



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church



served over many years, but God's call can't be ignored.

We are now entering into a time of transition. I thought it might be helpful to outline the stages of that transition for you.

Saying goodbye

No one likes to say goodbye, but it's such an important time. For the next three months, that will be our focus.

Some of this will be practical, passing on responsibilities for various ministries and making notes on how we do things.

But more important will be the personal goodbyes. I hope to have a chance to spend time with you all informally, so we can say our goodbyes. When I first came to St James, I had a sign up sheet to have a meal or coffee with parishioners. It seems like a good idea to do the same now - so please sign up at the back of the church!

As you will have heard or read, the time has come for me to move on from St James to a new ministry. It's always hard to leave the people and place you have loved and

Nothing will be done about a search for a new priest until after I have left (that's a standard rule in the Episcopal Church).

Discernment

The wardens and vestry will meet with the Diocese's new transition minister, the Rev. Clair Woodley, some time in the next couple of months. She will guide the parish through the discernment process, which will begin in the new year.

There are a couple of options for a new priest. One is the traditional search, which can take up to two years; during this time there would be an interim priest. The other is to call a priest-in-charge, where the wardens and vestry can request that the bishop provide one or more candidates who would be a good fit for our parish. There is a simplified interview process, and the chosen candidate is appointed for one to three years. After two years, the priest-in-charge may be invited by the parish to formally become the rector.

Welcoming a new priest!

This time ahead of us will be hard, but holy, as we remember what God has done among us, and pray for God's blessing in the years ahead.

Blessings,

Raeynnet

THE WARDENS' COLUMN

Transitions

Change is challenging. It incorporates many emotions, often all at the same time. There is often uncertainty, mixed with reminiscence, mixed with some degree of optimism and excitement. It is also an opportunity to expand our hearts and embrace one another in communal faith and prayer. It gives us a chance to give thanks for past and current blessings. It gives us time to dream of the future, of our expectations, and our commitments.

Raewynne has been careful and giving in planning a smooth timeframe for saying goodbye. Father Gable's two month presence in our congregation will insure our feeling card for and attended to. His faith and friendship are well known to us all. His love of God and His children is so touchingly obvious. And he will remind us of God's selfless love for each of us.

Let us join together now to acknowledge and find rest in the gift of faith, the abiding presence of the Trinity in all our lives, and the sure belief in the undying love of our Lord and Savior.

*O Lord baptize me with love, teach me gentleness,
Let me receive your grace, remove my fear,
Help me feel loved.*

(Richard J. Foster, "Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home")

- Alex and Jennifer

FALL BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study has begun again for the fall. We are meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Webster Room. All are welcome to join. We are currently doing a short study on the Old Testament prophetic book, Joel. After that we will explore the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church as it is told in the Book of Acts. Speak with Chris Mauro for further information.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 8, 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 8 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.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES SALE BOOKS 'N' THINGS SALE

Saturday, October 21

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Please join us! There will be six antique dealers, the church will have tables of wonderful antiques, collectibles and jewelry, and Books 'N' Things will also be open.

In the week before the sale assistance is needed:

Set-up Thursday 10/19 from 12 - 5 p.m.

Set-up Friday 10/20 from 1 - 7:30 p.m.

Day of sale:

Saturday 10/21 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Please let Pat Westlake or Jennifer Lawrence

know when you can help – come for an hour, two, three, or more. We work hard, but we have fun and good fellowship.

- Pat Westlake

STEWARDSHIP: A JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY

Life is an opportunity. Life is a journey. A journey to saying “yes” to God who calls us the Beloved. Life is a journey to love; a journey to welcome; a journey to invite; a journey to peace; a journey to generosity.

From the moment we draw our first breath to the moment we breathe our last, we are both receivers and givers. How we move from takers of everything given to us to sharing everything we have is one measure of how we live into saying, “Yes”.

On our journey to generosity, we learn from our parents and other family members. We learn from friends and church members. We learn through our own actions and from hearing the stories of other generous people.

