

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

September 2010

FROM THE



Stepping out in Faith

It's the beginning of the new school year, and the stores are full of parents and children shopping for backpacks,

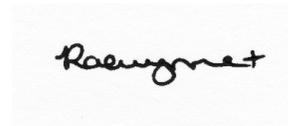
school supplies, and new clothes and shoes. Kids are either excited about going back and seeing all their friends, or nervous about what a new class or school will bring – or both! Teachers are trying to get ready, and the rest of us are adjusting to the demise of the lazy, hazy days of summer and the return of normal schedules.

Fall brings changes at church as well. In our 9:30 a.m. service we switch back from Eucharistic Prayer C to Prayer A; we return to the normal scheduling of hymns. The choir returns and Sunday schools starts up again. 8 a.m. goes on as usual! Bible studies will be starting up; our regular cycle of meetings begins again.

On Sunday, September 12, we celebrate the beginning of the new program year with a Ministry Fair at coffee hour after the 9:30 a.m. service. Come along and see all the ways our parishioners use our gifts to live out our faith in God. There will be opportunities to sign up to participate in various ministries.

The theme of the day will be “Stepping out in Faith.” One of the great themes of the New Testament is allowing God to help us to grow in our faith, to be transformed into the likeness of Christ, to take risks for our Lord. I invite you to step out in faith this Fall. Join a Bible study. Find a way to use your gifts more fully. Pray for our parish, as we take risks to grow in faith through scripture and prayer, build relationships in Christ, and serve one another and the world.

Blessings,



GETTING EXCITED ABOUT GROWING IN FAITH

Saturday, August 28th saw 13 members of our parish gather at Little Portion Friary in Mount Sinai for a retreat. The Friary is a place seemingly steeped in holiness. You just feel closer to God when you are there. It was a day of fellowship, fun, and reflection.

At the conclusion of our retreat, we were asked to write down in our new journals thoughts about two words. The first word was “excite.” Checking the dictionary - “Excite - to put into motion or activity; To call forth, provoke, to arouse feelings, or passion.” It did not seem to be a difficult task, although you could see many of us looking around to see what others were doing. We discovered that we shared many of the same answers: being with friends, a beautiful day, sunsets, walking on the beach, to name a few. We found that we both have a real passion for celebrating God’s creation.

The second word was “faith.” While trying to describe what excites us was a cause for pause, writing down our thoughts about “faith” truly left most of us, well, lost. Ironically, as I struggled to put into words what faith means to me, I wrote down, “comfort, never being alone.” Later that evening while reading a book Raewynne had given me, I came across the following from Jeremiah (17:7-8). *“But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when the heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”* I found myself becoming excited. Excited by the prospect that while I face many struggles, God does dare for me. I certainly wanted to grow in that faith and be comforted.

- Chris & Pat

CHRISTIAN FORMATION & EDUCATION

Fall Bible Studies: Grow in Scripture and Deepen Relationships. Fall is here! And with it comes the opportunity to sign up for a Fall Bible Study that fits your schedule. In sync with the Sunday lectionary readings for the coming months, we will study the New Testament letters that the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy. *Absolutely no previous experience in Bible study is required!* Groups will meet weekly throughout the fall, beginning the week of September 19. Sessions generally last about 1-1/2 hours. Not only do we read and study scripture together, but it’s a great way to make new friends, deepen existing friendships, and pray together. You won’t regret taking this step of faith. In addition to reading the actual letters of I and II Timothy, we will be referring to N.T. Wright’s *Paul for Everyone: The Pastoral Letters of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus*. If you’d like a copy – whether or not you’ll be participating in a Fall Bible Study – we’ll have them available for \$10 each at the September 12 Ministry Fair.

On Retreat. Finally, this past Saturday, August 28, an intergenerational group of 13 parishioners – including 5 current Sunday school teachers – met at Little Portion Friary for a half day retreat. We shared the Eucharist with the Friary Brothers, had lunch together, and then spent a couple hours in reading and discussion two passages of Scripture, silent reflection, and some fun activities. The overall focus of “Stepping Out of the Boat: Getting Excited About Growing in Faith” caused us to reflect that no matter where we are in our faith journey, God is with us. The following blessing says it well:

A toe in the water?

