



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

September 2009

FROM THE Recently, I've received



a number of invitations to participate in charity events on Sunday morning. Each time I call back and say, "We'd love to support your event, but it's running at the same

time as our worship, and worshipping together is at the heart of our lives as Christians." And each time I go back to our baptismal covenant, where we promise "to continue in the apostles teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers," a phrase taken directly from Acts 2:42. And the primary time that we keep this promise is when we gather for worship on Sunday mornings: we hear the apostles' teaching in our scripture readings; we share in fellowship with one another; we break bread in the Eucharist, and of course, we pray for one another.

Here at St. James, we've chosen to express it in a slightly different way. In our mission statement, we say that we "seek to be transformed by grace into faithful disciples of Jesus Christ." Last week in Vestry we talked about what it means to be a faithful disciple, and how we seek that out. And while what we do Sundays is central, what we found was that most of us need more help.

One thing that people have found particularly helpful is studying the Bible, especially as part of a group, where we can share knowledge and wrestle together with difficult passages. For many years, a group has been meeting on Thursday mornings. In addition, this last

February the Christian formation and Education Committee did an experiment. We started a weekly evening Bible study, and invited individual members of the congregation to join us. It's thriving, and as you will see from our Senior Warden's report below, has been richly rewarding.

We would now like to open it to the whole parish. Come join us for Bible study. The Tuesday evening group meets 7:15 to 8:45 p.m., and is coordinated by Kathy Sides and Chris Mauro. The Thursday morning group meets in the Webster room from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and is coordinated by Les Bengtson. I will be beginning a new study on Wednesday nights from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. at the Rectory. All three groups will be studying the New Testament letter to the Colossians; the Rectory group is particularly designed as a "Beginner's Bible Study," for those who haven't been part of one before (though you're also welcome at the other groups). We'll be starting up the week of September 20. So, please join us - all you need is a Bible and a willingness to learn and participate! And for more information, please talk with me, Les, Kathy, or Chris.

Blessings,
Raewynne

A WARDEN'S REPORT

When you read the national church and diocesan canons and the parish bylaws, the role of the Vestry and of the Wardens is not provided with detailed requirements and responsibilities.

From different readings it does seem that most agree that Wardens have:

- * Legal responsibilities with regard to property and contracts.
- * Fiduciary responsibilities.
- * Responsibilities to the congregation.
- * Responsibilities to the rector and other clergy.

The following *Ten Commandments for Vestries* was written by David A. Williams, D. Min., the Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

- * Thou shalt accept the fact that you can't fix everything.
- * Thou shalt accept the fact that if you were not a child of God, you would not be here.
- * Thou shalt accept the fact that loving each other as Christ loves us is often very difficult – but it works!
- * Thou shalt accept the fact that church life is sometimes hard, frustrating, unfair, but always interesting.
- * Thou shalt expect the best only from yourself – others will follow your example.
- * Thou shalt trust that your colleagues will be able to work out problems better than you can by yourself.
- * Thou shalt remember that your feelings will get hurt – learn to forgive and move on.
- * Thou shalt hurt the feelings of others – seek their forgiveness and move on.
- * Thou shalt remember that we are all more human than otherwise – so learn to enjoy yourself.

* Thou shalt remember that in all things we say, think, and do, God is with us.

Where do the Wardens and Vestry find the strength to proceed; how are our hearts and souls encouraged? How do we make this a rich and rewarding time in our spiritual and faith journey?

For this Warden, I am trying something new – at least for me – I joined a Bible study. It was something I was always going to do but where would I find the time? I finally just did it, just made the commitment. Every Tuesday night (well, most Tuesday nights) I join with others from our parish (including the Rector and fellow Vestry members), people with many diverse gifts to share. I even bought my first Bible. I had always relied on using one of the many Bibles my mother had, and filled with her notes. Although I still enjoy using hers, I thought it was time to fill my own Bible with my own notes.

What do I get from Bible study? I spend time experiencing God, I spend time growing in my knowledge of God. It is a time of fellowship where we support and encourage each other. It is a time for the members of the group to utilize our unique gifts and to build up one another in faith.

- Pat Westlake



BISHOP'S CONSECRATION

As part of the celebration of our new Bishop's consecration, people are being asked to bring canned food for Episcopal Community Services on the day of the service. We at St. James can join in by bringing canned food to church on Homecoming Sunday, September 13. We will give ours to our Food Pantry and let our new Bishop know it was given in his honor.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 IS HOMECOMING SUNDAY!

