



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

September 2016

FROM THE



RECTOR

Summer is almost over, and with it, a return to school and the program year. We are excited about what God is doing among us. We have welcomed new

members over the summer, and look forward to welcoming back those who have been away.

On Sunday, September 11, we will kick off our year with a guest preacher, the Rev. Peter Rodgers, who grew up in this parish. That will be followed by our coffee hour and our Annual Ministry Fair and registration for Godly Play and our teenage program after the 9:30 a.m. service.

For many people, summer is a time of relative calm, often with shorter work hours and a time to relax. But here at St. James, the vestry, wardens, and I have been hard at work. As well as the vestry retreat, which you will read about in the wardens' report, we have been working on how our building use and maintenance supports our mission, where God is calling us.

- The Smithtown Cooperative Nursery School has moved to the education wing. This gives them better facilities (hopefully

resulting in higher enrollments and a more reliable income stream for us!), and allows us full access to the Mills Hall/Parish House complex for church activities and community use. The Nursery School will have a dedicated entrance from the rear of the education building.

- Godly Play and other formation activities will take place in the Parish House (adjacent to Mills Hall).
- The Mills Hall basement will be available to us for storage and new ministries.
- General upgrades around the property include a buzzer for entry to the office (providing greater security), better fencing along the rear emergency exit of the education wing, repainting in the Parish House, drywalls and dehumidifiers in the Mills Hall basement, removal of a dying tree between the church and education building (as noted later in this newsletter), provision of baby changing tables in the education wing bathrooms.

We continue to explore how our facilities can be used more effectively for God's work here in St. James.

Blessings,

WARDENS' COLUMN

Vestry Retreat

At the end of July Raewynne and the Vestry gathered with John Betit, Canon to the Ordinary at the Cathedral, for the Vestry Retreat. Our venue was once again the Knox School, a place of peace and natural beauty which we are blessed to know and share. Retreats are multi-purposed events. They are about team building, spirituality, and faith, identifying strengths and frailties. And they are about stepping back from the practicalities of managing the church, and immersing ourselves in the fundamentals, the bedrock of our faith. We share in readings from the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible, as well as poetry and simple children's books. The retreat provides us with a moment when the outside world fades and the inner world is allowed to step forward and flourish.

For us it is more than a day off without distractions. It is more like a week in the country or on a mountain top. The range of subjects, the depth of perception, the illumination of dark shadows, and new keys to seeing things upside down and sideways are often mind bending, and certainly soul stirring.

Along with Jeremiah, and Matthew, and Isaiah, Canon Betit read from the children's book *Stone Soup*. It is a story as ageless as our Lord's parables. Strangers enter a town clothed in darkness, its inhabitants secured behind locked doors and covered windows. No one ventures out to welcome the visitors, no door opens to invite them inside. The strangers decide to build a fire and one curious child (it is always a child, a lamb, who breaks the mold and chooses adventure over fear) provides a big pot and they set about making a caldron of "stone soup". There is much ceremony and celebration

about the pot's lowly contents amidst the dancing flames of the bonfire. One by one the village's inhabitants start emerging. Each has something to add to the soup, carrots, potatoes, salt, meat, onions, herbs, and soon not only is the soup transformed into a moveable feast, but the villagers are talking and laughing and glowing in the firelight.

It could not be a simpler story and its message could not be clearer. It is about the invitation God gives us which we often shy away from or of which we are not aware. It is about inclusion and hospitality. It is about serving one another. It is about welcoming a stranger. It is about community. Our parish can be, and so often is, a community of souls joined in faith, sharing our Lord's Supper, acknowledging the light and love and charity with which we have been blessed. All we need is the commitment to expand our embrace, to grow in God's love, and to cherish His gifts of abundance and grace. We are all fellow pilgrims.

*I was a stranger and you welcomed me.
To welcome me is to welcome the One Who
sent me.*

(from the Rule of St. Benedict)

In peace, and with God's grace and mercy,
Alex and Jennifer

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

- 11 Kick-Off Sunday - Ministry Fair and Children's Formation Registration
- 17 Parish BBQ
- 18 Children's Formation classes begin
- 25 St. James Day - Parish booth at fair

October

- 2 Blessing of the Animals 9:30 a.m.

