



# Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

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February 2009

FROM THE



A couple of weeks ago (on one of those snowy, icy, January Sunday mornings), we heard a reading from 1 Corinthians 6 that talked about how we use our bodies.

The connection between our life of faith and our physical bodies is not something we talk about very often, but perhaps we should. We live in a culture that seems to warp between idolizing bodies, seeking perfection at any cost (via diets, plastic surgery, extreme exercise, etc), and abusing them (sometimes with the same diets and surgery, but also with unhealthy food, drink and drugs).

Our bodies are an essential part of what it is to be human: we don't exist without them. Even resurrection, according the New Testament (especially 1 Corinthians 15), will include our bodies (remember how the disciples met the resurrected Jesus, and shared meals with him?) Our bodies will be transformed, but they will be part of our resurrected life.

In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 it says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you

were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body."

Some people joke about Episcopal liturgy being liturgical aerobics: we stand, sit, stand, sit, stand, kneel, stand, and so on. Our bodies truly are part of our worship.

But we also honor God with our bodies in other ways: when we use our voices to tell people about Jesus, when we use our ears to listen to others, when we use our hands to set the altar, when we use our faces and smile to welcome visitors, when we use our arms and backs to move food for the food pantry, when we use our whole bodies to move tables and do maintenance.

Our bodies can become vessels of prayer. The Lenten tradition of fasting is to limit our body's intake in order to focus our minds on God. And when I kayak or hike or ski, I am made aware of the incredible wonder and gift that my body is, and I find I can't help but pray as I do those things.

There is a hymn that sums this up for me:  
*Praise the God who made our bodies,  
nerve and muscle, flesh and blood,  
made us in God's own true image,  
male and female, holy, good.  
Glorify the God who made us!  
Use our bodies to explore*

*all the world with all our senses,  
daily learning more and more.*  
(Elizabeth J. Smith)

*-Raewynne*

### **A WORD FROM THE WARDENS**

We welcome Stephanie Coleman, Kurt Rettig, and Art Strassle to the Vestry. We look forward to working with them and thank them for their commitment to St. James.

Put the following dates on your calendar:

- \* February 24 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper sponsored by our Youth Group
- \* April 9 - Maundy Thursday Soup and Mediterranean Supper
- \* April 10 - Good Friday Blood Drive
- \* June 13 - Strawberry Festival
- \* September 19 - Pig Roast
- \* October 17 - Harvest Festival

The 4.2 acres of land across the street from the church has been taken off the market. We are in discussion with another realtor on how to better market this property.

Following up on discussions from the Annual Meeting, we ask you to think about where our church is heading, where you want our church to head, what you want from our church, and what you are willing to give to our church (and in this case, we are not speaking of financial giving). Please give this prayerful thought and speak with Raewynne, with us, and/or with members of the Vestry.

*- Pat & Jeff*

### **ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

On Sunday we held the Annual Meeting of the parish. It was a really good meeting, and encapsulated the best of our parish. We elected three new members of Vestry: Stephanie Coleman, Kurt Rettig, and Art Strassle; re-elected Pat Westlake as Senior Warden, and thanked outgoing members of Vestry: George Krall, Charlie Kreussling and Edna Rousseau.

Two major discussions took place. One was of the budget, which was presented with a \$6000 deficit, due to lack of pledged income. The Finance Committee and Vestry have considered a number of major cuts which would enable us to balance the budget (on top of smaller cuts totaling \$9000), including cutting the organist, administrator, or cleaning; all were considered untenable. A number of parishioners spoke about our need as members of St James to give generously to fund our life together.

The second discussion was about service times. Our new schedule has been tried for 5 months; a survey (which only elicited 12 responses) found that while those taking advantage of the adult formation program valued it immensely, concern was expressed about the drop in church attendance, particularly by families. Following the Annual Meeting, at a brief Vestry meeting it was decided to return to our former schedule beginning the first Sunday in Lent (February 28). A fuller summary will be included in a following article.

It was a pleasure to see our teenage members at the meeting, along with two visitors. We were also thankful to be able to provide childcare for younger children. And of course, as usual at parish events, we all ate well!

*- Raewynne*

## 2009 VESTRY

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Raewynne J. Whiteley  
686-5068/609-870-6061

### Wardens:

Pat Westlake 584-6628  
Jeff Smith 862-6972

### Vestry

Stephanie Coleman 689-0663  
Karen Douglass 928-6633  
Debbie LaMano 584-3545  
Chris Mauro 689-1419  
Karen Noack 981-3989  
Kurt Rettig 732-5875  
Jack Schultheis 689-9467  
Art Strassle 724-7275  
Donna Wachter 737-4066  
(Treasurer)

## SERVICE TIME UPDATE

We launched a new schedule right after Labor Day in order to strengthen Christian education programs for all ages, one of the primary goals identified in the Parish Profile. The intent was to provide more time for adult ed classes, to allow Sunday School teachers to participate in the entire worship service, and to provide educational offerings for all ages at the same time.

As with all decisions, we needed to live into this new schedule to see if the intended results occurred and to discover the unintended results.

