



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

April 2009

F R O M T H E



This coming Sunday begins the holiest week of the Christian year. It is this week that we remember the last week of Jesus on earth; his triumphal entry into

Jerusalem, his final hours with his disciples, his arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death. And then, the overwhelming, unexpected joy of his resurrection. This week I read a poem that reminds us of the events of Palm Sunday.

The Donkey

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born;

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

G.K. Chesterton (1874–1936)

Join us in worship and reflection this week, and have a blessed Holy Week and joyous Easter

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- 5 **Palm Sunday**
Holy Eucharist I & Blessing of the Palms 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II & Palm Procession 9:30 a.m.
- 9 **Maundy Thursday**
Middle East supper & Holy Eucharist with stripping of the altar 6:30 p.m.
Vigil in church 9 p.m. - 12 midnight
- 10 **Good Friday**
Seven Last Words of Christ and Good Friday Liturgy 12 - 3 p.m.
Blood Drive 3 - 8 p.m.
*Good Friday Office 7:30 p.m.
- 11 **Holy Saturday**
Easter Vigil 7 p.m.
- 12 **Easter Day**
Celebration Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Celebration Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

**The 7:30 p.m. Good Friday office will be a short, contemplative service without music or Holy Communion.*

A WORD FROM THE WARDENS

At the March meeting, Vestry Committee assignments were made. Many parishioners also serve on these committees, and if you are interested in joining a committee, please speak with the chairperson or the Rector. The following is a list of our standing committees with the Vestry members and Chairs (committees are not always chaired by a Vestry member). The Wardens and Rector are ex officio members of all committees.

- * Treasurer - Donna Wachter
- * Finance - Charlie Kreussling (Chair),
- * Buildings & Grounds - Jeff Smith (Chair)
Jack Schultheis, Kurt Rettig
- * Cemetery - Ken LeCluse and George Krall (Chairs)
- * Christian Formation - Kathy Sides (Chair), Chris Mauro, Jack Schultheis, Stephanie Coleman (Sunday School Liaison)
- * Christian Education - Karen Noack (Chair)
- * Parish Life - Karen Douglass (Chair), Stephanie Coleman
- * Public Relations - Debbie LaMano (Chair)
- * Outreach - Sue Krall
- * Stewardship - Chris Mauro (Chair)

Jeff Smith will be Chairperson for the Strawberry Festival. Mark Saturday, June 13 on your calendar!

A keynote speaker at the November Diocesan Convention was the Rev. Canon Elizabeth Geitz, Canon for Ministry and Deployment in the Diocese of New Jersey. Donna Austin, our Convention Delegate, heard her speak and recommended to the Vestry that we read her book Fireweed Evangelism, Christian Hospitality in a Multi-Faith World. On the back cover of the book it says, "*Fireweed, always the first flower to bloom in ruins and burned over places, is Elizabeth Geitz's*

metaphor for evangelism that comes from the heart. It provides the motivation that makes some Christians eager to welcome the stranger and invite people into their churches, while others hang back...Geitz explores the missing ingredient in Christian hospitality, reminding us that in a multi-faith world where Christians wish to honor the validity of other religious paths, we may hesitate to talk about the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. She describes the nuts and bolts of outreach and newcomer ministry in a pluralistic society.

We have already purchased the books. After the Vestry completes reading them, it is our intention to pass the books on to the congregation.

Wishing you a Blessed Easter, bright with beauty and warm with joy.

- Pat & Jeff

MAUNDY THURSDAY MIDDLE EASTERN & SOUP SUPPER

On Maundy Thursday, April 9, we will be having our Middle Eastern food and soup supper, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Mills Hall. Please bring some Middle Eastern food (hummus, dates, figs, grain dishes, etc.), pita bread, juice or red wine to share, or a can of vegetable soup (no cream soups) for the pot. Following the supper, we will proceed to the church for a Eucharist, and the stripping of the altar. Please sign up for the supper on Sunday, or call the office to let us know you are coming, so we may set up enough tables.

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Once again, we will be supporting the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Mid East through the Good Friday Offering. The Church in that area helps to maintain a Christian witness in the Holy Land by serving all of God's people there in a variety of ministries throughout four dioceses, by proclaiming the gospel and promoting, and promoting justice, peace and love. Since 1922, Episcopalians here have supported the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East through the Good Friday Offering. Please mark your donations "Good Friday Offering" and place them in the offering plate during either service on Good Friday.

GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

Our Good Friday Blood Drive will be held in Mills Hall on April 10th from 3:00 - 8:15 p.m. We will again be doing automated double red cell donation for those eligible. Men must weigh 130 lbs. and be at least 5' 1" tall, and women must be at least 150 lbs. and 5' 5" (the variation in the genders has to do with blood volume). Donors must be at least 16 years old, weigh 110 lbs. and not have donated within the last 56 days. People age 76 and older can donate blood if they meet all the criteria, and present a physician's letter. For questions, please call me at 584-7853.

- Edna Rousseau

NEW YOGA CLASS FORMED

As of Thursday, March 12, a new yoga class has been formed. The class runs on Thursday evenings from 6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. All levels of experience are welcome. The class is free to parishioners, but we are asking for a donation of \$5 per class to others in the community. Bring a yoga mat and/or towel, and wear comfortable clothing. The class will be co-taught by Kathy Mauro and Mary Jane DeVito.

- Kathy Mauro

SPRING JAM SESSIONS

In preparation for our June Strawberry Festival, we have begun our jam making sessions. This year, we will be making all the usual springtime favorites, as well as some new recipes, which include a chocolate raspberry sundae topping and a zesty peach barbeque sauce. Our sessions during the month of April are scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 1st, 15th, and 29th. We invite any interested members of the parish to join in the fun. Contact Nancy Rasmussen (724-2083) for further information. If you have enjoyed our jams in the past, and have empty jars, please return them to the kitchen. We are also looking for donations of 8 oz. and 12 oz. canning jars to augment our collection, and/or large bags of sugar.

FESTIVAL OF FILMS & FAITH

The Festival of Films and Faith will be held again this year during April and May. The following films have been selected:

April 15 - "*The Kite Runner*"

May 14 - "*Lars and the Real Girl*"

May 21 - "*The Visitor*"

All films will begin at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a panel and audience discussion led by interfaith clergy. Each evening will conclude with refreshments, donated by local religious groups.

On April 15 and May 21 films will be shown at Theatre Three, Main Street, Port Jefferson; the film on May 14 will be shown at Temple Isaiah, 1404 Stony Brook Road, Stony Brook.

- Sue Krall

DIOCESAN PLEDGE

The following letter was recently received from Bishop Walker:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to express the thanks of the many that have benefitted by your congregation's accepting and fulfilling the tithe as the standard of giving to the ministries of the Diocese of Long Island. Your willingness to accept the biblical standard of sacrificial giving helped to support our growing Hispanic Ministry, youth and young adults programs, communications program and our HIV/AIDS medical educator working in the Church of the Province of West Africa to name but a few.

Your expression of gratitude for God's love and faithfulness is deeply appreciated

especially during these dire economic times. As we move through these troubled waters all of us involved in the administration of the Diocese of Long Island both volunteers and staff commit to the wise and just use of the resources placed at our disposal.

Please share this message with all who have given so that we might give.

Faithfully yours,

The Right Reverend Orris G. Walker, Jr.
7th Bishop of Long Island

FALLING INTO HOLY WEEK

The following article is reprinted from the March 2009 issue of diocesanlife

Three kids. Three days. The Triduum. In the midst of everyday parenting chaos, my friend fell deeply in love with God. All over again. Like any time we fall in love, she hadn't planned on it. In fact she hadn't planned on being that involved with Holy Week in the first place. It was definitely the kids' fault. By the time Holy Week came around and anyone in the house actually took note of what was on the family calendar, they were committed. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil.

At least one of the teens was involved each day, as an acolyte, choir member or a reader. Although she had grown up in the church, she had never attended all the services of Holy Week; she had not experienced the Triduum.

The three solemn days at the end of Lent are known as the Triduum Sacrum (three sacred days). Though the Triduum is really one service over three days, each day has its particular liturgical expression. On Maundy

Thursday we celebrate the Eucharist and intentionally remember the Last Supper. We enact the washing of feet. As the service ends, we strip the altar bare and reverently carry any of the remaining sacrament to a garden of repose. There is no dismissal at the end of the liturgy, because all is not finished. The action will not end until it completes the cycle through death and into new life on Easter.

On Good Friday we intentionally confront the reality of cruelty, betrayal, death, and loss. Through the Good Friday liturgy, the stations of the cross, the veneration of the cross and other rituals, we enter into the darkness. There is no celebration of the Eucharist on this day and any remaining reserved sacrament is reverently consumed. Christ is dead. And for our own salvation, we take the time to dwell in the tomb as well. It is the tomb we contemplate on Holy Saturday. It is a day of waiting.

