

# Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

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November 2015

FROM THE



RECTOR

One of the great joys of church life is watching children grow up into young adults, and watching their faith grow with them. A couple of weeks ago, three of

our teenagers were confirmed: Sean Glogg, Emily Mauro, and Lindsey Noack. All three have been part of our congregation for many years. Two of the three were baptized here. Two are acolytes. One is a reader. One labors mightily in the kitchen at many church events. They are all active in serving God in this place.

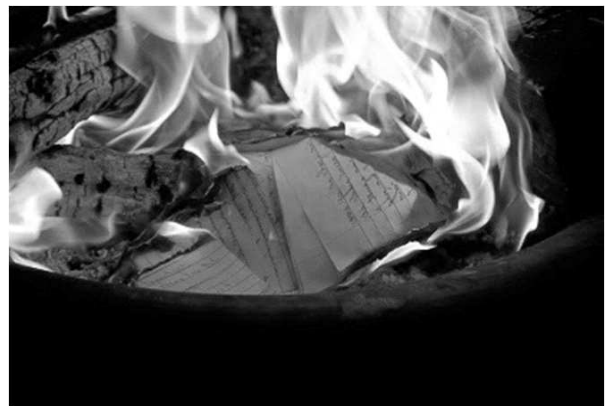
On Sunday at our confirmation class (which continues for the next few weeks), we explored the question from the baptismal covenant, "Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?"

It is not easy to define and articulate evil, and we struggled in class to articulate it. But sin was no problem. I asked the kids to write down any sins they could think of (I promised not to look) and they, and I, easily filled our small strips of paper. Then we went to the church, read through the rite of reconciliation, and burned our strips of sin (and then buried the ashes). An when we

were done, there was a sense of lightness and joy. We were free.

Sometimes the idea that God forgives us is hard to imagine. But in burning and burying our paper strips, we had a visible image of the way in which God forgiving us wipes the slate. Of course, we still have to deal with the consequences of our sins, and may have to make restitution to those we have sinned against. But as far as God is concerned, thanks to Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. They are done with, burned, buried. And God frees us for new life in Jesus Christ.

Blessings,



## THE WARDENS' COLUMN

### The Structure of Gratitude

With Thanksgiving just around the corner we thought it fitting to offer a few words about gratitude. The following is an excerpt of David Brooks' column from the Opinion Pages of the *New York Times* on July 28, 2015.

"I'm sometimes grumpier when I stay at a nice hotel. I have certain expectations about the service that's going to be provided. I get impatient if I have to crawl around looking for a power outlet, if the shower controls are unfathomable, if the place considers itself too fancy to put a coffee machine in each room. I'm sometimes happier at a budget motel, where my expectations are lower, and where a functioning iron is a bonus and the waffle maker in the breakfast area is a treat.

This little phenomenon shows how powerfully expectations structure our moods and emotions, none more so than the beautiful emotion of gratitude.

Gratitude happens when some kindness exceeds expectations, when it is undeserved. Gratitude is a sort of laughter of the heart that comes about after some surprising kindness."

"People with grateful dispositions see their efforts grandly but not themselves. Life doesn't surpass their dreams but it nicely surpasses their expectations."

The full link to the article can be found at:  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/28/opinion/david-brooks-the-structure-of-gratitude.html?](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/28/opinion/david-brooks-the-structure-of-gratitude.html?r=0)  
r=0

Peace and blessings during this season of Thanksgiving.

- Alex and Chris

## STEWARDSHIP

Our fall pledge campaign "Walking the Way" culminated this past Sunday Nov.1 All Saints Day. We hope that our journey together over the past 4 weeks has helped to deepen your faith and increase your understanding of what Christian stewardship is. We would like to thank all those who generously made a financial pledge of support to St. James for 2016. As of today we have received 44 pledges totaling \$113,266. This includes 2 new families and represents an average pledge increase of 6% from 2015.

We still have not heard from many of our parish family. If you have not already submitted a pledge card, I ask that you do so as soon as possible. The vestry will be meeting on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> to begin to set a budget and to plan for our mission and ministries in 2016 here at St. James. Your pledge is pivotal to that process. If you are in need of a pledge card, they are available at the church office, the back of the church, or the office can e-mail one to you.

