

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

November 2014

FROM THE



As many of you have heard by now, my sweet nephew and godson, Locky (Laughlin Lewis Whiteley) died early on Saturday evening, October 11th.

Locky was a child full of love and creativity and joy. His hospital room was full of his creations – sunflowers and mountains and dragon heads made of papier-machéd bedpans, chuck buckets and other hospital paraphernalia, Lego models, and coloring. He was fascinated with archaeology, first Ancient Egypt, and more recently, Vikings.

Early on, during radiation treatment for his brain tumor, his dad would take him to Regent’s Park. He would run up to a large Victorian fountain, put his hands in the water, and pray for other sick children. He was so proud in June when I gave him a “big boy” Bible.

The night before he died, Locky told each of the people in his hospital room that he loved them and gave them a hug, and then, as nurses entered, raised his arms and said, “Welcome!”

On Sunday, as we read the gospel (Matthew 22:1-14), I imagined him arriving at the great wedding feast of Heaven, and the king, our Savior, greeting him with open arms: “Welcome!”

Locky was buried on Saturday, October 25. He was taken through town on a horse drawn carriage and buried in a “green” burial site overlooking farmland and a river.

Thank you for your condolences.

Blessings,



A CELEBRATION OF LAUGHLIN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2014

Today, we are surrounding Lockey, as he has been surrounded by you throughout the battles of the past 3 years, as he has been surrounded all his life. But you, too, are surrounded by him, the sense of him his loves, his cares, his inspirations.

Music is central to Laughlin. He loves classical music, pop music, playing rock guitar on the Wii, singing, break dancing. He has 'special' day and night time sleeping albums that have been played, without fail, every day of his life. You have heard some of them today. Almost every nurse said they loved coming into his hospital room because there was already the right atmosphere, whether that be peaceful, energized, or creative. The music definitely helped, but at the heart of it was Laughlin.

I will miss that heart.

He is proud of his Celtic name. He identifies with Vikings. He has many, many hoards of precious objects, sorted and stored in little wooden boxes under his bed. One of his favorite games to play was Hadrian's Wall – he was always the Wild Scotsman, madly attacking my Roman wall of cushions, pillows, and mattresses that spanned his room.

I will miss my sword fighting injuries

Lockey is an archaeologist. He dug into the depths of things, into the Dengie mud, into sandy beaches, into the truth. Into us. When he had his first intrusive medical procedure, brain surgery, we kissed him as he went to sleep and said, 'Think happy thoughts, and you can fly.' When he woke, 8 hours later, the first thing he said was, 'Mummy, Daddy, I thought happy thoughts!'

I will miss the depth of those thoughts.

He is a sculptor. He loved, from a young age, to be Making Things. Three-dimensional objects, to be seen from a different perspective, in light and shade. But more than that, he is an emotional artist. On Fathers' Day this year he burst into tears. I gave him a cuddle and asked him what was wrong. As he hugged me he said, 'There's nothing wrong. It's just that I'm so happy for you that it's Father's Day.'

I will miss all that he makes.

Laughlin is a leader. While he tended to retreat to his internal place, when he chose to he could organize, create, and inspire. Whether it be with playground games, dressing up, or party themes – the last few including Pirates, Pharaohs, Star Wars and Hogwarts – he had big ideas, clear plans, and specific roles for everyone. No matter what time of year it was, if he was feeling bored during the long trips to and from hospital, you were sure to hear him ask, 'Daddy, can we go through the plans for my next party...'

I will miss being his sidekick.

Lockey is a collector. A collector of artefacts. A collector of Lego. A collector of hearts.

I will treasure his collections.

Laughlin, Andrea, Gus, and I have lived on hope for the past 3 years. We have maintained our faith through thick and thin – the faith of living in the moment and choosing not to be terrorized by the risks, the what ifs, the statistics.

But now we are all here. Our hope may feel dimmed. Our faith may feel misplaced. But love, love remains. Constant. Always. Forever.

We love you Laughlin. Always and Forever.