A celebration of our parish and a time to move back into the rhythms of worship, prayer, fellowship, education, outreach, and service. Services will be at 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School registration and a Ministry Fair at coffee hour. Come and find out all the things that are happening here at St. James.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATON SEPTEMBER 13TH

On Sunday, September 13th we will welcome back our children and teachers for the 2009-2010 school year. The children will be able to register for classes, which will start the following week. We look forward to seeing you all back again! Bring your friends and neighbors with you for what we hope will be a classes filled with learning, fun, and friendship.

YOGA CLASS

Beginning the week of September 7th the Tuesday yoga class will be dropped until January. Until then, we will hold class on Thursday at 4:30, and consider the possibility of an additional class either Wednesday or Friday after 3:30. A core group of about ten women have attended regularly for over a year and are happy with the results of their practice.

Many people who suffer from back problems have been told to try yoga by their doctors. The head doctor at Long Island Spine told Tony to do yoga for his back pain because "It strengthens and stabilizes the spine." Typically yoga helps those who have tried medication and rest without long lasting relief. It's never too late to start, and you'll be surprised at how easy the slow and mindful stretching is. We enjoy the peaceful and supportive energy of our group practice, and everyone agrees that the hardest part of yoga is "getting in the car and coming to class." Once we assemble on the mats time goes quickly and we all feel energized, peaceful, and healthier as we leave. I believe that yoga is the fountain of youth, mobility, and longevity. I hope I'm right. Please join us.

- Mary Jane DeVito

**UMPTTEENTH ANNUAL
PIG ROAST
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2009**

Time to PIG OUT! This is an annual parish-wide event with lots of fun and special people ... YOU! We will gather at 4:30 to enjoy cocktails, snacks, and activities outside on the great lawn beside the church while the dinner quietly roasts while being lovingly tended by a superior world-class group of chefs. The recipes for the wonderful old Louisiana southern barbeque marinades were given us by former parishioner, Bill Tuttle, whose father had passed them on to him. For those of you with sensitive stomachs, not to worry – the hot and spicy sauce is only applied to one side of the pig! There will be entertainment, music, and lots of fun.

Remember to take advantage of our early bird reservation special: \$15 per person if paid on or before September 14th, \$20 at the door. Children through age 15, \$10 for pork dinner and \$5 for hot dogs. Under 5, no charge. But, we need to know "numbers" – so sign up after church, at coffee hour, by mail, or call the church office. If paying by check, make it payable to the church and write Pig Roast on the memo line. Cash may be given in person at the office, or to a committee member when you sign up.

Any questions, feel free to contact the Gurecks (751-2614) or the LeCluses (588-1176). Volunteers to help with clean up are heartily welcomed.

Come and enjoy the fellowship!! Remember to BYO beverages.

- Ruth & Ken LeCluse

**HARVEST FESTIVAL
PREPARATIONS**

St. James annual Harvest Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 17. It is not too early to make plans for a successful event. Here's how you can help:

Bakery Table - Make simple home-baked breads, cakes, pies, brownies, cupcakes, muffins and cookies. Contact Ann Tebbutt at 751-7408 or anntebbutt@hotmail.com

Book Nook - Donate your gently used books (no encyclopedias, condensed books, or magazines, please), which should be in good condition. Books can be delivered to the lobby of the Christian Ed. building. Contact Stephanie Coleman at 689-0663 or ssc6263@aol.com.

Bottle Table - Donate bottles of any size filled with items valued from one to ten dollars. Be creative and fill a bottle yourself, or donate one already filled (salad dressing, wine, bath salts, etc.) Bottles can be given to Les and Joan Bengtson at 656-5850.

Craft Table - All types of crafts are needed. If you paint or do woodworking or modeling or any other handcraft, we would be delighted to have some of your work to sell. Suggestions for projects for sewers, knitters, and crocheters are available. Contact Pat Kregler at 863-1113 or patkreg@verizon.net

Gold Elephant - If you have good quality gift and decorative items or gently used "treasures" that you no longer want, they can be donated for this table. No garage sale items, please. For more information contact Sue Krall at 862-6563 and Joan Mercep at 724-4457.

Jam Table - Your help is welcome at the jam making sessions. We will be switching our schedule in mid September. Please

check the monthly calendar for dates.
Contact Nancy Rasmussen at 724-2083 or
nancyras@optonline.net for more info.

Jewelry Table - We need the jewelry that you no longer wear. We will be able to find a good home for it. Jewelry can be given to Polly Neyssen (751-8451) or brought to the office during the week.

