



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

March 2012

F R O M T H E



Next Saturday, March 17th, we celebrate St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Here on Long Island, where so many people have Irish ancestry, it's a

major celebration, and has spawned its own unique traditions – green bagels, emerald nail polish, and corned beef and cabbage – none of which my Irish grandparents would recognize!

Traditionally, it was said that St. Patrick lived from 340 to 440, and ministered in what is now Northern Ireland in the last couple of decades of his life, though it was perhaps a little later. Two authentic letters from him survive, from which come the only universally accepted details of his life.

When he was about 16, he was captured from Wales by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Ireland, where he lived for six years before escaping and returning to his family. After entering the Church, he returned to Ireland as an ordained bishop in the north and west of the island, but little is known about the places where he worked. He was buried in what is now known as Downpatrick, having been given the last rites by St. Tussach. By the seventeenth century, he had come to be revered as the

patron saint of Ireland.

Patrick himself writes of his call back to Ireland: "I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victoricus, and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: "The Voice of the Irish." As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea – and they cried out, as with one voice: "We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us."

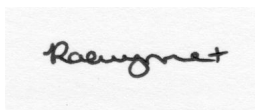
On St. Patrick's Day, I invite you to remember the incredible commitment of Patrick to God, which led him to put his whole faith in Christ, and to go back to the place of his own slavery to preach the gospel.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,
the strong Name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,

the Three in One, and One in Three.
Of whom all nature hath creation,
eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
praise to the Lord of my salvation,
salvation is of Christ the Lord.

(Hymn #370, based on Patrick's own words.)



THE WARDENS' COLUMN

"There is a world of difference between hoping and believing." Steve Pemberton

God's Plan
(author unknown)

I was once told that as time goes by
Everything changes with no reason why
Explanations we won't receive
We've just told we must believe
The Lord has a plan for each of us
This I believe - This I Trust
Doctor - Lawyer - Teacher - Wife
Lord what's your plan for my life?
Explanations I don't expect
Just some guidance down the right track
Show me Lord your plan for me
I ask this of you while on my knees
Praying to you helps me to see
The wonderful plan you have for me
The Lord has a plan for each of us
This I Believe - This I trust

*Peace and Blessings
Debbie and Chris*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION & EDUCATION NEWS *"And it was good"*

Our Lenten series, "And it was Good," started off really well. Even with yucky weather we had approximately 15 people gather in Mills Hall for both an interactive Bible study and a wonderful craft. We made beautiful wind chimes out of sea shells and recycled CDs. Thanks to Wylie Hunt for coordinating the crafts. Please join us for the remaining dates:

March 7 - "The place of humanity in the created order"

March 14 - "Jesus – the center and heart of all creation"

March 21 - "Creation blesses the Lord"

March 28 - "Creation groans in painful hope"

- Stephanie Coleman

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Once again, a heart-felt "Thank You" for a very successful stewardship campaign! To meet – and then to exceed – the fundraising goal we set for ourselves is a great accomplishment, especially in these challenging economic times. It seems that our church body is committed to hearing God's call and doing the work we are called to do, now supported by resources to match our motivation.

We intend to send quarterly pledge reports to all donors to help all of us keep track of our contributions and the Vestry is exploring the possibility of adding some new features to our website to facilitate the gift giving process. While we are eager to explore new "processes" to make gift giving and

recording easier, we are mindful that the best "practices" of religious giving do not neglect a community spirit and commitment. We will strive to build a "procedure" that is contemporary but still rooted in the hearts, minds, and spirit of our church community.

Thank you again for a rousing and affirming commitment to our progress!