- John Whiteley

THE WARDENS' COLUMN

Fall Fellowship

It has been a very busy autumn with the highly successful **BBQ**, the wet but wonderful **Harvest Festival**, the kick off of the **Stewardship Campaign** and the very productive **parish cleanup** just last Sunday. All this activity did not obscure or soften the final passage of Raewynne's beloved Locky. His remarkable journey, undertaken with such creativity, courage, hope, and faith, is now over. We have all learned many lessons about dignity, childlike wonder in the midst of danger and pain, and the power of unyielding love. We all hope to take the example this young soul has set before us, and carry it into our own lives, our expectations, and belief.

Our work is not yet finished, nor will it ever be. We have **All Souls' Eve** just around the corner, the **Offertory Service** where we bring forth our pledges on **November 9th**, and onward to proposing our new budget for 2015. Lots of effort and opportunity lie ahead of us as we "Walk the Way" through the end of this year and into the wondrous New Year ahead.

As **Bishop Provenzano** said this past week at the pre-convention meeting in Sayville, "We have to take responsibility not only for our own parishes, but for the mission of the Diocese." Thus he has named the new diocesan budget the "**Ministry Plan.**" And he added, if any Vestry cannot find it within its members to tithe, then we as a Vestry should not be representing, and making decisions for, our congregation. The Vestry should set the example. "Think of what we are not doing, and what we could be doing if every parish tithed." A very bold statement, which the Bishop intends to bring before next year's convention as a new resolution. Food for thought. And this delivered by a

man who just suffered from a severe, yet miraculous, car crash, who was clearly in pain and visibly hobbling. His voice was soft, his vision clear, and his belief unshakable.

*"Of thine own gifts do we render unto thee,
thank-offerings for thine every gift."*

St. Augustine

Walking the Way with each of you,
Alex & Debbie

PLEDGE SUNDAY

We hope that our focus on Christian pilgrimage has been a source of meaningful discernment these past few weeks. As pledge Sunday quickly approaches the time has come to assess where we are on our own personal faith journey and what our role is going to be as stewards of the church of Christ in the coming year. In order that we can plan for our Christian mission in our community next year, we ask that pledge cards be returned by November 9th. We also ask that you speak with the Rector, Wardens, or a member of the Vestry if you want to share a gift of your time and talent to further our mission here at St. James.

Peace & Blessings,
Chris Mauro
Stewardship Chair

PRAYER WALKS

We are still holding our prayer walks every Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. through neighborhood streets and Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the cemetery. You don't have to be an avid walker to participate. Please join us if you are able to do so.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

On Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15 the diocese will hold its annual gathering, the Diocesan Convention. This is a chance for clergy and delegates from every church in the diocese to come together to plan for the future, meet new people, and renew old relationships. Attending along with the Rector, will be Peter Cahill, Delegate, and Alex Rich, Alternate.

PARISH CLEAN UP

The Buildings and Grounds Committee would like to THANK all who participated in the clean up on October 26th. Our parishioners did not just clean up on Sunday after the services, they have been working during the week to get everything completed.

We would like to thank: Chris Mauro, Jack Schultheis, Frank & Amy Giardina, Andrew Prentiss, Pat Westlake, Ernie & Louise Harders, Art & Arlyne Gureck, Joan & Les Bengtson, Kathy Bluitt, Madelyn Cousins, Fjeril Deal, Tony & Mary Jane DeVito, Matt Trump, Alex Rich, Deb LaMano. If your name has been left off the list we do apologize immensely. The overwhelming turn out was so wonderful to see and such a fellowship to be a part of.

Thank you all again. Peace and Blessings.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee

BOOK STUDY

Our study of The Way is Made by Walking: A Pilgrimage Along the Camino de Santiago by Arthur Paul Boers continues on alternate Tuesday evenings in one of the downstairs classrooms of the Christian Ed. building. Boers writes about the five hundred mile pilgrimage route ending in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, at a cathedral believed to hold the relics of the Apostle James. This is a tale of renewed spirituality, praying in new ways, forming community, and depending on God to provide. Boer's pilgrimage led to a deeper intimacy with God, a way made by walking in faith.

