



# Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

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September 2014

F R O M T H E



RECTOR

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is

your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us; prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with

mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."

These wise words are from our Epistle readings last week and this week, from the twelfth chapter of the letter to the Romans. The letter is, for the most part, an extended theological discussion; now Paul is beginning to wrap up by offering a model for our lives as Christians, a kind of manifesto for the church.

It's a timely reminder to us, as we begin a new program year here at St. James. As Christians, we are incredibly blessed by God. God created us and God redeemed us in Christ. The Spirit lives in us. We owe our lives to God. And in response, we offer ourselves back to God.

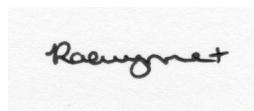
The way Paul talks about this offering is in terms of sacrifice. Sacrifices were something familiar to his readers: in the Greco-Roman world, sacrifices were commonplace, the offering of an animal or produce or money to thank or plead with a god. We often think of sacrifices in negative terms, as in the dictionary definition, "the act of giving up something that you want to keep especially in order to get or do

something else. But Paul means something else.

Sacrifice for Paul is about offering our very selves, the whole of us, mind, body, and spirit, to be used in God's service. That's why he goes on to talk about the gifts that every Christian is given – among them prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, generosity, leadership, and compassion (and there are many other gifts mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament). Each of us is given gifts to use in the service of God. That's how God makes it possible for us to do what God calls us to. And unlike many of our images of sacrifice, this sacrifice, this offering that we are called to make is not, for the most part, painful. It might be costly – in time, in money – but what so many faithful servants of Christ have discovered is that as we offer ourselves to God, we receive so much more in return. God blesses us.

As we continue to live into the ways God is calling us at St. James, to grow in faith through Scripture and prayer, to build relationships in Christ, to serve one another and the world, I call on you to listen to God's call to you. Look at the gifts that God has given you – and they may have changed over time. Often the gifts of our childhood and youth differ greatly from the gifts of adulthood and of older age, for example, they often move from gifts that require a lot of energy, like teaching youth or doing practical work, to gifts that require wise minds, like prayer, teaching, and encouragement. But always God continues to call us, use us, and bless us throughout our lives.

Blessings,



## SPECIAL FALL EVENTS

### September

- 7 Kickoff Sunday - Ministry Fair & Children's Formation registration
- 14 Children's Formation classes begin
- 27 Parish Cookout 4:30 p.m.

### October

- 3 Book Nook sale 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 4 Harvest Festival 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 5 Blessing of the Animals 9:30 a.m.

## THE WARDENS' COLUMN

Fall knocks and it is hard to believe that the easiness and pleasures of summer are soon to be over. Yet Autumn brings a beauty that no other season provides. We reap the bounty of our efforts, our flowers and vegetables, our restored energy, our reconnection with friends and family. The season brings us back to our daily challenges, and yet provides us with the recharged warmth of idle evenings and seaside visits filled with dreams and a sense of both beauty and security.

Here at St. James we come back to our parish family with a renewed commitment, the excitement of reconnection, of purpose and mission. Yes, we have work to resume. Yes, we have to rededicate ourselves. Yes, we have old promises to keep. But we also have the strength of our shared faith and values to lead us forward. And we have exciting events ahead.

First up we have **Kickoff Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**. We will gather in Mills Hall after the service to highlight the many ministries and opportunities to nourish and facilitate the growth of our church community, within our sacred walls and within our larger community. Following

that, on **September 27<sup>th</sup>** we celebrate our annual **Cookout**. This is another opportunity to reconnect as a parish and to invite our friends and neighbors to join us in saluting the end to summer and the beginning of our autumnal celebration. On **October 4<sup>th</sup>** the **Harvest Festival** will be in full swing. This is a shining example of both outreach and fund raising. It is joyful and rewarding.

After that our *Stewardship Campaign* will come into full focus as we prepare to meet the goals of our next fiscal year budget. Happily, Chris Mauro is our experienced chairman, and we have many ideas in the months ahead to not only raise more funds to promote our mission as a church, but also to tap the extraordinary personal resources of our wider congregation, who are not with us each week, yet who have consistently acknowledged our role in their spiritual lives. Think of a *champagne and apple cider evening, a sing along of long loved and cherished songs, a pocket book exchange (!), and evening at the movies with pasta and popcorn, a tour of the cemetery for all those who have committed their loved ones to our sacred soil!* The possibilities are endless. Every proposal each of you might have is welcome. Every offer to help us organize and execute these events is cherished.