Appreciatively,
Duncan Marshall

OUTREACH

Our Habitat for Humanity Work Day was held on Saturday, February 25 on Coconut Street in Central Islip. Five parishioners from St. James plus one friend braved the cold wind and joined about ten parishioners from the Byzantine Church of Smithtown and a number of corporate volunteers from the Duralee Company to raise the outer walls for the Valerio-Montero family. Vincent and Yazmin applied for a Habitat house two years ago, before their 16-month-old daughter, Isabella, was even born! The wait to be paired with a property after the eligibility requirements are met can sometimes take a while. Vincent and Yazmin put in sweat equity on other houses and are now working on their own home. When we and they showed up Saturday morning, only the floor was visible. It must have been a thrill when they left after a long day to see the outer walls had been raised and were covered with plywood. The process looked like an old-fashioned Amish barn raising! Thanks go to Peter Cahill for organizing St. James' participation and to Jack Schultheis and Mike Welch for joining Peter in raising the walls. Pat Westlake and I went along to take photos and to offer congratulations to the soon-to-be homeowners. If you would like to help

build a future Habitat house, be sure to talk with Ken LeCluse. He'll surely be swinging our golden hammer on our next work day.

The Mardi Gras Celebration and Pancake Supper on February 21 was delicious and a lot of fun, as usual. The money raised will be given to outreach such as Episcopal Relief and Development. Thanks especially to Colette Tarantino and Stephanie Coleman for their cooking and organization. Thanks also to all who made the tasty southern dishes and to the Rettigs, who brought the King Cake. The big question is - WHO GOT THE BABY?? (Raewynne is available for your confession!)

St. James again participated in the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days fundraiser. Thank you to all who placed an order. Your flowers will be ready for pick up on Sunday, March 25.

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry is especially in need of pork and beans, juice, and canned fruit. Please leave your donations in the cart of the Christian Education Building. When the cart is full, please take a turn delivering the food to the Pantry. Our next month to serve at the Pantry is May.

Hand-knit Baby Hats for Haiti are available in the sacristy for \$20.00. We thank Wooly Wednesday's talented knitters for providing this outreach to help Haiti rebuild.

Knit or crochet scarves and hats for the Seamen's Church Institute during Lent. Look in the narthex for suggested patterns, or speak to Raewynne. There is also a pattern for a ditty bag for those who like to sew. If you can supply some hard candy to go in the bags, you can place it in Raewynne's basket.

Fast during lunch on Fridays (or another day) 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.

Camp De Wolfe is holding Service

Saturdays. You are invited to spend the day painting, landscaping, gardening, doing beach clean-up and more during the spring. Dates are Saturdays, March 10, 24, April 7, 21, and May 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A bagged lunch and drinks are provided. A \$5 donation for lunch is suggested. Sign up by email: etees@campdewolfe.org or call 929-4325. The camp is located at 408 Northside Road, Wading River.

Episcopal Charities Annual Appeal is

now underway. The appeal not only funds the ministries and operations of the Diocese, it can fund services that are of great help to ministries here in our parish. For example, Episcopal Charities' funds support Protestant Campus Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, and Bread for the World. This year, the theme of the appeal is from St. Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians: "And now abideth faith, hope, and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." All that we have and all that we are is given us by God; in thanksgiving, please give generously to the annual appeal. Our parish receives 25% of each dollar contributed to our goal of \$4,673 and 50% of funds donated beyond our goal. This year we will commit "our parish return" to outreach projects. Please respond to the Bishop's request by making a pledge as generous as your circumstances will allow – and remember you pledge can be billed in ten monthly installments. **Checks are to be made out to Episcopal Charities of Long Island.**

Protestant Campus Ministry received a donation of nine hand-made blankets from

the 4th grade club, "Mills Pond Cares," at Mills Pond Elementary School, thanks to Katy Sacher. Hand-made valentines indicate the blankets were made "to warm the heart" of each recipient! PCM students will in turn donate the blankets to women transitioning from domestic violence situations. PCM students are still collecting toiletries for the same cause. Donations may be placed in the basket in the narthex of the church.

An Outreach meeting will be held this spring to determine how to allocate the \$2,000 in the 2012 budget for outreach. All are invited. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the date of the meeting.

