



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

May 2014

FROM THE



"Wonderful shaped head - haven't seen it like this since 23 July, 1966!" That was my mother's response to a picture of my newly shaved head.

It all began when someone sent me an email link to a group of women who had shaved their heads in support of a friend who had lost her hair as a result of chemotherapy. I thought, "I could do that for Lockey." And then I wondered if people would sponsor me to do it in support of Lockey's charity, which helps support kids with cancer and their families, and encourages people to register to be bone marrow donors. I floated the idea with some friends, and they said, "Why not? We'll definitely make a donation." So I set the date - the last Sunday before I left on retreat and vacation, so the parish wouldn't have to look at my totally bald head on a Sunday!

As the time drew closer, I found myself getting increasingly nervous. Would I have the courage to go through with it? Would people stare at me? Would it itch?

They were practical questions. But what surprised me was the intense sense of vulnerability I experienced. It was scary.

And then - perhaps because in Lenten studies and on Good Friday we read the parts of Isaiah that talk about the suffering servant, I remembered Jesus' own vulnerability. He was the one of whom it is written,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

(Philippians 2: 6-8)

He voluntarily gave himself over to be betrayed, arrested, tried, whipped, scorned, and crucified, all for our sake. Shaving my head is nothing compared with that. And it makes me incredibly thankful for all Christ has done for us.

By Sunday, I was determined but calm. My hair was the longest it's ever been - the official measurement was 32.5 inches. We cut off my ponytail to donate for wigs, then trimmed, buzzed and shaved my head. And in the end, it was no big deal. It's just hair, and it's already beginning to grow again.

Except it is a big deal, the biggest deal of all, not me shaving my head, but the immense grace of God in coming to us in Jesus Christ, vulnerable, humble and obedient, our Savior and the one we are called to follow.

Blessings,

Raewynne

THE WARDENS' COLUMN

Bishop's Visit

As of all of you who attended the service on April 27th can attest, Bishop Larry Provenzano's visit to St. James was an inspirational and remarkable occasion. Our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the success of this memorable day. It seemed to us that everybody gave all their skills in energy, devotion, adherence to every detail, and welcoming embrace. The church looked beautiful, the coordination of baptismal, confirmation and reception services was seamless, the execution of Godly Play classes fully appreciated, the brunch afterwards exceptional, and the Vestry meeting following all this, spell binding in its directness and clarity of vision. All of you had a special insight into that meeting through the Bishop's sermon.

The Bishop is incredibly smart, focused, and clear in his concept of the mission of our parish and the larger church. And he is demanding in his vision of our roles both in our congregational community and the larger "geographical community" outside our church boundaries. He asked us all to "act like we are redeemers in Jesus" because then we "are truly part of the church, bringing Jesus to God's people." The Bishop asked us to "be the church together, to do the work of the church to bring Jesus back into the community" and to act, not just spout the words, because "all the words will not convince; acts of kindness, generosity, the revelation of God's reconciling love" are needed. "Some will not believe unless we are an example and can show the wounds" by which he referred to Thomas' doubts in the scripture for the day. We must "equip and support ourselves" in delivering the message of the resurrection.

The Bishop was even more direct in his talk with the Vestry. He instructed us to be

leaders by example in participating in all our church services, tithing, service, fund raising, outreach and “taking on the care of souls” with our Rector. In short, he said we could not expect the parish to “follow” if we did not “lead”. In effect, if we think our plate is full now, he is ready, willing and able to heap on more servings of necessary service. It is a call to action that is difficult to dismiss, and should not be forgotten.

In reference to Raewynne’s upcoming time off the Bishop said the following: “Given my emphasis on healthy clergy, I encourage and support Mother Whiteley as she endeavors to balance her responsibility to the parish and her care for her family. This is particularly important given the serious nature of her nephew’s cancer and her responsibility to her own spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. I have encouraged her to take an extended leave to address these various responsibilities and to find time and space for self-care. I am convinced that this leave will benefit all involved, especially the people and the parish of St. James.”