Thus, Autumn is not a season of releasing our daydreams and confronting reality. It is so truly a season of harvest and bounty. And the beginning of renewal.

With God's grace and peace,  
*Debbie and Alex*

## SEMINARIAN INTERN

Dear Parishioners,

Over the last few months, we have been privileged to have Diane DeBlasio among us as a seminarian intern. We benefitted from her faith, her preaching, and her teaching skills. Diane is the first to acknowledge that she has grown in each of these areas during her time with our parish, and in her understanding of her own vocation as a priest. However, we are sorry to have to inform you that over the summer we were notified by the Bishop's office that Diane has been reassigned. This has nothing to do with anything we have done or have not done here at St. James. It is simply the result of a more urgent need elsewhere. Another parish in our diocese is deeply struggling and has great need for her guidance and her gifts. Thus, Diane is being sent there, with supervision from the priest of a nearby parish, with the expectation that she will remain there as their priest once she is ordained.

We are very thankful for her insight, time, and ministry. She will continue to study theology and homiletics with the Rector, and as part of that, Diane may preach occasionally for us during the spring. We wish her strength, courage, and success in her new ministry.

Blessings,  
*Rector and Wardens*

## **KICK-OFF SUNDAY & MINISTRY FAIR**

On Sunday, September 7 we will kick off the fall season with our Ministry Fair. During coffee hour you will be able to explore the many ways we at St. James are serving God.

Our program of Christian Formation for children and youth begins again on September 7 with registration for classes, which begin the following week.

We are excited to continue the Godly Play program for our children and the Journey to Adulthood (J2A) with our teenagers. If you are interested in helping teach these programs, please speak with Jennifer Lawrence for Godly Play, and Chris Mauro for J2A. We would love to have more adults involved in mentoring and teaching our kids.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

*“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”*  
Luke 22:42

If you are reading this, then to some extent you must consider yourself a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, or even a member of the parish here at St. James. As such, at some point, no matter how small the voice sounds, you do hear the question in your mind, “what is God’s will for me?” And as we discern God’s will in our life we come to the immediate second question, “How much is that going to cost me?” What is the price we have to pay to follow Jesus? Maybe we are tired and just don’t feel like participating. Maybe we are so busy there just isn’t enough time to worship, pray, or serve. Maybe I just don’t feel like being nice today.

As stewards of the Church of Jesus Christ it is God’s will that we take care of business. So what does that mean? And what is the price?

The business of our Church is to worship, pray, to teach the good news of the Gospel, to minister to the sick, hungry, and needy, and to administer the sacraments. First and foremost God wants our time. We need time to do all of these things. God also expects us to give, to share our gifts of talents and financial resources to take care of business.

So how much will this cost? The Old Testament refers to God as a jealous God. That is to say He wants all of you. Well, I think for most that seems to be a pretty big price tag. And God knows that too! However, he does want us to worship regularly, to spend time with him every day in prayer, and to serve others in His name. And as a Church we also have the physical need of a place and means to do these things, a place to take care of “business”. Tithing is the means to take care of “business”.

Last fall, from the pulpit, a parishioner gave us a very thoughtful and practical lesson on how to tithe. This fall, as we prepare for the fall pledge campaign, I ask that you please set a goal of proportional giving in your life as a first step towards tithing. That is giving of both your time and your money. I’m asking that you just think about it. During the course of the coming months we continue to pray and be taught about the “business” at hand here at St. James. And at some point we will need to answer the question of “what is God’s will for me?”

Peace and Blessing,  
*Chris Mauro*  
Stewardship Chairperson

**PARISH COOKOUT  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27  
Beginning at 4:30 p.m.**

Join us for our annual fall gathering and fundraiser. This year we are serving hamburgers and hot dogs – we look forward to food, fun, and fellowship. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with one another, and to bring friends so they can experience this great community. We hope you will be able to join us!

