

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

March 2013

FROM THE



Sunday saw the debut of a new series on TV – no, not another Downton Abbey, but the miniseries from the History Channel, “The Bible.” It’s an epic production, 10 episodes from Genesis

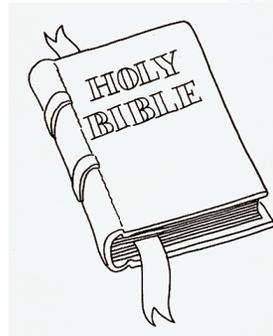
to Revelation.

The reality is that TV as a medium is most effective when it’s telling a story. And that’s what this show does: it dramatizes the Bible, turning it into one big story. But if you’ve ever read your Bible, you’ll know that an awful lot of it isn’t story. There’s history, laws, poetry, prayers, moral codes, prophecies, parables, letters, testimony, and more. Those differences are relatively easy to see when you read it. But to convey those on TV, they all have to be put in the form of story. And so there is an element of fictionalization in it all. We don’t know what individuals in the Bible looked like, but for TV we have to have a real person. We don’t know (most of the time) what the weather was, or often even the time of year. Things like letters have to be conveyed personally, so they become conversations and speeches, with an imagined audience. You have to make decisions about whether to dramatize the parables themselves, or just dramatize Jesus speaking them. All those decisions, no matter how faithfully they are made, take us a step away from the text itself.

And what that means is that we need to use our critical skills when we watch something like “The Bible.” We need to ask, what does the Bible actually say here, and what is added to fill out the story for TV? Being able to make that distinction is important: we can still enjoy watching the show, while actually learning and growing in our faith.

So, do watch “The Bible.” You will learn a lot. But don’t let your knowledge of the Word of God end there. Read it for yourself! Join one of our Bible studies (we have daytime and evening options, studies for kids and families and studies for adults). Make a habit of praying Morning or Evening Prayer – the readings are listed in the back of the prayer book, or use the online version <http://www.missionstclare.com/english/> (there is also an app for it). Join the Bible Challenge(<http://thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org>) and read the Bible through in a year – you could even invite some other members of the parish to participate! Listen to it – there are audio versions available on CD and MP3. And listen for the voice of God, speaking to you.

Raewynnet



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday - March 24

Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Celtic Eucharist 4:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday - March 28

Celebration of the Institution
of the Lord's Supper 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday - March 29

Good Friday Service 12 Noon
Blood Drive 3:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday - March 30

Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.
with Holy Baptism

Easter Day - March 31

Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Celebration Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.

THE WARDEN'S COLUMN

What Story Would You Tell?

St. Patrick is almost as much a myth as he was a man. Most of what we know of St. Patrick is from his "confession," an autobiographical writing in which he confesses his faith. Otherwise the rest of the history of the savage frontier of Ireland inhabited by a people without a written language, some 1600 years ago, is virtually non-existent. We do have some details of pagan Ireland from Roman writings, some of which are by Julius Caesar himself.

What we do know from his own "confession," is that even though St. Patrick was the son of a Christian priest, he was not a teenager of any real faith, and would be considered "wild". At 16 he was captured

and sold into slavery in Ireland. He spent six years there among pagan worshipers led by the druids. At the age of 23 God revealed Himself to St. Patrick and led him back to freedom, to what is now Wales, his birthplace. Once home, he heard God calling him back to Ireland to spread the good news of the Gospel.

He did eventually return, we assume after some studies, to Ireland as a consecrated missionary bishop. In the next 30 years he built 360 churches and ordained hundreds of clergy. Each of these "churches" was in actuality a Christian village or parish comprised of a church, housing, and farmlands, all within a walled enclave. What he accomplished is nothing short of a miracle.

How did St. Patrick accomplish this? We can be assured he did not arrive on the shore of Ireland with a fleet of Caterpillar construction equipment, a team of construction workers, and a staff of theological scholars. We can assume he did come with a passion to spread the good news of the Gospel, knowledge of the Bible, and after living among them for six years, an understanding of the pagan druidic faith of the people he converted.

What did the druids believe? They believed in many gods, with three major ones. Their worship centered on nature and the harvest. They believed in the immortality of the soul, the practice of human sacrifice, and what is referred to as a "Threefold Death" of their heroes and gods of their mythology. And the number three was a revered and mystical number.

