

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

October 2016

FROM THE



RECTOR

On Tuesday morning, at our midweek Eucharist, we celebrated the feast of St. Michael and all Angels. The word "angel" means messenger, and that's what angels are in the Bible. They are

messengers from God. Sometimes they appear in human form, but most of the time there is no description of what they look like – they may even be invisible. In Christian art, they are often depicted in human form, with wings to signify their swiftness and spacelessness, swords to signify their power, and dazzling raiment to signify their ability to enlighten. That tradition is reflected in our own stained glass.

As we talked about the stained glass, our conversation turned to the other windows, and the way they depict not only angels, but Jesus himself. We have the big window over the altar, with Jesus reigning in glory, the good shepherd by Tiffany, and back under the balcony, Jesus calming the storm. Each of us has our own favorite images of Jesus, the ones that we connect with most deeply. But many of them never appear in stained glass.

Scripture is full of different ways of speaking about God. In our first Bible study in our series about God in John last week, we explored the way that John talks about Jesus as word, light, and life. Other ways God is spoken of in

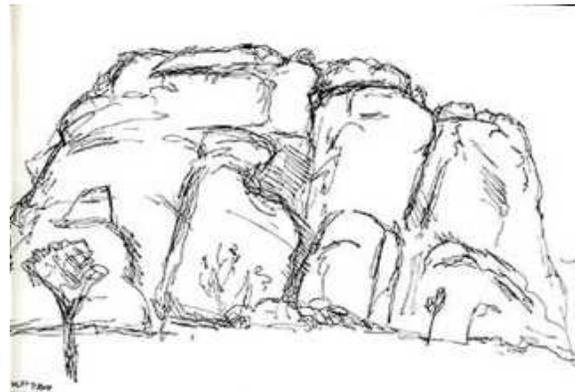
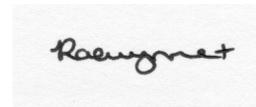
Scripture are shepherd, king, father, eyelid, eagle, nursing mother, judge, rock, lion, fortress, friend, co-worker, potter, wind, breath, vine, farmer, old woman, mother hen, bridegroom, fountain, gate, water, bread, and fire. The Psalms are especially rich: Psalm 18 begins

1. I love you, O Lord, my strength.
2. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Each of us has our favorite images of God that speak to us. During our conversation on Tuesday, Marge Cobb said, "we all look to Jesus as a rock. Someone strong, that can pull us up, not just someone who just pats you on the back and says, 'There, there.'"

So what image of God speaks to you?

Blessings



WARDENS' COLUMN

Is summer really over and fall in full swing? It hardly seems possible and yet even the Harvest moon has been and gone. For so many the summer months are about freedom and more leisure time. Yet within our parish summer is so often a period of intense planning, formation, and simply hard work. Think of all that has been accomplished: dry wells and a new cesspool at Mills Hall, a new sidewalk entry to MH, re-grading and seeding of the lawn where the work was done, the removal of diseased trees, the relocation of both the Nursery School to the CE building and of Godly Play to the Parish House, the painting and refurbishing of the rooms therein, and the formulation of a plan for the future of our parish, known as "Sustaining St. James". It was a summer of overwhelming accomplishment and the real and palpable sense that we are moving forward, not standing still.

In a year of such uncertainty in politics, domestic civil turmoil, and horrific world affairs, we have been able to joyously come together for the Strawberry Festival, the Feast of St. James, the BBQ, Kickoff Sunday, and St. James Day. And there are more celebrations to come. Although the lack of a Harvest Festival still lingers for some of us as a sadness (where ever will we find our jam fix?), we have much to look forward to with meetings on rejuvenating our buildings and our mission, with Sam White to help guide us, the Blessing of the Animals this next Sunday, the Stewardship campaign, the historic cemetery tour, All Souls' potluck dinner, the Calcaterra book signing, and of course, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. And amidst this revelry is the reconvening of our blessed Bible Study every other Wednesday: the gift to dig yet more deeply into our belief and our gift of the Word.

We are lucky to have so many choices, which while providing challenges and more effort, and most definitely faith, also do not include the greater challenges so many face such as bias, deprivation, violence, loss of homeland or death. We must offer our Thanksgiving, our devotion, our praise, to the power which holds us up, guides our steps and offers to find us when we feel lost. Thanks be to God.

- Alex & Jennifer

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 9:30 a.m.

One of our special services, the Blessing of the Animals, a commemoration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, is scheduled for Sunday, October 2 at the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist. You are invited to bring your pets to the service that morning, where they will receive an individual blessing. All animals must be leashed, crated, or otherwise restrained. St. Francis pet medals will be available for a \$1.00 donation during coffee hour.

BIBLE STUDY "Who is God?"

In furtherance of our commitment as a parish to grow in faith through scripture and prayer, the Christian Education Committee has reconstituted the adult Bible study program. Our first meeting was last Wednesday, September 21st where we read the Gospel of John, Chapter 1. Bible study will be held every other Wednesday at 7 p.m., and the hope is that it will be held on a rotating basis at parishioner's homes. Our next meeting on Wednesday, October 5, 7 p.m., will be hosted by Chris and Kathy

Mauro, 3 Toga Drive, Stony Brook (opposite Stony Brook Road at the blinker light). We will be reading John, chapters 3-5. It is not necessary to bring a Bible with you, as we will have printed copies of the reading.

