

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

April 2011

FROM THE



It's midway in Lent, and we're beginning to turn our thoughts toward Easter. Those first deep purple crocuses and the pale green veils of leaf buds promise new

life. But sometimes it's difficult to translate the natural new life we see around us every spring into the new life of resurrection that we receive in Christ, especially as we often think of resurrection in terms of what happens after we die, rather than something that (according to the New Testament) we begin to taste right here and now.

A few years ago, I came across a poem that tries to explore what it means to live as people of the resurrection. It's "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front" by Wendell Berry, and it's become one of my favorite poems.

After sketching the futility of a life guided by profit and fear, he says,

"So, friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world..."

Expect the end of the world. Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts...

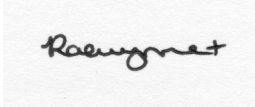
Practice resurrection."

Practice resurrection. We practice resurrection when we smile or laugh. We practice resurrection when we thank someone, or give them a compliment.



We practice resurrection when we encourage someone. We practice resurrection when we talk to someone we don't know. We practice resurrection when we try something new. We practice resurrection when we forgive someone. We practice resurrection when we do something creative.

So as we move from Lent into Easter, I challenge you to practice resurrection in your life, and particularly in our church. Look for the blessings. When you don't like something, instead of complaining, look around for something you like, and share that with someone. Thank someone. Encourage someone. Share the grace of God. And thank God. Practice resurrection.



SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2011

It's hard to believe that Easter is almost upon us. This is the holiest period of our year as Christians. In the Episcopal Church, unlike the Roman Catholic Church, we don't speak about days of obligation, when you are required to be in church for the sake of your salvation. But the expectation is the same. If we claim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we should be in church on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Eve and Day.

On *Palm Sunday*, we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as we process with palms and singing, and conclude our service with the somber reading of the Passion narrative. On *Maundy Thursday*, we remember the last night of our Savior, as he gathered with his friends for a meal, and then went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. We will share a meal in Christ's memory, concluding with the Eucharist, the stripping of the altar, and an overnight prayer vigil. On *Good Friday*, we remember our Savior's death on the cross. We will spend three hours in reflection, following in the steps of Christ as we trace the biblical stations of the cross, accompanied by prayer, music, poetry and photographs of Jerusalem. On *Holy Saturday*, we will wait, until the evening, when we will celebrate the first Eucharist of the Resurrection with the new fire, candlelight, and renewal of our baptismal vows with water from the Jordan River. On *Easter Day*, we will celebrate our Savior's Resurrection with Festival Eucharists at both services, the renewal of baptismal vows, and at 9.30am, the commissioning of our confirmation candidates for this year.

So clear your calendars. God is waiting. Make space for the one who saves you. Worship the Lord our God in this holiest week of the year.

- Raewynne Whiteley

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday - April 17

Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - April 21

Soup & Mediterranean Food Supper
with Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the
altar 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday - April 22

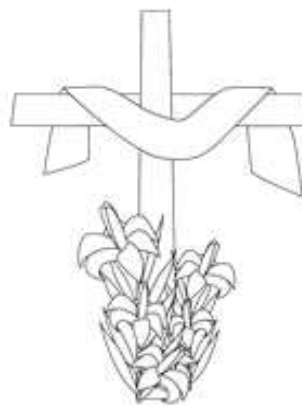
Service 12 - 3 p.m.
Blood Drive 2 - 8 p.m. - Mills Hall

Holy Saturday - April 23

Prayer shawl retreat 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Mills Hall
Easter Vigil 7 p.m.

Easter Day - April 24

Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Easter egg hunt following service



THE WARDENS' COLUMN

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1 New American Standard Bible
(c.1995)

During our book study at the Vestry meeting last night, Raewynne stated that there is risk in change and in having faith. She then asked, “how do we feel when we take that risk?” The answers varied greatly, however, apprehension and excitement seemed to be the most prevalent responses. Ask yourself how do you feel when you step out in faith? There are no wrong answers. Excited? Worried? Scared? Comforted? Perhaps we feel all of these emotions at the same time.

There was consensus that stepping out in faith requires prayer. One of the core goals that have been pointed out for the parish is growing in faith through prayer. Prayer feeds the spirit.

There have been some changes in my life as of late, and I have been asked, “aren’t you scared, aren’t you afraid?” I honestly can answer, “no, I’m not.” I have faith that God will care for me and I have nothing to be afraid of. As a member of this parish I feel that I am most definitely growing in my faith and in my prayer life.