May the streams of the Spirit refresh you.

Up to your ankles?

May the currents of God caress you.

Over your knees?

May the waves of Christ-confidence

surround you.

Out of your depth?

May oceans of Grace uphold and embrace

you.

- Kathy Sides

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 12TH

Sunday, September 12 marks the beginning of our program year. Join us for a special Ministry Fair at coffee hour, where you can find out about the many ministries of our parish, sign up for a Bible study, and/or register your children for Sunday school.

OUTREACH

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry has been served by St. James Parishioners during the month of August. Thank you to the many people who signed up to help and to those who donated and transported food. As always, special thanks go to Claudette Plaschka and Pat Westlake.

Habitat for Humanity has received \$250 from St. James' outreach budget. They also distributed 18 backpacks we donated to homeowners' children at their annual summer picnic in July. Habitat thanks us for our continuing support.

Protestant Campus Ministry has received \$1,500 from St. James' outreach budget and

also thanks us for our faithful support. The Vestry has been sent invitations to hear Chaplain Brenda Ford talk about her ministry on campus on September 17 at 5:30 p.m. at Setauket Presbyterian Church. Other interested parishioners are welcome to come, too. For fun that evening, PCM will have a chili cook-off by local pastors supporting this ministry. Please call me at 862-6563 if you would like to attend.

Episcopal Relief and Development has put out a plea for help for all those affected by the Gulf oil spill. Lives have been devastated and these folks depend on help from ERD. Checks with "Gulf Coast Crisis" on the memo line may be sent to:

Episcopal Relief & Development

P.O. Box 7058

Merriemfield VA 22116-7058

St. James Ministry Fair will be held on September 12 at coffee hour. Come see all the outreach programs this parish offers and see how you can reach out yourself to help others.

- Sue Krall

FOOD PANTRY

A big thank you to the 51 volunteers for your valuable time. We could not have done it without your help. Through August 30th, 104 families were served with a total of 354 individuals.

- Claudette Plaschka

Fruit juice Sunday - On Sunday, September 12th, every family is asked to bring a bottle of fruit juice for the Food Pantry.

PIG ROAST

Saturday, September 18

Cocktails 4:00 p.m.

Dinner 5:00 p.m.

Menu

Roast pig Baked beans

Cole slaw Potato salad

Dessert and coffee

Frankfurters and mac & cheese will be
provided for children

\$20 per adult

\$5 per child under 12 years

*(if the cost is a barrier to your attending,
please speak with the Rector)*

Please bring your own beverage of choice –
ice will be provided.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Mills Hall
on Sundays, September 5, and September
12. The cut-off date is Tuesday, September
14. If you do not put your name on the sign-
up sheet, contact the Gureck's at 751-2614
or the church office by that date if you plan
to attend.

- Arlyne Gureck

COME SHARE IN THE GOLD!

On September 26th, St. James will be
celebrating our hidden treasures. It may
surprise you to know that we have 14
couples here who have enjoyed 50 years and
more of married life! Please join us after the
9:30 service for a special Brunch in their
honor. Sign ups for decorating, set-up, food
and clean up will be available shortly. If you
have any questions, feel free to contact
Stephanie Coleman (ssc6263@aol.com
,751-4151) or Colette Tarantino (751-7932
or ctarantino@mccsd.net).

- Stephanie Coleman

The St. James Family
will celebrate
the love and commitment
of

Tony & Barbara Bastin

Bill & Maria Battler

Bill & Amelia Bowden

Ron & June Davies

Art & Arlyne Gureck

Ernie & Louise Harders

Hank & Eileen Hull

Walt & Pat Kregler

Charlie & Marge Kreussling

Ken & Ruth LeCluse

Bob & Lil Moletti

Mike & Polly Neyssen

Chris & Anita Sequino

Harry & Betty Toop

Sharing more than half a
century of married life

Sunday, September 26,
2010

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Brunch

REFLECTIONS ON THE PARISH TRIP TO ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

On a beautiful, sunny Tuesday, July 27th, an intergenerational group of about 20 St. James parishioners traveled by train to Manhattan to see and tour the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Several young people (and adults, too!) enjoyed riding in the first car next to the engineer and sharing his view. By subway, we traveled uptown to 110th Street.