***“Arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon
you.”***

- Debbie LaMano & Alex Rich

BIBLE STUDY

We are hoping to continue Bible study twice a month during Raewynne’s absence. The Lenten series was incredible, intense and accessible. We are often encouraged by our Rector to have members lead the study themselves, while under her guidance, on a rotating basis. Many of us feel that we are not theologically and/or intellectually equipped to do this. **We would like to ask our visiting parish intern and candidate for the priesthood, Diane DeBlasio, and the PCMS Chaplain, the Rev. Brenda Ford, to lead us in Raewynne’s absence.**

There is often the feeling in the warm months of summer that maybe we should take a break from Bible study. For some of us this is a no-brainer, to others it is a difficult interruption of an ongoing theological exploration which suffers from a hiatus, e.g. summer vacation. Please let us know if you would like to be part of the next three-segment Bible study of late spring so that we can determine whether to ask for Diane’s and Brenda’s guidance.

If you have never attended Bible study, participated at one time, but withdrew, or want to introduce a friend to the wonders and power of scripture, this is the perfect opportunity. Come one, come all. We meet in the lobby of the Christian Education building. It is like sitting in your own living room or den with special friends. It is like sitting before our Teacher at the temple in Jerusalem. We are so often stricken by the awe, beauty, wisdom, compassion and love that only the words of the Bible can bring to us. Come see the pillar of cloud and the pillar of light.

- Debbie & Alex

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
SCHEDULED FOR
JUNE 7TH**

St. James' annual Strawberry Festival and Yard Sale has been scheduled for Saturday, June 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Many opportunities will be available to those who would like to get involved in this annual parish event. Here are a few of them:

***Jam making** - Sessions are being scheduled for weekday afternoons in the Mills Hall kitchen. Watch the Sunday bulletin for upcoming dates. If you enjoy cooking, or would like to find out how to make our "famous" jams, you might want to drop by and help.

***Yard Sale** - Donations of items in good, clean, saleable condition are being sought to sell in Grandma's and Grandpa's Attics. We need dishes, glassware, linens, household items, decorative items, etc. for Grandma and tools, sports equipment, furniture, working electronic equipment, gardening supplies, etc. for Grandpa. Donations can be brought to the lobby of the Christian Ed building beginning on May 5. You might also want to help out by pricing these items before the Festival day. Watch the Sunday bulletin for announcements of pricing sessions.

***Baked Goods table** - Do you like to bake? Your talents can be put to good use here. We need donations of cookies, breads, muffins, simple cakes, bars and pies. You can bring your donations on the morning of the Festival.

***Strawberries for Sale** - If you have the time, help will be needed to hull berries right before the Festival, and to staff the table the day of the Festival.

***Set-up and clean-up** - Help will be needed on the day of the Festival to set up in the early morning, and to break down and clean up at the end of the day.

Pat Westlake has graciously agreed to coordinate the Festival this year. Contact her with any questions, or to offer your help at 584-6628 or pkings20@optonline.net. There will be an organizational meeting following coffee hour on Sunday, May 18.

**MORE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
IDEAS**

The Festival is almost upon us! Hard to believe since spring is finding us so late this year. Pat Westlake has generously offered to coordinate the Festival. What she now needs is a committed core of people, the more the merrier, to help her and our parish make this the best Strawberry Festival ever. This day provides us with a great opportunity to "open our doors" and our hearts to the wider community. We know what we have always done. What can we do in addition to that? We have had a long winter to think of the joys of warmer days. What does that mean to you? Plants, flowers, seedlings to start your first vegetable garden? What about garden ornaments, chairs, benches, lighting, wind chimes, gardening books, what else? Surely we all have items that we no longer cherish and could donate to the fair for a **garden-themed table**.

In short, let's think about what we could do that encourages a larger audience and promises greater benefits than we have known in the past. We have mentioned adding a **flower arranging exhibition** for all age groups and abilities. Is there anyone willing to head that effort up? We on the Vestry have committed ourselves to helping

more with Festival preparations (after all, we shouldn't just be about meetings and protocol and finances). We can do grunt work and we can be more creative. We do not need to lead, but we can certainly follow. Call on us for help. Don't be shy. If one person says sorry, go to the next one on the list (make sure you have a list!). Many times one finds he/she doesn't know how to help. Try giving us directions and you should be pleasantly surprised.

- *Debbie & Alex*

WE HAVE SO MANY BLESSINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR

It is with great pleasure we announce that at their March 31 meeting the Vestry appointed Kathy Mauro and Jack Schultheis to the Endowment Board. Please congratulate both of them on their appointments!

Also at the March 31 Vestry meeting, Chris Mauro was nominated and accepted as the Stewardship Chair. Please congratulate him on his new position.

