



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

September 2015

FROM THE



RECTOR

Today in the pages of the New York Times you may have seen the article “Was It Cancer? Getting the Diagnosis” by Julia Baird. In it, Ms. Baird tells the story of her diagnosis and treatment for ovarian cancer.

I know Julia from the time she and I were working for change in the Anglican Church of Australia so that women could be ordained priest. At the time she was a college student, full of energy and passion. Now she is a successful journalist both in print and on TV, has two children, and continues to be passionate about justice and her faith.

As she went through the process of diagnosis and treatment, she found herself relying more and more on her faith. She says of the days before surgery, “I prayed so hard I grew unnaturally calm. I felt like a flower shutting in on itself, bracing, preparing for the night, closing to a quiet stillness... My doctor asked me a few days ago how I became so calm before the surgery. I told her: I prayed, I locked out negativity and drama and drew my family and tribe – all big-hearted, pragmatic people – near. I tried to live deliberately.” “Can I

just say,” she said, “you should do that for the rest of your life.”

Fall is often a time of great busyness and chaos for us. The school year begins, and with it, many extra demands on our time. Sometimes we feel overwhelmed.

In July, the Vestry had the privilege of a retreat day at the Knox School (see the Wardens’ column following). During that time, we were able to experience the wonder of quiet reflection through meditation, contemplation, and reading scripture. One of the tools we used was coloring. Slowly focusing on placing small areas of color on a complex design allows your mind to calm and your thoughts to turn to God. Likewise, simply reading the words of our prayers in the BCP can calm us and turn us toward God.

So, in these next few busy months, I invite you to take quiet time with God, here at church and at home. You might like to try coloring – we’ve included a coloring page on page 9.

And, the good news is that Julia Baird’s surgery was successful, and she is currently cancer free. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,

WARDENS' COLUMN

Vestry Retreat

One of the unsung gifts of being on the Vestry is the annual retreat. We should not be voiceless regarding this remarkable gift. Retreat means to withdraw, as from battle. It means to leave behind. It represents an absence of confrontation. While we are not in a literal sense withdrawing from a fight, we are gathering together away from the fuss and bother and demands of our daily lives. It is an opportunity that is hard to fully appreciate unless it is experienced.

The Rev. Anne Kitch, from Bethlehem, PA graciously led the retreat on short notice and with a deep sense of calling. Anne's focus was "Holy Recreation: Play, leisure, contemplations, and the Sabbath." We began with prayer, moved to play, talked, listened, ate, had time for leisure, and read the Gospel according to St. John (6:1-21). Anne noted Plato's often forgotten axiom that more was revealed about an individual from "a day of play than from a year of conversation." During our retreat there is no "business" at hand. There is no right or wrong inquiry or answer. It is a remarkable relief, and liberating. Sharing our feelings, observations, and prayers brings us together.

The Knox School has kindly offered its grounds as our retreat meeting place for the past two years. It is the perfect place in summer for retreat and the practice of "Holy Recreation." Houghton Hall welcomes all who enter with its high ceilings, gracious rooms, worn marble staircases, and the muffled silence of absent students. In our leisure time some painted, others strolled in company, some sat in solitude, or walked in the water. The grounds provide silence and gentle breezes from the Harbor and the Sound. You can actually hear the majestic trees, their leaves rustling as if rain were falling.

We were given the opportunity to observe God's creation, feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, and contemplate Jesus' sacrifice to make us whole and offer us salvation. We began to know each other in ways that seem impossible the rest of the time. This happens each year, and it still comes as a revelation.

This year we were joined by our "Junior Vestry" member, Jack Harrington, Jr., and blessed by his gurgling, just crawling, often napping, quietly discovering presence. One of our lambs was with it and it was perfect.

At the end of the day, we were well fed, well tutored, and generously led to a place beyond our daily earthly domain. We became fellow travelers on a journey of faith, gratitude, and discovery. We felt God's grace.

