



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

May 2012

FROM THE



Recently I've been reading Walking the Bible by Bruce Feiler. It's the author's story of his own attempt to reconnect to the Bible by retracing

the stories of the first five books of the Old Testament through the desert. Accompanied by renown archaeologist Avner Goren, he travelled by jeep, foot, camel, and rowboat through Turkey, Israel, Egypt, the Sinai, and Jordan, following in the footsteps of the people of God.

As Feiler travels, he meets people of all faiths who have found their homes there, and who knew Scripture as a living entity. He writes, "When I first set out on this trip, I expected – or at least hoped – to find the Bible in the places that I looked. What I was unprepared for was how easily I found the Bible in the people that I met. Almost all the people I encountered – especially in Israel – carried the biblical stories in their head like some cornerstone against which they measured their lives. To be sure, not everyone took the same lessons. To some, the Bible was a measuring stick of faith, to others, character, to others, history. But everyone seemed to find a way to relate the stories to his or her own experience." (p. 315)

And Feiler has captured the essence of why we read the Bible, a book that was written many centuries ago. We read it, because in it we find connections between our stories and the stories of the people of God so long ago. We find wisdom about how to live our lives.

But there is something beyond that. Feiler goes to the Middle East to see if being in the places described in the Bible will somehow help him connect with it. And at some level it does. But what he discovers goes far beyond that. What he discovers is God. And it's not about geography at all. It's not in the actual places that he discovers God, but in the experience of wrestling with what Scripture says and archaeology has found and the people he meets actually live. As he reads the Bible and struggles with it, he discovers that he is, in fact, meeting God.

Few of us will likely get the opportunity to visit the Holy Land. But all of us have the chance to meet God, not by getting on a plane, but by opening the book that bears his word, by reading and exploring and questioning, opening ourselves to recognize the presence of God.



THE WARDENS' COLUMN

What About Me?

Why did Jesus have to teach us with parables? Simple little stories, yet so complex not even his disciples could understand them. You think God incarnate could have mashed them up into a fine paste and fed them to us with a small spoon. But Jesus didn't. So, after reading a parable we often find ourselves scratching our head and saying, "Huh?" It is probably the reason many of us don't like reading the Bible. There are also a handful of parables in which we may identify with one of the characters. These tend to be our favorites. We put ourselves in the story and imply an understanding that suits our situation.

For example, most of us are familiar with the parable of "The Prodigal Son," Luke 15:11-32. As the story goes, the younger of two sons goes to his father and asks for his inheritance. The younger son then goes off

and squanders his money on frivolous things. With all his inheritance gone the younger son is forced to return home, begging his father to take him back. The father throws a party to celebrate his son's return. The older son becomes jealous and appeals to his father. The father comforts his older son by reminding him that he has always been with him and that all he has is his.

So who do you identify with? For most of us it is the older son. We do our best to lead responsible lives and do the right thing, only to find ourselves asking, "what about me?" We get jealous, and feel that in some way we are being denied our "inheritance."

As Christians, we shouldn't be identifying with either son. As Christians, we are the body of Christ and His Church. And, as the Church, we should be identifying with the father. "Huh?" Are you scratching your head yet? Or, does that make sense in some way? As Christians, we are the stewards of God's creation, and of the Church of Christ. We are in charge of the "estate." We should be grateful for the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in Christ as we serve him in our ministries. Likewise we should celebrate when a lost or new Christian joins us in our mission.

Sure, there is comfort for both "sons" to be found in the parable of "The Prodigal Son." But perhaps there is also a lesson in how Jesus expects his Church to act.

Peace and Blessing,
Debbie & Chris

ST. JAMES BOOK GROUP

The Book Group is "re-grouping" this coming Monday, May 7th at Panera Bread in Lake Grove at 7:30 p.m. We will utilize this meeting to discuss what we have been reading and to decide the direction we wish to take in the future, and make decisions about future readings. EVERYONE is invited to come, even if you have not attended any meetings in the past. If you have any questions, please contact me at ssc6263@aol.com or 751-4151.

- Stephanie Coleman

ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL SET FOR JUNE 9TH

Now is the time to prepare for St. James' Strawberry Festival! There are many areas in which parishioners can become involved in this important relationship building and fundraising event. Here are some ways in which you can help:

Yard sale - donate items in good condition that you no longer use, such as glassware, dishes, linens, ceramics, sports equipment, gardening tools, etc. All must be clean and in good condition so that we can sell it! No clothing, stuffed animals, or books, please. Donations can be left in the lobby of the Christian Education building.

Baked goods - do you like to bake? Donations of muffins, cupcakes, cookies, quick breads, and simple cakes and pies are always big sellers at our Festival.

Plants - do you like to garden? If you have extra perennials, please pot them up, label them with name and planting conditions, and bring them the day of the fair.