The Cathedral, the largest in the world, was magnificent. Its height, length, and stonework were awesome. We all attended the noon service. Jeremiah Glogg was offered the opportunity to read the daily scripture (and he did a great job - his first time ever!). Raewynne joined the priest in preparing for and administering Communion. The tour guide then walked us through all of the sections of the Cathedral. She was knowledgeable about the construction, history, and aura of the building. It's actually still a work in progress! She answered our many questions, and used many anecdotes about its diversity and growth.

Jennifer Lawrence recommended a small restaurant in the area where we had a delightful lunch and good conversation. We all seemed to enjoy the day's activities.... especially getting to know each other a little better, the interesting conversations, and the interaction among the various age groups. If future such trips are organized, join in you'll enjoy the experience.

- Joan & Art Strassle

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our prayer shawl group will reconvene on Saturday, September 18th at 8:30 a.m. at the home of Sue Seel, 16 Knox Avenue, Stony Brook, (689-0683). Please come join us. We welcome all levels of expertise, and there are several excellent teachers in our group. A light breakfast will be served. For further information please call me at 751-5618.

"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and confirm for us the work of our hands; yes, confirm the work of our hands."

Psalm 90:17

- Wylie Hunt

BREAD FOR THE WORLD

This past June, our parishioners sent 227 letters to our representatives in Congress requesting them to continue our current tax benefits for low income families by making permanent the provisions in the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit that are set to expire this year. This was a wonderful response by our church to a need that affects millions of people in this country and a significant form of stewardship.

SAVE THE DATE: October 24th, 5:30 p.m. in Mills Hall - Bread for the World's Annual Fellowship Dinner.

We host, and need kitchen volunteers and desserts to help make this event a success. More information to follow.

- Sandy Grigoletto

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Altar Guild is beginning a new chapter now that our devoted/beloved Ann has moved to Virginia and her new home with Ron. We will miss her, and of course, Ron. I am blessed to have been able to take over for Ann, but please understand that I will never be able to fill her amazing shoes. I will ask for time and patience with this transition and Ann will be available to support me. Please see me with any concerns or questions.

September is one of the months that we usually remind all of our parishioners about the weekly donations/stewardship for the Altar Guild. This ministry helps in the preparation of the Lord's Table for worship. Your support helps to place the flowers and candles on the altar and provides the bread and wine for each service. Altar linens are cleaned and replaced through this ministry. In providing a donation you may honor your loved ones with a memorial or in thanksgiving for a special person or significant event. A request form is provided at the end of this issue, as well as at the back of the church. Thank you for your gift and support.

- *Colette Tarantino*

HARVEST FESTIVAL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

Preparations are underway for our annual Harvest Festival. Here's how you can help to make this event successful:

Gold Elephant Donations: The Gold Elephant table is looking for donations of **quality** items such as:

- * antiques
- * collectibles
- * new gift-type items

Table space is always limited, so please, please, please:

- * no cracks, chips, or missing parts
- * no personal care items that are used
- * no yard sale items (save at your house for next spring)
- * no junk or junkie

Please take the time to dust/wash your items before packing them up for church. Clean things bring in more money. However, do not polish metal. The buyer should be in on the "fun" of that discovery process! If you would like to help sell at the Gold Elephant table the day of the Festival, call me (862-6563) or Joan Mercep (724-4457) to schedule a time. Thanks to all.

- *Sue Krall*

Raffle baskets: Once again we will be offering gift baskets for our raffle. We have several baskets available for filling, and items waiting to be combined into a basket. You can pick a theme for your basket and fill it with items worth at least \$25, wrap it with cellophane and bring it in. Please see me if you would like a basket or have any questions.

- *Laurie Mannix*

**PAUL WINTER CONSORT
WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT AT
ST. JOHN THE DIVINE**

On our summer trip, many people expressed interest in attending the Winter Solstice Concert. It is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, Friday, December 17, and Saturday, December 18. The concerts usually begin at 7 p.m. If you are interested, please speak with Pat Westlake.