We do not often have the luxury of a retreat. But we can, as Anne Kitch said, incorporate the blessed into our daily lives. We can transform the mundane into what is holy, see the making of a meal as a sacred moment; use a moment of frustration as an opportunity to bring new insight to our work and family lives. "How can we know what our work is if we do not stop long enough to reflect on it? As is it good?" We can begin to view the Sabbath as an act of creation. We need to expand our vision, our prayer, and our thanksgiving. Being on retreat guides us on this journey of renewal. Let us share this with all of you so that we may continue to walk this way together.

With thanksgiving and peace,
Alex and Chris

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

- 12 Ordination of Diane DeBlasio, 11 a.m.
Cathedral of the Incarnation
- 13 Kick-Off Sunday - Ministry Fair &
Children's Formation Registration
- 19 Fireworks at Sunken Meadow Park to
benefit Food Pantry, after 4 p.m.
- 20 Children's Formation classes begin

October

- 2 Book Nook sale 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 3 Harvest Festival 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 4 Blessing of the Animals 9:30 a.m.
- 17 Confirmation at Cathedral

WALKING THE WAY

With the start of school also comes the start of our church program year. This fall will be particularly busy. In addition to all that is going on at home, St. James Church will be alive in its ministries and activities. It is in the midst of this carnival of our lives that we will also begin a more focused discussion on stewardship and execute the fall pledge drive.

Over the course of the next eight weeks, we will journey together in exploring how the practice of intentional giving deepens our walk with Christ and supports life-giving ministries to our community and beyond. The Vestry has already started this journey and been asked to make an early commitment to our mission here at St. James in the form of a pledge of financial support for 2016.

Here is our road map for the next eight weeks of our Walking the Way Campaign:

October 4, the Feast of St. Francis and the "Blessing of the Animals" service will be

the official start to our fall pledge drive. This is also the Sunday of our local village's St. James Day block party on Lake Avenue. Our church will be hosting a booth at this event. We hope you will join us in church and at the party.

* Beginning on Sunday, October 11 and continuing through Sunday, November 1, you will find reflections written by Episcopal stewardship leaders across the country, covering stewardship and faithful giving in connection with the Gospel reading of the day in your worship bulletin. The Rector will also offer focused sermons on stewardship as she helps us understand how scripture intercepts with our daily lives.

* Each Sunday, from October 11 through November 1, we will hear stories of personal transformation through the practice of intentional giving from your fellow parishioners.

* On Tuesday mornings in October along with the celebration of the Eucharist there will be prayer walks through our biblical garden.

* On Saturday October 24 we will have a prayer walk along the Setauket-Port Jefferson greenway trail.

* On November 1, All Saints' Day, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday, the culmination of the journey, when pledges will be completed and offered as an act of worship.

Thank you for Walking the Way in hope and faith. Blessings in your journey.

Yours in Christ,
Chris Mauro
Stewardship Chair

KICK-OFF SUNDAY & MINISTRY FAIR

On Sunday, September 13 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. Perhaps you will be inspired to participate in one of these ministries.

Our program of Christian Formation for children and youth begins again on September 13 with registration for classes, which begin the following week.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 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 big fundraiser before the big day. Please take a moment to read about the various tables and see where your talents can be used 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 available. Be sure to label your donations, especially if you put in nuts. Please bring your donations early on the day of the Festival. Contact: Colette Tarantino at lcol0208@aim.com or 751-7932 or Wylie Hunt at wyliehunt@gmail.com or 751-5618.

Book Nook - Donations are now being accepted of books, CDs, and DVDs. NO magazines, Reader's Digest Condensed Books, or VCR tapes, please. Books can be left at the door to the Women's Guild closet in the upper hallway of the Christian Ed. building. Help will also be needed the week prior to the Festival to set up the books in

Mills Hall. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the schedule. Contact: Mary Jane DeVito at mjdev@optonline.net or 750-5414 or Margo Goodman at margogoodman@aol.com or 584-3453.

