



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

October 2015

F R O M T H E



RECTOR

One of the things you notice when you read the psalms is how often they focus on praise and thanksgiving to God. But they are not the only way we praise

God: a major expression of praise is our hymns.

This fall, I've taken over choosing our hymns (formerly, the music director did it), and I thought you might find it helpful to know how I go about that.

Readings for the day

I begin by looking at the lectionary readings for the day. Many hymns quote or explicitly refer to scripture. Hymn 377, "All people that on earth do dwell", is a paraphrase of Psalm 100. Hymn 437, "Tell out my soul", is a paraphrase of the Magnificat, the song of Mary, from the gospel of Luke. Hymn 552, "Fight the good fight", draws on 2 Timothy 4.

Liturgical season

Some hymns do not relate specifically to an individual text, but to the themes of a whole season. So in Advent we sing hymns about keeping watch, and in Lent we sing about repentance. There are sections in our

hymnals for many different seasons and festivals of the church year, as well as different occasions such as baptism, marriage, and funerals. So I look to see whether there are any seasonal hymns appropriate for the week.

Position in the service

The Eucharist has a particular flow to it, and the hymns help that flow. We begin with an invitation to worship. So the first hymn will often be a hymn of praise, or will introduce the theme for the day (e.g., the liturgical season). The Gradual hymn, situated in the midst of God's word read from Scripture, will typically relate to one of the readings, or be about God's word to us. During the Offertory, we tend to sing in thanksgiving for God's blessing, or in offering to God. Our Communion hymn is usually reflective in tone, and may focus on Christ's gift of himself to us and our offering ourselves in return. The closing hymn sends us back out into our daily lives, so is often focused on our Christian pilgrimage and response to God. So I need a range of hymns to fit in all these places.

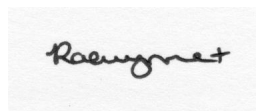
Practical concerns

The Offertory hymn needs to be long enough for the ushers to collect the offertory; the closing hymn needs to be long enough to get the acolytes, choir, eucharistic ministers and clergy out the door!

Hymns need to be singable. A hymn might be absolutely perfect for the readings and the theme of the day, and a particular position in the service, but the setting just might be too difficult for our congregation to sing. Sometimes I can find another tune that fits the meter of the words; other times I just have to abandon that hymn as an option. Finally, we don't want to sing the same half dozen hymns all the time, so I keep track of when we sing hymns, and try not to sing any one hymn more often than once every three months or so.

So to choose the hymns for any given Sunday, I start by making a list of hymns that relate to the lectionary readings set for that day, and any seasonal hymns. I evaluate them for singability, and check to see if we have sung any of them recently. I then begin to allocate them to places in the service. If there are any gaps, I look for more general hymns that might fit the flow of the service. Hopefully, at the end of it all, we have a selection of hymns that will help us all to worship God.

Blessings,



THE WARDENS' COLUMN

We do take on the appearance of our thoughts, our desires, our actions. Remember what Solomon said: "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7)

When you read this the Harvest Festival, Feast of St. Francis/Blessing of the Animals and St. James Day will be at our doorstep. Confirmation at the Cathedral, Halloween, and All Saints Day will be on the near horizon. It all comes and goes so quickly. Quite often in the busyness of our lives we become overwhelmed and are "beside ourselves" with emotion: frustration, dismay, fear; hope, joy, gratitude. Whatever we are feeling it is often difficult to explain why.

It is exactly when we are "beside ourselves" that we can faithfully turn to scripture and Jesus Christ to find our way in them. On Sunday September 27th those of us in church were fortunate to hear an extraordinary sermon from a visiting deacon and former homiletics student of Raewynne's, Anthony Jones. A good preacher has a way of connecting the word of God to our current existence. Through the grace of God they seem to be speaking directly to us individually. He spoke about the community of church and how as Christians it matters how we feel and that we support one another.

Our mission and many ministries and endeavors here at St. James require some effort, a little sweat equity, and lots of prayer. "It Takes a Village". Whatever your opinion of Hilary Clinton is, the message in her book is so universally true that it often seems trite: Individually we can do only so much, collectively we can move mountains. Sometimes we hesitate thinking we can contribute so little, so why embarrass

ourselves by the meagerness of our gift. Yet each gift of time, or talent, or devotion is magnified so many times over. The gift may seem small to you, yet the rebounding gratitude is enormous.