Knowing this, we can better understand why St. Patrick used the analogy of the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. But he had so much more to share with these people. He had the good news of the Gospel, the news

of a loving God, who in His sacrifice of Himself won forgiveness for our transgressions and eternal life with Him for those who believe. So what Bible stories do you think he told to share the good news?

Are we so different from St. Patrick? As churchgoers we really represent a small part of the population of the U.S.A. I know we all have our favorite Bible verses, stories, and hymns. By the example of St. Patrick I think we can say humanity is in need of and longing to hear the good news of the Gospel. So, what stories will you share with your friend, neighbor, or co-worker to let them know that there is a loving God?

Peace and Blessings,
Chris

CELTIC SPIRITUALITY BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Like to read? The Venerable Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, written in 731 (and still in print!), offers a wonderful glimpse into the faith of that period. For those of you who like to read mysteries, Peter Tramayne's *Sister Fidelma* series, set in seventh century Ireland, are wonderful!

- *Raewynne*

CELTIC EUCHARIST

As a conclusion to our Lenten series on Celtic Spirituality, join us for a Celtic Eucharist, March 4 at 4:30 p.m.

In this liturgy we draw upon the Celtic tradition and its awareness of God's presence in all created things. Celtic worship – in word, music, and gesture – praises the Triune God for the multi-layered beauty of creation. Celtic worship delights in God's goodness in all beings.

Celtic worship returns us to a time before the split among Christians and hence is profoundly ecumenical. Celtic worship seeks to heal the wounds of centuries. Celtic Spirituality is committed to caring for the earth, promoting equality between men and women, securing justice and freedom for all, and working for peace in the world.

- *Raewynne*



VESTRY ELECTIONS RESULTS

At the Annual Parish meeting on February 3, the following parishioners were elected to the Vestry:

Vestry person (3 year term)

Peter Cahill

Jennifer Lawrence

Colette Tarantino (second term)

Vestry person (1 year term)

Jeremy Dean

Clerk of the Vestry (1 year term)

Karen Douglass

We thank Debbie LaMano for her service as Warden, and Les Bengtson and Lillian Moleti for their service as Vestry persons during their terms.

VOICES FROM GODLY PLAY

“What is Lent?”

Lent is a time of prayer. It is a serious time. We use purple because purple is a serious color. Ash Wednesday is a part of Lent. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday.

In Lent we are trying to uncover the mystery of how Jesus died then rose from the dead. Christmas is a mystery too. Jesus was in heaven then He was born on earth. But Easter is a bigger mystery. Jesus died then rose again. It takes 6 weeks of Lent to get ready for Easter, but it only takes 4 weeks of Advent to get ready for Christmas. In Lent we are thinking about how sad it was for Jesus to suffer and die on the cross for us. We're happy when Jesus rises on Easter. It's time to celebrate and the color changes to white.

- Carol Bluni

MAUNDY THURSDAY CELEBRATION OF THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Maundy Thursday service will begin in Mills Hall at 6:30 p.m. with readings, prayer, and a soup and Middle Eastern food supper, and continue with Holy Eucharist in the church. During the evening we will dedicate the handmade chalice and paten sets for our Godly Play classrooms. All are welcome, especially families and kids. Attendees are asked to bring some Middle Eastern food dish (hummus, pita, olives, figs, etc.) to share.

GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

St. James will sponsor the annual Blood Drive on Friday, March 29 from 3 to 7:30 p.m. in Mills Hall. Donors must be between 16 and 76 years of age, be at least 110 lbs., and not have donated in the last 56 days. You will need a form of identification with a photo or signature. Certain medical conditions can prevent you from giving blood (such as being on antibiotics or Coumadin). For more information, contact Edna Rousseau at 584-7853.

- Edna Rousseau

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Once again, the offering collected during the service on Good Friday will be sent to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. This offering provides essential funding to strengthen the visibility of the Christian presence throughout the Province

of Jerusalem and the Middle East. That funding is critical to the ongoing ministry of the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and the Ras Morbat Clinic, part of Christ Church in Aden and sponsored by the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf.

The Rector comments: "While I was on sabbatical, I had the privilege of spending two weeks in Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan, all of which are part of the Diocese of Jerusalem. In all the news about tensions between Jewish and Muslim peoples in that region, we often forget that there is a significant Christian population, dating back to the first century, especially in the West Bank. I was able to worship at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, with the sermon preached in both Arabic and English, met the priest at the church in Aqaba, a large part of whose work is with seafarers who come into (and are sometimes stranded) in the port, and clergy from Jordan and the West Bank. Life as part of the Christian minority is much more difficult than our experience of being Christian, and they need both our prayers and our financial support."

