



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

September 2017

FROM THE



RECTOR

September has arrived, and with it all the signs of a new school year. The worst of the summer humidity seems to be gone and we've had a couple of glorious days of sun and

gentle breezes. Kids are more than ready for school (at least according to parents!) and the traffic outside the church has begun to pick up again as people return to their daily commute.

Here at church, we are ready to begin our new program year with Kick Off Sunday this coming Sunday, September 10. The 8 a.m. service will be as normal, but the 9:30 a.m. service will be followed by coffee hour and our Ministry Fair, where you have the opportunity to explore the many different ministries and gifts that make up our life together at St. James. We will also have a gathering for parents of children and youth.

And of course at this time of year all our ministries kick up a notch. The choir is back singing, our kids' programs will begin September 17, and Bible study will begin again on September 19.

Meanwhile, the Wardens and Vestry have been busy through the summer. The first

visible signs of the Sustaining St. James project are apparent in the fabulous new roof on the church and education wing. Our Vestry retreat at the end of July was a time when we explored where we have been and how we can grow as a parish.

In that light, we are undertaking an interview process with parishioners. Vestry members will each interview two people, and invite each of them to interview two more, until we get through the whole parish. This will give us lots of valuable information that will help us sustain our parish spiritually alongside the visible work on our buildings.

But you don't need to wait to be asked! There are copies of the interview questions at the back of the church – feel free to take one and interview another parishioner, then just drop it back in my tray at the back of the church or in Mills Hall. We look forward to hearing from you!

Blessings,

Raewynnet

WARDENS' COLUMN

Excitement in the Air

It has been a busy and productive summer at our parish. We hope that you are as thrilled as we are with the replacement of the roofs on the church and the Christian Education Building. Tom Mulligan delivered as he had promised. His crew worked tirelessly, was closely supervised, each worker seemed to have a specific assignment, and there were no breaks except for lunch, no chatting to pass the time. And the skill and maneuvers while dangling from ropes was breathtaking. Bravo to all. The Administrative wing will be next, later this fall, and the architectural changes will bring a freshness and coherence to all three structures. It is another exciting step forward in **Sustaining St. James, phase 1.**

As summer winds down, please mark your calendars in preparation for a full fall schedule. **Kick Off Sunday** is September 10. The **BBQ** is Saturday, September 16, **Books & Things** will reopen September 23. The **Antiques Sale** is slated for October 21, and the **Holiday Craft Sale** is scheduled for December 9. These are important events for our church (the last two are fundraisers) and we hope everyone will contribute their talents and time to make each gathering a success. It will be a busy time, but our outreach to our community is essential as we continue to build our congregation and look to the generations ahead.

*Almighty God...guide us in the work we do,
that we may do it not for self alone,
but for the common good...*
(Book of Common Prayer, p. 261)

- Alex and Jennifer

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

- 10 Kick-Off Sunday - Ministry Fair
- 16 Parish BBQ
- 23 Books & Things Sale

October

- 1 St. James Day - Parish booth at fair
- 8 Blessing of the Animals 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Antiques & Collectibles Sale/Books 'N' Things

KICK-OFF SUNDAY & MINISTRY FAIR

On Sunday, September 10, we will kick off the fall season with our Ministry Fair. During coffee hour you will be able to explore the many ways at St. James we are serving God.

We are excited to continue the Godly Play program for our children and a youth program for our teenagers. We will have a gathering for parents on September 10, with classes beginning the following week. If you are interested in helping teach these programs, please speak with the Rector, Jennifer Lawrence (Godly Play), or Chris Mauro (youth). We would love to have more adults involved in mentoring and teaching our kids.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

If you have a note to leave the Rector, Vestry, or office on a Sunday morning, please leave it in our new trays. One is at the back of the church and one is in Mills Hall. The paperwork will be picked up on Monday mornings and distributed to the proper party.

**PARISH BBQ
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

Come and enjoy the fun and delicious food at St. James' annual Parish BBQ on September 16 at 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person for parishioners; children and guests are free. There will be a sign up sheet for food on Sundays in church. If you have questions about food, call Stephanie Coleman at 631-751-4151. For other questions, or to help with set up, or clean up, contact Kathy Mauro at 631-689-1419. Hope to see you there!

FALL BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will move to a new night this month. The first session will be held on Tuesday, September 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Webster Room. All are welcome to join. Speak to Chris Mauro for further information.