Many things in life are a risk, and without a little risk, or perhaps I should say faith, I really believe that you are not living your life to the fullest potential. We can not see the future, but we know things will change. We are certain of that. We will be different, and the world will be different. Scripture teaches us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. It also teaches us that when we truly follow God, He will not ask us to do more than we are capable of, and he will provide. And with faith, that is something we can be certain of as well.

Peace and Blessings,
Debbie & Chris

PRAYER PARTNERS

Over the next few weeks, you may be approached by a member of vestry and asked if you would be willing to be their prayer partner. Don’t be scared! All it means is being willing to pray for the parish and for that person, and they’ll pray for you. And if you don’t get asked, you don’t miss out. Just find someone else in the parish (other than your spouse or parent or child) and ask if they would be willing to be your prayer partner.

- *Raewynne Whiteley*

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

The Good Friday Offering has been a source of support, love, and hope for our brothers and sisters in the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This year’s offering extends to us the opportunity to join in deepening the bond we have with the churches and people in the Holy Land.

Please make your checks payable to St. James Church, with “Good Friday Offering” indicated on the memo line. The checks, along with any cash offerings received, will be combined into one check to support the mission and ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

Again this year, St. James is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Good Friday, April 22, from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m. in Mills Hall.

The winter season has been particularly difficult, causing dozens of blood drive cancellations and loss of thousands of pints of blood. Please support the Blood Drive by donating blood if you are able, and by encouraging your neighbors, friends and work colleagues to do the same.

JOINT PRAYER SHAWL MEETING HOLY SATURDAY 2011

Come join us to share in fellowship and prayer on Holy Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. in Mills Hall. As we remember the women at the tomb of our Lord and Savior, we will reflect on where our prayer shawl journeys have taken us this past year. Our special guest speaker this year will be Jeanne Provenzano, Esq., wife of the Bishop.

Bring your knitting or crocheted works in progress, as well as completed shawls to be blessed. A contribution of a canned food item for the Smithtown Food Pantry would be welcome. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be served.

- Wylie Hunt

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

A wonderful time was had by all at our annual Pancake Supper/Mardi Gras celebration. In addition to pancakes and sausages, Chris Mauro brought a fantastic jambalaya, which was enjoyed by all. A HUGE thank you to the Noack trio, who set up, cooked, and cleaned up. Brian and Lindsey spent the evening flipping pancakes, as Karen and I kept the batter and sausages moving. Emily Mauro and the LaMano boys (Thomas, Michael, and Joseph) helped serve and kept things moving. Katy Sacher jumped in with both feet at her first parish event, stepping in wherever we needed a helping hand. Thanks to Sue and George Krall for the wonderful King cakes. George was the lucky recipient of the "baby" last year and the male luck seems to be in force, as Kurt Rettig was our winner this year!

The Alleluia sign was buried with all the pomp and circumstance so that it may be resurrected at Easter. The best part was, in addition to all the good food and fellowship, we were able to raise \$215 in donations after expenses to donate to Episcopal Relief and Development. What a wonderful way to begin our Lenten season!

- Stephanie Coleman

OUTREACH

March was St. James' month to staff the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry. The Pantry was very busy. I was there on March 1 and 17 families showed up! Thankfully, I had a lot of help that day. Listening is part of this ministry. One man was so disabled he needed help carrying the food. One woman was having her wages garnished. She kept her son home from school to help pack the car with food. (At least he got to choose his favorite cereal.) Another woman had been out of work for 2 years, so was moving to Oregon where she thought things would be better. The list goes on. We all need to count our blessings! Thank you to all who volunteered to staff the Pantry in March. I'm sure you heard many heart-rending stories too. Check the Sunday bulletin for foods the Pantry currently needs. When in doubt, donate juice.

Our Friday Fast for Lent continues until Easter. The money you save from lunch can be donated and sent to Episcopal Relief and Development. With the recent disaster in Japan and other on-going struggles throughout the world, ERD needs all the donations they can get to "help a hurting world."

Seamen's Church Institute will receive scarves and hats that our parishioners knit and crochet during Lent. See Raewynne for a web site with scarf and hat patterns.

Sadly, seven children died recently in a Pennsylvania house fire. Only one child in the family survived. If you would like to help the family with expenses, checks payable to the "Clouse Family Fund" may be sent to: Church of the Living Christ

P.O. Box 180

Loysville PA 17047

The Mardi Gras and Pancake Supper brought in \$215.00 which has been sent to ERD. Thanks to all who attended this lively fund-raising party on Fat Tuesday and especially to those who cooked and cleaned up the kitchen!