In Christ,

*Chris Mauro, Stewardship Chairperson*

## REFLECTIONS ON “WALKING THE WAY”

My Episcopal upbringing was not the traditional one. Each Sunday, I was dropped off at St. Thomas' Church in Bellerose with my sisters. Being the eldest, I was expected to care for my siblings, who were two and eight years younger. Lucky for me, we all had a very healthy respect and fear for Father C. and his booming voice, as it kept my sisters quiet and still. At first, I remember being scared and nervous being there to care for my sisters amongst strangers. However, that quickly changed and I felt safe, secure, and comfortable. It was peaceful in that beautiful church. The people were warm, welcoming, and I looked forward to Sunday mornings. St. Thomas became “home” to me. After my youngest sister made her Confirmation, my parents stopped bringing us to church. It was too far for me to walk there, so when I was allowed I would walk to a nearby Lutheran Church. It never held the same draw or pull for me, nor did any other church. During my early to mid-twenties St. John's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring Harbor was a nice place to be, but it still did not compare to St. Thomas.

A marriage, two children, and a move to Stony Brook had me looking and yearning for another church. I wanted to bring my girls weekly to mass and needed to find the right fit for all of us. I was very blessed and grateful as the first church we attended was St. James. Our welcoming committee was Fjeril, Stephanie, and Karen. Who could ask for a better team? By week three I was teaching Sunday school; by year's end I was asked to be Sunday School Director. I was also on Altar Guild and the girls became Acolytes. Within a very short amount of time we were all comfortable, had friends, and enjoyed Sunday services. We were all exultant; we now belonged to a big

loving family who looked out for each other. Amongst us, we were often heard to say, “It takes a village to raise children,” and we were part of that wonderful village. We all looked out for each other's children. Leah and Lauren always felt they had numerous aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, and yes, sometimes additional parents. Through the good and bad times, my parish family has been with us, providing religion, abundant love, a shoulder, a hand, an ear, and support.

My St. James “home” surpassed my St. Thomas one on so many levels and I feel the main reason was because this time I was able to give of myself to my church, not only monetarily, but with time. My tithing has increased and will continue to. It is something I pray on and will always work towards. Giving has been a pleasure and a labor of love. It has satisfied me and helped me to grow. Being involved with the Youth Group, teaching and directing Sunday school, Altar Guild, and Vestry has fostered so many wonderful friendships and memories.

Each Sunday I get to be in our beautiful Church. It is like coming home to a wonderful, loving family with open arms. And then we get to have our Sunday worship. We get to gather at God's table. I leave feeling peaceful, tranquil, and full of God's grace. I am rejuvenated and ready to begin my week, and anticipate next Sunday.

*- Colette Tarantino*

## NEW PRESIDING BISHOP

The Episcopal Church has a new Presiding Bishop, the Right Reverend Michael B. Curry. He was installed at a magnificent service on All Saints Day at National

Cathedral, having been elected at General Convention this summer. He will serve a 9 year term.

Born in Chicago and raised in Buffalo, Bishop Curry holds degrees from Hobart College and Yale, and has served parishes in North Carolina, Ohio, and Maryland before being elevated Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina in 2000. He is well known as a passionate preacher, and is the author of *Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus*, which we hope to read in the book group some time in the next year.

During his sermon at his installation he said, “You thought you came here for the installation of the 27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop and Primate. That was just a teaser to get you here. The real reason we are here is at the beginning of this service when we renewed our vows of baptism to renounce Satan and all that hurts and harms the human family and God’s creation and to turn to Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, and become the Jesus movement in this world.

“That’s why we are here. That’s why we came. Because that movement turns the world upside down. That movement has the power to take things which have been cast down and take them up; it has the power to takes things that have grown old and make them new; it has the power to give life to God’s church and God’s people; it has the power to give light to this world..

“That movement is why we are here. We are the Jesus movement and we have been sent and called into this world not to serve for what is; but to dream and work for what shall be.”

## **DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Next week, Alex Rich (delegate), Peter Cahill (alternate), and the Rector will be attending our annual Diocesan Convention at the Marriott Hotel in Melville. We had a preview at the pre-Convention meeting last week, and look forward to hearing more about the many ways in which God is working in our midst here on Long Island and beyond. Among the visitors to our convention will be representatives of the Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission in South Dakota and the Missionary District of the Navajoland, who the diocese has supported by tithing the proceeds of the sale of the Church of the Redeemer in Brooklyn last year.

