

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

March 2014

FROM THE



RECTOR

The Great Commandment is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself.”

Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time for growing closer to God, learning to love God more.

Recently, after the bishop’s charge to clergy to teach during Lent, I sent out a survey about what you, as members of the congregation, would like to learn about. I have to say that I was disappointed in the response – only twelve people returned the survey!

If our faith is to be real, to transform us into the likeness of God, we need to continue to grow in it throughout our lives. What does it say about our love for God if we are unwilling to spend time getting to know him, growing in our relationship?

This Lent, please make time to lean more about God and grow in your faith. I am planning three opportunities to learn:

1. On Wednesday evenings, we will have a Bible study about Isaiah, led by the Rector.

2. On Sunday mornings, we will have an introduction to the Episcopal tradition.
3. On Tuesday mornings, we will study women of the Bible.
4. On Sunday, April 6 we will have a daylong retreat focusing on prayer, following our services.

All of these things you have asked for. Please come.

Blessings,



Life in Lent

Don't give up cake or chocolate. Instead, give up something that is stopping you from spending time with God.

WHAT IS LENT?

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter.

Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self examination, and repentance. This season of the year is equal only to the Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sacred time that includes Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

Lent has traditionally been marked by penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Some churches today still observe a rigid schedule of fasting on certain days during Lent, especially the giving up of meat, alcohol, sweets, and other types of food.

Other traditions do not place as great an emphasis on fasting, but focus on charitable deeds, especially helping those in physical need with food and clothing, or simply the giving of money to charities. Most Christian churches that observe Lent at all focus on it as a time of prayer, especially penance, repenting for failures and sin as a way to focus on the need for God's grace. It is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

The color used in the sanctuary for most of Lent is purple, red violet, or dark violet (see Colors of the Church Year). These colors symbolize both the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus as well as the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. But purple is also the color of royalty, and so anticipates through the suffering and death of Jesus the coming resurrection and hope of newness that will be celebrated in the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.



Life in Lent

Commit to worship God in community.

If you can't make it to one of our services - on

Sunday or Tuesday - go to another church. God won't mind. And if you are ill or homebound, call the office and request a visit, or simply ask another parishioner to come over and pray morning or evening prayer or compline together.

THE WARDENS' COLUMN

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Whenever we gather at St. James for services, Bible study, Vestry, Committee meetings, festivals and outreach, we begin with prayer. This is our Parish Prayer. It is our touchstone with God, with one another, with our community at large. We ask God to hear us, to strengthen us, to arouse to action, to restore and to bring us to unity in mind and spirit. This prayer calls us to faith, to service, to penitence, and renewal.

As we begin our new year as a parish we need to look back for a moment at the remarkable example given to us through Chris Mauro's service as Warden. Chris strengthened us in faith. He called us to service. He understood those who could not fulfill their callings. And Chris served every day to bring us all to be of one mind and one heart. He did it with deep faith, understanding, warmth and compassion for everyone. He did it with the wisdom to greet each perceived problem as a moment of growth and realization. He acted always with humility and love for our creator.

To use the old vaudeville phrase, this is one hard act to follow. But if one truly teaches by example, as the Bible repeatedly shows us through our "Teacher," then we as Wardens and Vestry, and we as a Parish, have an exemplary blueprint to build on. We have the framing up, the roof on, the sheetrock in place and the room colors and tile all chosen. Let's consider the year ahead

as the "fun" part. We get to add the particulars: the small graces, the eternal light, the bounty of giving and forgiving. We have been given the gift of letting our spirits and our Lord's guidance expand our horizons for growth and outreach.

Let us embrace and warm ourselves with the familiar. Let us embrace and welcome our new members. Let us reach out to those in need. **And let's have some fun!** Tired of the same old same old? Let's do something new and a little daring. Let's think about what might bring people to St. James, and give us all new inspiration. Could we have a flower arranging show? How about that super garage sale idea for late June? Tired of the same old festivals? What would bring urgency and renewal to that day? Love to go to street fairs, church fairs, garage sales? How about seeing what other groups do and bring back some fresh ideas.

It is like the sparklers of yesteryear. One small controlled explosion of magical light can fill a room. One small contribution of beauty and creativity can ignite a festival and a whole congregation. One star in the east guided both those who believed and those who wished to believe, to Jesus.

God's grace and light be with you.

Debra LaMano and Alexandra Rich

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER & MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Grab your mask and beads and head to Mills Hall on Tuesday, March 4 for St. James' annual Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras celebration, which begins at 6:00 p.m. In addition to pancakes and sausages, you can feast on Mardi Gras food. You are welcome to come in costume, if you wish. A fun time will be had by all.