**BOOKS 'N' THINGS SALE
SEPTEMBER 23**

Books 'N' Things will open for the fall season on Saturday, September 23, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Come and see what new items have appeared over the last several months! Volunteers are needed to help organize for the sale in the weeks prior. Sessions have been scheduled for Monday, September 11, Wednesday, September 13, and Thursday September 14 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. If you have some free time on those days, your help would be much welcomed.

- Jennifer Lawrence

BACKPACKS FOR HABITAT

Once again, St. James participated in the annual "Build-a-Backpack" for Habitat for Humanity program. 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

LUNCH BUNCH

The September meeting of the Lunch Bunch will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 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 631-724-3720 to make your reservation.

**ST. JAMES DAY
ANIMAL BLESSING**

Join the Rector on Sunday, October 1 to bless the animals and give out church information on Lake Avenue following the 9:30 a.m. service.

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8**

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.

CHRISTMAS FAIR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

As a result of donations from several current and former parishioners, we have an abundance of Christmas items to sell. Included are many Dickens' Village collectible houses and accessories, collectible ornaments and decorations. We will be offering these items, along with handmade crafts, gifts, jams and baked goods at a Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 9.

All creative parishioners are invited to support the fair by making handcrafted items which will be sold at our crafts tables. We anticipate running an ongoing craft group during the day or evening a few times a month in the weeks leading up to the fair. All types of crafts are welcomed! We are also considering offering the possibility of table rentals for crafts people. The tables will be available at a cost of \$35 for currently pledging parishioners and \$40 for others.

In addition to crafts and collectibles, the fair will offer Christmas decorations, baked goods, and our "famous" jams. Books 'N' Things will also be open.

We will have an organizational meeting of crafters on Thursday, September 21, from 10 a.m. - Noon in the Webster Room. You are invited to bring your ideas and projects. We will schedule further work meetings on different dates.

If you are interested in participating, please speak to the members of the Steering Committee (Joan Bengtson, Wylie Hunt, Laurie Mannix, Kathy Mauro, or Diane Ried) and watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.

- Laurie Mannix

CAR FOR SALE

Do you need an extra car? Polly Neyssen is interested in selling her 2000 Chevy Malibu. It is navy, has just over 100,000 miles, and it is in good condition. The car is great for around town or local driving. The asking price is \$900. Contact Polly at 631-751-8541.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

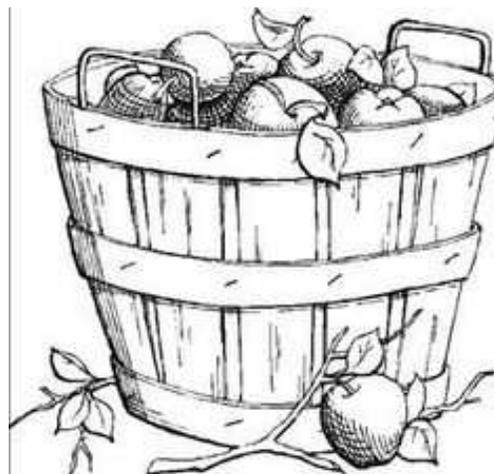
- 1 Office closed
- 3 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 4 **Labor Day** - office closed
- 5 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Rector at Dean's meeting - G.C.
Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 7 Bible study 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Painting class 10 a.m.
- 9 Diocesan Ordination service 11 a.m.
- 10 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Kick-Off Sunday Ministry Fair
- 11 Rector at Soul Brew Café 10 a.m.- Noon
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 a.m.
- 13 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 15 Painting class 10 a.m.
- 16 Parish BBQ 4:30 p.m.
- 17 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 18 Rector at Soul Brew Café 10 a.m.- Noon
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Smithtown Book Club 7:00 p.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Special Connections group 6 p.m.
- 21 Crafts group 10 a.m.
- 22 Painting class 10 a.m.
- 23 Books 'N' Things Sale 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 24 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.

- Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
 25 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
 26 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
 Lunch Bunch at Pt. Jefferson Lobster
 House, 12:30 p.m.
 Bible study 7:30 p.m.
 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
 27 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
 29 Painting class 10 a.m.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*Ernie Harders
 Jack Schultheis
 Bob Wagner
 Louise Harders
 James Andrews (Jr.)
 Nancy Petschauer
 Lil Moleti
 Doug Dahlgard
 Art Strassle
 Frank Giardina
 Rhiannon Jeffrey
 Debbie Sepulveda
 Linda Misa
 Lisa Scott
 Lani Wille
 Madison Beirne*



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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