



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

May 2010

F R O M T H E



Over the last few years, we at St. James have spent a great deal of time trying to work out what our mission and goals are. The

Rector search profile, our mission statement, and our visioning process all resulted in lists of priorities – but for various reasons, we didn't really take those on as a parish and make them reality.

Two weeks ago, the Vestry, Wardens, and Rector spent a weekend on retreat, trying to discern where God is calling us. We studied scripture, reviewed those lists of priorities, and most importantly, prayed. And at the end of two days of hard work, we came up with three areas that we believe God is calling us at St. James to develop. That doesn't mean we'll stop doing things that aren't explicitly mentioned here, just that we will focus particularly on these. As you read them, you will recognize that they are not particularly new. Rather than taking us in a new direction, we are deepening and becoming more intentional about the things that characterize us as a parish community.

Over the coming months, you will see us begin to put these into practice. We hope that every member of our parish will be part

of this process of becoming more and more who God is calling us to be.

Where God is Calling

The Vestry, Wardens and Rector have discerned that God is calling us to the following goals/priorities in the year ahead.

1. Growing in faith with scripture & prayer.
 - a. Bible study: grow to 40 within a year, with "take home."
 - b. 5 alternative style educational activities
 - c. Weekly prayer night (including children)
 - d. Every function/meeting must start with prayer
2. Building relationships in Christ.
 - a. Retreats
 - b. Building relationships by twos
 - c. Social events – intentional focus on meeting one another and our shared faith in Christ
3. Serving one another and the world.
 - a. Volunteering gifts and skills (update database)
 - b. Using the language of service
 - c. Food pantry

- Raewynne

WORDS FROM THE WARDENS

Matthew 14: 23: "And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray; and when the evening was come, he was there alone."

Luke 9: 28: "And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray."

Driving to Trinity Center in West Cornwall, Connecticut takes about three hours. That journey, in which we separate ourselves from our daily responsibilities, is important in any retreat process. As we traveled we shared the ride with fellow Vestry members. The time went quickly as we told stories, laughed, and just got to know each other in a way you can only do when locked in a car trying to leave Long Island on a Friday afternoon.

When we arrived Raewynne had prepared a folder for each of us. Inside the folder, along with the agenda for the weekend, was a card with a photo of St. James parishioners and the following prayer:

Almighty and ever living 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

This set the focus for the weekend. We were on retreat to form a closer relationship with God and our fellow parishioners - those with us and those back at home. We had come together to pray and to seek God's direction. We were there to reflect on the gifts GOD has provided to our parish, and to discern how best to use them.

We began by reflecting our roles as Vestry members. Defining the ministry of the Vestry, we realized that each of us has been called to serve God by taking our place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church. We spent time in a study of the Apostles, and then answered and discussed questions about our role as disciples in the life of the parish of St. James.

Under Raewynne's direction we studied our Mission Statement, goals as identified in the Parish Profile, and our strengths as discerned during the Visioning Process a few years ago. We then reviewed our Baptismal Covenant in comparison to all of the above.

This first morning's session was very intense! In the afternoon we separated, and were given time to reflect and pray on our own; Time to discern where we are being called.

When we gathered again as a group we were refreshed and focused on discerning goals and priorities. What happened next was inspiring. We were of one mind! We did not vote. We did not deliberate. God's will for us just seemed to evolve out of our discussion. It was mutually revealed to us that our mission and ministry at St. James are to:

- Grow in Faith with Scripture and Prayer
- Build Relationships in Christ
- Serve One Another and the World

The rest of our weekend was spent in "Making It Real" and "Taking It Back To The Parish." We believe that these priorities will strengthen the faith and core values of our already strong parish family. We also believe that our very lives are a gift from God and that this gift is to be shared with

others. We look forward to sharing this journey with you.

- Pat & Chris

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Cemetery Committee will meet on Monday, May 3 at 7 p.m. in the Mills Hall parking lot for a walk-through of the cemetery, followed by a meeting in the Webster room. The Committee will be focusing on the necessity of informing those who use the cemetery of the rules and regulations, and the necessity of updating those regulations. If you are interested in our historic cemetery, you are invited to attend this meeting.

