

# Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

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April 2012

FROM THE



Over the last few days, the media has been overwhelmed by the story of the death of Trayvon Martin, the teenager in Florida shot by a neighborhood watch

volunteer. The basic facts seem clear: a visiting teenager was walking through a suburban subdivision on a rainy evening, on his way back from the store. He was wearing a hoodie, but was unarmed. A resident of the gated community and neighborhood watch volunteer saw him, and, concerned that he was behaving suspiciously, followed him, calling 911 on the way. What happened next is much less clear; someone screamed, there may have been a fight, the teenager ended up dead. Investigations by both local and federal authorities are still underway.

Regardless of the outcome of those investigations, some troubling questions have arisen. Why is it that a kid in a hoodie is seen as a threat? What was the role of race in all this? What constitutes self defense? How do we deal with crime in our communities?

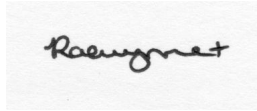
And those questions are not simply theoretical, tied to a particular case a month

ago and a thousand miles away. Here on Long Island, racism is alive and well – not just between white and black, but Hispanic and Jewish as well. Kids in hoodies have been attacked – yes, even here in Suffolk County – because their clothing has led people to make assumptions about their race, immigration status, motives, and character. In 2008 and 2009, the last years for which figures are available, 8 children and teenagers died from firearm injuries every day. In the last twenty years, the rates of violent and property crime have dropped by almost half, but almost every year, most Americans have told pollsters they believe crime is getting worse – and fear has, if anything, escalated.

So what should our response be? I don't think there are any easy answers, but two things spring to mind. First are the promises we make in our baptismal covenant, to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself" and to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." There can be no room in our lives and actions for racism and stereotyping. Furthermore, we are called to do all in our power to work towards a society where all are treated justly, regardless of their race, age, and so on. We need to speak out on behalf of those whose voices are not heard.

Second, the first letter of John (4:18) reminds us that love casts out fear. God loves us, and we do not need to be afraid. Not only is our society safer than it has ever been, but we can trust in God to care for and protect us. And as we share that love with others in tangible ways, we can help to dispel fear in their lives.

And if you see a kid in a hoodie, don't assume they're up to no good. Say hello; treat them as you would your own brother, child, grandchild. Treat them as you would Jesus. It might be one of our own parishioners. It might, in the words of the letter to the Hebrews (13:2), be an angel, that we entertain unawares.



## SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

**Maundy Thursday, April 5** - Soup & Middle Eastern food supper with Holy Eucharist 6:30 p.m.

**Good Friday, April 6** - "The Way of the Cross" 12 Noon to 3 p.m.  
Blood Drive - 3 to 7:30 p.m.

**Holy Saturday, April 7** - Easter Vigil with Baptism 7 p.m.

**Easter Day, April 8** - Holy Eucharist I at 8 a.m.  
Celebration Holy Eucharist II at 9:30 a.m.

## EASTER INVITATION

Worship and prayer are at the center of our life together at St. James Church, and no day is more glorious than Easter Sunday. Easter is the day when we as a congregation are joyfully gathered together.

This is a suggestion for all of us to reach out during Holy Week, not to those we know who plan to attend church on Easter, but to someone or some family who might not be in church at all, and would be missing out on one of the most meaningful worship services at St. James Church. Please offer them a warm invitation to join you and our church family for Easter services and coffee hour.

*- Doug Dahlgard*

## **EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS & THANKSGIVINGS**

If you would like to honor or remember a family member or special event, you are invited to do so by giving a contribution for the flowers which are used to decorate the church for the Easter season. Monday, April 2 is the last day to get your order in to the office, so that we have time to print up the acknowledgment for the Easter bulletin. Memorial envelopes are in the back of the church, or you may call the church office.

## **THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL**

We often hear the question, “what are they doing in Sunday school?” As we approach the end of our journey through Lent, and the hope of Easter draws near, it seems timely to share a recent Sunday school lesson. In the case of our young adults, ‘The Journey to Adulthood’ (J2A) program is in essence a multi-year confirmation preparation course. It is complimented by The Catechism, which many of us are more familiar with. We ask the congregation to take time in the coming weeks to pray on the following questions from the catechism, and find simple and meaningful personal answers. We hope this will be a means to grow in your own faith, and a tool to help share it with others.