Protestant Campus Ministry is looking for several types of donations:

1. Backpacks - Stony Brook University students will be joining First Presbyterian Church of Port Jefferson youth who make a midnight run to NYC with sandwiches and toiletries packed in backpacks for the homeless.

2. Gift cards appealing to college students - PCM's Chaplain is looking for gift cards for her "Trivia Treasure Box" to give out to students who can answer her Bible trivia questions. Even small amounts of money can be put on a Starbucks card which would surely be a favorite.

3. Baseball-type caps for PCM's "Scripture Bowling Team" - Students recite Scripture verses before letting the ball fly down the alley and are looking for caps to show they are a team. Does anyone have a contact where caps are printed or embroidered? Would anyone like to donate to this cause?

4. Your time - The Board of PCM is looking for a Treasurer. Meetings are held monthly on a Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. during the academic year. Talk with me if this might be your ministry.

An Outreach Meeting will be held in Mills Hall on April 10 at 11:15 a.m. during coffee hour. We will decide how the \$2,000.00 budgeted for outreach will be spent. All are welcome.

- Sue Krall, Outreach Chair

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

A big "**Thank You**" to all the volunteers who gave so generously of their time, it was very appreciated. It was a very busy month at the pantry. As of March 28th we served 110 families, a total of 350 individuals. We were also kept very busy with numerous donations being dropped off on a daily basis. Thank you, Raewynne, for relocating your Monday office hours to the Pantry during the month of March. Hope to see you all again in October at the Pantry.

- Claudette Plaschka

PEOPLE IN THE PEWS

This month we feature David Douglass

Tell us about yourself: I've been married to Karen for 23 years, and we are in the process of raising two cute but (sometimes) irritating children, Catie (17) and Alex (14). I grew up in eastern Pennsylvania for the most part, and we have lived in Mt. Sinai since 2001, when we moved here for a new job. I currently work for Veeco Instruments doing technical marketing. I like fine dining, travel, and solving complex technical problems, so that worked out pretty well.

When did you first attend St. James?: September 16, 2001. Michael Bartolomeo did a wonderful job on that awful day.

Roles played in the parish: Occasional usher, choir member, youth group leader, and full time avoider of committees. And Pat Westlake's personal favorite, being on another continent during the Harvest Festival (7 out of 10 years).

What do you like most about St. James: Certainly the people are what make the difference between this and other Episcopal churches. This is the longest I've ever lived in one place, and it's been neat getting to know

such wonderful folks over such a long time. That, and Kathy Mauro's shoes. Love those.

Last book read?: The Happiness Advantage by Shawn Achor.

Hymn you'd take to a desert island: #599

(*"Lift every voice and sing"*).

Tell us some of your favorites:

Color - green

Movie - "The Princess Bride"

Song/music - That's a tough one. Variety is the spice of life, music-wise. If I could only pick one, it would have to be Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl", of course.

Season - SUMMER - the hotter the better!

Sports team - E-A-G-L-E-S EAGLES! (I spelled it slowly so Giants fans could understand).

Pastime - In summer: golf, waterskiing, fishing, boating, and barbequing – preferably all on the same day. In winter: complaining about the cold and wishing I lived in Florida.

The way to spend Saturday morning - having a talk with Karen, it's the only conversation of the week when we're both awake.

Education and interests: B.S. in physics from Lehigh University, and a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Virginia, studying magnetic nanoparticles and high intensity lasers.

If you were to start another career, what would it be? Selling shoes to Kathy Mauro.

A verse from Scripture that is especially meaningful to you? "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." That sort of says it all, doesn't it?

Et cetera: Q. How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb? A. 63.

WOMEN & GIRLS: CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

The Women's Commission in the Diocese of Long Island is sponsoring a day-long event at the Mercer School in Garden City on Saturday April 3. The theme of the conference is "Women & Girls: Created in the Image of God." The program includes speakers who will address the negative messages about the image of women as portrayed in advertising and film, and an interactive workshop exploring "Things Your Mother Never Told You."