OUTREACH

A GlobalGiving gift card of \$25.00, given to an outgoing Vestry member, was donated to “Food for Kids,” a program supported by professional women’s soccer player Keeley Dowling, where Second Harvest delivers food for weekend meals to at-risk elementary school children in east Tennessee.

Episcopal Relief and Development has been sent \$220.00 from our Friday Fast for Lent. With continuing disasters around the world, this money will be put to good use. Thank you to all who participated in the fast and/or donated money.

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem has been sent \$180.00 from our Good Friday offering. They sent us a thank you letter that says with our help, schools are expanding and more children are able to receive an education.

Suffolk Blood Services received 20 units of blood from St. James parishioners and friends at our Good Friday Blood Drive.

Thank you to all who gave blood, to those who made phone calls, and especially to Edna Rousseau who coordinated the drive. **The Seamen’s Church Institute** will be receiving 8 beautiful handmade scarves and 1 hat from the folks who were knitting and crocheting for Lent. Thank you to all for using your time and your talents to help the men at sea.

The Family Service League of Suffolk has many families that desperately need help. In May, St. James will be adopting Maria, a single mom with five children, and we hope our parishioners will sign up to purchase things the family needs. There will be a sign-up list on May 2 and May 9 at coffee hour. (See the article below for details).

The Shawl Ministry continues to knit and crochet to keep ill parishioners cozy. If you would like to help, contact Wylie Hunt at 751-5618.

A Concert to Benefit Haiti is being planned at St. James for June 6. Please put this date on your calendar.

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry will be needing extra food for the summer, when kids are out of school and home for lunch. Our month to staff the pantry is August. It would be a real learning experience for our older St. James kids to help at the pantry. Right now foods needed include juice, baked beans, canned meat dinners, jelly, and canned fruits. If you can take a turn transporting the food from the church to the pantry, it would be appreciated.

The St. James Strawberry Festival & Yard Sale is planned for June 12. Some of the profits from this is used as outreach money. As you pack boxes to give to the church for the yard sale, please remember clean items in good shape will bring in more money. It saves many people work if you will wash dirty items at home before bringing them to church. There seems to be some confusion about what belongs at the Yard Sale in June and what the Gold

Elephant table is looking for at the Harvest Festival in October. If you have a special item, such as a new unused gift, or an antique, near antique or collectible, and it has no chips, cracks, or missing pieces, save it at your house until fall for the Gold Elephant table. The Gold Elephant table will charge more for these items than the yard sale can. Gold Elephant, however, does not want run-of-the-mill yard sale items. Spring is the time to donate them.

- Sue Krall
Outreach Chair

LET'S HELP MARIA & HER FAMILY IN NEED

Again this year, St. James Church will be sponsoring a family through the Family Service League of Long Island. It is our hope that every parishioner will sign up to donate one item to help Maria's family. **Maria** is a single mother raising five children on her unemployment and with help from Social Services. She also accesses services such as food pantries to make ends meet. Her oldest daughter, **Christina**, lives at home and works part time. She is 18 and pregnant, due in May. Maria has another daughter, 17-year-old **Alicia**, who will be graduating from high school this year; twin 14-year-old boys, **Eric** and **Kevin**; and a 5-year-old son, **Anthony**. Since Maria has been a single mother for many years, she is used to living on a tight budget. But with one daughter expecting, another graduating from high school, and two teenage boys, finances are tighter than they have been in years.

Sign-up for items will be held at coffee hour, May 2 and May 9, with delivery of items to the church Sunday, May 16. For more information, contact Sandy Grigoletto at styler@optonline.net or 751-2579.

- Sandy Grigoletto

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL/YARD SALE TO BE HELD JUNE 12

Preparations are already underway for our annual Strawberry Festival/Yard Sale. Jeff Smith has again agreed to chair the event. He has announced the following coordinators:

- * Grandma's Attic - Debbie LaMano
- * Grandpa's Attic - Kurt Rettig
- * Jam - Nancy Rasmussen
- * Strawberry Treats - Pat Pawelko
- * Baked Goods - Karen Douglass & Wylie Hunt
- * Plants - Peter Plaschka, Claude Deal & Tony DeVito
- * Food - Ernie Harders

Donations of yard sale items are being accepted starting May 16. Please make sure the items are clean and in good condition. Items may be left in the lobby of the Christian Ed. building – look for the sign. Watch the Sunday bulletin and June issue of *Open Doors* for dates of pricing sessions and more information on how you can help to make this our most successful Festival yet.

