



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

May 2016

F R O M T H E



RECTOR

In two weeks time, on May 15, we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the celebration dedicated to the Holy Spirit.

Of the three persons of the Trinity, Father,

Son, and Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit tends to get short shrift. The Bible talks about it some, but nowhere near as much as the other persons of the Trinity; the Nicene Creed's description is fairly brief, and the Apostles' Creed barely mentions it at all. And in contemporary life, the Holy Spirit is often seen as the province of Pentecostal Christians, whose focus on the more dramatic spiritual gifts sometimes makes us more restrained – or is that stuffy – Episcopalians just a little uncomfortable.

The story of the Day of Pentecost describes the Spirit coming like wind and flame, rushing through the disciples who are gathered together in Jerusalem, enabling them to speak in many languages so that all those hearing them could understand the good news of Jesus Christ. It's a dramatic story! But sometimes in the midst of the drama, we miss the essence of what is happening. On that day, what had been a group of followers, gathered for prayer, became a group of missionaries, or as our

Presiding Bishop likes to call them, "Crazy Christians", followers of Jesus who not only gather to pray and worship, as they had done since Jesus' death and resurrection (the story of that in between time is told in the first chapter of Acts), but then to go out and share their faith, bringing the joy of the gospel to the whole world. And the result of that is...us. If the disciples hadn't shown up to worship and pray that day we call Pentecost, if the Holy Spirit had not come on them, if people from many nations hadn't heard the gospel, if the disciples hadn't continued to allow the Spirit to work in them, there would have been no church as we know it, and we would not have been followers of Jesus, that is, Christians.

Recently, the wardens, vestry, and many parishioners have noticed a worrying trend. On Sunday mornings our church seems – and is – emptier. There are not as many people at worship. It's not that we've lost members – most years the number of people we lose and the number we gain pretty much evens out – it's that most of us come to church less regularly than we used to. Instead of every Sunday, it's three weeks out of four, or every second week. There are all sorts of reasons. Sometimes it's ill health, but more often what I hear is that people are busy, and that they have to choose between activities – family events, sports, catching up

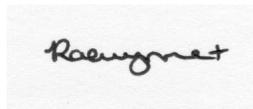
on sleep. And coming to church all too often loses out.

At vestry meeting this week, we were talking about this, and what it means to choose to come and worship God every Sunday. One person talked about the importance to them of a particular member of the congregation who welcomes them again and again, making them feel their presence is valued. One person talked about how their family chose to let coaches know that their children were not available for sports practices Sunday mornings. In similar conversations over the last few weeks, some people have talked about how they value the sermons, another about how their kids are welcomed, another about how they find God as they pray. Worshiping God at church on a Sunday is a blessing.

But as I've been reflecting on the story of the first Pentecost, it's made me think. What if I'd been the one who hadn't shown up that day? And what if I'd missed out? And how is that like our worship on Sundays? What if God is wanting to do something amazing in our lives, something that will be an incredible blessing to us and to others – and we aren't there?

So come to church. Open yourself to the blessings God has in store for you. And give us the privilege of your presence.

Blessings,



WARDENS' COLUMN

Onward!

I am pleased and grateful to announce that Jennifer Lawrence has answered our Lord's call to join me as Warden on the Vestry. While we will continue to focus first and foremost on the vision and mission of St. James Church, Jennifer will be concentrating on working with the Building and Grounds Committee to forge a strategic plan for the maintenance, repair, and renovation of our physical structures. She brings over a decade of experience in planning, financing, and overseeing general contracting for the repair and renovation of 11 buildings and their supporting infrastructure. Let us all welcome her generosity, dedication and faithful enthusiasm.

As we prepare our hearts for Jesus' Ascension, we can understand the fear and befuddlement of the disciples who were so used, after forty days, to having their Lord suddenly appear to them bringing comfort, support, and peace. Christ tries to console them by announcing the coming of the Holy Spirit. "The Spirit will teach you everything" are among his last words to his followers. It is time for us all to prepare ourselves, to get ready to wait for the Spirit in holy silence.

~ Alex Rich

CONFIRMATION MAY 14

Derek Lally and Lucas White will be Confirmed on Saturday, May 14, 11 a.m., at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City. Parishioners are encouraged to attend and support these young men as they take this important step in their faith journey.

STEWARDSHIP

Do not worry about money (or the things that it can provide)! These are the words of Jesus in Luke 12:22-34. As Jesus spoke to his disciples, he recognized that they (and we) are often anxious over money, whether in the presence or the absence of it. When we worry and become anxious over money, we are forgetting that we have a heavenly parent who gives us both value and provides safety, even more so than He provides for the birds and the flowers.