Time stretches out until finally the great drama crescendos in the Easter Vigil, a service that begins with the lighting of the paschal candle as hope and joy are rekindled in the light of Christ and we make the great Easter shout of Alleluia!

The energy, drama and emotion of the Triduum bring us to our knees and release us into the deep joy of resurrection. There is no resurrection without death. There is no Easter Sunday without Good Friday. This is what my friend experienced. Compelled to be in attendance at these sacred rituals throughout the Triduum by the participation of her children, she found herself drawn deeply into the Easter mystery. What began as an obligation became a profound spiritual experience. She entered into our most sacred story and emerged changed, reborn.

I remember once as a teenager objecting to attending the Maundy Thursday service. It was spring break from school and my friends had something wonderful planned for that evening. My mother was firm. Maundy Thursday was a holy day that could not be skipped. I resisted. A commitment to church on Good Friday I could understand, I told her. I would never ask to skip Good Friday. But surely Maundy Thursday was expendable. Not to her it wasn't.

So we all went, me with some resentment. But having capitulated, I discovered that my mother was right. Returning to church three days in a row to participate in unique liturgies that came only once a year marked this time as distinct, set-apart, sacred. This practice was outside of the cultural rhythm and even outside of our usual church-going rhythm. At that time in my life, I was already drawn deeply to Good Friday. After that year Maundy Thursday became part of my sacred rhythm as well. It was a practice of family discipline before it was ever a holy habit for me. But it was the discipline that brought me to the holy.

The efforts of so many in any congregation are directed toward creating powerful liturgies for Holy Week. They do this not only as a labor of love, but also to provide access for all to enter deep into our most sacred mystery. For both the intentional participant and the casual passer-by, the invitation is there. If you have never fully experienced being immersed in the Triduum, why not make it part of your spiritual discipline this Lent. You might discover a holy habit. You might just fall in love.

- The Rev. Anne E. Kitch

OUTREACH

Outreach Beyond the Budget:

- * During Lent we are collecting money for Brush Fire Relief to help rebuild an Anglican church in Melbourne, Australia. It is not too late to donate. Mark your donation "for brush fire relief."
- * Also during Lent, we are collecting money for Episcopal Relief and Development from our Lenten Fast on Fridays. Mark your donation "Lenten fast for E.R.D."
- * We are giving \$370.00 to the American Cancer Society from the sale of daffodils. Thank you, once again, to Ruth LeCluse for organizing this outreach and to all who bought or donated daffodils.
- * GlobalGiving gift cards were given to retiring Vestry members and to Sheri, who baby-sat at the annual meeting in February. The money was donated as follows:
 - + \$25.00 for Afghan women
 - + \$25.00 for health care for children in Darfur
 - + \$25.00 for earthquake survivors in China
 - + \$50.00 for clean water and reforestation in Hawaii

Outreach from the 2009 Budget:

An Outreach meeting will be held on Monday, April 6 at 7 p.m. in the Christian Education building. We will be discussing how we should allocate the \$2,000 in the 2009 church budget that will go to outreach. This meeting is open to all who would like to attend. Please come and help us decide where our money will go.

- Sue Krall

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

St. James Church will be participating in an Adopt-a-Family program sponsored by the Family Service League of Long Island. Last year, the League served over 47,000 people and this year the number is expected to rise dramatically. Please join in helping to meet the needs of a Suffolk family. At coffee hour starting April 19th, a sign-up list of needed items will be posted. There also will be a dollar-donation basket for donations for grocery or Walmart gift cards at coffee hour, and one at the back of the church. Item donation bins will be located in the hall of the Christian Education building. To learn more about FSL, visit www.fsl-li.org. Any question about the St. James Adopt-a-Family program or about items you can donate, please contact Sandy Grigoletto at styler@optonline.net or call 751-2579.

- Sandy Grigoletto

POTLUCK SUPPER & GAME NIGHT **Saturday, April 25** **5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** **Mills Hall**

We are having a Potluck Supper & Game night so everyone, young and old, new & long-timers, and everyone in between can enjoy and evening of fellowship, good food and fun. Bring your family, invite your friends and neighbors, for a night of friendly competition and great fun.

Bring a dish and your favorite games to share! A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex and at coffee hour.

- Karen Douglass

2009 CONFIRMATION

The Diocese has announced the schedule for Confirmations for 2009. Confirmation will be held at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City on Saturday, October 10, and Saturday, October 24 at 2 p.m.