## **BOOK STUDY GROUP**

The Book Group met on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, with five people in attendance. We had a lively discussion of the first chapter in this fall’s book: Unapologetic by Francis Spufford. We agreed to meet next on Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss chapters 2 and 3. Raewynne provided a study guide to help give some structure to the meetings. It is not too late to join – books are available at Amazon.

- Jack Schultheis

## **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 ages 1 to 16. If you would like to participate, please place your donation on the pew in the hallway of the Christian Ed. building (near the Food Pantry cart) by Wednesday, November 11 at the latest.

## OUTREACH

### **November is St. James' month to staff the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry.**

Three people are needed each day to serve the clients. Please check the sign up sheet in Mills Hall to see what day you may be needed to help out. The Pantry can use all types of food donations right now, especially fruit juice, canned fruit, chunky soups, pasta, and pasta sauce. If you see the cart in the Education building is getting full, please take a turn delivering the food to the Pantry. The Pantry is located at St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Smithtown and is open from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, weekdays. On the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving, 10-15 people will be needed to help put together Thanksgiving baskets and distribute them as clients arrive. If you can help out then, please contact Claudette Plaschka at 543-4944. You will find more information in elsewhere in this issue on two fund raisers to be held in November to benefit the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry.

### **Students at Protestant Campus Ministry at Stony Brook University are again collecting toiletries for women transitioning from domestic violence.**

Donations may be left in the basket at the back of the church. Chaplain Brenda Ford is finding that having snacks available at PCM gatherings helps attract students. Surprise! Surprise! But PCM's budget struggles to provide for this. If you have a membership at BJ's or Costco and would like to help donate some individually wrapped snack foods, you can bring them to me or Raewynne for delivery to the University. If you would like to send a monetary gift, checks made out to "Protestant Campus Ministry" may be sent to Mrs. Herta Wulff, PCM Treasurer, 11 Hamilton Road, Setauket NY 11733. Your check is tax deductible. This ministry serves students

and staff in countless ways and Chaplain Brenda thanks you for all contributions of any kind that you make to help keep the Word alive on campus!

**This month \$250.00 is being sent to Bread for the World from our 2015 outreach budget.**

**Episcopal Relief and Development is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Eucharist on Wednesday, November 11 at 10 a.m. at St. James Church, 865 Madison Avenue in NYC.** All are invited. The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, will be the preacher. R.S.V.P. to [episcopalrelief.org/eucharist](http://episcopalrelief.org/eucharist).

**Watch the Sunday bulletin for news of this year's Pick-a-Star for our homebound parishioners and developmentally disabled neighbors.**

**Thank you to all who participated in the Harvest Festival on October 3 and helped with the many preparations that made it successful.** The money made will help fund St. James' outreach budget. As you saw in October *Open Doors*, you as individuals and we as a group reach out in many, many ways!

- Sue Krall

## THANKSGIVING

As you prepare your feasts for friends and family or map out your trip to visit relatives, we encourage you to make time to give thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed upon you and your loved ones.

The Smithtown Clergy Association is once again organizing a community wide Thanksgiving worship service on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. All members of St. James are encouraged to come and worship with our sisters and brothers and give thanks and praise to God for our many blessings. This interfaith service will be held on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Smithtown United Methodist Church.

As we continue to build relationships with our neighboring Episcopal parishes, the Vestry also again invites you to worship on Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 a.m. at St. Thomas of Canterbury in Smithtown or at Caroline Church in Setauket.

Gather your guests and friends and join us!



## ADVENT

Close on the heels of Thanksgiving, Advent begins on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Thank you to Donna Austin and Barbara LoPresto for serving as our Festival Treasurers this year. The following report includes all revenues received through October 26, 2015.