Donate your time - If you have time before the Festival, you can help make jam, or hull strawberries for sale. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the jam making schedule. If you are available for a few hours (or more) on the day of the Festival, you could help set up the tables, spend a few hours working at a table, or breaking down the tables at the end of the day.

By working together, we can have fun and help St. James Church at the same time. More information will be placed in the Sunday bulletins. Please volunteer!

BAKE TABLE - STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Calling all St. James bakers (and baker wannabes)! The Strawberry Festival is just around the corner...we're looking for donations of your yummy goodies to make the bake table a success again. Help support St. James by making an item or two (cookies, bars, breads, muffins, cakes, brownies, cupcakes) for the Bake Table. The more we have, the more we sell. Sugar-free or gluten-free goods will be appreciated as well. Please label your donations (especially if you put in nuts) and bring them by early on the day of the Festival. Contact Karen Douglass: kdouglass@optonline.net, 928-6633, or Wylie Hunt: 751-5618 or wyliehunt@gmail.com or tell us in church if you will be baking!

- Karen Douglass

VOICES FROM GODLY PLAY

Jake's Prayer

Oh Jesus, why did you die for us?
Why did You do the Last Supper for us?
Oh Lord, why did you die for us?
Can you please answer me, my Lord?
Amen.

- *Jake Dean*

The Day Jesus Died

The day Jesus died on the cross,
that was a very sad day for Him.
If He was my friend, I would be sad.
I can't believe He sacrificed Himself
for all of us. He said He loved everybody.
Everyone who loved Him was very sad
and they were lonely for Him. He was
a good man and He is our God forever.

- *Calvin Dean*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

On April 7th, Holy Saturday, we were blessed to be part of our fifth annual Prayer Shawl Gathering, held this year at the Setauket Presbyterian Church. Twenty women came together to pray, to worship, to knit and crochet, and to meditate on the women at the tomb. We are members of St. James Episcopal church, Caroline Church of Brookhaven, the Setauket Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church of Smithtown, St. Bridget's Roman Catholic Church in Westbury and St. James Roman Catholic Church in Setauket.

Kate Jones-Calone, the pastoral assistant at the Setauket Presbyterian Church, was our guest speaker. She talked to us about the

"thin places," a Celtic concept. The Celts knew that God's "presence" was all around and within them. However, in common with many cultures, the Celts felt that there were "special" places which seemed more in tune with this "presence" of God. These "special places" were "thin places" where it was felt that the veil between us and God was almost transparent or permeable. These are places or situations where God's "Presence" could be more readily felt by humans, like a door or a window opening. It reminded me of Madeleine L'Engle's A Wrinkle in Time. The concept of thin places is universal and human. Even in our everyday life, we can all have favorite places in our homes or in other places, where we feel relaxed and at peace. These places are truly holy places and are often referred to as "Holy Ground." She reminded us that our prayer shawl ministry is a "thin place." The ministry that we do in bringing others closer to the presence of God's love and His healing grace is a "thin place." We shower others with these prayer shawls, and we wrap them in God's love and draw them into that "thin place."

We were reminded that as women we were first at the tomb of Jesus, and we are told to go out and spread the good news. We are the first apostles! Our ministry is apostolic. We are bringing the good news of God's healing love to those in need or in grief, and that is what we are accomplishing in the shawl ministry. That "thin place" opens the door so that the recipient as well as the giver is closer to God.

Please consider joining us at any of our meetings or at next year's annual ingathering. Please watch the Sunday bulletins for meeting dates.

- *Wylie Hunt*

OUTREACH

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry sign-up sheet is in Mills Hall. May is St. James Church's month to serve! Please sign up – three people are needed each day from 9 a.m. to noon. The Pantry is especially in need of tomato sauce, canned fruit, fruit juice, tuna fish, canned meats, and ravioli. Check our food cart before your day to serve. Maybe you can transport our donations too.

Our Mardi Gras celebration raised \$157.00 to help rebuild the Cathedral in Haiti. Thanks to all who participated.

Thanks to all who knitted or crocheted during Lent for the Seamen's Church Institute, we will be sending about six scarves!

The Friday Fast for Lent raised \$49.85 which will be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development. Thank you to all who fasted and/or donated.

Our Good Friday offering brought in \$142.00 which will be given to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society in the Middle East.

St. James' Annual Blood Drive on Good Friday donated 33 units of blood to Suffolk Blood Services. Many thanks to all who gave the gift of life, to Edna Rousseau for coordinating the blood drive, and to those who telephoned our parishioners.

The daffodil sale raised over \$500 which has been sent to the American Cancer Society. Thank you to all who brought daffodils or contributed to a Gift of Hope for cancer patients.