There is one copy left of the book in the office, if you would like to join us. It is also available from Amazon and at Barnes and Noble. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11, in which we will be discussing chapters V and VI. Subsequent meetings will be held on December 2 and 16.

CHILDREN'S TOY DRIVE

Episcopal Health Services is organizing their annual outreach program, and has asked each church in the diocese to donate ten new unwrapped toys for children aged 1 to 16. If you would like to participate, please place your donation in the basket in the hallway of the C.E. building (near the Food Pantry cart) by Wednesday, November 12 at the latest.

LOOKING AHEAD:

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

The Community Thanksgiving service will be held on Sunday, November 23. Our Family Bible Study participants will host a service here at St. James on Wednesday, November 26. More details will be available in the Sunday bulletins as we get closer to Thanksgiving.

ADVENT

Close on the heels of Thanksgiving, Advent begins on Sunday, November 30.

HARVEST FESTIVAL REVENUE

Despite the inclement weather on the day of the Harvest Festival, many of our parishioners and neighbors came out to support St. James Church. Thanks to all those who contributed to the Festival! Thanks to Art and Joan Strassle for working as our Treasurers once again. Here are the results after all expenses were submitted.

Table	Gross	Expenses	Net Profit
Baked Goods	\$412.80	----	\$412.80
Book Nook	\$832.05	----	\$832.05
Crafts	\$196.50	----	\$196.50
Farm Mkt.	\$231.00	\$218.00	\$12.00
Lunch	\$248.50	\$17.36	\$231.14
Gold Eleph.	\$370.75	----	\$370.75
Halloween	\$109.00	----	\$109.00
Jams	\$1,467.00	\$349.16	\$1,117.84
Jewelry	\$350.70	----	\$350.70
Plants	\$147.90	----	\$147.90
Total	\$4,366.20	\$585.52	\$3,780.68

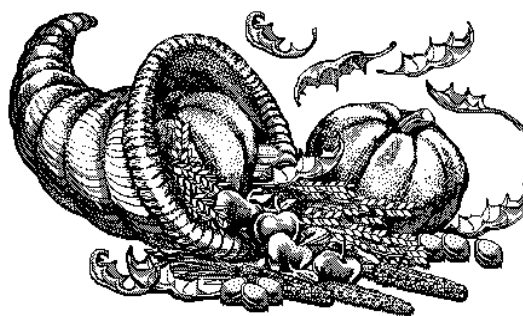
NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 **All Saints' Day**
Costume party 4 - 6 p.m.
- 2 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Prayer Walk 9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II with
Baptism and Children's
Formation classes 9:30 a.m.
- 3 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Prayer Walk 8:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Knitting group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 6 Endowment Committee 4 p.m.
- 7 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 8 Nursery School Rummage Sale
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 9 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Prayer Walk 9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation
classes.
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
- 10 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Prayer Walk 8:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Children's Literacy Class
7:30 p.m. - Mills Hall
- 13 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Diocesan Convention
Food Addiction Group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Diocesan Convention
Mills Hall rental 3 - 8 p.m.
- 16 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Prayer Walk 9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation
classes.
- 17 Finance Committee 3:30 p.m.
Cemetery Committee 5:00 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 18 Prayer Walk 8:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 21 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Prayer Walk 9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation
classes.
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
Community Thanksgiving
service (location & time TBA)
- 24 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Prayer Walk 8:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Knitters group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Family Bible study
Thanksgiving service
- 27 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 28 Office closed
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Mills Hall rental 1 - 4 p.m.
- 30 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Prayer Walk 9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Formation
classes.
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.

Give Thanks



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*Donna Austin
Andrew Prentiss
Edna Rousseau
Carol Bluni
Jennifer Lawrence
Carole Peters
Jack Euler
Pat Westlake
Tony Bastin
Kristina Euler
June Davies
Michael Neyssen*

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