Sin and Redemption (BCP, page 848)

Q. What is sin?

A. Sin is the seeking of our own will instead of the will of God, thus distorting our relationship with God, with other people, and with all creation.

Q. How does sin have power over us?

A. Sin has power over us because we lose our liberty when our relationship with God is distorted.

Q. What is redemption?

A. Redemption is the act of God which sets us free from the power of evil, sin, and death.

Q. How did God prepare us for redemption?

A. God sent the prophets to call us back to himself, to show us our need for redemption, and to announce the coming of the Messiah.

Q. What is meant by the Messiah?

A. The Messiah is one sent by God to free us from the power of sin, so that with the help of God we may live in harmony with God, within ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation.

Q. Who do we believe is the Messiah?

A. The Messiah, or Christ, is Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son of God.

The final question for us this Easter season is “What is the Good News of the Gospel?”

The standard Sunday school student answer is something like, “Jesus died for us so that we can have salvation.” Short and to the point, it is an answer to be proud of. But, does it truly reflect the joy of good news? Again, in considering your answer, keep it simple (no theological jargon) and personally meaningful. We would think that hearing the Good News of the Gospel should feel like Christmas morning, or going for ice cream when you were a child. Perhaps consider the last question from the Catechism as a starting place.

(BCP, page 862)

Q. What, then, is our assurance as Christians?

A. Our assurance as Christians is that nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*Peace and blessing,  
Debbie and Chris*

**MAUNDY THURSDAY  
SUPPER & EUCHARIST**

The Maundy Thursday service will begin at 6:30 p.m. with readings and a soup and Middle Eastern food supper, and continue with Holy Eucharist in the church. All are welcome, especially families and kids. A sign up sheet will be available in the back of the church and in Mills Hall this Sunday.

*- Pat Westlake*

**GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE**

St. James will sponsor the annual Blood Drive on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 7:30 p.m. in Mills Hall. If you are able to donate blood, please sign up to do so. For more information, contact Edna Rousseau at 584-7853.

**GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING**

Once again this year, the offering taken during the service on Good Friday will be sent to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. This group supports the indigenous Arab Christians, who, as a religious minority, struggle to maintain the historic presence of Christianity in the land where our faith began. The offering assists the dioceses and the Province of Jerusalem in the Middle East. Please note "Good Friday Offering" in the memo section if you are writing a check.

**JOINT PRAYER SHAWL MEETING**

On Holy Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. you are invited to a joint Prayer Shawl meeting at the Setauket Presbyterian Church, 5 Caroline Avenue, Setauket. This year's guest speaker will be the Rev. Kate Jones Calone, Associate Pastor at the Setauket Presbyterian Church. 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 local food pantry would be welcome. Speak to me for further information.

*- Wylie Hunt*

**MAKE A MEAL FOR STEPHANIE**

Stephanie Coleman is presently at home recovering from surgery for a herniated disk in her neck. While she is recuperating, we are providing her with meals. A meal schedule has been created using [TakeThemAMeal.com](http://TakeThemAMeal.com), and you've been invited to participate! If you would like to sign up, you can access the meal schedule by visiting [TakeThemAMeal.com](http://TakeThemAMeal.com) and locating the schedule by recipient last name (Coleman) and password (1478). Additional information is available on the website, and if you have any questions, please call Wylie Hunt at 751-5618.

*- Wylie Hunt*

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey where a person affirms the faith into which they have been baptized and states their intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and laying on of hands by the bishop. The Church also asks God to give you power through the Holy Spirit to enable you to live in the way of Jesus.

Confirmation – life Baptism – is not something we simply do as if it were some sort of “rite of passage.” It is a sacramental rite that is undertaken as a mature, public commitment to living out our baptismal faith in the world.

If you have been baptized and would like to confirm or reaffirm your baptismal faith, please email the Rector. This year, there are no confirmations at the Cathedral in Garden City. Instead, there will be a regional confirmation on August 5 in Westhampton Beach. We will begin preparation in early May.

- *Raewynne*

## OUTREACH

**The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry** is especially in need of peanut butter, jelly, fruit, fruit juices, canned chicken, canned pasta like ravioli, and regular soups. Recently our cart in the Christian Education building was full! Please take a turn delivering the food to the Pantry. Our next month to serve at the pantry is May. The sign-up sheet will be in Mills Hall soon. Three people are needed for each day from 9 a.m. to noon.