The recommended donation is \$10 per person (children 10 and under free); bring your own refreshments. We would appreciate the donation of a salad or dessert. We are trying to stick to a standard menu, so we are asking for donations of potato salad, pasta salad, baked beans, cole slaw and desserts. Recipes can be provided for all upon request. We are also looking for helpers for set-up, clean-up and helping to cook. There will be a sign up sheet at coffee hour, or you can contact Stephanie Coleman ([ssc6263@gmail.com](mailto:ssc6263@gmail.com)/752-4151).

**HARVEST FESTIVAL  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4  
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

St. James' annual Harvest Festival is only one short month away! There is a lot to do to prepare for this important fund raiser before the big day. At press time, we have some of our table heads confirmed. Please take a moment to read about the various tables and see how you can contribute to make this event a successful one.

**Baked Goods** - Donations of home baked breads, muffins, bars, cookies, cakes, etc. are being sought. Gluten free and sugar free items are also welcome. Be sure to label

your donations, especially if you put in nuts. Please bring your donations early on the day of the Festival.

**Book Nook** - Donations are now being accepted. You can donate those books, CDs and DVDs you no longer want to the Book Nook. They may be left at the door of the Women's Guild room in the hall of the Christian Ed building. No magazines, Reader's Digest Condensed Books, or VCR tapes, please. Help is also needed the week prior to the Festival to set up the books in Mills Hall. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the schedule. Contact Stephanie Coleman ([ssc6263@gmail.com](mailto:ssc6263@gmail.com); 751-4151) for more information.

**Craft Table** - Your talents are needed to create your handmade objects for this table. Woodworkers, artists, scrapbookers, knitters, crocheters, sewers are all encouraged to create something unique for our table. You may contact Pat Kregler at [patkreg@verizon.net](mailto:patkreg@verizon.net) or 863-1113).

**Farmer's Market** - Do you have a contact with a farmer? Does your garden have an overabundance of vegetables this year? If so, please consider asking for donations or donating some of your own to this table. You may bring your donations either Friday afternoon, or early on the morning of the Festival. If you are able to help out on the day of the Festival, contact Edna Rousseau at [erouss22@gmail.com](mailto:erouss22@gmail.com) or 584-7853.

**Gold Elephant** - This table is requesting donations of lightly used gift items, good china and glassware, and "antiques". No yard sale items, please. Donations may be left in the lobby of the Christian Ed building. Contact Joan Mercep at 724-4457 or [mercep8285@verizon.net](mailto:mercep8285@verizon.net) or Thea Welch at [theadora13@aol.com](mailto:theadora13@aol.com) or 675-2851 for more information.

**Jam Table** - The St. James Jammers have been hard at work this summer preparing delicious jams for the Festival. If you would like to help out, watch the Sunday bulletin for the schedule of “jam sessions.” Donations of 8 oz. canning jars or bags of sugar are greatly appreciated. Contact Louise Harders at [louern@aol.com](mailto:louern@aol.com) or 585-7511 for more information.

**Jewelry Table** - Do you have jewelry that you no longer wear? Someone else would probably love to have it! Donations of necklaces, pins, earrings, etc. can be left in the office or given to Lil Moleti. You can contact her at [boblil2@optonline.net](mailto:boblil2@optonline.net) or 675-0385 with questions, or to offer your help in setting up and pricing the displays.

Be sure to watch the Sunday bulletin inserts for more information on how you can get involved and help make the Harvest Festival a rousing success.

## OUTREACH

**September is St. James Church’s month to staff the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, located at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church in Smithtown. Three people are needed each day from 9 a.m. to noon to assist clients, pack bags, and stock shelves. There is a calendar on which to sign up in Mills Hall during coffee hour or contact Claudette Plaschka at [543-4944/chinplaschka@hotmail.com](mailto:543-4944/chinplaschka@hotmail.com).**

If you have never served at the Pantry before, sign up with someone who has served. Donations of juice and juice boxes, spaghetti sauce, pork & beans, and canned fruit are currently needed. Donations can be left in the cart in the hallway of the Christian Education building. Check the cart before the day you serve and you can deliver whatever food there is to the Pantry.

Pat Westlake provides these interesting things to know about the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry:

- \* Over 30 years ago members from seven congregations in the Town of Smithtown began providing food to residents who could not afford to feed their families. They continue today to provide food year-round and staff the Pantry on a rotating basis. Truly, 7 churches work as one.

- \* A 3-day supply of food is provided to individuals and families, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until noon.