Craft Table - Your creative talents can be put to good use by donating your hand made items for this table. Woodworkers, artists, scrapbookers, knitters, crocheters, and sewers are all encouraged to create something unique for this table. Contact Pat Kregler at patkreg@verizon.net or 863-1113).

Farmer's Market - Does your garden have an overabundance of vegetables this year? Do you have a contact with a farmer? If so, please consider donating some of your crop, or asking for donations from the farmer. You may bring your donations either Friday afternoon or early on the morning of the Festival. Contact: TBA.

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.

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 or 585-7511.

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. Contact Lil at boblil2@optonline.net or 675-0385.

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.

ALL CRAFTERS ALERT

You still have a month to create a work of art for the Craft table. Art in the form of woodworking, jewelry design, sewing, knitting/crocheting, quilting, floral design, etc., etc. I know there are very talented people out there. Let's show off your work at our October Festival.

- Pat Kregler

ADDITIONAL HARVEST FESTIVAL INFORMATION & REQUESTS

Children's Activities: We love children and look forward to them being at the Harvest Festival. We have games for them and we could have many activities – face painting, manicures, pumpkin painting, etc. But, we need help! We need volunteers to organize and participate in the activities. The time commitment does not have to be for the entire day – two or three hours would work.

Music - It would be great to have music at the Festival. A guitar, singing group, fiddler, band, DJ, keyboard. Participants could volunteer for just an hour or two.

Farmer's Market & Plants - We need donations of plants, flower bouquets, vegetables, corn stalks, hay bales, harvest decorations, Halloween decorations, ribbons, harvest baskets. If you have any contacts with local business, we would appreciate donations.

“Top Treasures” - We are looking for donations of antiques and good quality wood furniture. The plan is for the donor and table heads to come up with a suggested sale price and a lowest acceptable price for each item. If the item sells, we can provide the donor with a tax donation letter. If the item does not sell at the minimum price, the donor takes it home.

If you are able to help out in any of the areas above, please contact me at 631-584-6628, or pkings20@optonline.net.

- Pat Westlake

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

During the 9:30 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist on Sunday, October 4, 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.

ST. JAMES DAY ANIMAL BLESSING

Join the Rector on Sunday, October 4 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. as we bless animals and give out church information on Lake Avenue following the 9:30 a.m. service.

BACKPACKS FOR HABITAT

Once again, St. James participated in the annual “Build-a-Backpack for Habitat for Humanity” kids. This year, we were able to deliver 20 filled backpacks and some additional supplies. The people at Habitat were very thankful for our donations, and told me how excited the kids are to have a choice in which backpack they receive, rather than just getting one handed to them.

- Laurie Mannix

SMITHTOWN FOOD PANTRY

Our month is November! This is the busiest month of the year – there will be lots of donations to be sorted and stocked, and we will be giving out at least 100 Thanksgiving baskets.

We will need at least 3 volunteers each day.

The week of Thanksgiving we will need:

6 volunteers Monday

10 volunteers Tuesday (at least 4 at 8 a.m.!);
we give out baskets 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

2 volunteers Wednesday

September 19 - Fireworks at Sunken

Meadow State Park celebrating Smithtown’s 350th Anniversary. Free admission to park after 4 p.m.. Everyone is asked to bring donations of canned food for the Food Pantry.

November 10 - Smithtown Chamber of Commerce Fashion Show at Flowerfield.

All proceeds will be donated to the Smithtown Food Pantry.

November 17 - Taste of Smithtown at Mercedes Benz. If you attend, you write a check to Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry

(your admission goes directly to the Pantry). The Pantry will receive 1/3 of the amount raised from the raffles (the other charities are Gift of Life [Rotary International] and Smithtown Children’s Foundation.

The Pantry needs: juice, cereal, tuna, and canned fruit.

