good value, as well as farm trips, news, recipes, and a community of like-minded people to get to know!

More information can be found at <http://www.GardenOfEveFarm.com/csa.htm> or talk with the Rector.

- Raewynne

LUNCH BUNCH

The March meeting of the Lunch Bunch will be held at Maria's Mexican and Latin Cuisine, 211 Smithtown Boulevard (corner of Lake Avenue) on Tuesday, March 29th at 12:30 p.m. Please be sure to contact Fjeril Deal (724-3720) to sign up. All are welcome!

- Fjeril Deal

"TASTE OF EASTERN EUROPE"

Wylie and I had the pleasure of joining Mike and Polly Neyssen and Charlie and Marge Kreussling at the Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church for their pre-Lenten "Taste of Eastern Europe" dinner. The food, served buffet style, was delicious, and we were greeted by Peter and Alexis Cahill, among other members of the congregation. During our meal we were entertained by the Byzantine Dancers, a group of youngsters from the parish, performing traditional dances. We had a lovely evening, and we would certainly recommend putting this event on our calendar for the next year.

- Matthew Trump

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Sue and George Krall are happy to share the news of the engagement of their son, Daniel, to Paige McNamara in New Orleans. The couple met at the Utah Shakespearean Festival, where Daniel was building sets and Paige was a scenic artist. They continue to work together occasionally on theater productions at Le Petit Theatre in the French Quarter. Congratulations to the happy couple and their families!

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Father Charles Schnabel and his family on the death of his wife, Kathleen. The funeral will be held at St. James Church on Saturday, March 5, at 10:30 a.m. with the Bishop as Celebrant. Burial will be in our cemetery. Visitation will be held at St. James Funeral Home, 551 North Country Road on Thursday, 7 - 9 p.m. and Friday 2 - 4 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m.

MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Bible study 10 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 3 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Parish ski trip
Toastmasters group 10 a.m.
K. Schnabel funeral a.m.
- 6 **Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II with Sunday school 9:30 a.m.
Reidel Baptism
- 7 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 8 Bible study 10 a.m.
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Mardi Gras Celebration 5:30 p.m.
 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 **Ash Wednesday**
 Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes 12 Noon & 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 **Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II with Sunday school 9:30 a.m.
- 14 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
 Bible study 10 a.m.
 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
 Lenten series 7:30p.m.
- 17 St. James C of C breakfast 8 a.m
 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 **Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II with Sunday school 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
 Bible study 10 a.m.
 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
 Lenten series 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Toastmasters group 9:30 a.m.
- 27 **Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II with Sunday school 9:30 a.m.
- 28 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
 Bible study 10 a.m.
 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
 Lenten series 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Marge Kreussling
 Tony DeVito
 Ken Wille
 Violette Baez
 Daniel Krall
 Justine Guinaw
 Ruth Rutigliano
 Patricia Brack
 Derek Lally
 Mary Jane DeVito
 Dolores Marge
 Michael LaMano
 Nancy Rasmussen
 Matt Trump
 Ryan White

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff & Karen Smith
 Ralph & Pat Martinsen
 Jim & Nancy Petschauer