**The money raised at the Mardi Gras Celebration** will be donated to help rebuild the Cathedral in Haiti.

**Hand-knit baby hats for Haiti** are available in the sacristy for \$20.00. We thank Woolly Wednesday’s talented knitters for providing this outreach to help Haiti rebuild.

**Knit or crochet scarves and hats for the Seamen’ Church Institute during Lent.**

Look in the narthex for suggested patterns, or speak to Raewynne. There is also a pattern for a ditty bag for those who like to sew. If you can supply some hard candy to go in the bags, you can place it in Raewynne’s basket.

**Fast during lunch on Fridays** (or another day) and donate the money you would have spent for your meal to Episcopal Relief and Development. Please clearly note “ER&D” in the memo line of your check.

**St. James Annual Blood Drive will be held on Good Friday, April 6 from 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Mills Hall.** Blood donors must be at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and not have donated blood within the last 56 days. Sixteen year olds must present a signed parental permission form. Visit [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org) to obtain the form. People age 76 and older can donate blood if they meet all the criteria and present a physician’s letter. Everyone must bring a form of identification with their signature or photo. For more information and to schedule an appointment on Good Friday, call Edna Rousseau at 584-7853.

**Camp DeWolfe is holding Service Saturdays.** You are invited to spend the day painting, landscaping, gardening, doing beach clean-up and more during the spring. Dates are Saturdays, April 7, 21, and May 5, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. A bagged lunch and

drinks are provided. A \$5.00 donation for lunch is suggested. Sign up by email: [etees@campdewolfe.org](mailto:etees@campdewolfe.org) or call 929-4325. The camp is located at 408 Northside Road, Wading River.

**Protestant Campus Ministries students are still collecting toiletries** for women transitioning from domestic violence but only until Wednesday, April 4. Please leave your donations in the basket in the narthex. Thank you to the many people who have donated in the last few weeks to this cause.

**PCM students are also collecting backpacks, tote bags, and gently used or new clothing** for a Midnight Run to NYC on May 4 to benefit the homeless. Call First Presbyterian Church of Port Jefferson at 473-0147 to find out where to bring your donations.

**Episcopal Charities Annual Appeal is still underway.** The appeal not only funds the ministries and operations of the Diocese, it can fund services that are of great help to ministries here in our parish. For example, Episcopal Charities funds support Protestant Campus Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, and Bread for the World. This year, the theme of the appeal is from St. Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians: "All that we have and all that we are is given us by God"; in thanksgiving, please give generously to the annual appeal. Our parish receives 25% of each dollar contributed to our goal of \$4,673 and 50% of funds donated beyond our goal. This year we will commit our "parish return" to outreach projects. Please respond to the Bishop's request by making a pledge as generous as your circumstances will allow – and remember your pledge can be billed in ten monthly installments. **Checks are to be made out to Episcopal Charities of Long Island.**

**An Outreach meeting will be held on**

**Sunday, April 15 at 11 a.m. in Mills Hall.** We will determine how to allocate the \$2,000 in the 2012 budget for outreach. All are invited.

*- Sue Krall*

## COFFEE HOUR

Did you know that a large number of our coffee hour hosts have been serving for at least 20 years? Did you know that they would be happy to have new people join them in serving our congregation? Each team serves about 3 to 4 times a year. Each team is responsible for setting up, serving, and cleanup. The team supplies the "treats." Coffee, tea, etc. are purchased by the church.

If you would be interested in joining the group, please speak to Pat Kregler, or any coffee hour host. We will pair you with an experienced team to lean the ropes. You may contact me at [patkreg@verizon.net](mailto:patkreg@verizon.net) or 863-1113.

*- Pat Kregler*

## FESTIVAL OF FILMS & FAITH

The Greater Port Jefferson Arts Council and area churches and synagogues are sponsoring the annual Festival of Films and Faith on three Tuesdays: April 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, and May 1<sup>st</sup>. The films will be shown at 7:00 p.m. at Theatre Three, 412 Main Street, Port Jefferson.