Six months into our "experiment," here's what we see. Some good things have occurred, particularly intergenerational events. It was great to have the senior high students join the adult class during Advent. It was wonderful to make Advent wreaths as a parish family. Children are now attending the 8 a.m. service, and attendance at that service has roughly doubled.

Not so good has been the unintended drop in attendance at the second service and a corresponding drop in Sunday School attendance. The root of the problem seems to be that Sunday School, followed by a church service, is too long a stretch for many of the children.

To more formally gauge how this schedule was going, the liaisons for CF&E, Youth, and Sunday School mailed a questionnaire to every one on the church's mailing list. Only 12 completed questionnaires were returned. All but two of the responses indicated a preference for the former schedule.

Following discussion at the Annual meeting, at which strong support for the new schedule was expressed by those who participate in the adult formation program, but attention drawn to the negative effects on attendance at Sunday School and the later service, particularly by families, the Vestry met and decided to resume the former schedule as of the beginning of Lent.

Therefore, from March 1, the Sunday schedule will be:

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1  
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2,  
followed by Sunday School (children leave after receiving Communion) and coffee hour.

The Thursday morning Bible study will continue, and an evening program will be offered for adults during Lent and at other times throughout the year. And, if any adults are interested in an ongoing, in-depth evening Bible study, please see Raewynne or a member of the CF&E Committee.

## COFFEE HOUR

**Help needed!** As usual in the winter months, some of our hosts fly away to Florida, leaving the stay-at-homes with extra duty. For those of you who enjoy the coffee treats, and fellowship time on Sunday, how about helping our volunteers one Sunday in March or April. Just let Pat Kregler know which Sunday you can assist, and she will pair you with an experienced host. It's not a complicated task, but one that is appreciated by many.

**Shopper needed!** Will someone who belongs to one of the big box stores volunteer to do some supply shopping for coffee hour? Our usual shopper is away and our reserves have dwindled. You will be reimbursed for whatever purchases are made. Please contact Pat Kregler if you can help.

- Pat Kregler  
863-1113/patkreg@verizon.net

## LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, February 24, 12 Noon at Mykonos Greek Restaurant, 45 Rte. 111, Smithtown (in the Uncle Giuseppe's shopping center). Contact Fjeril Deal (724-3720) to sign up.

## ELECTION OF THE BISHOP COADJUTOR

In the latest edition of *The Dominion* the Transition Committee has provided additional information about the upcoming February walkabouts for the seven nominees. Clergy and laity are encouraged to email the Transition Committee with questions they would like asked by the nominees. To submit questions, please email to: [Transition@BishopforLongIsland.org](mailto:Transition@BishopforLongIsland.org). Include your name, your parish, and if the question is aimed at one specific nominees or all the nominees. When the questions are asked, they will be asked anonymously. The Transition Committee will carefully examine all submitted questions and will work to ensure that a broad representation of questions is asked of each nominee. Questions MUST be received by February 15, 2009. If you do not have access to email, you may give your information and questions to Donna Austin and she will make the submission for you. For those without access to the Internet, information about all of the nominees can be found on the coffee table in the Education building lobby. Please do not remove these copies from the lobby. Thank you.

- Donna Austin

## DAFFODIL DAYS

Once again, the Women of St. James will support the American Cancer Society's fund raising program by selling bunches of fresh cut daffodils. Orders may be placed on the next three Sundays for a bunch of daffodils for \$10 per bunch, or a Gift of Hope for a \$25 donation. If you choose to give the Gift of Hope, with your donation of \$25 the ACS will deliver a vase filled with a bunch of daffodils to a hospitalized cancer patient. Please order your daffodils by signing up on the sheets provided at coffee hour, in the narthex (for the 8 o'clockers), or by calling Ruth LeCluse (588-1176). Orders must be submitted by the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, so Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the last Sunday to sign up. Delivery will be March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Payment can be made at any time prior to or at pickup. Checks should be made payable to American Cancer Society.

*- Ruth LeCluse*

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER & MARDI GRAS

On Tuesday, February 24, at 5:30 p.m. we will gather in Mills Hall for our annual Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras celebration. The young people of the parish will be serving up pancakes and sausage. You are encouraged to bring a mask and dress festively. Following the meal, we will be burying the "Alleluias" in our cemetery. Come join the fun!

## OUTREACH

I hope by now you have had a chance to read the Outreach Report in our Annual Parish Meeting booklet. Despite a financially challenging year for St. James Church and for many of us as individuals, I think we can all be proud of what we did as a parish to reach out to others. If you haven't read the report yet, please do so. You need to know what we (you) have done and I think you will be amazed!

On the list is how many people were fed through the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry during the months St. James served. Please keep your food donations coming! More people than ever are depending on us. Our next month to serve will be June.

One contribution that was omitted from the list is \$200.00 given to Episcopal Relief and Development by Raewynne from her discretionary fund. It is hoped that a significant amount of this money went to poor countries overseas, since much of the other money we gave out went to local causes.

The budget for 2009 allots \$2000.00 for Outreach. Watch the Sunday bulletin for a time when we will meet to discuss how we should allocate this money.