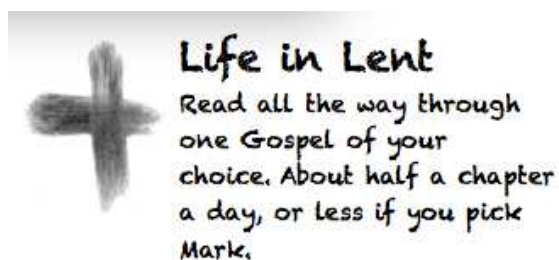
This is a potluck party, so please bring a dish to share. You can contact Stephanie Coleman at ssc6263@gmail.com to let her know you will be coming, and if you can help out, or just show up!

ASH WEDNESDAY

We will begin the observation of Lent with services of Holy Eucharist and Imposition of ashes at 12 Noon and 7:30 p.m.

The Bishop is encouraging all clergy and lay leaders to get ready to hit the streets and welcome New York to a Holy Lent. We are planning to offer ashes here in St. James. Join the Rector at:

5:45 - 7:30 a.m. St. James train station
8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Tic Toc Café



OUTREACH

Pat Westlake invites us to join her at the **30th Anniversary Celebration of the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry** on Sunday, March 2 to honor all volunteers and supporters of the Pantry. Especially needed at this time are donations of juice, macaroni & cheese, canned fruit, pork & beans, peanut butter, and jelly. Toiletries are always welcome. Donations can be left in the cart in the hallway of the Christian Education building. Whenever possible, please take a turn delivering the food to the Pantry, which is located at St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Smithtown. Thank you to all who have served at the Pantry during February, and to Claudette Plaschka for coordinating our service there.

Episcopal Charities of Long Island is asking us each to become Partners in Ministry through their 2014 Annual Appeal. Episcopal Charities mission grants are working to transform communities in Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties. This is one of the only charities where 100% of your tax-deductible gift goes toward their ministry. St. James' goal for this year has been set at \$4,800. Since a percentage of St. James' gift is returned to us for our own outreach projects, please make checks payable to "Episcopal Charities of Long Island" with "St. James, St. James" on the memo line and mail them to our church office to be forwarded to Garden City. For more information, go to www.episcopalcharitiesli.org.

Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk presents its 25th Anniversary Gala to Celebrate 25 years of Habitat Suffolk History. It will be held at Oheka Castle in Huntington on Thursday, March 13 at 6 p.m. Individual tickets are \$350. St. James was a charter member and has supported Habitat for all 25 years. For more information about the Gala,

sponsorship opportunities, and journal entries, go to www.habitat.suffolk.org or call 631-422-4828.

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Celebration and Pot Luck Supper will be held on Tuesday evening, March 4.

Costumes and/or masks add to the fun, but are always optional. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information. And by the way, if you visit New Orleans, be sure to stop by the Mardi Gras Museum on Jackson Square. Their display of costumes is truly amazing, and you will learn so much interesting history of this indomitable city and its most famous celebration.

At the Annual Meeting past Vestry members were given GlobalGiving gift cards to thank them for their service to St. James Parish. And we all certainly thank them! Karen Douglass donated hers to *Super Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund*. Katy Sacher donated hers to *Orphans into Families: Tibet and West China via Care for Children*. Hopefully, others will share the wonderful causes to which they donated. For more information about this form of gift, go to www.globalgiving.org.

Register as an international bone marrow donor at www.bethematch.org. Donors should be between the ages of 18 and 59. This is the ultimate outreach. Help save a life!

- Sue Krall

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Cemetery Committee will be Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. in Mills Hall. Please put the date on your calendar as important issues such as the finalization of the revisions of Cemetery rules and regulations will be on the agenda. Note the difference in the scheduled time.

- Art Strassle

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

During March we will continue our family Bible study on Wednesday, March 5 and 19 at 6 p.m. in Mills Hall.

Stay tuned for news about the Tuesday evening Bible study group.

- Raewynne

DIOCESAN QUIET DAY Saturday, March 22, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mercer School of Theology 65 Fourth Street, Garden City

The Episcopal Church Women are sponsoring "A Not So Quiet, Quiet Day" at the Mercer School of Theology, which will be facilitated by the Rev. Canon Dr. Lynn A. Collins, Rector, St. John's Church, Hempstead and The Rev. Kerlin Richter and the Diocese Missional Vitality Team. If you are interested, there is a \$20 donation per person, which includes breakfast and lunch. Registration is due by Friday, March 14. Forms are available at the back of the church.

SHAWL MINISTRY WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

St. Cuthbert's Episcopal Church

18 Magnolia Place, Selden

The founders of the Prayer Shawl Ministry return to Long Island to explain how they combine the practices of caring and prayer with the love of knitting and crocheting, and how it can be a blessing to both the crafter and the recipient. All are welcome, and you do not need to be a member of a prayer shawl ministry to attend. Bring your needles, yarn, and a personal journal, and come share a day of tips/ideas/guidelines. The workshop is sponsored by the Parish Resource Center and led by Janet Bristow and Victoria Gallo. Refreshments will be served. A donation of a canned food item for a local food pantry would be greatly appreciated. The workshop fee is \$30. To reserve a spot, call 821-2255 or email info@prcli.org.