Candidates for Confirmation must be 16 years of age at the time of Confirmation, or have a 16th birthday within 30 days following the service. If you have already been Confirmed in another denomination, and wish to be Received into the Episcopal Church, this will take place at the same service as the Confirmation.

Please speak to the Rector if you are interested in being either Confirmed or Received.

FOOD PANTRY

The March 22nd Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for the 25th anniversary of the Smithtown Food Pantry was well attended. We thank Raewynne for preaching the sermon, and we thank the members of the parish who attended.

One of the highlights of the service was the combined choir from the seven churches (almost 50). Thank you to Dara Linthwaite, Laurie Mannix, Ann Tebbutt and Ron Tebbutt for participating.

- Pat Westlake & Claudette Plaschka

CHRISTIAN FORMATION & EDUCATION LORD'S PRAYER STUDY CONTINUES

The Adult and Senior High discussion group on the Lord's Prayer will meet on Wednesday, April 1 in Mills Hall (7:0 - 8:30 p.m.), break for Holy Week, and then conclude on Wednesday, April 15. Even if you've not been able to attend previous discussions, please join us for these last two sessions as we continue our exploration of the Lord's Prayer. A lot is packed into those familiar words that we say each Sunday morning!

Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information on upcoming Bible studies and topical discussions.

- Kathy Sides

BOOK NOOK REMINDER

When you are doing your Spring cleaning, please remember the St. James Book Nook. We collect gently used books all year long for sale at the Harvest Festival. Please bring in your books and place them in the lobby of the Education building. We will sort and store them for the autumn. Any questions, please feel free to contact me at 689-0663.

- Stephanie Coleman

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Pat Pawelko would like to update the records to show her cell phone number of 631-327-5863 and email address of pjp2cor517@optimum.net. Please note these changes in your directory.

As of March 27, Peter Cahill was recovering nicely from his hip replacement surgery, and was walking using only a cane. He was able to return to church this past Sunday. That is good news!

Also, Lil Moleti is recuperating from kidney surgery, which she underwent in early March down in Florida. Please continue to remember her in your prayers as she continues to return to good health.

APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 Jam making 4:30 p.m.
Lenten study 7 p.m.
- 2 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 4 Altar Guild Palm Sunday
Preparation 9 a.m.
- 5 **Palm Sunday** Holy Eucharist
at 8 and 9:30 a.m.
- 6 Buildings & Grounds 7 p.m.
Outreach 7 p.m.
Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Yoga class 5 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 **Maundy Thursday** 6:30 p.m.
Supper & Eucharist
- 10 **Good Friday**
Seven Last Words 12 - 3 p.m.
Blood Drive 3 - 8 p.m.
Good Friday Liturgy 7:30 pm
- 11 **Holy Saturday**
Altar Guild Easter prep 9 a.m.
Easter Vigil 7 p.m.
- 12 **Easter Day**
Holy Eucharist 8 & 9:30 a.m.
- 13 Easter Monday - office closed
- 14 Yoga class 5 p.m.
Recovery group

- 15 Jam making 4:30 p.m.
- 16 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Holy Eucharist 8 & 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Yoga class 5 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 25 Toastmasters Club meeting
9:30 a.m.
Parish Game Night 5 p.m.
- 27 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Yoga class 5 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Jam making 4:30 p.m.
- 30 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 4:30 p.m.
Yoga class 6:15 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Hank Hull
Amanda Mercep
Karen Douglass
David Douglass
Kenneth Grigoletto
Fjeril Deal
Heidi Glogg
Andrew Pfitzer
Bryan Petschauer
Lindsey Noack
Chris Noack
Thomas LaMano III
Richard Tracy
Arlyne Gureck
Joseph LaMano
Mike Neyssen

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Dan & Carol Maybee
Hank & Eileen Hull

REMINDER: Easter flower memorials and thanksgivings are due in the office by Monday, April 6.

SUMMER VEGETABLES

Do you look forward to fresh, seasonal organic vegetables? Join with the Rector in supporting local Long Island agriculture. The pickup is every second week from mid-June through mid-November (we share pickup duties). You can subscribe for any of the following shares: Vegetables \$265, Fruit \$140, Flowers \$85, Eggs \$35, All of the above \$510. Please send your name, which type(s) of share(s) you want, and your check (made out to Garden of Eve) to the church office **by the end of April**. For more information go to <http://www.stjamesstjames.org/summervegetables.pdf> or speak to Raewynne.