- Sue Krall

PEOPLE IN THE PEWS

This month we feature long-time parishioner, Mike Neyssen

Tell us about yourself: I was born a long time ago (1925) and grew up in Ronkonkoma, then a small Long Island town. For kids then, life was good. Baseball was big: neighborhood, grammar school and high school teams. There was swimming and fishing in the lake in the summer and ice skating and ice boating in the winter. No TV, no cell phones, no iPods, etc., only the radio! We played outside and made our own fun. It wasn't so easy for our parents. The effects of the depression were everywhere. During my high school years, I worked as a "Soda Jerk" at night (my friends told me the last word described me perfectly). The shadow of Pearl Harbor, the war, and the draft hung over us. I turned eighteen on April 30, 1943, and the local draft board wanted to make their quota and sent me a notice. That meant, if I accepted, I wouldn't get my Regents diploma. Fortunately, I had taken

and passed the V12 test and Navy got me first. They allowed me to finish high school! I went to Hobart College for my V12 training and then to Fort Schuyler Midshipman's School in the Bronx. After being commissioned I served on three ships in the Pacific. Altogether I served 3 years, 2 months, 14 days in the Navy. After I was discharged I completed college and began work as an engineer for the Arma Corporation, PRD Electronics, and Grumman. Times were tough for engineers in the sixties and seventies on Long Island. Many were unemployed, but I was lucky to find work. Polly and I married August 24, 1957. We had three beautiful children: Michael, our first was severely disabled from cerebral palsy, David, and Linda.

When did you first attend St. James?

After moving to East Setauket in 1967, we set about to find a church home. None of the local churches were wheelchair accessible; St. James, however, had only two steps to enter so it was easy to lift our son. We have been here ever since and loved every minute of it. At the time, the Christian Ed building was being planned, and a ramp to the church was added to the design. We became the first local church to have a wheelchair entrance. Later a ramp was added to Mills Hall. It was designed by Ken LeCluse and financed by the Women's Guild.

Roles played in the church: I have served as a Sunday school teacher, Sunday school Superintendent, Fair treasurer, and Church Treasurer. Carl Fritz and I organized the Gospel Swingers, a social group of golfers who play Tuesdays, in season, at the Northport Vets course. All are welcome to join us.

What do you like most about St. James?

I like the people. They are the friendliest, most supportive, helpful, good hearted, fun

loving group I have ever known.

Hymn you would take to a desert island?

"Amazing Grace."

Tell us some of your favorites:

Color - Blue.

Movie - "Forrest Gump" and "The Artist."

Song/music - Rogers and Hammerstein, Cole Porter, the Three Tenors, and Jerome Kern.

Season: Fall and Spring.

Sports team: Giants and Mets

Pastime: Play or watch golf.

The way to spend Saturday morning:

Practice putting in the yard.

Education and interests: After graduating from Sayville High School, I spent 16 months in the Navy V12 program at Hobart College in Geneva, NY, and 4 months at Fort Schuyler's Midshipmen's School in the Bronx. I was discharged as a Lt. JG on 9/15/1946. It was difficult to find an opening in colleges in New York City at that time (GI Bill), but I finally was able to find a spot in night school at Brooklyn Polytechnic and work during the day. Later, I transferred to NYU and graduated with a major in physics. I took various night courses in applied math, computers, etc. at Adelphi University during my working years. In retirement, I took astronomy courses at Stony Brook University.

If you were to start another career, what would it be? I would choose to be a teacher of science or math.

LUNCH BUNCH

On Tuesday, March 27th, at 12:30 p.m., the Lunch Bunch will meet at Espana Restaurant, 655 Middle Country Road, St. James. All are welcome. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

- Fjeril Deal

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

What do Jambalaya and Pancakes have in common? Not a whole heck of a lot really, but they still managed to go together wonderfully at our annual Shrove Tuesday celebration. A great time was had by all. Many thanks for our wonderful kitchen staff: Brian and Lindsey Noack, Kathy Sides, Matt Trump and Wylie Hunt. Also a huge thank you to Wylie for the awesome Jambalaya and to Kurt and Diane Rettig for the King Cake. Pat Westlake did a fantastic job with the Mardi Gras decorations, and I think the Hurricanes were enjoyed by all (of legal age!). So, who is going to own up to finding the baby?