- Wylie Hunt

MT. SINAI HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

The very talented Mt. Sinai students are performing *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, with Alec Douglass playing Joseph. The musical will be held March 27-27 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Tickets will be available at the door, or by calling the high school at 870-2800.

- Karen Douglass

MEMORIAL MASS

The Noack family attended a mass at Hope House Ministries in Port Jefferson on February 24th, which was given in memory of our son, Christopher. At this time we met with Father Frank and presented him with a generous donation of accumulated gifts from our family and friends. We have been advised that the money will be directed towards the Hope House education fund.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one for your continued support, kindness, and generosity.

- Karen Noack

ST. PETER'S MEMORIAL CHURCH KINGLAKE, AUSTRALIA

In 2009, St. James Church sent money to help St. Peter's Church rebuild. Here is an invitation from them.

Dear Friends of St. Peter's Memorial Church Kinglake,

You have assisted us to reach this point in our history – that of a new church to replace the historical 1922 St. Peter's Memorial Church which was destroyed on Black Sunday, 2009. It has been a long road, but finally the opening of our new St. Peter's Memorial Church has arrived and we want to express our thanks to you and to invite you to be a part of the Dedication/Consecrating and Opening service on March 16.

I realize that you may be unable to attend but I hope this invitation gives you a sense of achievement for what has been achieved through the partnership of God's people and the grace of God. We gather to give thanks

to Almighty God, also giving thanks for you and your caring support in the days that followed Black Sunday. Please continue to pray for us. Although we have a new building, the community has a long way to go in recovery, as many other Australians who have been affected by floods and bushfires know too well.

Every blessing,
Rev. Stephen Holmes
Whittlesea RSL Chaplain

LUNCH BUNCH

The March meeting of the Lunch Bunch will take place at Istanbul Café, 412 North Country Road, St. James on Tuesday, March 25, 12:30 p.m. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation or speak to her on Sundays after church.

FOR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS

Protestant Campus Ministry supporters recently heard Robert Pertusati, Senior Associate Dean of Admissions at Stony Brook University, speak about recruiting and admitting students to this world-class University right in our own back yard. They are looking for students who are well-rounded – not only in academics, but also in the arts, athletics, and community service. Keep your grades up, of course, because there are many more applicants than students they can accept. He emphasized how important it is for you to give back to your community. How you choose to do this might be the one thing that sets you apart. If you would like to apply for admission to SBU, you may contact Associate Dean Pertusati at 118 Administration Building, Stony Brook, NY 11794-1901, or call 632-

6911, or email Robert.pertusati@stonybrook.edu. He will arrange a tour of campus for you with a current student and give you a heads up on what a Dean of Admissions is looking for in the essays you need to write. Needless to say, this will be the most helpful to you if you don't wait until the last minute. Good luck, and thank you to this Dean who will do everything he can to help you! When you become a Stony Brook University student, Protestant Campus Ministry is there to help you explore questions of faith, make friends, and become part of a caring family away from home.

- Sue Krall

MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Nursery school Open House
10 a.m. - Noon
- 2 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children's Formation classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
- 3 Finance Committee 3:00 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Mardi Gras Potluck 6:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 **Ash Wednesday**
Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist w/ashes 12 Noon
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
Holy Eucharist w/ashes 7:30 p.m.
- 6 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Lifeline Health Screening 9 a.m.
- 4 p.m. in Mills Hall
- 9 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children's Formation classes

- Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
- 10 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Garden Club meeting 9 a.m. -
1 p.m. - Mills Hall
Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Nursery school board meeting
7 p.m. - Mills Hall
- 14 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children's Formation classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
Cemetery Committee 11:30 a.m.
- 17 **St. Patrick's Day**
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
Head of the Harbor Mayoral
election party 9 p.m. - M.H.
- 19 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
- 20 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Nursery school Family Day
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 23 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children's Formation classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
- 24 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Lunch Bunch 12:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Knitters' group 11:30 p.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m.

- 28 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Piano recital - Mills Hall rental
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- 30 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children's Formation classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
- 31 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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

+ **HOLY WEEK & EASTER**+

APRIL

- 13 **Palm Sunday**
Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist with Palm
Procession 9:30 a.m.
- 17 **Maundy Thursday**
Middle Eastern Supper and
Eucharist 6:30 p.m.
- 18 **Good Friday**
Service 12 Noon
- 19 **Holy Saturday**
Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.
- 20 **Easter Day**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 27 **Easter 2**
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. with
Visitation of Bishop Provenzano