The films being shown are:  
**"A Better Life"** - Starring Demian Bichir, who was nominated for an Academy Award as Best Actor, as an illegal immigrant gardener living in East Los Angeles, who

struggles to remain employed but undetected by immigration authorities while keeping his son from gangs and providing him with opportunities his father never had. Rated (PG 13). In English. To be shown April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**“Of Gods and Men”** - A true story of eight heroic Christian monks in 1996 living in a monastery perched in the mountains of Algeria, serving and living in harmony with their Muslim neighbors. Threatened by civil war and the violence of insurgents, they struggle together with the terrible decisions they face in a film one reviewer calls “a luminous, transcendent experience.” Rated (R), in Arabic and French.. To be shown April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**“In a Better World”** - A powerful experience, winner of an Academy Award as Best Foreign Language Film and dozens of awards world-wide. Anton is a doctor who commutes between his home in Denmark and his work at an African refugee camp. In these two different worlds he and his family are faced with conflict that leads them to choices between revenge and forgiveness. Rated (R), in Danish, Swedish, English, and Arabic. To be shown May 1<sup>st</sup>.

An interfaith panel and audience participation discussion follows each film. The panels are as follows:  
April 17<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Arnold Katz, Moderator;  
Panelists: Rabbi Stephen Karol, Rev. Brenda Ford, and Rev. David Mantz.  
April 24<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Dr. Richard Graugh, Moderator; Panelists: Margaret Pols, Fr. Francis Lasrado, Dr. Arnold Katz and Rev. Peter Jansson.  
May 1<sup>st</sup> - Rabbi Steven Karol, Moderator;  
Panelists: Rev. Dr. Richard Graugh, William Hall and Rabbi David Altman.

## **GOOD FRIDAY “THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST”**

Christ Episcopal Church, 127 Barnum Avenue, Port Jefferson will feature an original presentation of the last days of the Christ, presented by the Rev. Anthony DiLorenzo, their interim priest. Fr. DiLorenzo, who has theater experience, will portray John, the last of the original twelve Disciples. This original adaptation of the gospels is done in full makeup, costume, and special effects. The presentation is scheduled for Good Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 473-0273.

## **N.T. WRIGHT LECTURE**

Jack Schultheis and I were blessed to be able to travel to Huntington on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, to enjoy a lecture by the Right Reverend Dr. N.T. Wright, Bishop of the Church of England. The Bishop retired in 2010 from the See of Durham to become a research professor of the New Testament and Early Christianity at St. Mary’s College at the University of St. Andrew’s in Scotland. He is the prolific author of 60 books, and noted New Testament scholar. Bishop “Tom” Wright was invited to the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Lloyd Neck to be the speaker for the 19th annual Msgr. George Denzer lecture. The title of his lecture was “How God Became King: Why We’ve All Misunderstood the Gospels.” (Bishop Wright noted that the only time he’d ever been on Long Island before was to change planes!).

Sitting in a breathtaking chapel with ornate carvings, painted ceilings and gorgeous stained glass, packed with 300+ people, Jack and I were literally spellbound for an hour and a half.

Bishop Tom Wright is a brilliant scholar and an incredibly articulate speaker, who delivers his lecture, seemingly without looking at a note, in rapid-fire delivery. I tried to take notes, but even with shorthand, my hand could not keep up with his words. We felt we could not take it all in sufficiently. (As a side note, as we left, we picked up a woman walking on the road who had been to the lecture, and she gratefully got into Jack's car, and said, "What a wonderful lecture! I feel so spoon-fed!" We agreed!).

Bishop Wright made a clear and very illustrative analogy about four audio speakers in a room, and he described the four strands of the Gospels as such. He said some are tuned too loudly, some too softly, and the ones that we don't hear are the ones to which we should be paying attention. He compared the four gospels, and described them as the "back story to the Gospel – the Good News." We look at the beginning and the end of the life of Jesus, but what are the middle points of the Gospels all about?

All four Gospels share the strand of the story of Jesus as the climax of the story of Israel, which is the ancient story of God and God's people. That story has not ended. But instead of focusing on Jesus as God becoming human and dispensing miracles, or Jesus as the founder of the church, we should look at Jesus as transforming and bringing his people to a new Exodus, and redefining the agenda for a renewed humanity. God became King through the meek, the peacemakers, the poor, the broken, and the lonely. They will do, in humility and hope, the work of the transforming God.

The shadow of the cross fell over the early days of the life of Jesus, but the cross is the victory of the "Kingdom-bringer." Israel is called to be the light of the world, and it

culminated in the bruised and battled people. We, as God's people, are called to be "cross people." We need to take up our crosses, and follow him. We see this reality daily in the news, on television, in third world countries, in our own communities and in our backyards.