HOMEMADE DELIGHTS

The St. James Jammers began their weekly jam making sessions on April 15 and have already made nearly 100 jars of various strawberry delights for our Strawberry Festival. Past inventories included 30 varieties of mouth-watering delights for 500+ jars! If you are interested in making jam, please join us in the Mills Hall kitchen at 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

Another way you can help is to “adopt” specific items needed to make the various preserves, jellies, marmalades and salsa.

Our shopping list includes:

Case of 12 - 8 oz. quilted jelly jars	\$9.99
Case of 12 - 12 oz. quilted jelly jars	\$10.99
5 boxes of 12 lids and bands	\$19.95
5 boxes of 12 lids	\$9.95
4 two packs powdered pectin	\$12.00
2 two packs liquid pectin	\$12.00
50 pounds sugar	\$25.00

Strawberries 10 lbs.	\$10.00
Blueberries 10 lbs.	\$12.00
Rhubarb	\$10.00
Raspberries	\$15.00
Tomatoes for salsa	\$5.00
Miscellaneous fruits & vegetables	\$10.00

Please note that multiple quantities are needed for each of the above items. As a thank you, your name will be listed on a special "Thank You" sign at our jam table on the day of the Festival. Please make checks payable to St. James Church, and designate what you are "adopting" on the memo line.

- *Nancy Rasmussen*
"The Jam Queen"

GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

Many thanks to our annual Blood Drive callers: Joan Bengtson, Sue Krall, and Polly Neysen, who even re-enlisted three donors from last year who were not parishioners! Thanks also to Pat Westlake, who, after donating, was able to retrieve Winthrop Hall, whose bus from Ronkonkoma arrived 45 minutes late, from Lake Avenue. We donated 20 pints of blood. Thank you to all our donors.

- *Edna Rousseau*
Blood Drive Coordinator

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

We have met twice and have sorted through hundreds of photos. We have also started reading numerous journals and records. Next month, we intend to begin a monthly column in *Open Doors* entitled "Guess What We Found."

Please join us in this fascinating search. We will be meeting at 10 a.m. on May 3, 17, and 24.

- *Pat Westlake*
Head Archivist

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PROTESTANT CAMPUS MINISTRY AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

We wish every church which supports Protestant Campus Ministry could have been at our meeting recently to hear Chaplain Brenda's report.

You may have read about a recent tragedy in Queens where a mother and her two daughters were murdered by the father, who then killed himself. The older daughter was a student at Stony Brook University, home for the weekend.

Chaplain Brenda told of arriving at her office late in the afternoon to find a dozen or more students, friends of the victim, Yanique Bailey, waiting to see her. Our Campus Minister spent hours, praying with the students, listening to them talk about their friend, sharing their grief, grappling with questions of faith, looking at their own relationships with their parents. Chaplain Brenda helped one student call home to talk with her own father, and talked with others who had information that might be helpful to the police. Scores of students sought her counsel and comfort. She remained on campus as long as she was needed, then stayed overnight in a nearby motel so she could be available again early the next morning. When some of Yanique's friends wanted to remember their fellow student in a public way, it was to Chaplain Brenda that they turned, and she helped them to plan and carry out an on-campus vigil. Later, she prepared the friends for the funeral service to be held in Queens. With the help of other clergy at the Interfaith Center and counselors available through the University, the work of healing and making whole continues.

We were moved beyond words in appreciation of all our Campus Minister was able to do, and we thank God for your

support of Protestant Campus Ministry which enabled this to happen.

- *The Board of Directors of PCM at Stony Brook University*

THREE TRADITIONS ONE ROOT

On Sunday, May 16, from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., the St. Joseph Renewal Center in Brentwood will sponsor an inter-faith workshop which explores Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. They share the same root, they are all Abrahmic faiths. The presenters are Thomas Petriano, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Studies and Chair of the Religious Studies Department at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue, Yusuf Gurtas, Ph.D. in mathematics, guest speaker on Islamic issues and Rabbi Rhonda Nebel, the spiritual leader for Temple Beth Chai in Hauppauge.