November

- 6 All Saints Sunday
- 13 Regina Calcaterra book talk and signing 1 p.m.

KICK-OFF SUNDAY & MINISTRY FAIR

On Sunday, September 11 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 on September 11 with registration for classes, which will begin the next week.

PREACHER FOR KICK-OFF SUNDAY

The Rev. Peter Rodgers grew up in St. James, and was baptized, confirmed, and presented for the ministry at St. James Church. He was educated at the Stony Brook School, Hobart College, General Theological Seminary, and Oxford University. He was Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, New Haven, CT from 1979-2003. After his retirement, Peter

taught New Testament and Preaching at Fuller Theological Seminary, and serves as Vicar of St. Andrew's, Antelope, CA. He has written three books and numerous articles, as well as two novels, *The Scribes*, and *The Sign of the Dolphin*. He and his wife Kathy live in Carmichael, CA. He has six children and five grandchildren. Peter's sister, Ruth Ward, is an active member of St. James Church.

BIBLE STUDY: WHO IS GOD? (in the Gospel of John)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God"

So begins the gospel according to St. John, arguably the most rich and theologically complex of the four gospels. A huge theme in it is the nature of God. This gospel offers us the clearest exploration of how God can be known in our lives as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The study begins Wednesday, September 21 and will meet every second week at various people's homes; the first meeting will be at Jack and Sarah Harrington's in Stony Brook (20 Main Street). See the weekly bulletin or website to confirm the time, and bring your Bible (if you have one).

ST. JAMES DAY ANIMAL BLESSING

Join the Rector on Sunday, September 25 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.

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Psalm 112 speaks eloquently about the theme of “Living Generously”. It defines generous living as being gracious, merciful and righteous. To live in such a way, we are to conduct our lives with justice.

Generous living is much more than what we do with our money. We are called to be kind to one another and to all living things. We are called to deal with each other honestly and to be humble.

This year’s stewardship theme of “Living Generously” is a strong call to action to each of us as followers of Jesus. He showed us the way to live generously: by welcoming the outcast, by overturning the tables of the money changers in the temple, by dining with the poor and healing the sick, by teaching, by forgiving, and by ultimately giving his life so that all might have life abundant.

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 2017.

Our fall pledge campaign will formally begin on Sunday, October 2nd. Until then we ask that you set some time aside to reflect upon Psalm 112. It is our hope that in that process this year’s theme of “Living Generously” will help each of us to better understand our journey as Disciples of Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Amy Jeffrey and Chris Mauro
The Stewardship Committee

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.

We will begin rehearsing in mid-September in the Webster Room in the Christian Education building following the 9:30 a.m. service. Speak to Istvan, our Choir Director, for more information.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

During the 9:30 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist on Sunday, October 2, 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.

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 18 backpacks and additional supplies. Thank you to all who contributed to help make the beginning of the school year special for these children.

OUTREACH

Protestant Campus Ministries at Stony Brook University begins its fall semester this month. With almost 17,000 undergraduate and 8,500 graduate students enrolled at Stony Brook University in 2015, Protestant Campus Ministries is a valuable resource to all campus students, faculty, and staff. This ministry matters! Thank you for all your continued prayers for the campus community. We are currently in a search for a new chaplain – please keep the Board in your prayers.

Registration is now open for the 24th Annual 4K/6K Walk for Beauty in beautiful Stony Brook Village on Sunday, October 23, 2016. All proceeds go directly to the target research fund at Stony Brook Medicine for Breast Cancer Research and WMHO Unique Boutique for prostheses and wigs. Call 631-751-2244 for information about registration.

Christmas at Sea: Since 1898m during the Spanish American War, volunteers of the Seamen's Church Institute have knitted, collected, packed, and distributed gifts to mariners who are miles away from home during the holidays. The gift consists of a handknit garment, a personal letter, and information on SCI's services for mariners. In addition to this, SCI also collects several useful items like hand lotion, lip balm, and toothbrushes – things difficult to come by when working long stretches on the water.