Do not worry about money! But if we do,

how do we break the power of money in our lives? Jesus reminds us that we are not God (and in control of all we do) but that we are children of God. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (v. 32). Just as the Father has poured his love into us, we can respond by pouring out that love for others in the form of giving our money to those in need and seeking first His Kingdom. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (v. 34).

If you have not already, you will soon receive a mailing that will explain the situation surrounding our current budget deficit. It is our hope to be transparent in this process and so if you have further questions feel free to reach out to Chris or me individually. Please keep Jesus' words in mind as you prayerfully consider how you can help reduce our deficit budget this year.

In the Spirit of Adventurous Giving,
Chris Mauro and Amy Jeffrey
Co-Chairs, Stewardship

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 11TH

St. James' annual Strawberry Festival is returning on Saturday, June 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This year, there will be several changes: the inclusion of tables usually seen at the Harvest Festival, and a rain date of Sunday, June 12 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is one of our biggest fundraisers, and also an opportunity for **all** parishioners to get involved in one way or another to help make it a successful event. Here are some ways in which you can contribute your time, talents, and treasures:

***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. Gluten-free and sugar-free items are also welcomed. Please make sure to label them, especially if they include nuts. You may bring your donations on the morning of the Festival. Co-Chairs: Colette Tarantino & Wylie Hunt.

***Crafts table** - Are you creative? Please consider making an item or two for sale at the Crafts table. Whether you work in fiber, wood, beads, clay, or whatever, your creations will be welcomed. Donations can be brought to the office prior to the Festival day. Co-Chairs: Pat Kregler & Linda Misa.

***Gold Elephant Treasures** - This is a high end version of the yard sale, with china, glassware, linens, lightly used gift items, and “antiques”. Donations may be left in the lobby of the Christian Ed. building after May 1. Co-Chairs: Joan Mercep & Thea Welch.

***Grandma’s Attic** - Cleaning out your attic? Donations of dishes, glassware, household items, decorative items, etc. are needed for our sale. Items should be clean and in good condition. They can be brought to the lobby of the Christian Ed. building after May 1. You can also help with pricing sessions in the weeks before the Festival. Watch the Sunday bulletin for announcements. Co-Chairs: Debbie LaMano & Jennifer Lawrence.

***Grandpa’s Garage** - If you are cleaning out your workshop, garage, or shed, we are looking for donations of tools, sports equipment, furniture, garden tools, and working electronic equipment. Donations can be brought to the lobby of the C.E. building after May 1. Chair: Bob Moleti.

***Jam table** - Do you enjoy cooking? Jam making sessions are being scheduled for

weekday afternoons in the Mills Hall kitchen beginning the week of May 2. Watch the Sunday bulletin for upcoming dates. No experience is necessary. Donations of 8 oz. jam jars or bags of sugar are always greatly appreciated. Co-Chairs: Louise Harders & Laurie Mannix.

***Jewelry table** - Do you have jewelry that you no longer wear? Someone else would probably love it. Donations are being accepted after May 1, and can be dropped off in the office. Chair: Lil Moleti.

***Plant table** - If you are dividing perennials this spring, think about potting up a few for this popular table. Also, if you are thinning out seeds, you might pot up some for sale. Please label the plant as to variety and light requirements. Plants can be brought on the morning of the Festival. Co-Chairs: Tony DeVito & Ruth Ward.

***Strawberries for Sale** - Help will be needed to hull strawberries right before the Festival and to staff the table on the day of the Festival to sell berries and serve the berries and ice cream. Chair: Kelly Lally.

***Photo Booth** - New this year, our resident photographer, Peter Plaschka, will be offering to take photos of Festival attendees. We hear that costumes may be involved.

***Lunch** - Karen Noack will once again be in charge of our grill for the fair. Speak to her if you would like to help out.

***Set-up and Clean-up** - As always, help will be needed on the day of the Festival to set up tables and tote “stuff” in the early morning and to break down and clean up at the end of the day. If you have a couple of hours to donate, that would help immensely. Speak to Festival Coordinator Pat Westlake if you can help out here.

If you are new to our parish, or even if you have been here for awhile, becoming involved in one of our events is a great way to meet other members of the parish. Even if you can't spend the whole day, volunteering for a couple of hours either before or during the Festival can help you to get to know some of the other members of our parish family. Don't be shy, it's really a lot of fun!

FAITH FORMATION DAY MAY 14

On Saturday, May 14 the Mercer School of Theology will present Faith Formation Day 2016 featuring John Roberto: "Reimagining Church and Faith Formation in the 21st Century".