Raffle Baskets - We have many baskets to be filled! Pick a theme and fill a basket with new items (worth a minimum of \$25 total). Wrap the basket in cellophane and bring it to the church office. Baskets will be available during coffee hour in September, or contact Laurie Mannix in the office at 584-5560.

BRUNCH FOR BISHOP OTTLEY

What a wonderful day we had when Bishop Ottley visited St. James on July 26. The service was beautiful and the brunch was delicious. Congratulations to those who were Baptized, Confirmed, and Received! I would especially like to thank Edna Rousseau for being my right hand during every step of the brunch. Thanks also go to Pat Westlake for her planning, shopping, and setup, and to Anita Sequino and Joan Mercep for their help with setup, serving, and cleanup. Thank you, thank you to all the special people who baked, to those who offered to bake, and to Jeri Glogg for that fabulous fresh fruit. Bishop Ottley and his wife said everything was just delicious!

- Sue Krall

HABITAT WORK DAY SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2009

Despite the dismal forecast for a visit from Danny, a tropical storm swirling off the coast, sixteen hearty volunteers trekked out to Westhampton Beach to work on one of the new Habitat for Humanity houses now under construction. A big thank you to Joan and Les Bengtson, Peter Cahill, Art Gureck, Sue Krall, Tom LaMano, Jr., Tom Lamano III, Ken LeCluse, Chris Mauro, his brother Adam and Chris' friend George, Jack Schultheis, James Schultheis, Ann and Ron Tebbutt, and Raewynne Whiteley. They were joined by Habitat construction staffers. Kathy Schaeffer, the director of volunteers for Habitat, Aaron, an Americorp-Vista volunteer from Phoenix who is working with the Habitat affiliate here in Suffolk, and future homeowners doing their sweat equity.

We spent the day putting up the sheet rock walls throughout the house, as the ceilings and tops of the walls had been done the week before. I am very proud of our group, as we worked very well together and completed everything that needed to be done. We experienced rewards throughout the day as we worked side by side with the new home owner, Kathy, and three other new Habitat homeowners, as we witnessed how they felt and what it meant to them to have a new home to look forward to. The homeowner's sister brought Kathy's three boys in for lunch, where we all had birthday cupcakes and sang "Happy Birthday" as her youngest blew out the candles. A good day, with lots of love and good feelings. That is what Habitat is all about! Thanks to Sue, our roving photographer, for her picture taking!

- Ken LeCluse

OUTREACH

* **Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk** - On July 27 Ken LeCluse delivered a check for \$250 from our Outreach budget and 12 backpacks full of school supplies donated by our parishioners to Habitat. The backpacks are given to Habitat homeowners' children so they can start the school year off on the right foot. Not only will they have a new home but also a new start in school. Many thanks to all who donated their time and money to do this. I have a feeling we have changed a few young lives for the better. On August 29 St. James parishioners helped build one of those new homes! (See Ken LeCluse's report on our Habitat Work Day.) Homeowner Cathy invites us all to the dedication of her home when it is completed later this fall. If you missed out on getting a "Habitat High" at this uplifting event, plan to join us the next time we have a work day!

* **The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry** is bare. How would we feel if we opened our own pantry and refrigerator and saw almost nothing?? This is a wake up call! Please buy some extra nonperishable food items for the pantry each time you shop. Bring canned food to church on Homecoming Sunday, **September 13**. When the Rt. Rev. Lawrence C. Provenzano is ordained as Bishop Coadjutor on September 19, we will give him a card saying parishioners at St. James Episcopal Church have collected food in his honor for our local food pantry.

* **Episcopal Charities** is sponsoring a Golf Outing on September 28 to welcome our new Bishop Coadjutor and to benefit Episcopal Charities and Camp DeWolfe. For details, visit <http://www.ecligolf.org/>

* **Protestant Campus Ministry** at Stony Brook University has a new Chaplain, the Rev. Brenda Ford. Chaplain Brenda has a Masters of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and a Masters of

Science degree from Long Island University. Money from St. James' Outreach budget is helping to pay her salary. In addition to her part-time job as PCM's Chaplain, she is also Pastor of Trinity African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Smithtown. On August 30 Chaplain Brenda and other Chaplains in the University's Interfaith Center were busy meeting new students at an activities fair held outside on campus. She was gathering e-mail addresses so she can contact students, faculty and staff. If you are a student or on staff at SBU, send your e-mail address to ChaplainBFord@ProtestantCMSBU.org Her office is in Stony Brook Union room 275. Stop by and say hi. Chaplain Brenda will be enthusiastically looking for SBU students who want to attend local churches. If you are able to give a student a ride (even just occasionally) to St. James Church, please let me know.