We are not spectators, if we are "cross people." We know that the Spirit moves through us and in us and that the melody is "God becoming King." Jesus died to bring the story to a conclusion and a new covenant and a new creation. He saved us to work through us. He puts us right, so we can put right the world. God is King and Jesus is Lord.

We are using Bishop Wright's study guides in our parish Bible studies. His new book, which was available for sale at the lecture, and was just published on March 13<sup>th</sup>, is [How God Became King: The Forgotten Story of the Gospels](#). It is available on Amazon.

- Wylie Hunt

## **LUNCH BUNCH APRIL GET-TOGETHER**

The Lunch Bunch has selected "Relish" restaurant, 2 Pulaski Road, Kings Park as the site of their April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. To make your reservation, contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720.



## **30<sup>TH</sup> ST. JAMES 5 MILE RUN & 3.5 MILE STRIDING EVENT**

Do you run? (Or Walk?). On Saturday, April 21 at 9:00 a.m., Engine Co. No. #3 of the St. James Fire Department is hosting this event to benefit Local Firefighters Burn Center Foundations and Engine Co. #3. All runners, joggers, and walkers regardless of age or sex are invited to participate.

Pre-registration is \$25.00, late entries \$30.00. Checks are to be made payable to St. James Fire Department - Engine Co. #3, and mailed to St. James Fire Department Race, 221 Jefferson Avenue, St. James 11780. For information call 584-5799 (M - F, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.). Pre-registration closes April 13<sup>th</sup>; late registration can be made the day of the race from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Copies of the registration form can be found at the back of the church.

Speak to the Rector if you are interested. This is a great way to participate as a parish in the life of our community.

### **FRESH FARM PRODUCE**

Once again we have the opportunity to participate in a farm share (CSA) of fresh produce through the summer and fall. The pick up site will be here at St. James.

CSA is like a subscription, or a vegetable-of-the-week club. You pay in full for your share before the distributions begin in early June, and in return for your commitment to the farm they provide you with just-picked organic produce at a good value. More information can be obtained at the Garden of Eve website:

<http://www.GardenOfEveFarm.com/csa.htm>

or talk to the Rector.

Also, if you are interested in buying grass-fed beef or lamb grown in Connecticut, please speak to me.

- Raewynne

### **ARCHDEACONRY OF SUFFOLK YOUTH SUMMIT**

All 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a Youth Summit on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Camp DeWolfe, 408 North Side Road, Wading River. Join in a celebration of our young people, God's created order and help plan the future of Youth Ministry in Suffolk. Registration must be made by Wednesday, April 18. Each church is asked to bring one adult for every five young people. For more information, contact Fr. Hickman Alexandre at 475-7406 or email [hialex@hotmail.com](mailto:hialex@hotmail.com).

### **NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY**

Former St. James parishioner and Vestry member, Julie Blomkvist Fosdick is scheduled to receive a liver transplant at Yale/New Haven Hospital on Wednesday, April 4. Please pray for Julie and her donor, Beth, before, during, and after their surgeries. Praise God that a compatible donor has been found!

## APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 **Palm Sunday**  
**Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II with Palm Procession 9:30 a.m. and Children's Formation**  
Yoga class 12:00 p.m.
- 2 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 **Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.**  
Bible study 10:15 a.m.  
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 5 **Maundy Thursday**  
**Middle Eastern Food & Soup Supper with Holy Eucharist 6:30 p.m.**  
Choir rehearsal 8:00 p.m.
- 6 **Good Friday**  
**Service 12 Noon - 3:00 p.m.**  
Blood Drive 3:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 **Holy Saturday**  
Joint Prayer Shawl meeting at Setauket Presbyterian Church 9:00 a.m.  
**Easter Vigil with Baptism 7:00 p.m.**
- 8 **Easter Day**  
**Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Celebration Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**
- 9 Easter Monday - office closed  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.  
Bible study 10:15 a.m.  
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 13 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with Children's Formation**  
Outreach meeting 11 a.m.  
Yoga class 12 p.m.
- 16 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Bible study 10:15 a.m.  
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.  
Finance Committee 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.  
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with Children's Formation**  
Yoga class 12 p.m.
- 23 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Bible study 10:15 a.m.  
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 26 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with Children's Formation**  
Yoga class 12 p.m.
- 30 C.F. & E. meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.