

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

November 2013

F R O M T H E



RECTOR

On the front of our bulletin every week is a drawing of the church building, surrounded by the three ways in which we believe God is calling us as a parish:

growing in faith through scripture and prayer, building relationships in Christ, and serving one another and the world. These are not so much goals as our vocation, our calling here at St. James.

Another way of thinking about this, is that these three things express God's dream for us – to be a community of disciples of Christ who are steeped in prayer and scripture, a community characterized by strong and caring relationships which reflect God's love made incarnate in Christ, a community which expresses its faith through service that responds to Christ's call to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and prisoners, and lead others to experience God's reconciling love.

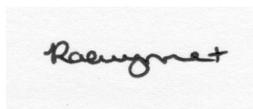
As we enter pledge season, it's easy to focus on raising money to pay our expenses as a church. But while a balanced budget might be the *outcome* of our pledge drive, it's not the *purpose* of this season. The purpose is to help us reflect on how God has blessed us

and how we will respond to that blessing, how God has called us and how we will respond to that call. And at the heart of it all is God's dream. When we pledge, we choose to be part of God's dream for St. James.

Once we have pledges for 2014 in hand, we will begin to develop our budget. Our pattern has been to start with our previous year's budget and work from there. But I've begun to wonder, what would it look like to start with God's dream for us? If money were no object, what might we do? (And I'm sure you could add many more ideas!)

- * *Hire a Christian educator to help grow the faith of our children and youth?*
- * *Replace some of our aging vestments to add to the beauty of our worship?*
- * *Employ a parish nurse to assist our older parishioners as they face the complexities of aging?*
- * *Buy a bus to bring college students to church?*
- * *Host a series of events to help us get to know each other better?*
- * *Build a house with Habitat?*
- * *Buy new hymnals to expand our range of music?*
- * *Get bibles for the pews?*
- * *Expand the work of the food pantry?*
- * *Renovate our buildings to allow more community use?*

How will you – and the pledge you make this year – be part of God’s dream for St. James in 2014?



THE WARDEN’S COLUMN

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalms 19:14

I am at a loss on how to hold your attention as I share some thoughts on stewardship and our fall pledge drive. I fear that these are two topics that we sometimes tune out. And yet, the concept of stewardship is central to our Christian lives, and our pledges are what enable us to do the mission of Jesus Christ here and now. So I pray by the grace of God you read further.

Why do we give? A good gift is an expression of love. When we give out of love, we don’t give to get back. Pledging should be like giving a gift or throwing a party for someone you love. You always give the best with the money available. You usually overspend and it turns out great and yet you find you’re not broke.

Who do we give to? It is human nature to want to be in control. Life gets a lot easier when you realize God is in control and he wants to save us. Not being in control is about having faith. When we give to charity, we want to give it to the “best” charity. We want to feel in control that “my” money is being put to good use. When we give to the church we are literally giving back to God, and we should have faith that the “body of Christ” will put it to good use.

How much do we give? God has given abundantly to us. According to a Parable, the good steward returns two fold on what is entrusted to him. Are we hoarding or squandering our gifts when we don’t give back abundantly? This is not just true of money but also of our time and talents.

What do miracles look like? Currently we

have ~70 families that pledge ~\$150,000 in support of the ministries at St. James. Recent statistics list the average household income for Suffolk Co. as ~\$90,000. Is the concept of the tithe (10%) as the standard of Christian giving asking for a miracle? Hypothetically speaking, if our 70 families tithed, St. James would have ~\$630,000 for support of ministries. What would we do with it? Over ten years that would generate about \$4,600,000 for outreach. Even if in that time we came up short and only reached an average giving level of 5% of our income it would generate \$2,300,000. Ask yourself who would we help? It would certainly be a miracle in the lives of those we did help. Now ask yourself, would it really take a miracle?

Peace and Blessings,
Chris

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

The Community Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be held this year on Sunday, November 24, 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 175 East Main Street, Smithtown. Our Rector will be preaching.

Traditionally we have joined with All Souls in Stony Brook for a Thanksgiving Day Eucharist. As the new priest at All Souls is also associate priest at Caroline Church in Setauket, we are still finalizing plans for this year: we may simply all join together at Caroline Church at 10 a.m. – check the website for more details.