- Pat Westlake

LETTERS OF THANKS

At the end of June, through the generosity of our parishioners, we were able to send \$1350 to Camp DeWOLFE to cover a week of camp for several children from St. Paul’s Church in Flatbush. Here are two letters we recently received:

“Dear Sisters & Brother in Christ,

On behalf of the Vestry and members of St. Paul’s Church in the Village of Flatbush, I express our deepest thanks to you for the scholarship money you gave to support our youth to attend Summer Camp at Camp DeWOLFE. Generous donations from sister churches like you provide the financial and moral support needed to continue our mission and ministry. Your faithful financial contribution demonstrated your deep commitment and support to the work God is calling us to do.

Indeed, there is no way to fully express our gratitude for your support. We at St. Paul’s Church in the Village of Flatbush are continually inspired by the dedication and generosity of supporters like yourself who are driven to give again and again.

Sincerely yours,

The Rev. Sheldon N. N. Hamblin”

“Dear Rev. Whiteley and parishioner of St. James Church:

I am very thankful for the donation I received to go to Camp DeWOLFE. If not for your generosity, I would not have been able to attend. This was my first time going to camp. I learned how to swim, how to fish, and about outdoor camping. Because of your support, I was able to make new friends. Thank you again, I am grateful for your donation.

Sincerely,
Shalisa Thomas”

CAMP DeWOLFE SERVICE SATURDAYS

Parishioners are invited to Camp DeWOLFE in Wading River to help with yard work, painting, and minor repairs around the camp on any of the following Saturdays: September 5, 12, and 19. You can get a group of friends together and spend from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. helping to do any of a number of tasks. Visit campdewolfe.org for more information.

DID YOU KNOW?

Episcopal Health Services in Far Rockaway is the second-largest provider of medical care to poor Medicaid recipients in all of New York State.

LUNCH BUNCH

The September meeting of the Lunch Bunch will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 12:30 p.m. at the Port Jefferson Lobster House, 1 North Country Road in Port Jefferson. All parishioners and friends are invited. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

CRATES WANTED

Donna Austin is looking for old, heavy-duty rectangular plastic milk crates. If you have any you would like to get rid of, please contact her at 631-499-6050.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Matt Coleman has completed his training and is officially a Navy Diver. He will be stationed in Groton, CT for the next three years. Congratulations and best wishes, in your career, Matt!

On Saturday, July 11th, **Jane Abbott McAteer** daughter of Robin Dahlgard, married **Joshua Mark Whitehead**, here at St. James. The couple lives in the city. Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple!

On Sunday, July 26th we welcomed into the St. James family **Genevieve Rose Silano**, who was Baptized at the 9:30 a.m. service. Genevieve is the daughter of Carmine and Jennifer Silano, who live in St. James.

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

- 1 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Weight Loss Solutions class 6 pm
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 3 Nursery school orientation 7 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 7 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
PCM Board meeting 12:30 p.m.
Weight Loss Solutions Class 6 p
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Garden Club 11a.m. - 2 p.m.
Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 10 DG-Cancer lecture 5:30 p.m.
- 11 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Ordination of Diane DeBlasio
at Cathedral 11:00 a.m.
- 13 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Ministry Fair
- 14 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Weight Loss Solutions class 6 pm
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Smithtown Book Club 7:00 p.m.
- 17 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Food addiction group 7:30 a.m.
- 22 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Weight Loss Solutions class 6 pm
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 25 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Stewardship Campaign kick-off
- 28 Vestry meeting 7:00 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 29 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Weight Loss Solutions class 6 pm
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jack Schultheis
Ernie Harders
Bob Wagner
Louise Harders
James Andrews, Jr.
Nancy Petschauer
Lil Moleti
Doug Dahlgard
Art Strassle
Maggie Dineen
David DeFilippis
Laura Sommer
Frank Giardina
Rhiannon Jeffrey
Linda Misa
Lisa Scott
Lani Wille
Madison Beirne
Charlie Kreussling

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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