Protestant Campus Ministry students are collecting backpacks, tote bags, and gently used or new clothing for a Midnight Run to NYC on May 4 to benefit the homeless. Call First Presbyterian Church of Port Jefferson at 473-0147 to find out where to bring your donations before May 4. PCM students thank you for all the toiletries you donated to help them support women transitioning from domestic violence!

St. James and Caroline Churches hope to sponsor a third and final (allowed) grant application to Episcopal Charities of LI to benefit PCM at Stony Brook University. The \$10,000.00 received in 2010 and the \$4,000.00 received in 2011 have helped pay for Chaplain Brenda Ford's expanded hours on campus and her health insurance. This final grant application for 2012 will be for \$4,000.00 also. Even with grant money, this ministry operates on a shoestring. Watch for news about a volleyball game among churches as a fundraiser in the fall.

Speaking of Episcopal Charities of LI, have you donated to their appeal yet? It is not too late. Our parish received 25% of each dollar contributed. Checks are to be made out to "Episcopal Charities of Long Island."

Our outreach meeting was held on April 15 to determine how to allocate the \$2,000.00 in the 2012 budget for outreach. Thank you to those who were able to attend. The following was decided:

\$250.00 Bread for the World
250.00 Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk
1,500.00 Protestant Campus Ministry at SBU
\$2,000.00 Total

- Sue Krall

PEOPLE IN THE PEWS

This month we feature Dara Linthwaite, a parishioner who is also our Choir Director.

Tell us a little about yourself: I've lived in New York all my life: grew up in south Jamaica and went to John Adams High School. I entered Queens College as a music major but spent most of my time majoring in "Lutheran Club," where I was president for a couple of years. I met my husband, Steve, when we were both on our way to Tennessee as delegates to a Lutheran Student Movement convention (he was with the Stony Brook group). We dated for about 5 years (living 50 miles apart) and decided to get married in July, 1979, when gas went over \$1 a gallon!

From my work with the Lutheran Club, I was offered a job as secretary to Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education/NYC. After that, I was supervisor of customer service for the greeting card department at the U.S. Committee for UNICEF at the U.N.

Steve and I moved to Hauppauge when we were first married, and I went back to school to get my degree in early childhood education from SUNY/Old Westbury. I've taught kindergarten at Long Island School for the Gifted, and preschool music at Developmental Disabilities Institute in Selden. We've been living in Coram since 1983.

In 1997 I founded my own one-woman company, *Hands*On Music*, where I still conduct music programs for children from birth to age 5 at over 80 local public libraries and preschools on Long Island.

We have three children: Rachel is a graduate of Skidmore College and lives in Cambridge, Mass., working for Boston Chefs and City Square Consultants; Becky will graduate from MassArt in Boston this

month and is a freelance animator, and Andrew is finishing his second year at Pace University in Pleasantville as a history/political science major.

When did you first attend St. James? I first came here on Good Friday in 2001. Oddly enough, my husband, Steve, grew up right around the block from church on Van Buren Street, and he fondly remembers reading comic books right here in the graveyard when he was a kid!

Roles played in the parish: I started the Youth Choir as soon as I walked through our red doors. Fr. Michael hired me as the choir director shortly thereafter. (Music is in my blood: both my mother and grandfather were organists/choir directors). I've volunteered at various tables for the Harvest and Strawberry Festivals, served on the Search Committee, helped direct the Sunday School Christmas Pageant for a couple of years, and participated in various other activities, such as Pick-a-Star.

Last book read? I tend to multi-task while I'm reading, so at the present, I'm in the middle of Memoirs of a Medieval Woman: The Life and Times of Margery Kempe by L. Collis, Jesus Was an Episcopalian by C. Yaw, Godly Play by J.W. Berryman, and I just finished Singing and Making Music: Issues in Church Music Today by P.S. Jones and JoAnne Fluke's Cinnamon Roll Murder. I just finished The Postmistress by Sarah Blake, which I highly recommend if you like historical fiction set during World War II.

Hymn I'd take to a desert island: You're not going to pin me down with that question! Every hymn comes with me because they are all in my head!

Favorites/interests: I hope there will always be music and books, and baking and crafts in my life. Lately, I've been enjoying

“molding” things (cookies, paper sculptures, crayons) and exploring new uses for baker’s twine. I enjoy romantic comedies and musicals, and autumn is my favorite season. American folk music with Anglo Saxon roots ties with Baroque as my favorite musical genre, and the guitar is my favorite instrument. I am a miserable gardener, but an over-achiever at raising cats.

If I were to start another career, what would it be? I’m thinking that I would like to be a priest.

Most meaningful verse from scripture: Zephaniah 3:14 (now go get your Bible and look it up!).