<b>Booth</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Net</b>
Baked Goods	\$514.80	—	\$514.80
Book Nook	\$709.55	—	\$709.55
Crafts	\$238.50	—	\$238.50
Farm Mkt./			
Plants	\$344.05	(\$172.00)	\$172.05
Gold Elephant	\$770.20	—	\$770.20
Jam	\$1199.00	(\$304.59)	\$894.41
Jewelry	\$626.87	—	\$626.87
Lunch	\$243.00	(\$24.47)	\$218.53
Misc. donation	\$20.00	—	\$20.00
Totals	\$4665.97	(\$501.06)	\$4164.91

Last year, with similarly inclement weather, our net was \$3,671.58.

## NEW PARISH DIRECTORY!

We have a new parish directory! This time, not only will it be available in print, but online and as an app for your cell phones. What is great about our new directory is that we can include photos, and the online and app versions update automatically when changes are made. Security is ensured by using individual passwords linked to your personal email address as listed in the directory. We will also eventually be able to send urgent announcements (e.g., cancellation of Sunday services because of snow) out to all members with emails or cell phone numbers listed.

The printed directory will initially only include addresses, while the online and app versions include photos of parishioners. Over the coming months we will continue to

collect more photographs as they are taken, and hope to print a photo edition, and to make one available from the website (again, password protected).

To view the directory online, go to <http://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>. You will be asked to create a login using your email address. Only those whose email is recorded in the directory will be able to access the online directory.

To download the app, search for “Instant Church Directory” and download. Again, you will be asked to create a login using your email address. Only those whose email is recorded in the directory will be able to access the directory in the app.

If you have corrections or additions to make, please send them to the church office. There will be another opportunity for photos to be taken after the 9:30 a.m. service beginning in late November. Alternatively, you may send your own photo to be included.

### **ST. JAMES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

All St. James parishioners and friends are invited to the annual Christmas Luncheon, which will be held this year on Tuesday, December 15, 12:30 p.m. at Villa Olivetti, 645 Middle Country Road in St. James. The \$25.00 cost of the luncheon includes choice of an entree, glass of wine, tax and tip. Contact Fjeril Deal at 631-724-3720 to make your reservation.

### **PARISH AUDIT**

Each year the Diocese requires that each parish do a financial audit. This year, our audit team, consisting of Bob Scott, Amy Jeffrey and Carmine Silano were able to complete their work in early September. We thank them for taking the time out of their busy lives to handle this important mandate for St. James.

### **CHRISTMAS GRAVE BLANKETS**

Once again we are offering the opportunity for our parishioners to purchase a grave blanket for their loved ones buried in another cemetery. The blankets are approximately 3' x 4', made of evergreens, decorated with pine cones, white birch twigs, and red bows. The cost is \$30. You may place your order with the office before November 25<sup>th</sup>. The Cemetery Committee will decorate the blankets on Wednesday, December 3, and they will be available for pick up after that.

### **DIOCESAN CHILDREN'S ADVENT PROJECT**

Bishop Provenzano and his wife, Jeanne, are inviting submissions of art work and words of inspiration on the theme of “Peace on Earth” from K-8th graders for an Advent project.

All of the art and inspirational messages will be displayed in the Great Hall of the Mercer School of Theology. Four (one from each county of the diocese) will be selected for use in the Bishop's Christmas card.

Art work should be created on 8.5" x 11" plain white paper in color or black and white. The name, age, and parish of the child submitting the item should be printed on the back.

The deadline for submissions is Monday, November 30. They should be sent via postal mail to:

Episcopal Diocese of Long Island  
Attn: Deidra Beaman  
36 Cathedral Avenue  
Garden City NY 11530

You may send an email with any questions about the project to the Office of the Bishop [bishopoffice@dioceseli.org](mailto:bishopoffice@dioceseli.org).

### **DIOCESAN ALCOHOL POLICY**

The Vestry noted the new Diocesan Policy on serving alcohol on church premises, which applies to us. It will mean some changes to the way we do social events here at St. James, but we'll get used to it! The policy is posted in Mills Hall and the Webster Room.

### **VENDOR EVENT NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

A special vendor event will be held on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Mills Hall. This event will benefit Special Connections, a group of special needs young adults 18 and up that meet each month in Mills Hall.

There will be an array of vendors including, Pampered Guests Wait Staff, Pampered Chef, Thirty One, Tupperware, Pink Zebra, Arbonne, Beachbody, Baskets by Betsy, Mary Kay, Tastefully Simple, Young Living essential oils and more.