- Stephanie Coleman & Colette Tarantino

GROUPS FOR CAREGIVERS

Are you taking care of an elderly parent, a sick relative or spouse? If so, you need to care for yourself so you can provide the support that this person needs. If you are a caregiver, you might find it beneficial to connect with a group of people like yourself to share your problems and successes. There are now Caring and Healing Circles in Smithtown and East Setauket. You're

welcome to attend either group. Email craig@caringforthecaregiver.org or call 516-944-6454 for more information.

DONOR NEEDED

Kathy Sides and I visited Julie Blomkvist Fosdick at Yale-New Haven Hospital on March 1 while she is waiting for a liver transplant. We took Julie a beautiful prayer shawl made by the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Julie was very touched and felt our prayers with the shawl wrapped around her. She sends thanks to us all, especially to those who create such beautiful shawls and to everyone who has been praying for her. She was very happy to see us and we to see her!

As many of you know, Julie and her brother, Jeff grew up at St. James Church, with their parents, Jean and Evan, in charge of the YPF for many years. Then Julie married Gordon Fosdick, who also grew up at St. James, the son of Cecelia and George from our choir. They settled in CT to start Gordon's podiatry practice and raise their twins, Sarah and Christopher, now age 11. Julie is praying to go home to her family soon, in good health. Liver transplants come from live donors, since the partial liver regenerates in both the donor and the recipient. Might you be the answer to Julie's prayers? Potential donors for Julie must be in good general health, have A or O blood type, be 55 years of age or younger, and may be of either gender. The transplant coordinator's name is Kasha, and her phone number is 203-688-9426. Please call if you would like to be tested to give the gift of life.

- Sue Krall

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Vestry member Katy Sacher and her husband Steve Baez, along with their children, Skyler and Violette, are beginning a new chapter in their family's life. They made a trip to China to adopt a one-year-old girl that they have named Seraphina. We look forward to their return and the opportunity to welcome their daughter into our parish family.

MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation
- 5 Finance/Endowment/
Stewardship committees mtg.
7:30 p.m.
Book group @ Panera 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Lenten program 7:15 p.m.
- 8 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Vestry retreat through 3/11
- 11 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation
- 12 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Lenten program 7:15 p.m.
- 15 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Endowment Committee 9 a.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation
- 19 Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Lenten program 7:15 p.m.
- 22 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 26 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Knitters' group 7:30 p.m.
Lenten program 7:15 p.m.
- 29 Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 31 M.H. rental - piano recital 2p.m.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff & Karen Smith
Ralph & Pat Martinsen
Doug & Robin Dahlgard
Jim & Nancy Petschauer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Good Friday Blood Drive - on April 6 from
3 - 7:30 p.m. in Mills Hall. Call Edna
Rousseau at 584-7853 for more information.

Festival of Films & Faith - Movies with
interfaith panel discussion held at Theatre
Three in Port Jefferson:
April 17 - "A Better Life"
April 24 - "Of Gods and Men"
May 1 - "In a Better World"

More information forthcoming in the April
issue of *Open Doors*.

EASTER FLOWERS

Each year the Altar Guild does a beautiful
job of decorating the church to celebrate the
resurrection of our Lord. Parishioners are
invited to contribute to the purchase of the
flowers by making a donation in memory of
loved ones or in thanksgiving for a special
event or blessing in their lives. If you wish
to make a contribution, please fill out the
form below and send it to the office with
your donation by **Monday, April 2**, so that
it may be included in the Easter bulletin.
Flower envelopes will also be available in
the church narthex.

Name: _____

In memory of/thanksgiving for:

Amount enclosed: _____