Skyler Baez and Emily Mauro have both been inducted into the National Jr. Honor Society.

Emily Mauro's art work was chosen to be on display at the Fourth Annual Spring into Art Exhibit at Ward Melville Heritage Educational and Cultural Center in Stony Brook.

Michael LaMano recently won two gold medals for long jump at the MacArthur High School Invitational and the Smithtown High School Invitational.

Please congratulate them when you see them!

Peace & Blessings,
Debbie LaMano

OUTREACH

Thank you to all who donated baby items and money for new mothers at St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway. .

Some things you might want to know about this hospital: The Roman Catholic Sisters of St. Joseph opened the hospital in 1905. It served the Rockaways and the Five Towns (as it does today) and grew by leaps and bounds. In 1976 under the Right Rev. Jonathan G. Sherman, V Bishop of LI, the Church Charities Foundation, forerunner of Episcopal Health Services Inc., assumed stewardship of the hospital, renaming it St. John's Episcopal Hospital. In 1982 under the watch of the Right Rev. Robert C. Witcher, VI Bishop of LI, the hospital constructed a \$37 million Tower Building and in 1987 Episcopal Health Services took the reins. Today the hospital is a full-service community hospital and our current Bishop, the Right Rev. Lawrence C. Provenzano, is President of the Board of Managers. The hospital offers several residency programs for doctors and is affiliated with the State University of NY (SUNY) Health Science Center at Brooklyn. Our Mother's Day gifts will go to patients in St. John's obstetrics department as they give birth to their babies. They have five delivery rooms, one birthing room, and there is a nurse-midwife on staff. The nursery has 25 bassinets and the ability to take care of premature infants from age 32 weeks and up. There is a postpartum floor for inpatients. There is a mother-baby unit, where both mother and newborn room together, allowing for better bonding, a chance for a mother to learn about her new infant and ask questions of her primary nurse. This is an excellent way to encourage and support breastfeeding. Baby care classes are comprehensive and precede delivery. Our baby gifts are sure to be a nice surprise for the new mothers!

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry currently needs donations of juice, canned fruit, jelly, and peanut butter.

Donations can be left in the cart in the hallway of the Christian Education building. If you see that the cart is getting full, please take a turn delivering the food to the Pantry. The Pantry, located at St. Thomas of Canterbury in Smithtown, is open from 9 a.m. to Noon weekdays.

If you participated in our Friday Fast for Lent, the money you saved from lunch will be sent to ER & D. The needs around the world continue to be great. Please make checks payable to "Episcopal Relief and Development" and turn them in to the church office as soon as possible. A donation of \$55.00 from our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Celebration has already been sent to ER&D.

Thank you to all who gave blood at our Annual Good Friday Blood Drive. We were able to donate 22 units of blood to New York Blood Center. Thanks also to those five who signed up but were "deferred donors," to those who made phone calls, and especially to Edna Rousseau for coordinating our blood drive. You never know when your donation may save a life!

Our Good Friday offering of \$267.00 was 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.

Camp DeWolfe is holding Service Saturday on May 10 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

This is an opportunity to participate in the stewardship and physical care of our diocesan camp. Service projects include painting, landscaping, gardening, beach clean-up and more. Lunch is provided. The camp is located at 408 North Side Road in Wading River. Gather some friends and sign up by calling the camp at 929-4325 or email office@campdewolfe.org.

Congratulations to Raewynne who was elected to become Chairperson of the Protestant Campus Ministry Board of Directors beginning in July. She follows in the footsteps of the Rev. Donald Webster and the Rev. Richard Burnett, former Rectors of St. James Church, who also chaired the Board. This ministry serves students, faculty and staff at Stony Brook University and is blessed with a very spiritual Chaplain, the Rev. Brenda Ford. Chaplain Brenda assisted Raewynne at our Maundy Thursday service. We hope she and some of her students can attend more events at St. James so you can get to know them.

If you would like to knit or crochet for mariners from around the world through the Seamen's Church Institute, see Raewynne for patterns for hats and scarves. Winter comes early for those at sea, so it is not too early to begin these projects.

We celebrate with Laughlin Whiteley's entire family the good news about the success of his stem cell transplant. Praise the Lord! The family has set up a foundation to help other families with ill children. Talk to Raewynne for more information on how you might help.

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. You might save a life!