The gospel stories of Jesus inform, challenge, and inspire us. Whether it’s the story of the Good Samaritan, the rich young ruler, or Zacchaeus, Jesus invites us into what the journey to generosity looks like.

This year’s stewardship theme is “Journey to Generosity”. We invite you all into that journey. It is not simply about how much we give to support the mission and ministry of our parish. The journey is about how we live our lives as the Beloved.

Are we generous in our dealings with others?

Are we generous when we welcome the

stranger and the strange to church on Sunday mornings?

Are we generous in our forgiveness and in our acceptance of forgiveness?

More information will come to you later in October.

*Raewynne J. Whiteley, Rector; Amy Jeffrey,
Vestry stewardship representative*

OUTREACH

Episcopal Relief and Development is supporting emergency relief efforts in Puerto Rico following the impacts of hurricanes Irma and Maria. The organization is providing temporary housing, medical care, food and meal delivery, clothing, home repairs, water, and first aid supplies.

Throughout the Caribbean, Florida, and Georgia hurricanes have also spread destruction and upended lives.

Contributions to Episcopal Relief and Development’s Hurricane Relief Fund will help support church and other local partners as they provide critical emergency assistance to those most in need in the weeks and months ahead. To donate online go to episcopalrelief.org. To donate by mail: Episcopal Relief and Development, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield VA 22116-7058. Your gift of any amount will make a difference.

ALL SAINTS’ DAY POTLUCK SUPPER

On Wednesday, 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.

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 are patterns for knitted and crocheted items available in the church entry, along with patterns for sewn ditty bags, and online at <http://seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea>.

We also have plenty of yarn available. Finished items can be given to the Rector. Marty Scott will be taking over this ministry at the end of the year.

THANK YOU FROM HABITAT

Following our donation of backpacks and school supplies to the Build-A-Backpack for Habitat for Humanity in July, we received the following note of thanks:

"It's sometimes easy to forget that there are nice people out there doing nice things for others. The world needs more people like you. For joy is a part of each nice thing you do... The kindness you share brightens many days. Thank you for all of your wonderful ways.

The Guerrero family"

ADVENT MEDITATIONS

The response to the Lenten Meditations booklet was so positive, that the Vestry has decided to do the same thing for Advent this year.

We invite parishioners to sign up for a day, and offer a meditation that we will print for everyone to read. Each person will volunteer for a day, will read the readings set for that day, choose a focus, and then prepare a brief reflection on it. Your

reflection may be in the form of a short written reflection, a drawing, a photo, or a quote from poetry or a book. Many parishioners have already signed up – please join them! Kids are welcome. There is a sign up sheet with readings in the back of the church on Sunday morning, or you may speak with Raewynne.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch invites all parishioners to meet on Tuesday, October 31, 12:30 p.m. at Old Street Pub, 92 E. Main Street in Smithtown. Please speak to Fjeril Deal (631) 724-3720 to make your reservation.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

If you have a note to leave the Rector, Vestry, or office on a Sunday morning, please leave it in our new trays. One is at the back of the church and one is in Mills Hall. The paperwork will be picked up on Monday mornings and distributed to the proper party.

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 we 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.

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.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

On Monday, September 25, many parishioners and friends joined the family to celebrate the life of **Ernie Harders**, who died on September 21 after a long struggle. His son, Bill, gave a touching eulogy during the service, sharing many stories of life in the Harders family. Our prayers go out to Louise and her extended family as they mourn the passing of their beloved Ernie.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 1 St. James Day in town
- 2 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Fall Clergy Day - Rector
Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 5 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 6 Painting class 10:00 a.m.
- 8 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
the Blessing of the Animals

- 9 Columbus Day - office closed
- Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 12 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 13 Painting class 10:00 a.m.
- 15 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Children's Formation classes
- 16 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Special Connections group 6 p.m.
- 19 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 20 Painting class 10:00 a.m.
Set up for antiques show 1 p.m.
- 21 **Antiques & Collectibles Sale/ Books 'N' Things sale** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 22 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 23 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 26 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 27 Painting class 10:00 a.m.
- 29 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 30 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.