The topics to be covered include how to reimagine education in faith with a vision that honors the past and is open to the future and how can we engage all ages and generations in growing in faith and discipleship for a lifetime.

To register contact Diane Muscarella
Episcopal Diocese of Long Island | Mercer
School of Theology 516-248-4800 or
mercerooffice@dioceseli.org

LUNCH BUNCH

The May meeting of the Lunch Bunch will be held on Tuesday, May 31, 12:30 p.m. at Akropolis Restaurant, 127-16 Smithtown Blvd., Nesconset. All parishioners and friends are welcome. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

FARM FRESH PRODUCE

Last call to sign up to participate in Garden of Eve's farm share (CSA) of fresh produce throughout the summer and fall!

CSA is like a subscription for vegetables and fruit. You pay in full for your share before the distribution begins in early June, and in return for your commitment to the farm they provide you with just picked organic produce at a good value. More information can be obtained at the Garden of Eve website:

<http://www.GardenofEveFarm.com/csa.htm>.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear friends at St. James,

On behalf of all of the Maybee family, I am writing to send a big thank you hug for your generosity and radical hospitality on April 2 as we brought our parents home. The day was quite overwhelming in the best sense of the word. The reception was beautiful! (I have a photo of the daffodils as my screen saver). We felt every bit of the love and care you put into it, and your welcoming spirit left us with happy tears. Please know the special place St. James parish holds in our hearts, and thank you for providing such a lovely resting place.

Wishing you all the very best,
Dana Cunningham, Pamela Snyder, Sean
Maybee

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Juliana Marie Silano was born earlier than expected, on the morning of April 11. She spent several days in the NICU, but is now home with her parents, Carmine and Jennifer, and big sister Genevieve. We look forward to seeing Juliana and her family in church soon. Congratulations to all!

Parker Delaney, son of John Delaney and Gina Goldmann, will be baptized at St. James on Pentecost Sunday. He was born in October, and lives with his parents in St. James.

Vincent Andrews made his first appearance at the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, May 1, along with his Mom and Dad, Kathleen and James, and big brother, James. He was welcomed with a blessing by the Rector.

Elise Perry, who recently had heart surgery, lost her husband, Louis on April 22. She is home now, and would appreciate visitors. She lives in Stony Brook.

Mike and Polly Neysen would also appreciate visitors. Polly is as yet unable to return to driving after her surgery.

Margo Goodman is appearing in the play "Harper Regan" by Tony Award Winner Simon Stephens. The play, which runs from May 4 - June 4 is at the T. Schreiber Studio, 151 West 26th Street, 7th floor, in New York City. Tickets may be obtained by calling 212-352-3101 or at www.tschreiber.org.

Last minute news:

Antique Show - Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Mills Hall. This event is produced by Cathi Hart, who has done several shows at St. James.

MAY CALENDAR

- 1 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 2 Sr. Women's Exercise grp. 7 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Clergy Conference (Rector) 4 p.m.
Piano lessons 4 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Clergy Conference (Rector)
full day
Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 5 Clergy Conference (Rector) to
11 a.m.
Jam making session 1 p.m.
Sr. Women's Exercise grp. 7 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Antique Show 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 8 **Mother's Day**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 9 Sr. Women's Exercise grp. 7 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Piano lessons 4 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 12 Sr. Women's Exercise grp. 7 p.m.
- 13 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 **Confirmation 11 a.m. Cathedral
of the Incarnation, G.C.**
M.H. rental 5 p.m.
- 15 **Pentecost**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 16 Sr. Women's Exercise grp. 7 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Piano lessons 4 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Knitters group 11:30 a.m.
- 19 Sr. Women's Exercise grp. 7 p.m.

- N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Mills Hall rental 2 p.m.
- 22 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 23 Deanery meeting 2 p.m.
 Sr. Women's Exercise grp. 7 p.m.
 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
 Piano lessons 4 p.m.
 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
 Challenger Teen group 6:30 p.m.
- 26 Sr. Women's Exercise grp. 7 p.m.
- 27 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 30 **Memorial Day**
 Office closed
 Sr. Women's Exercise grp. 7 p.m.
 Food Addiction grp. 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
 Piano lessons 4 p.m.
 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Matt Coleman
 Maria Bataller
 Karen Noack
 Barbara LoPresto
 Alyssa Green
 Finn Dineen
 Jeremiah Glogg
 James Allen
 Cathi Hart
 Kristen Dean
 Thomas Mauro
 Katie Allen
 Bob Moleti
 Joan Strassle
 Walt Kregler
 David Schmidt
 Sarah Harrington

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

John & Flo Donohue