- Sue Krall

NEW PARISH LIST BEING COMPILED

During the month of September we will be compiling a new parish list. If we do not have you on our current list, or if you have changed your phone number or email address, please let the office know. If we add you to our email list you will be able to get information about parish events on a weekly basis, as well as access the monthly newsletter via your computer.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION & EDUCATION

For the past several months, the CF&E Committee, joined by various other parishioners, has studied 1 Corinthians, chapter by chapter and often verse by verse. Our Tuesday evening discussions have always been thought-provoking and sometimes quite animated. As we have shared our questions and discoveries and been challenged to think about the relevance of our faith for our daily lives, new friendships have grown out of these spiritual conversations. To encourage other parishioners to discover the richness of studying scripture, a second evening study group will be forming in late September. In addition, the Thursday morning group will continue to meet in the Webster room. No experience is required for any of these groups! See the Rector's column for more information.

As the CF&E Committee embarks on the new academic year, we spent some time thinking about how to best define the work of our committee within the scope of our parish's mission statement. The following statement emerged from our conversation: *The Christian Formation and Education Committee exists to encourage faithful discipleship by offering substantive opportunities for adults to grow in their knowledge of Scripture, to reflect theologically, and to share with each other in the transforming journey toward and in faith.*

Questions? Please contact a member of the CF&E Committee: Les Bengtson, Stephanie Coleman, Chris Mauro, Jack Schultheis, or Kathy Sides.

- Kathy Sides

A LETTER OF THANKS

June 30, 2009

Dear St. James Church Congregation,

On behalf of Family Service League and the many families that we serve, I am writing to thank you for your generous donations this past spring. I was happy and fortunate to work with Sandra Tyler (Grigoletto) in organizing this event and want to thank her for her efforts. The family in need was very grateful for your generosity and we were also able to provide needed items to others in need with the gift cards.

As you may know, Family Service League provides a variety of programs and services to our neighbors in need, but cannot do it without the wonderful partnerships that we have with groups such as yours.

Thanks again for working with us and helping those less fortunate. We look forward to our continued work together in the future.

Lisa Jamison, LMSW
Division Director for Family Services

LUNCH BUNCH

On Tuesday, September 29 at 12 p.m., the Lunch Bunch will meet at the Setauket Pita House 100-27 S. Jersey Avenue in East Setauket. The restaurant is located in the area behind the Wild by Nature shopping center. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to sign up.

**ST. JAMES GOSPEL SWINGERS
ANNUAL GET-AWAY**

Plans have been made for the Gospel Swingers annual get-away for October 4 - 7, 2009. This event will be held at Honor's Haven Resort & Spa, 1195 Arrowhead Road, Ellenville NY 12428; phone 845-210-1600 or 866-785-3699; website www.honorshaven.com.

Enjoy a mini vacation at a great location with a group of fantastic fun-loving people! Invite your family and friends.

Deluxe double room rates - \$110 p/p per night includes an 18% resort fee. Also included are 2 buffet meals daily (breakfast and dinner); golf - one 18 hole or two 9 hole; and many additional activities.

Each couple is responsible for making their own reservation (866-345-6028). Please reference the St. James Gospel Swingers room block. There is a \$100 room deposit refundable with 72 hour cancellation notice prior to October 4th.

For further information, contact Nancy Rasmussen at 724-2083 or email her at nancyras@optonline.net.

- Nancy Rasmussen

**LONG ISLAND EPISCOPAL
CURSILLO GOES TO BARBADOS,
WEST INDIES**

On August 14, 2009, a large contingent of Long Island Cursillistas (pronounced: cur-see-eastas) took a flight out of JFK to bring the Episcopal Cursillo (cur-see-o) movement to Barbados, one of the most beautiful islands in the Carribean. The group included

two St. James parishioners, Wylie Hunt Trump and Ken LeCluse, five from Caroline Church in Setauket, and 50 others from throughout the Diocese of Long Island. The week's events were based at Codrington College, a theological college (seminary) of the Anglican Church affiliated with the University of the West Indies. Two sessions ("weekends") were presented to more than 60 Bajan candidates who had applied.

Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning "a short course." It is a movement within the church intended to increase one's knowledge of God's love and grace and to help one discover and live out his/her personal life on a path with Christ. The purpose of Cursillo is to help those in the church grow and understand their individual calling to be Christian leaders.