SOCIAL MEDIA: CONNECTING PEOPLE, THE INTERNET, AND OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT

On Saturday, April 28th, Raewynne, Stephanie Coleman, and I traveled to Garden City to attend a day-long workshop at The Mercer School. The workshop, entitled, “Social Media and Web Publishing for Parishes,” was led by Colin Chapman and the Rev. Joseph Matthews, from General Seminary, and the Rev. Canon Shawn Duncan, who is our new Canon for Media and Mission in the Diocese.

The workshop was fascinating, and well attended by a diverse group of clergy and laity from all over the Diocese. We spent the morning learning the basics of social media. It is internet based and community driven. It is about sharing and communicating with each other, and it is a strong evangelism tool as well. The varieties are endless. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Spotify, FourSquare, and Yelp are all types of social media that can be used to evangelize the radical Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through social media, we can

expand the Sunday worship experience to the rest of the week, encouraging deeper participation and interaction.

After a delicious lunch, the afternoon was spent in two different break-out sessions. Raewynne participated in one on websites and online tools, and Stephanie and I took a crash course in Facebook. We set up a group St . James Episcopal Church page, and Stephanie created one just for the Vestry. We already have 26 members in our group, and Peter Plaschka has posted some beautiful panoramic pictures of our church. As Stephanie commented on our group, “We are just dipping our toes into the water, but we would like to have as lively an online community as we do a real one”. Eventually, we would like to have our webpage updated, and the website, weekly email, and newsletter all linked to our Facebook group as well. We were urged in the workshop to “create once, and publish everywhere.”

In order to access the church’s Facebook group or page, you need to have a personal Facebook account. This is very easily accomplished, and can be as private or as public as you desire. If you are interested in reading more about social media, we have ordered a copy of a recommended book, [Tweet if you<3 Jesus](#), by Elizabeth Drescher, Ph.D. You may also go to www.facebook.com/digitalformation. We hope to have a workshop or two in the parish to go over how to set up a Facebook account and how to ensure privacy settings for those who already have an account. If you would like to be part of this exciting community, please speak to Stephanie, Raewynne, or me.

- Wylie Hunt

OFFICE ANGELS NEEDED

Laurie will be on vacation the week of May 14th. If you are able to fill in at the office for a couple of hours a day, please speak to her, so a coverage schedule can be set up.

- *Laurie Mannix*

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will hold their May get-together at Raan Thai Restaurant, 203 Terry Road, Smithtown, on Tuesday, May 29th at 12:30 p.m. All are invited. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

- *Fjeril Deal*

OLD CRAYONS WANTED

If you have broken or unwanted used crayons that you'd like to donate to the church, please drop them off on the white tiled table in the Webster room. Dara Linthwaite is going to melt them down and remold them into chunky, shaped crayons to sell at the Harvest Festival later this year.

- *Dara Linthwaite*

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Rebecca Linthwaite will graduate this month with Academic Honors and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston. Her area of expertise is animation, and she has already begun to freelance in the field. Congratulations, Becky! We wish you much success in the future.

Daniel Krall will marry Paige McNamara on May 26th. We wish them all the best in their life together.

Julie Blomkvist Fosdick received a whole liver transplant at Yale/New Haven Hospital on Good Friday. (Two days before, she received a partial transplant which showed signs of rejection, so the team of doctors had to replace it). Julie's numbers are good and her eyes are open, but she is taking her time totally waking up from this surgery. Please continue to pray for Julie's complete recovery and for her entire family.

MAY CALENDAR

- 1 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Jam making 3:30 p.m.
- 3 Jam making 3:30 p.m.
Yoga 5:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation
Mills Hall rental 2 - 5 p.m.
- 7 Book group 7:30 p.m. at Panera
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Jam making 3:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 10 Jam making 3:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 **Mother's Day**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.

**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation**

- 14 Family Bible study 6 p.m.
Christian Formation &
Education Committee 7:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga 5:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m. at K. Sides
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Knitter's group 10:30 a.m.
- 17 Jam making 3:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Graveside burial service -
Barnes 10:30 a.m.
Cemetery Committee work
mtg. in Biblical Gdn. 4:30 p.m.
Yoga 5:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Jam making 3:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 24 Jam making 3:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
**with Baptism; Children's
Formation**
- 28 **Memorial Day** - office closed
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga 5:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Jam making 3:30 p.m.
- 31 Jam making 3:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Matt Coleman
Maria Bataller
Karen Noack
Barbara LoPresto
Alyssa Green
Finn Dineen
Jeremiah Glogg
James Allen
Cathi Hart
Leighton Coleman
Alec Douglass
Thomas Mauro
Bob Moleti
Dana Wachter
Allie Brady
Joan Strassle
Walt Kregler
Alexandra Orlich

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

John & Flo Donohue
William & Maria Bataller