### **FREE SENIOR & CAREGIVER RESOURCE WORKSHOP**

On Saturday, November 21, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. a workshop will be presented at the Holiday Inn Express, 3131 Nesconset Highway, Stony Brook. The program will be moderated by Virginia Cash, an award winning NYS licensed Geriatric Social Worker. Included in the workshop will be a presentation on elder law basics by a local law firm, and other presentations by local organizations and businesses. Learn about the benefits of a caregiver support group. Registration is required – contact Virginia Cash at [vcash5msw@aol.com](mailto:vcash5msw@aol.com) or 631-428-0902. This program is an offshoot of the Caroline Church Caregiver Support Group Community Outreach Ministry.

### **STONY BROOK STITCHERS**

Stony Brook Stitchers are members of the Faculty, Staff, Students & Friends of Stony Brook University & Stony Brook University Medical Center, who volunteer to make items for those in Physical, Emotional or Spiritual need here within the Stony Brook Campus Community.

They make: Crocheted, Knitted or Sewn - Hats for Chemo Patients; Crib Blankets, Booties, Hats and Blankets for Premies and Infants; Lap Blankets & Prayer Shawls for Psychiatric patients, Veterans and Patients & Patient Family Members providing round the clock comfort; Comfort Pillows for Post Surg. & Oncology patients and Hats, Blankets and Dog Bonz Pillows for Pediatric patients.

They are currently in need of volunteers who have experience in sewing for projects they are working on for the NICU, L&D, and MOTHER-BABY.



For more information please contact:  
Melissa Shampine at 444-1371 or email her  
at -  
[melissa.shampine@stonybrookmedicine.edu](mailto:melissa.shampine@stonybrookmedicine.edu)

- *Madelyn Cousins*

### NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

**Leah Tarantino and Matt Roseto** were married at St. James Church on Sunday, October 18. Leah made a beautiful bride, and was joined by Maid of Honor, Lauren, and proud Mom, Colette, on her special day. We wish Leah and Matt much love and happiness as they embark on their new life together in San Diego.

**Parker Henry Delaney** was born on October 22. He weighed in at 6½ lbs. He lives with his father, John Delaney and mother, Gina Goldmann in St. James. Congratulations to the happy family! We look forward to meeting Parker soon.

**Carol Bluni** has discerned a call to serve God in a parish closer to her home. We blessed her and wished her well on All Saints Day.

### LOOKING AHEAD

There are a lot of events coming up in the near future at St. James. Here is a sampling:

- \* **Pick-a-Star gift program** for homebound parishioners, our developmentally disabled neighbors and those in local nursing homes.
- \* **Adopt-a-Family gift program** for families selected by St. John's Episcopal Hospital outreach program.
- \* **Bake-a-Batch for the Food Pantry** outreach program encourages donations of home baked cookies for the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry during the month of December.

Be sure to watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.



## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 **All Saints' Day**  
Stewardship Commitment  
Sunday  
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Formation classes  
Mills Hall rental 2 - 5 p.m.
- 2 Yoga class 5:30 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.  
Book Study group 7:00 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 6 Nursery school Art Auction 6 pm  
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Formation classes
- 9 Yoga class 5:30 p.m.  
Parish Festival/Fundraiser  
Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Knitter's group 11:30 a.m.
- 12 Finance Committee 4:30 pm  
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Diocesan Convention  
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Diocesan Convention  
Vendor show 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Mills Hall
- 15 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Formation classes
- 16 Yoga class 5:30 p.m.  
Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 20 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 22 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Formation classes  
Community Thanksgiving  
service 7:00 p.m., Smithtown  
United Methodist Church
- 23 Yoga class 5:30 p.m.  
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.  
Challenger Teen Group  
5:30 p.m. - M.H.
- 26 **Thanksgiving Day**  
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Office closed  
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 30 Yoga class 5:30 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*Donna Austin  
Andrew Prentiss  
Jack Harrington, Jr.  
Edna Rousseau  
Carol Bluni  
Jennifer Lawrence  
Jack Euler  
Pat Westlake  
Tony Bastin  
Kristina Euler  
June Davies  
Michael Neyssen  
Jack Harrington, Sr.*

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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