At the closing ceremonies which were held outside in a tent overlooking the Caribbean Sea, and presided over by the Bishop of the West Indies, a magnificent rainbow, a symbol of the colors of the Cursillo, suddenly appeared, filling the sky. What a moment for all of us!

If you would like more information on the Cursillo, please speak with some of the folks here at St. James who have attended and experienced a weekend: Peter Cahill, June Davies, George and Sue Krall, Ken and Ruth LeCluse, Dara Linthwaite, Polly Neysen, Nancy Rasmussen, Ron and Ann Tebbutt, Wiley and Matt Trump, or Pat Westlake.

- Ken LeCluse

EPISCOPAL CHARITIES GOLF OUTING

Episcopal Charities is having a golf outing on September 28 to benefit Episcopal Charities and Camp DeWolfe. Visit <http://www.ecligolf.org> for more details, online registration and sponsorship opportunities.

- Nancy Rasmussen

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

We celebrate the birth of Amelia Jean Rettig, who was born on July 8, 2009. She is the daughter of Doug and Nancy Rettig, and second granddaughter of Diane and Kurt Rettig. Congratulations to the happy family!

At the visitation of Assisting Bishop James Ottley on July 26 we celebrated the Confirmation of Kurt Rettig, and the Reception into the Episcopal Church of Stephanie Coleman, Tony DeVito, and Joseph Moos.

Also, on that day we celebrated the Baptism of James Patrick Anderson, third son of Chuck and Cara Anderson, who were married here at St. James. They make their home in Massapequa.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Florence Clark, whose son, John passed away on July 28 after a long illness.

Best wishes to Matt Coleman, Leah Tarantino, and Kevin White, as they begin their college careers this fall.

After the summer round of competitive swimming, Justin Plaschka is highly nationally ranked for his class in the butterfly stroke. Way to go, Justin!

Another birth to celebrate! Tyler Robert Moleti was born to Joe and Lisa Moleti on July 25, 2009. His grandparents are Bob and Lil Moleti. Look for his Baptism sometime in the fall. Congratulations to all!

We also congratulate Sara Wilkins, who successfully defended her doctoral thesis at Stendhal University in Grenoble, France this spring. Great work!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Jam session 2 p.m.
- 3 Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Office closed
- 6 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 7 **Labor Day** - office closed
Buildings & Grounds 7 p.m.
GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 10 Jam session 4:30 p.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Yoga class 6:00 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 13 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
**Homecoming Sunday:
Sunday School Registration &
Ministry Fair**
- 14 Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.
GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Jam session 4:30 p.m.

- 17 Bible study 10 a.m.
Potato salad making 4:00 p.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 19 **Installation of Bishop
Provenzano 11 a.m.
Pig Roast 4:30 p.m.**
- 20 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School
Parish Life Comm. 11:15 a.m.
- 21 GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Bible Study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Knitters' group 10 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m. - Rectory
- 24 Jam session 4:30 p.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 26 Toastmasters' Club 9:30 a.m.
M.H. rental 3 - 8 p.m.
- 27 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school
- 28 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Lunch Bunch 12 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Knitters group 10:30 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m. - Rectory

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jack Schultheis
Ernie Harders
Elizabeth DeFilippis
Willy Rasmussen
Louise Harders
Elaina Wall
Nancy Petschauer
Lil Moleti
Grace Rich
Steven Sides
Arthur Strassle
Linda Misa
Lisa Scott
Lani Wille
Charlie Kreussling
Stephen Linthwaite
Gary Perkins

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Steven & Kathy Sides
Ernie & Louise Harders
Tony & Joan Mercep
Art & Joan Strassle
Chris & Kathy Mauro
Larry & Donna Wachter

**ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF
RELIGION IN COMMUNITY LIFE**

Presents: "Awe-Filled Wonder: The Interface of Science and Spirituality" with S. Barbara Fiand, S.N.D. de N., Ph. D., author, national and international lecturer and faculty member of the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University, Chicago.

The program is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, October 8 at 12:40 p.m. at St. Joseph's College, McGann Conference Center, O'Connor Hall 155 W. Roe Blvd., Patchogue. For additional information call S. Suzanne Franck at 687-1285.

St. James Church
Annual Pig Roast

Saturday, September 19th
Cocktails 4:30 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 p.m.

\$15.00 per adult (over 15)
& children eating pork
\$5.00 per child (3 - 15) eating hot
dogs
\$20.00 at the door

Menu:

Barbequed pork, hot dogs,
salads & baked beans
coffee & dessert

Bring your own beverages

**Reservations required by
September 14th.**

Please mail your check to the
church office