- \* The Pantry is always in need of the following:

Pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, soup, canned fruit, rice, pork & beans, fruit juice, cereal, tuna fish, peanut butter, jelly, canned meats.

Monetary donations allow the staff to purchase meat, chicken, milk and eggs.

- \* During 2010, the Pantry assisted 1,236 families.

During 2011, the Pantry assisted 1,479 families.

- \* During 2012, the Pantry assisted 1,816 families.

- \* During 2013, the Pantry assisted 1,920 families.

- \* Every year the Pantry provides a complete Thanksgiving dinner for their clients. Thanks to community members, last year 237 families received everything from napkins, homemade breads, turkey and all the fixings, fresh vegetables and fruit to pie.

- \* Non-perishable foods may be left at any time in the container on the back porch at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, although it is best to drop food off between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on weekdays.

- \* The Pantry is a 501c3 charitable organization.

For more information, contact our own Pat Westlake, who is Executive Coordinator of the Pantry, or Claudette Plaschka, who is St. James Church’s Pantry Coordinator.

**Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk homeowners gathered for a picnic in East Patchogue on August 16. Thanks to St. James parishioners and many others their Build-a-Backpack program was a big success. We amazed Habitat with 27 complete backpacks plus lots of extra supplies.** At the picnic all of the Habitat children received a backpack teeming with school supplies for the upcoming year. Habitat thanks you one and all for caring and for your generosity!

NYC/LI National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) has selected Habitat of Suffolk as their 2014 ReStore Partner of the Year. You can help them celebrate at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Roger Metcalf Memorial Golf Classic which will be held at St. George's Golf & Country Club in Stony Brook on Monday, October 13, 2014.

If you would like to join St. James parishioners at our next Habitat Work Day, be sure to speak with Ken LeCluse. Are you looking to volunteer for Habitat off-site? Join their newly formed Auxiliary Team who will be helping with wall raising and dedication ceremonies, and helping organize annual programs like Build-Backpack. For more information on all thing related to Habitat, go to [www.habitat.suffolk.org](http://www.habitat.suffolk.org) or call 631-422-4828.

**Protestant Campus Ministry at Stony Brook University begins its fall semester with the Rev. Ms. Brenda D. Ford as Chaplain, and the Rev. Canon Dr. Raewynne J. Whiteley as Chair of the Board of Directors.** Last year SBU awarded 3,472 bachelor's degrees, 1,546 master's degrees, 469 doctoral degrees, 259 certificates, 129 MD degrees, and 41 DDS degrees. Protestant Campus Ministry and its wonderful, spiritual Chaplain Brenda have been available to all these folks, not to mention faculty and staff, whenever they

might have needed it. This ministry matters! Tax deductible checks made out to "Protestant Campus Ministry" to support this important work can always be given to Raewynne or me to pass on to PCM's treasurer.

**Episcopal Relief and Development is celebrating 75 years of "Healing a Hurting World." A 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photo Exhibition will be showing at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue in NYC from September 5-21, 2014 from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.** You are invited to join them for an Opening & Reception on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 from 6 - 8 p.m. with a program to begin at 7 p.m. The Right Rev. Frank Griswold and Phoebe Griswold will be guests of honor. RSVP before September 12 by contacting Nyakina Akumu at 212-518-0515. For more information on the exhibit and celebration, visit [www.episcopalrelief.org/75](http://www.episcopalrelief.org/75).

- Sue Krall

## CHOIR NOTES

The Chancel Choir is preparing for another season of providing the music for our services of worship. We sing at the 9:30 a.m. service on most Sundays and for many of our special services.

We know there are many people in the congregation who have nice voices. Don't be shy! Come and join us. Even if you can't make it every week, we would love to have you sing when you can. Our first rehearsal is Sunday, September 7 at 11:15 in the Webster Room in the Christian Ed building. Speak to Istvan or one of our choir members for more information.

- Laurie Mannix

## **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5**

During the 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist on Sunday, October 5, in celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will welcome our animal companions. Each animal will receive an individual blessing. Animals must be leashed, crated, or otherwise restrained. Please invite your animal loving friends to this wonderful service.

## **CAMP DEWOLFE SERVICE SATURDAYS**

Camp DeWolfe is providing an opportunity to participate in the stewardship and physical care of Camp DeWolfe, practice Christ-like service, engage in community, and enjoy a day out east on Long Island Sound.