The conference will conclude with worship in the Cathedral of the Incarnation, officiated by Bishop Provenzano. Cost of the conference is \$15/adult and \$10 youth (ages 12 - 18 years). Look for further information in the April issue of *Dominion*, or info and registration online at <http://tinyurl.com/69yxrzn>. Or download the registration form from the Diocesan website and mail with payment to arrive no later than April 24th to: The Women's Commission c/o George Mercer Jr. Memorial School of Theology, 65 Fourth Street, Garden City NY 11530.

We'd love to take a parish group to this. Talk to the Rector for more information.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, April 26, 12:30 p.m. at Acropolis Restaurant, Smithtown Boulevard, Nesconset. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 if you are interested in joining in the fun and fellowship. All are welcome!

- Fjeril Deal

FESTIVAL OF FILMS AND FAITH

The greater Port Jefferson-Northern Brookhaven Arts Council, Little Portion Friary, Protestant Campus Ministry, Temple Isaiah, and several local churches are again sponsoring the Festival of Films and Faith during April and May. The films will be shown at Theatre Three, 412 Main Street, Port Jefferson, at 7 p.m., followed by an interfaith panel discussion with audience participation, and then a reception. Free tickets will be available in the church narthex.

Tuesday, April 12 - Waste Land

(Academy Award Nominated as Best Documentary Film for 2010)

Thursday, May 19 - Little Miss Sunshine

Thursday, May 26 - Goodbye Solo

These are always enlightening, enjoyable evenings!

- Sue Krall

DO YOU RUN? (OR WALK?)

Join us in the St. James Fire Department Annual 5 mile run and 3.5 mile walk on Saturday, April 16. Talk with the Rector, if you are interested. Registration is due by April 8; the cost is \$20. This is a great way to participate as a parish in the life of our local community.

PROVINCE II CONFERENCE

You are invited to attend the Province II Conference, "Anglicanism Remixed: Embracing the Other, Our Traditions and the Future" on May 5 and 6, 2001 at the Doubletree Hotel, East Syracuse.

Led by the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, with music by Isaac Everetts, with workshops presented by provincial leaders, this will be an exciting opportunity to get tuned into a variety of new concepts designed to assist in strengthening one's skills in reaching out into our many communities to extend the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Raewynne will be one of the speakers/preachers at the conference. You can speak with her for more information.

Conference registration fee is \$120 per person until April 15 (\$130 afterwards), which includes two luncheons, dinner, and materials. Rooms at the hotel are extra. For further information contact Chuck Perfater, Executive Coordinator at 609-538-1200 or chperfater@comcast.net.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

A leprechaun told us that George and Matthew Donohue were among the princes participating in the St. James' St. Patrick's Parade on March 12th. The boys are the sons of Tom and Theresa Donohue, and grandsons of Flo and Jack Donohue.

Former parishioner, Evan Blomkvist, passed away on March 17 after an illness. His family was at his side. A memorial service was held at the family's church in Connecticut on March 26th. We extend our

prayer and deepest sympathy to Jean and family. Condolences can be sent to Jean at 25 Hamlet Manor Lane, Durham CT 06422. Donations in Evan's memory may be made to the American Heart Association, or The Church of St. Andrew the Apostle, 331 Orchard Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067.

APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Toastmasters' group 9:30 a.m.
- 3 **Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school "Pretzel Sunday"
- 4 Yoga 3:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Lenten series 7:30 p.m.
- 7 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Piano recital 2 p.m. - Mills Hall rental
- 10 **Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Sunday school
Outreach meeting 11:15 p.m.
Nursery school 50th anniversary
brunch 12 p.m.
- 11 Yoga 3:30 p.m.
Sunday school planning meeting
7:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Lenten series 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

- 17 **Palm Sunday**
Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 p.m.
- 18 Yoga 3:30 p.m.
Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 21 **Maundy Thursday**
Soup & Middle Eastern Food Supper
6:30 p.m. followed by Holy
Eucharist.
- 22 **Good Friday**
Service 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Blood Drive 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- 23 **Holy Saturday**
Prayer Shawl group meeting 9 a.m.
Easter Vigil 7 p.m.
- 24 **Easter Day**
Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Easter egg hunt following service
- 25 **Easter Monday - office closed**
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Bible study 10 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 28 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Hank Hull
Amanda Mercep
Karen Douglass
David Douglass
Kenneth Grigoletto
Fjeril Deal
Russell Bengtson
Heidi Glogg
Addison & Nathan Kittredge
Bryan Petschauer
Lindsey Noack
Chris Noack
Thomas LaMano III
Richard Tracy
Arlyne Gureck
Joseph LaMano
Mike Neyssen

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Hank & Eileen Hull