Setting up the Book Nook, Gold Elephant tables, the jam and baked goods displays may seem like an overwhelming task. But your contribution needn't be more than giving earrings you have lost interest in, or a plate of brownies or corn bread. Or perhaps you could serve a brother or sister in Christ for an hour by giving them a lunch break.

This is the kind of painless giving that brings life to a community. It gives energy to all those involved. It feeds a need for communion with like minded people whose journey toward God is ongoing. And who knows, while in community you might find someone who knows a great babysitter, or a podiatrist down the street who is "wonderful." These are opportunities to meet a "fellow poet" or a "kindred soul."

Random acts of kindness and giving in our parish extend to our community, and our larger world. They teach us the glory of giving and receiving, of thanksgiving and gratitude. They bring us closer to God's grace.

Deacon Jones finished his sermon with the poem, "It Shows in Your Face". It is a poem his great aunt shared with him as a boy. The last stanza reads:

*"If your life is selfless, if for others you live,
For not what you get, but how much you can
give;
If you live close to God in his infinite grace-
You don't have to tell it, it shows in your
face."*

With peace and thanksgiving,
Chris & Alex

"AN EARLY COMMITMENT OF FAITH AND CONFIDENCE"

The Wardens and Vestry members of St. James Parish have made early pledges towards the fall annual campaign. Collectively, they have increased their pledge of financial support of our ministries here at St. James for 2016 by 6%. You will be receiving pledge cards in the mail shortly. Please take the next few weeks to prayerfully consider your role and commitment to Christ's church here at St. James. Pledge cards will be due by Nov. 1st.

Faithfully,
The Stewardship Committee
Chris Mauro (Chair), Alex Rich, Jennifer
Lawrence, the Very Rev. Canon Dr.
Raewynne Whiteley - Rector

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

"Walking the Way"

- Oct. 4 Feast of St. Francis
Rector's Pledge letters mailing
- Oct. 13, 20, 27
Tuesday morning prayer
walks
- Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1
Sermon connected with
Stewardship
Stewardship handout
- Oct. 11, 18, 25
Personal testimonies
- Oct. 24 Parish Walk greenway trail
- Oct. 31 All Saints costume party
- Nov. 1 All Saints Day/Commitment
Sunday

OUTREACH

Chaplain Brenda Ford at Protestant Campus Ministry at Stony Brook University has been very busy this fall with services and programs for students.

She is a wonderful role model for all. A number of her students have graduated and moved away; other graduates are helping her with undergraduate events. Father Farrell Graves, from All Souls Episcopal Church in Stony Brook and Caroline Church, is also assisting her with services and programs. St. James has contributed some extra funds this year, due to a budget surplus from 2014. Money continues to be "touch and go" for this ministry, despite the generosity of several local churches like ours and many individuals. Students are once again collecting toiletries that they package for those in need. Our collection basket for toiletries is in the narthex. Please pray for Chaplain Brenda, her students, and for PCM.

We hope for a Habitat for Humanity work day this fall. Please let Ken LeCluse know if you would like to participate. We have money yet in our outreach budget which Ken would like to hand to Habitat when we have our work day.

The Outreach Committee held a meeting in Spring 2015. Decisions were made for the gifts below:

+ There was a surplus of \$1,500.00 in the 2014 church budget that was allocated for outreach - \$1,000.00 has been sent to PCM.; \$500.00 will be given to Habitat when we have a work day this fall (or sent to them by the end of 2015).

+ There is \$4,000.00 in the 2015 church budget for outreach:

\$2,500.00 has been sent to PCM

\$250.00 has been sent to the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society in Jerusalem

\$250.00 has been sent to Episcopal Relief & Development to be used for Haiti

\$250.00 (held for an emergency) is being sent to the Diocese of LI for the Refugee Ministry

\$500.00 will be given to Habitat (along with the \$500.00 above from 2014) on our work day, or will be sent to them by the end of 2015.

\$250.00 will be sent to Bread for the World this fall.

Budget Summary: The only remaining outreach money to be paid out this year is \$1,000.00 for Habitat and \$250.00 for Bread for the World.