This year, we are also trying something new. On Thanksgiving Eve at 6:30 p.m., you are invited to join a short, simple family Thanksgiving Eucharist, hosted by the Family Bible study members.

ALL SAINTS DAY CELEBRATION & POT LUCK SUPPER

On Friday, November 1, St. James will again celebrate All Saints Day. Come dressed as your favorite saint, and share a few bits of history about him or her. Bring a dish to share. The festivities start at 6:00 p.m. in Mills Hall.

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2013 RESULTS

Thanks once again to Art and Joan Strassle, our Treasurers for the Harvest Festival. Here are Art's figures as of 10/18:

<u>Table</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Profit</u>
Baked Goods	\$683.75	-----	\$683.75
Book Nook	\$1032.75	-----	\$1032.75
Children's	\$91.35	-----	\$91.35
Crafts	\$319.10	-----	\$319.10
Farmers Mkt	\$200.00	\$141.00	\$59.00
Food/Lunch	\$405.00	\$121.92	\$283.08
Gold Eleph.	\$1006.55	-----	\$1006.55
Jams	\$1541.00	\$254.35	\$1286.65
Jewelry	\$628.15	-----	\$628.15
Plants	\$221.75	-----	\$221.75
Raffle	\$1559.00	-----	\$1559.00
General Donations	<u>\$200.00</u>	-----	<u>\$200.00</u>
Total	\$7888.40	\$517.27	\$7371.13
		Dumpster p/u	<u>-\$30.00</u>
		Total	\$7341.13

OUTREACH

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry is bare! Donations of canned vegetables, juice, fruit, tuna fish, and pork and beans are especially needed at this time. Donations can be left in the hallway of the Christian Education building. If you see that the cart is getting full, please take a turn and deliver the food to the Pantry, which is located at St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Smithtown. The Pantry is open Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Protestant Campus Ministry students at Stony Brook University are collecting toiletries to benefit women transitioning from domestic violence situations and pregnant teens at a home for unwed mothers. Please continue to place small items from your trips and the dentist in the basket in the narthex.

The Seamen's Church Institute Christmas at Sea Program will be giving hand-made scarves and caps to seamen from around the world. If you knit or crochet, or would like to learn on a simple project, speak to Raewynne about patterns available for these projects.

United Veterans Beacon House in Farmingdale is holding a clothing drive through November 17. Items needed include clothing for men, women, children, and infants, shoes, accessories, bed and bath items, draperies and curtains. Donations help support veterans and their families. Pick up is available by calling 516-547-6853. United Veterans Beacon House provides supportive services to low-income veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Thank you to all who worked at the Harvest Festival in early October. A

portion of the proceeds are used for next year's outreach budget. Thank you also to all who donated to Episcopal Charities this year. They returned a percentage of St. James' giving to us for our outreach. All outreach checks have been sent for 2013:

\$250 (from budget) for Bread for the World
\$500 (from budget) for Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk

\$1750 (from budget) for Protestant Campus Ministry

\$433.75 (from Episcopal Charities) for Protestant Campus Ministry

Donations to Episcopal Relief and Development have twice the impact if you give by December 6, thanks to a matching gift challenge from a group of generous donors. Your gift will be doubled in size! You may send a check payable to "Episcopal Relief and Development" to P.O. Box 7058, Merriemfield VA 22116-7058 or go to info@episcopalrelief.org to give online.

ER&D has a Gifts for Life catalog if you would like your Christmas gifts to be a practical and lasting solution to those around the world living in extreme poverty, affected by disease, malnutrition and chronic hunger. A share in a flock of chickens costs \$25.00; one goat costs \$80.00; clean water costs \$35.00 per person; a women's literacy group costs \$25.00 per student. Go online at www.episcopalrelief.org/giftsforlife to see the whole catalog. Or call 1-855-312-4325 and a representative will help you with your order.

Heifer International also has meaningful Christmas gifts: A share of a Heifer is \$50.00; a trio of rabbits is \$60.00; honeybees are \$30.00. Go online at www.heifer.org/faith to learn more. Or call 1-888-548-6437. You will receive a tax receipt for the calendar year of your donation.

World Vision has Bibles, other books, totes, jewelry, school supplies, many animals, vaccines, clothing, seeds, water purification tablets, solar lanterns and much more for people in need around the world. Go online at www.worldvisiongifts.org or call 1-888-511-6511 to order.