If you can knit or crochet, please consider doing this for mariners. You can find some patterns at the back of the church; more are at <http://seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea> We also need sewers to help make ditty bags (instructions at the back of the church), and donations of hard candy, lip balm, hand lotion, and toothbrushes.

- Madelyn Cousins

WHO ARE WE? A LIST OF COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES AT ST. JAMES

If you would like information about these, are interested in volunteering your time or talent, or have other concerns, here are the people to contact.

Acolytes - Theresa Euler
Altar Guild - Colette Tarantino
Buildings & Grounds - Bob Moleti, Frank Giardina
Cemetery - Ken LeCluse, Joan Mercep
Christian Formation
Adult - The Rector
Children -
Godly Play - Jennifer Lawrence, Wylie Hunt
Journey to Adulthood - Chris & Kathy Mauro
Choir - Istvan Dioszegi
Coffee Hour Hosts - Pat Kregler
Endowment - Bruce Lawrence
Eucharistic Ministers/Eucharistic Visitors/
Lectors - Donna Austin
Outreach - Madelyn Cousins
Parish Life - Kathy Mauro, Joan Bengtson
Stewardship - Chris Mauro, Amy Jeffrey
Ushers - Bruce Lawrence
Greeters - Lil Moleti
Worship - The Rector

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Hard copies of the new St. James pictorial directory will be available on September 11th.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY CAMPUS ART CRAWL TOURS

Stony Brook University is sponsoring two free guided tours of the various art galleries and collections on campus, visiting artists, lectures, and receptions:

Tour I - September 29, Thursday, 3-5 p.m.; includes Simons Center Gallery, Zuccaire Gallery (Staller), Wang Center Skylight Gallery - reception.

Tour II - November 15, Tuesday, 3-5 p.m.; Zuccaire Gallery, Melville Library, Special Collections, and Alloway Gallery, Simons Center Gallery - reception.

For more information:
www.stonybrook.edu/craftcenter

Jack Harrington was recently appointed co-chair of the Federal Court Committee of the Suffolk County Bar Association. Our sympathy goes out to **Sarah** and Jack upon the death of Sarah's grandmother, Peggy Mikels on August 22.

Jerilyn Glogg and family have happily settled into their new home in Riverhead. Their new address is 923 East Main Street, Riverhead NY 11901, and phone number is 631-903-9344.

Former parishioner, **Dana Wachter** was crowned Miss Hudson Valley 2016 last October. If you are on Facebook, you can see her photo at her page "Miss Hudson Valley 2016". She is currently a special education teacher for the NYC Department of Education, working at a school in Flushing.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

On July 17, **Leah and Matt Roseto**, welcomed their son, **Lucas**. Grandma Colette Tarantino says he is a beautiful baby, and many of us have seen the photos. Leah and Matt currently live in Virginia. Congratulations and blessings to all!

On Sunday, July 31, we welcomed into the St. James family **Vincent Douglas Andrews** and **Isabel Eddy Scheffler**, who were Baptized at the 9:30 a.m. service. Vincent lives with his parents, James and Kathleen and big brother, James, Jr. in Smithtown. Isabel lives with her parents, Michelle Kemnitzer and Sarah Scheffler and big brother, Owen in Lake Ronkonkoma.

Ava Josephine Ercole was born on August 8. She lives with her parents, Lillian and Joseph, and big sister, Audrey in Ronkonkoma. Congratulations to the happy family!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 4 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 5 **Labor Day** - office closed
- 6 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 8 Smithtown Coop Nursery School
Orientation 7:00 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Kick-Off Sunday & Ministry Fair
- 12 Smithtown Coop Nursery School
Opening Day 9:30 a.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 17 Parish BBQ
- 18 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes

- 19 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Smithtown Book Club 7 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Challenger Teen group 6 p.m.
- 22 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 26 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