- Jack Harrington

STEWARDSHIP

So many difficult things are going on in the world. Sometimes we avoid the news just so we don't have to be reminded of the violence, destruction, and suffering. As we kick off our 2016 stewardship campaign, "Living Generously", we may ask ourselves, how can we live generously when all this loss is going on in the world? People in the Bible often lamented to God about the goings on in their world. It is in our lamenting that we ask God to remember those suffering and remember ourselves. It is truly a form of prayer that brings us before God and reaffirms our relationship with Him. He is God and in control of all things and this fact brings us to hope, brings our despair to trust, moves us from fear to confidence. God hears us and God sustains. When we see that God is there and loves us deeply, we can respond in trust, in faithfulness and in generosity of kinds. Let us turn our lament into hope and generosity that shows that God is at work in our life, our church, and our world.

(adapted from the Living Generously stewardship narrative series for October 2, 2016)

- Amy Jeffrey

ALL SAINTS' DAY POTLUCK SUPPER

On Tuesday, November 1, we will celebrate All Saints' Day with a potluck supper at 6 p.m. in Mills Hall. Parishioners are invited to come dressed as their favorite saint, and bring a dish to share. Watch the Sunday bulletin for further information.

THANK YOU FROM HABITAT

In August, we delivered many backpacks filled with school supplies to Habitat for Humanity for distribution to Habitat kids. Here is a thank you note we recently received from one family:
"Thank you for your considerate contribution. We appreciate all that you do to help us achieve our goals!"

- The Summers family

AUTHOR TALK & BOOK SIGNING

Regina Calcaterra, author of *Etched in Sand*, will speak and sign hers and her sister's new book, *Girl Unbroken*, at St. James Church on Sunday, November 13 at 1 p.m. A reception in Mills Hall will follow the program. This is a benefit to support Church outreach programs. Speak to Pat Westlake for more information.

WOMEN'S HEALTH DAY

A Women's Health Day event is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Melville Marriott, 1350 Walt Whitman Road, Melville.

The keynote speaker will be Linda Ellerbee. Known for her wit, wisdom, and outspoken nature, this legendary television journalist, producer, writer, anchor, and best-selling author is also a breast cancer survivor, mom, and grandmother. Having survived many trials in both her personal and professional lives, she will speak about how "Change is a Form of Hope".

This half-day event includes your choice of three health seminars (see website for list), continental breakfast and a buffet lunch with the keynote speaker. Registration fee: \$25.00. For more information call (631) 444-4400, or to register visit womenshealthday.com.

Madelyn Cousins

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

If you are new to St. James, you may wonder how people get their birthdays and anniversaries celebrated in the Sunday bulletin and in *Open Doors* each month. It's very easy! Just email the office at stjamesc@optonline.net and let us know the month and day of your birthday or anniversary, and we will be happy to add you to our list.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

If you, a relative, or close friend is experiencing an illness or serious problem, prayers can help. You can call or email the office, and we will be happy to include them in our Sunday prayers for the sick. We try to update the list monthly, so are also happy to hear when people are well again, or that their problem has been resolved.

We also have a Prayer Chain, which is a group of parishioners who are willing to pray on a regular basis for those who are ill or in trouble. If you are interested in being included in that group, or wish to add someone's name to the prayer list, you may contact Wylie Hunt: wyliehunt@gmail.com.

Parishioners who are experiencing personal or health issues are also asked to call the Rector to let her know.

CHRISTMAS AT SEA KNITTING FOR THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE

If you are interested in knitting scarves, hats, or other items for the seamen, there will be a box in Mills Hall with yarn and patterns available for your use.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Mother Paulette Schiff, who had been our interim priest prior to Raewynne's arrival, passed away on September 17 after a long struggle with cancer. A memorial service will be held for her on Saturday, October 8, 1 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 31 Rider Avenue, Patchogue. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Episcopal Relief and Development. Our prayers and sympathy go out to her husband, **Walter**, and family.

Charles Kroll, stepfather of **Stephanie Coleman**, passed away on Monday, September 26 after an extended illness. The wake is at Hawkins and Davis Funeral Home in Smithtown on Friday, September 30 (2-4 and 7-9). His funeral will be held at Sts. Philip and James Church on Saturday, October 1, at 10 a.m. Our prayers and sympathy go out to Stephanie and her family at this time.

Keith Stone, father of **Tim Stone**, passed away earlier in September. Our prayers and sympathy go to Tim, Rachel and family on their loss.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 1 Architect's meeting 1 p.m.
- 2 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Blessing of the Animals 9:30 a.m.
- 3 Cemetery Tour meeting 5 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 6 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 8 P. Schiff memorial service at St. Paul's, Patchogue 1 p.m.
- 9 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 10 **Columbus Day** - office closed
Finance Committee 7 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Bible study at Mauro's 7 p.m.
- 15 Wiedersum memorial service & burial 11 a.m.
- 16 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 17 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

- 19 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Challenger Teen group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 24 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 29 Nursery school Halloween party 10:00 a.m. (outdoors)
Smithtown Historical Society Cemetery tour 1 p.m.
Mills Hall rental - 1:30 p.m.
- 30 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Mills Hall rental - 3 p.m.
- 31 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

*Art Gureck
Theresa Euler
Cynthia Bennett
Brendan Jeffrey
Teddy Fiore-Rosenfeld
Jeremy Siedlak
Patty Prentiss
Sean Glogg
Alex Euler
Jake Dean
Calvin Dean
Robin Dahlgard
Helga Reisenauer
Parker Delaney
Ian Van Praagh
Emily Mauro
Ryan Grigoletto
Tony Mercep*

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

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