- Sue Krall

GRAVE BLANKETS

Again this year, St. James will be offering grave blankets for sale for those whose loved ones are interred in our cemetery. Blankets will also be available for purchase by our parishioners who have loved ones in other cemeteries. The blankets are approximately 3' x 4' and are decorated with pine cones, white twigs, and a bow. The cost of the blanket is \$30. Members of the Cemetery Committee and friends will be decorating the blankets on December 4, so they will be available for pick up that evening, or on December. If you are interested, please call the office before November 27 to place your order.

OFFICE ANGELS NEEDED

Laurie will be away on vacation November 11 through 14. Office coverage is needed on Tuesday, November 12, Wednesday, November 13 and Thursday, November 14. If you have a couple of hours available any of those days, and would like to help out, please contact the office. She will be back on Friday to take care of the Sunday bulletin.

NEW WEBSITE

We are currently working on a new parish website, to be revealed soon! As we do so, the Vestry thought it important to remind you of the parish photo policy: "Pictures of church activities (which are public events) may be taken, and may be posted on the church website, newsletter, and/or any publication associated with church public relations. If you do not wish to have your picture or that of your child/children/grandchildren or any relative who is a minor posted, please advise the office. Please note that no names will be given with the photos unless specific permission is given, with the exception of the Rector, wardens, vestry and staff."

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes/additions to the October parish directory:

* Email correction: Jerilyn Glogg is Jcg5696@hotmail.com

*New email: Barbara LoPresto is now barbaradove7@verizon.net

*Add these new families:

Eric & Stacey Fernandez
Skyler & Tylie
32 Brandon Crest Court
Hauppauge NY 11788
Phone 680-2192

Matthew & Andrea Reid
Ashley & Sydney
18 Spur Lane
Centereach NY 11720
Phone 676-6226
Email amreid323@gmail.com

BLOOD DONATION CENTERS

Blood donations area always needed. You can donate by calling any of the New York Blood Centers, including: Bohemia Donor Center 3125 Veterans' Hwy., Bohemia (800) 933-2566 or Port Jefferson Station Donor Center, 1010 Rte. 112, Port Jefferson Station, (631) 473-0315.

AN INVITATION

Last year, our church contributed to the rebuilding of St. James Episcopal Church in Cannon Ball, North Dakota. We recently received a letter from them to tell us that their new church has been completed, and they have been able to worship there for a couple of months. They have invited any interested parishioners to the blessing and consecration of their new sanctuary on Saturday, November 23 at 11 a.m. If you are interested, call the office for more information.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Congratulations to Pat and Walt Kregler on the birth of their new grandson, Carl Henry, to their daughter, Frances Kregler, and her husband, Roberto Bolle. Carl was born early in October.

Congratulations to Anna Rung on the birth of her newest grandchild, Christopher John Rung who was born the week of October 21. Christopher is the son of Anna's son, C.J. and his wife, Michelle.

Former parishioner, Jean Henderson, passed away on October 23. A memorial service is to be held at St. James on Saturday, November 2 at 10:00 a.m.

NEED A CLEANING PERSON?

Are you looking for someone to clean your house? Patti Prentiss is a professional house cleaner who is looking for work. You can contact her at 631-371-7227.

NEED A NANNY?

I am an English nanny looking for a nice family to work for, full or part time. I have many years of experience. Call Julia at 631-979-7829.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 All Saints Day Potluck Supper
6 p.m. - Mills Hall
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Memorial service 10:00 a.m. for
Jean Henderson
- 3 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children's Formation classes
- 4 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 7 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children's Formation classes
- 11 **Veterans' Day**
Food addiction group
- 12 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.

- Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
- 15 Diocesan Convention
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children's Formation classes
- 18 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 21 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children's Formation classes
Community Thanksgiving
service 7:00 p.m. - Smithtown
- 25 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga 3:30 p.m.
Family Thanksgiving Eucharist
6:30 p.m.
- 28 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 29 Office closed
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Donna Austin
Ralph Bellassai
Oliver Cousins
Edna Rousseau
Carol Bluni
Jennifer Lawrence
Carole Peters
Jack Euler
Pat Westlake
Tony Bastin
Kristina Euler
June Davies
Michael Neysen

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Chris & Anita Sequino
Bob & Marty Scott
Jeremy & Kristen Dean
James & Lorelei Allen