~ Sue Krall

COMMITTEES

I know many individuals often ask who is on which committee and/or who is the Chair of a specific committee. You may also find that you are being called to a different committee, even if it has been years since you were on that committee. Or, you may even have questions or need something from a committee. Whatever the reason, listed below are the individuals that chair the committees, and also the members. Please note that the Rector and Wardens are ex-officio of each committee. You may also notice that some committees have many members and as others have none listed, you may be called to join that committee. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any chairperson or member. They will be more than happy to help you. Also, if you are on a committee and you are not listed, please let me know, so I may add your name to that committee.

Buildings and Grounds -

Debbie LaMano
Peter Cahill
Matthew Trump
Bill Moleti
Tony Bastin
Andrew Prentiss

Cemetery -

Ken LeCluse - Chair
Art Strassle
Leighton Coleman
Robin Dahlgard
Fjeril Deal
Claude Deal
Tony DeVito
Ernie Harders
Louise Harders
George Krall
Ken LeCluse
Ruth LeCluse
Barbara LoPresto

Laurie Mannix
Joan Mercep
Pat Westlake

Christian Education -

Endowment Board -

Bruce Lawrence - Chair
Tony Bastin
Kathy Mauro
Bob Moleti
Jack Schultheis

Finance

Charlie Kreussling - Chair
Bob Scott
Doug Dahlgard
Pat Westlake

Outreach

Sue Krall - Chair

Parish Life

Stephanie Coleman - Chair
Awaiting members names

Public Relations

Alex Rich
Madelyn Cousins
Wylie Hunt

Stewardship

Chris Mauro - Chair
Committee forming

Worship

Colette Tarantino - Chair
The Rev. Canon Dr. Raewynne
Whiteley
Theresa Euler
Istvan Dioszegi
Donna Austin

Peace & Blessing
Debbie LaMano

LUNCH BUNCH

All parishioners and friends are invited to the next meeting of the Lunch Bunch, to be held on Tuesday, May 27, 12:30 p.m. at Bahama Breeze Island Grill, 612 Smith Haven Mall, near Dick's Sporting Goods.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

On Sunday, April 27, at the visitation of Bishop Provenzano, we celebrated the baptism of Hunter Thomas Grennan. Hunter, who was born last July, lives with his parents, Robbie and Alison in Bayport.

At that same service, the Bishop also confirmed Andrew and Patty Prentiss, and Tierney Kreussling, received James and Kathleen Andrews, Kim Corbo and AnnaMarie deLeyer into the Episcopal church, and renewed the Baptismal vows of Kathleen Bluitt. We are happy to formally welcome all of these people into our parish family!

Congratulations to Kevin White, who will graduate with a B.A. in graphic design on May 16 from SUNY Purchase, and will be looking for a job!

Kevin Dineen, who is the faculty advisor to Commack High School's arts and literary magazine, *Etchings*, traveled with students and staff to the Northport VA Medical Center recently to provide the veterans with an afternoon of shared poetry, creative writing, and refreshments. In addition, the students presented a gift of \$250 to the VA's recreational therapy program. Kevin shared that students "wanted to donate the proceeds or our magazine sales to the men and women who have given so much to our country." This was the second year that the group visited the veterans.

We were saddened to hear that Dolores Sinski, a former member of St. James, passed away in late April, after an illness. She was buried in our cemetery on May 3.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Matt Coleman
Maria Bataller
Karen Noack
Barbara LoPresto
Alyssa Green
Finn Dineen
Jeremiah Glogg
James Allen
Cathi Hart
Kristen Dean
Alec Douglass
Thomas Mauro
Brad Hillman
Bob Moleti
Allie Brady
Joan Strassle
Walt Kregler
David Schmidt

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

John & Florence Donohue
William & Maria Bataller

MAY CALENDAR

- 1 Jam making 1:00 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Nursery school Spring Festival
- 4 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 5 Cemetery Committee 7:00 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Rector to Clergy Conference
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Rector at Clergy Conference
Knitters group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 9 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Mills Hall Rental
- 11 **Mothers' Day**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
- 12 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Knitters group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Nursery parents program 7 p.m.
- 15 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Nursery school rummage sale
- 18 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.
Strawberry Festival
organizational meeting 11:15
a.m.
- 19 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 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.
with Children's Formation
classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
- 26 **Memorial Day**
Office closed
- 27 Morning Prayer 7:30 p.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Lunch Bunch at Bahama
Breeze Island Grill 12:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 29 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.