The presentations will be followed by interactive discussions. This workshop is suitable for all students from middle school through high school, and for all families of any spiritual background.

Registration can be made by sending your check for \$15.00 per adult, (payable to St. Joseph Renewal Center) 1725 Brentwood Road, Brentwood NY 11717 by May 10th. For further information, call the Center at 273-1187, ext. 23.

LUNCH BUNCH MEETING

On Tuesday, May 25, the Lunch Bunch will gather at the Olde Street Pub in the Waldbaum's shopping center on Route 25 in Smithtown at 12 noon to share fellowship and enjoy the food. All parishioners and friends are invited to come. Please contact Fjeril Deal (724-3720) to make your reservation.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Congratulations to Eileen and Hank Hull, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 17th. Their family joined them at the 9:30 service at St. James on the 18th. They will continue the celebration with a family cruise to Bermuda in July.

New parishioners, Kim and Gary Kittredge, were surprised by the early birth of their twins on Saturday April 17th at Stony Brook Hospital. Due to their early arrival, the twins will probably remain in the NICU at Stony Brook for two to three weeks, until strong enough to go home. Congratulations Kim and Gary! We will be most happy to welcome Addison Hope and Nathan Brady into the St. James family, and look forward to meeting them when the time comes.

More good news! Edna Rousseau has a new grandchild! Andra May was born on Tuesday, April 27 to Edna's daughter, Jessica Mantzouranis Diament. According to Grandma, she has a funny nose and a double chin, but is very mellow. Congratulations!

MAY CALENDAR

- 2 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Sunday School
Inquirers' Class 11:15 a.m.
- 3 Archivists' meeting 10 a.m.
Cemetery Committee 7 p.m.
Food Addiction grp 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Bible study 10 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 5 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 6 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Jam making 4:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
 7 Food Addiction grp 7:30 p.m.
 9 **Mother's Day**
 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
 10 Food Addiction grp 7:30 p.m.
 11 Bible study 10 a.m.
 Bible study 7:15 p.m.
 12 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
 Bible study 7:15 p.m.
 13 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
 Jam making 4:30 p.m.
 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
 Bldgs. & Grnds. 7:30 p.m.
 14 Food Addiction grp 7:30 p.m.
 16 Morning Prayer 8 a.m.
 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
 with Sunday school
 Inquirers' class 11:15 a.m.
 17 Archivists' meeting 10 a.m.
 Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.
 Food Addiction grp 7:30 p.m.
 18 Bible study 10 a.m.
 Bible study 7:15 p.m.
 19 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
 Bible study 7:15 p.m.
 20 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
 Jam making 4:30 p.m.
 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
 21 Food Addiction grp 7:30 p.m.
 22 Toastmasters' grp 9:30 a.m.
 23 **Pentecost**
 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
 with Sunday School
 Inquirers' Class 11:15 a.m.
 Parish Life Comm. 11:15 a.m.
 24 Archivists' meeting 10 a.m.
 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
 Food Addiction grp 7:30 p.m.
 25 Bible study 10 a.m.
 Bible study 7:15 p.m.
 26 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
 Bible study 7:15 p.m.
 27 Yoga 3:30 p.m.
 Jam making 4:30 p.m.

28 Food Addiction grp 7:30 p.m.
 29 Toastmasters' grp 9:30 a.m.
 30 **Trinity Sunday**
 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
 with Sunday School
 Inquirers' Class 11:15 a.m.
 31 **Memorial Day**
 Office closed

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Matt Coleman
 Maria Bataller
 Karen Noack
 Barbara LoPresto
 Allyssa Green
 Jeremiah Glogg
 Cathi Hart
 Alec Douglass
 Thomas Mauro
 Diane Rettig
 Bob Moleti, Sr.
 Dana Wachter
 Andrew Linthwaite
 John Donohue
 Allie Brady
 Joan Strassle
 Walt Kregler

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

John & Florence Donohue
 William & Maria Bataller