Service projects include painting, landscaping, gardening, beach clean-up, and more. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors. Ages 8 and up are welcome.

The Service Saturdays are: September 6, 13, 27, and October 4 and 25. Lunch is provided. Sign up by calling 631-929-4325 or email [office@campdewolfe.org](mailto:office@campdewolfe.org). The camp is located at 408 North Side Road, Wading River.

## **A NOTE OF THANKS**

Dear St. James Parish family,

Thank you for the lovely (and delicious!) farewell reception on August 10. I was very touched by your thoughtfulness and by the fun collection of photos! It was a privilege to be part of so many aspects of parish life in the past 18+ years, and I will miss you all very much. For the moment, our address is

as follows: 58 Haven Court, Apt. 6  
Brandenburg KY 40108  
[kjsides@gmail.com](mailto:kjsides@gmail.com)

May the peace of Christ be with you,  
Kathy

## **ORGANIZE YOUR LIFE WITH AN INTERACTIVE CHRIST- CENTERED STUDY**

Do you have issues with clutter in your life? The course, "Organizing His Way" dispels the myths, lies, and false beliefs that keep people in bondage to their possessions, and outlines realistic expectations on how to deal with these issues. The course, to be held on Tuesday evenings, September 23 - October 28 from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Setauket Neighborhood House, 94 Main Street, E. Setauket is presented by Eileen Koff, a certified professional organizer. The cost of the course is \$75.00, which includes the book and materials. For more information contact [www.EileenKoffMinistries.com](http://www.EileenKoffMinistries.com) or call 553-0068.

## **NEWS OF THE PARISH**

The summer has been a busy time in the life of the parish.

**Don Goodman** passed away on July 21 after a long struggle with pancreatic cancer. A celebration of his life was held at St. James Funeral Home on July 23, with the funeral at St. James Roman Catholic Church in Setauket on July 24. Our prayers and sympathy go out to Margo and their family.

**David and Karen Douglass and family** moved from Mt. Sinai to Glen Gardner, New Jersey in early August. A farewell coffee

hour was held for them on July 13. Since David changed jobs last year, he had been commuting on weekends. David's and Alec's musical talents will be missed, as will Karen's work on the Altar Guild and at the baked goods tables at the Festivals. We hope they enjoy their new home, and Alec has much success as he starts college at Princeton.

**Kathy Sides** also relocated to be with her husband, who took a job in Kentucky last year. Kathy, who was very much involved in the spiritual life of the church and the diocese, will be missed. We wish them much happiness in their new home.

**Audrey Lillian Ercole** was Baptized in July.

We reaffirmed the Baptism of **Nikola Djordjevic** in July.

There was an interment with grave side prayers for **Flicka Van Praagh** and grave side prayers for **Peter Radoyevich** in July.

**Jean Matheson** was a parishioner at St. James for many years, who retired to Virginia several years ago. She invites friends from the parish who are traveling south to stop by and visit. She can be reached at 7416 Spring Village Drive, Springfield, VA 22150 or 703-866-3665.

There was a good turn out of veterans, parishioners, and other members of the community for the World War I Memorial Service and reception held on Saturday, August 2.

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 **Labor Day** - office closed
- 2 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 4 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Nursery school orientation 7 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**  
Kick-off Sunday & Ministry Fair
- 8 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 12 Food addiction group
- 14 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**  
**Children's Formation classes**
- 15 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Knitters' group 7:30 p.m.  
Yoga class 7:30 p.m.
- 18 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**  
**Children's Formation classes**
- 22 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 26 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 **Parish Cookout** 4:30 p.m.
- 28 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**  
**Children's Formation classes**
- 29 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Jack Schultheis  
Ernie Harders  
Bob Wagner  
Louise Harders  
Nancy Petschauer  
Lil Moleti  
Doug Dahlgard  
Art Strassle  
Maggie Dineen  
David DeFilippis  
Laura Sommer  
Rhiannon Jeffrey  
Linda Misa  
Lisa Scott  
Lani Wille  
Charlie Kreussling

## **SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Ernie & Louise Harders  
Tony & Joan Mercep  
Art & Joan Strassle  
Chris & Kathy Mauro  
Kevin & Danielle Dineen  
Peter & Alexis Cahill