MEDICARE WORKSHOPS

The Suffolk County Office for the Aging is sponsoring free informational workshops on the basics of Medicare. The workshops will help seniors, care givers, family members and professionals understand what benefits are covered and when to apply.

Workshops will be offered locally as follows:

- 9/13 - West Islip Senior Nutrition
Center, 90 Highboy Lane
- 10/26 - Smithtown Senior Nutrition
Center, 420 Middle Country
Road
- 11/15 - Bay Shore Services &
Advocacy for GLUT Elders,
34 Park Avenue
- 12/8 - Mt. Sinai - Rose Caracappa
Senior Citizen Cultural &
Welness Center, 739 Route
25A

For more information, or to register at any of these workshops, please call the Suffolk Co. Office for the Aging at 853-5802.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

We are sad to report the passing of Peter Bedrosian, husband of Judy, who died on July 16th after a long illness. Our sympathy and prayers are with Judy and family.

Ann and Ron Tebbutt have moved to their new home in Virginia. They will be traveling back and forth between there and Long Island for the next few months, so, we will be seeing them every once in awhile when they have business up this way. Ron and Ann gave much of their talents, love, and time to the support of St. James in their many years as parishioners. They will be sorely missed. We wish them health and happiness in their new home, closer to their daughter, Kelly.

Harry and Betty Toop, two more long term, involved members of the parish moved upstate on August 26. We will miss them, as well, and the 8 a.m. Sunday service will lose two "regulars". Their new address is:

2205 Fred Ill, Jr. Court
Pearl River NY 10965
Phone: 845-624-0674

Our best wishes to them as they settle in to their new home.

Our prayers and sympathy go to the Bataller family on the loss of Maria's sister, Theresa Moodhe, who died on August 22nd.

Welcome to the following new parishioners who joined us over the summer:

Charlie and Coral Beil and their boys Aiden and Kael,
Justin and Christa Coughlin, Aiden, and twins Brendan and Elise,

Christina and David Luo and Jonathan,
Maria and Michael Schomber, Julia and
baby Jeremy.

It's great to see so many children and babies
in our church!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
- 2 Jam making 9:00 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
N.A. Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Toastmasters' group 9:30 a.m.
- 5 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 6 **Labor Day** - office closed
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
- 9 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Jam making 4:30 p.m.
- 10 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Ministry Fair & Sunday school
registration 10:45 a.m.
- 13 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Knitting group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Jam making 4:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 **Pig Roast** 4:00 p.m.
- 19 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Baptism & Sunday school
- 20 Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
Smithtown Book Club 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
- 23 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Jam making 4:30 p.m.
- 24 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Nursery school brunch 11:00
a.m. in Mills Hall
Alt wedding 3:00 p.m.
- 26 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Sunday school
Golden Anniversary celebration
- 27 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
- 30 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Jam making 4:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ernie Harders
Jack Schultheis
Elizabeth DeFilippis
Louise Harders
Willy Rasmussen
Elaina Wall
Nancy Petschauer
Lil Moleti
Grace Rich
Steven Sides
Art Strassle
David DeFilippis
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. JAMES ALTAR GUILD

Would you like to honor your loved ones as a memorial, give thanks for a special person or significant event in your life (birthday, anniversary, graduation, etc.), or simply give thanks to God? One way you can do this is by providing an offering for the flowers, wine, bread and candles that are on the altar each week. The names and purpose of the offering will be written in the Sunday bulletin on your requested date. Contributions of \$35 are suggested, but donations of any amount, small or large, are appreciated and will be acknowledged equally in the bulletin.

Please complete the form below and make a check to St. James Altar Guild. If you need to mail the donation, the address is: 490 North Country Rd., St. James, NY 11780. The check and form may also be turned into the church office or placed in the offering plate.

Your Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Requested Date: _____

Purpose: Memorial, Thanksgiving, Graduation, Anniversary, Birthday, etc:

Name/Names of your loved ones: _____



The Altar Guild lovingly prepares the table for all Sunday services and special services – Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals/Memorials, etc. It is our ministry to take care of the linens, candles, flowers and sacramental vessels. Thank you for your gift and support.