Beyond the Budget in 2015, St. James parishioners have contributed:

31 units of blood on Good Friday

\$195.00 for the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society in Jerusalem (Good Friday Offering)

\$1,200.00 to ERD for Nepal

Many baby gifts for St. John's Hospital in Far Rockaway (Mother's Day tributes)

\$1,320.00 for Brooklyn children to attend Camp DeWolfe

Prayer Shawls for the families of the shooting victims at the A.M.E. Church in South Carolina.

20 complete backpacks and extra school supplies for Habitat children

Individual checks to the LI Diocese's Episcopal Ministries

Individual checks to the LI Diocese for the Refugee Ministry.

Between now and the end of 2015, parishioners will be asked to:

*Knit & crochet for the Seamen's Church

- Institute's Christmas at Sea Program
- *Give Pick-a-Star Christmas gifts to home-bound parishioners and developmentally disabled neighbors.
 - *Give Adopt-a-Family Christmas gifts to the Episcopal Diocese of LI

Thank you to all for keeping Outreach alive and well at St. James Episcopal Church !

- Sue Krall

CAMP DE WOLFE

All parishioners and their families are invited to join Bishop Provenzano at Camp DeWolfe's Annual Celebration Luncheon on Saturday, November 21st at 12 noon.

The luncheon will take place at Camp DeWolfe, 408 North Side Road, Wading River. Space is limited, and reservations are required in advance. Call 631-929-4325 or email office@campdewolfe.org to reserve your tables. There is seating for 8 guests at each table, and reservations are \$75 per person. All proceeds go towards the ongoing ministry at Camp DeWolfe.

LUNCH BUNCH

On Tuesday, October 27, at 12:30 p.m. the Lunch Bunch will meet at Spuntino Restaurant, 420 North Country Road, St. James. All parishioners and friends are welcome to attend. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

OFFICE ANGELS NEEDED

Laurie will be on vacation the week of October 19. We need people to fill in for a couple of hours a day in the office, answering phones, making copies, etc. If you can volunteer some time that week, please speak to Laurie before October 16.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 1 Book Nook set-up 6:00 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Jewelry pricing 10 a.m.
Book Nook open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Lawson graveside service and burial 3:00 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 **Harvest Festival** 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - rain or shine
- 4 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with Blessing of the Animals
Children's Formation classes
St. James Day fair with Blessing of Animals
- 5 Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Prayer Walk 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Fall Clergy Day - diocese
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Nursery school parent workshop 7:00 p.m. - Mills Hall
- 9 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
Confirmation prep 1:00 p.m.
- 12 **Columbus Day** - office closed
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Prayer walk 8:30 a.m.

- Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
- Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Knitter's group 11:30 a.m.
- Nursery school parent workshop
7:00 p.m. - Mills Hall
- 15 Endowment Committee 4:00 pm
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Tarantino/Roseto wedding
rehearsal
- Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Diocesan Confirmation - 11 a.m.
Cathedral
- 18 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
- Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- Children's Formation classes
- Tarantino/Roseto wedding 4 p.m.
- 19 Yoga class 5:30 p.m.
- Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Prayer walk 8:30 a.m.
- Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
- Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- Nursery school parent workshop
7:00 p.m. - Mills Hall
- 23 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Parish Walk - Greenway Trail
Mills Hall rental 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
- Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- Children's Formation classes
- 26 North Suffolk Garden Club
4:00 p.m. - Mills Hall
- Vestry meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Prayer Walk 8:30 a.m.
- Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
- Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- Pre-Diocesan Convention
Meeting, St. Mary's Lake
Ronkonkoma TTBA
- 28 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- Challenger Teen Group
5:30 p.m. - M.H.
- 29 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Mills Hall rental 6:30 p.m.
- Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Nursery school Halloween party

10 a.m. - 12 Noon - M.H.
All Saints Potluck Dinner &
Costume party - TTBA.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Art Gureck
Theresa Euler
Cynthia Bennett
Anna Rung
Brendan Jeffrey
Teddy Fiore-Rosenfeld
Jeremy Siedlak
Patty Prentiss
Sue Krall
Sean Glogg
Alex Euler
Calvin Dean
Jake Dean
Robin Dahlgard
Helga Reisenauer
Ian vanPraagh
Emily Mauro
Ryan Grigoletto
Tony Mercep

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jack & Sarah Harrington
Dennis & Donna Guinaw
Bill & Amelia Bowden