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS & THANKSGIVINGS

If you would like to honor or remember a family member of special event, you are invited to do so by giving a contribution for the flowers which are used to decorate the church for the Easter season. Memorial envelopes are in the back of the church, or you may call the church office. Monday, March 25 is the last day to get your order in so it can be acknowledged in the Easter bulletins.

CHOIR NOTES

The Chancel Choir is inviting anyone who would like to sing to come join us for Easter services. We had put out the call at Christmastime and received many enthusiastic responses! We will offer a number of opportunities to practice the music, both after church on Sundays and on Thursday evenings. Please contact me as soon as possible if you'd like further information about making a joyful noise. I can be reached at Darasings@aol.com, by phone at 476-4844, or after service on Sunday.

- Dara Linthwaite

OUTREACH

Donations to the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry can be made at any time. They may be left in the cart in the hallway of the Christian Education building. Especially needed at this time are tuna fish, baked beans, macaroni & cheese, jelly, and juice. When the cart is full, please take a turn transporting the food to the Pantry. The next time St. James parishioners will serve at the pantry will be during the summer.

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.

Prayer Shawls are helping to keep our ill parishioners warm and are transporting our love and prayers to others in need, as well. If you would like to be part of this ministry, contact Wylie Hunt at 751-5618.

Our Friday Fast for Lent will continue this year. The money everyone saves from lunch will be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development. The needs near and far around the world continue to be great. Please participate so St. James can give a generous donation.

Protestant Campus Ministry at Stony Brook University continues to collect toiletries for Hurricane Sandy victims and women transitioning from domestic violence. All those Christmas gifts you can't use, or small bottles saved from hotels, or gift bags from your dentist would be perfect. Donations may be placed in the basket in the narthex.

Camp DeWolfe Service Saturdays are being held this spring. Sign up for a service project today at Camp DeWolfe in Wading River. Spring dates are Saturday, March 9 and 23, April 6 and 20, and May 4. See the website at www.campdewolfe.org. Summer staff opportunities are available for college students and recent graduates. Check the website for an application, which must be returned by April.

The 2013 Episcopal Charities Annual Appeal is being held now. This is one of the few charities where 100% of your gift is given out to help others. Hurricane Sandy recovery and relief efforts on Long Island will continue to be one of Episcopal Charities' priorities, along with mission grants to programs throughout the diocese. So be generous and rest assured that your money will be well-spent. Checks should be made out to "Episcopal Charities of Long Island." Since 25% of the money St. James parishioners donate will be returned back to our parish for our own outreach, be sure to put "St. James, St. James" on the memo line. Learn more at www.episcopalcharitiesli.org.

The Outreach Committee will meet this spring to determine how to allocate the money in the 2013 budget for outreach. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the date of the meeting.

St. James Church's Annual Good Friday Blood Drive will be held on March 29 from 3:00 - 7:30 p.m. Blood donors must be at least 16 years old, weight at least 110 pounds, and not have donated blood within the last 56 days. For information regarding medical eligibility, call 1-800-688-0900. If you would like to give blood and you do not receive a phone call for an appointment time, please contact Edna Rousseau (584-7853) for a time that is convenient for you. Bring a form of identification with your signature or your photo. Giving blood saves lives!

- Sue Krall

LUNCH BUNCH

Since the timing of the March get-together comes during Holy Week, the Lunch Bunch will not meet that month at a restaurant. Instead, members are invited to attend the Maundy Thursday supper on March 28 at 6:30 p.m. See the article earlier in this issue for more information.

The April meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 30, 12:30 p.m. at Acropolis Restaurant on Smithtown Blvd. in Nesconset. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation. All are welcome

JOINT PRAYER SHAWL MEETING

Saturday, April 6, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Marco C. Smith Building

Caroline Church of Brookhaven

1 Dyke Road

Setauket, NY 11733

Come join us to share in fellowship, prayer,
and song.

As we remember the women at the tomb of
our Lord and Savior, we will reflect on
where our prayer shawl journeys have taken
us this past year.

Our guest speaker this year will be Wylie
Hunt, a parishioner at St. James Episcopal
Church, St. James, and a convener of a local
prayer shawl ministry since 2005.

Bring your knitting or crocheted works in
progress, as well as completed shawls to be
blessed.

A contribution of a canned food item for the
local pantry would be welcome.

Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be
served.

Sponsored by the Prayer Shawl Ministries of
The Setauket Presbyterian Church
The First Presbyterian Church of Smithtown
St. James Episcopal Church, St. James
and Caroline Church of Brookhaven,
Setauket

For directions and further information,
please call Wylie Hunt 751-5618.

- *Wylie Hunt*

USHERS & GREETERS

The ushers and greeters met at the end of
February to discuss how to be most helpful,
welcoming, and friendly to all. Among other
things, we are trying to keep in mind that
newcomers are seeing St. James for the first
time. Here is how we can all help:

1. Please wear your name tag. Name tags are
on the rack just inside the door at the bottom of
the balcony stairs. If your tag is missing, or if
you are new, sign the "name tag list" on the
counter and a new name tag will be made for
you. Wear it to coffee hour too so we can all
learn each other's names. If you don't know
someone's name, chances are they don't know
your name either! Introduce yourself at coffee
hour. Join anyone sitting or standing alone.
Introduce anyone new to Raewynne. At the end
of coffee hour, put your name tag in the pink
basket and they will be returned during the week
to the rack.

2. Sit more toward the front of the church.
Save the back of the church for newcomers who
might want to come in with little fanfare. Also,
families with small children like to sit in the last
few pews where children can play without
disturbing others or can be taken out if
necessary.

3. Move into the pew rather than sit on the
aisle, unless you are a reader or have another
compelling reason to sit on the aisle. This
leaves more room for those who arrive at the
last minute.

4. Help anyone new who sits with you with
the prayer book and hymnal, if needed, and
explain about children going to communion first
so they can head to Christian Formation classes.
New parents are welcome to go to classes with
their children and stay or return to church.

Thank you to one and all for helping to keep St.
James Church so welcoming!

- *George & Sue Krall*

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

On March 3 we welcomed into the parish family Isabella Bonham Corbo and Lucinda Blake Corbo, who were Baptized. The girls and their parents, Kim and Joseph, live in Smithtown, and have been attending St. James since November 2012. Isabella attends the Smithtown Cooperative Nursery School here at St. James. Their Baptism was originally scheduled for February 10, the weekend of our big blizzard.

New Vestry member, Jeremy Dean, and his band, Nine Days, have reunited after a lengthy hiatus, working on their first album since 2003 and planning a possible summer tour. They had a number 1 hit with “Absolutely (Story of a Girl).” You can hear keyboardist, Jeremy, and the rest of the band on May 3 when they play at the YMCA Boulton Center in Bay Shore on May 3.

Justin Plaschka continues to rack up wins in his quest for a spot on the Olympics swim team. You can follow his achievements in the weekend sports pages in *Newsday*.

If you were a parishioner at St. James in the 70s, you may remember Fred Bauerschmidt. He was a parishioner who entered the priesthood late in life, and was ordained in St. James in the late 1970s. He died in Jacksonville, Florida on January 17 at the age of 88. Our prayers go out to his family.

MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Nursery school open house 10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon
- 3 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children’s Formation classes
Lenten program 4:00 p.m.
- 4 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Knitters’ group 10:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Lenten program 7:30 p.m.
- 7 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children’s Formation classes
Lenten program 4:00 p.m.
- 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 10:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
Lenten program 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Nursery school art auction 7 p.m.
- 17 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children’s Formation classes
Lenten program 4:00 p.m.
- 18 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Smithtown Book Club 7 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Knitters’ group 10:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 21 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 **Palm Sunday**

- Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
 Celtic Eucharist 4:00 p.m.
- 25 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Clergy Chrism Mass at the
 Cathedral 11:00 a.m.
 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 28 **Maundy Thursday**
 Celebration of the Institution of
 the Lord's Supper 6:30 p.m.
- 29 **Good Friday**
 Service 12 Noon
 Blood Drive 3 - 7:30 p.m.
- 30 **Holy Saturday**
 Easter Vigil 7 p.m.
- 31 **Easter Day**
 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
 Celebration Holy Eucharist II
 9:30 a.m.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Marge Kreussling
 Tony DeVito
 Ken Wille
 Violette Baez
 Gabriele Reisenauer
 Justine Guinaw
 Wylie Hunt
 Ruth Rutigliano
 Derek Lally
 Mary Jane DeVito
 Dolores Marge
 Michael LaMano
 Matt Trump
 Ryan White

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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

Raewynne Whiteley - ordination to the
 priesthood - 3/22/98