*- Sue Krall*

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & FORMATION**

- \* **Study of Mark continues through February.**
- \* **Wednesday Lenten study to launch on March 4.**

On the Sundays of February 8, 15, and 22, from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m., the adult education group will continue its study of the Gospel of Mark. As Raewynne challenged us in her sermon this past Sunday, Mark, which is the first Gospel written, asks us to consider who Jesus is. In Mark, we see a King who eats with sinners rather than royalty, who comes to serve and not to be served, and who calls us to follow him. Study guides (optional) are available for \$7. Please join us.

A five-week Lenten study of the Lord's Prayer (based on the Kerygma series) will begin on Wednesday, March 4, and continue through Wednesday, April 1. Daily devotional guides will also be made available for use during Lent. Watch for more information in the Sunday Bulletin and in the next issue of *Open Doors*.

- *Kathy Sides*

## **LIFE LINE HEALTH SCREENING**

St. James Church is sponsoring a session of screening tests for stroke, heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and osteoporosis on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, in Mills Hall. You may sign up for individual tests, or take the whole package for \$159. Pre-registration is required. Call 1-888-653-6412.

## **PARISH SKI & SNOWBOARD TRIP**

We are planning a parish trip on Saturday, March 14, to Mohawk Mountain in Cornwall CT. Mohawk is a small traditional style ski resort with 24 trails (ranging from very easy to difficult) and 5 lifts. If you haven't skied in a while, the developments in equipment make it much easier.

Meet at the church at 6:30 a.m., returning about 7 p.m. - we will car pool. Assuming we get 15 or more participants, costs range from \$36 (lift ticket only) to \$86 (lift, lesson, and rental) per person, additional discounts for children. You can bring your own food or buy it there. You must sign up, with all forms and a check made out to the church, by February 26. You can get the forms from Raewynne, or find them online at <http://www.stjamesstjames.org/skitrip.pdf> (one per family), and <http://www.stjamesstjames.org/skirental.pdf> (one per participant). For more information, speak to Raewynne.

## **THE WORLD IS MY FRIARY WITH BROTHER CLARK BERGE**

Learn about life in the Papua New Guinea Highlands, the reefs of the Solomon Islands, working to preserve the fragile ecosystem of the gum forests of Australia, creating an eco-interreligious project in the southern downs of England, and living on the edge in Berkeley, California. This event takes place on Wednesday, February 25, 12:40 - 2:00 p.m. at the Charles B. Wang Center, Lecture Hall 2 at Stony Brook University.

## **YOGA CLASSES**

Yoga classes are an enjoyable way to keep in shape! Our classes, led by Mary Jane DeVito, meet on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. in Mills Hall. The classes are free of charge, and you are welcome to join any time.

We will be reviewing the schedule of classes in April to see if any changes need to be made to accommodate more people. If you need more information about the classes, please contact Mary Jane at 750-5414 or [mjdev@optonline.net](mailto:mjdev@optonline.net).

## **A NOTE OF THANKS**

A special thank you to all of our church friends for their unyielding support during my husband, Marc's, illness and passing. The continuous prayers, the endless cards, your thoughtful words of comfort and all the offers of help were truly appreciated. I would also like to especially thank those people who so graciously provided meals to my family and who donated their time to help out at the wake and funeral services. You have managed to touch our lives in such an incredible way, for which we will always be grateful.

With sincere appreciation,  
*Deidre DeSimone*

## **GRATEFUL THANKS FROM KEN LECLUSE**

My sincere thanks to all who sent cards and well wishes, brought delicious meals, said prayers and/or visited with me during my recent illness. We have a wonderful spirit of community and concern for each other at our church and that spirit is so meaningful during times of difficulty. It is one thing to be part of a prayer chain, but quite another to be on the receiving end. I especially appreciated the visit at the rehabilitation center by the carolers who came bringing the wonderful Christmas spirit to us on a very brisk, cold and snowy night. Thank you all for your love and support to both Ruth and me – for you **all** have helped me travel along the recovery road.

*- Ken LeCluse*

## **NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY**

At the 2008 United Cerebral Palsy Gala the first UCP Suffolk Life Without Limits Award was presented to longtime agency friends, Marge and Charlie Kreussling, whose support and generosity have helped fund many UCP initiatives, including the Health Center. Congratulations!

**PARENTING WORKSHOPS  
BY EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY  
SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND**

ECS has scheduled several Parenting Workshops in upcoming months:

- \* March 28 - Christ Church, Oyster Bay
- \* April 4 - St. Anselm's, Shoreham
- \* May 16 - St. John's Huntington

Additional workshops will be presented throughout the diocese. Contact ECS at 665-7701 for more information.

**OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY  
2010**

Hard to believe it has been ten years since a group of us from St. James (Gurecks, Kreusslings, LeCluses and Tebbutts) started planning a trip to Germany to see the world-renowned Passion Play at Oberammergau. Our tour included many wonderful sights in Switzerland, Austria, and Germany as well as tickets to the Passion Play.

The Passion Play is a depiction of the passion of Christ, and originated in 1634 to keep a vow made to God by the grateful community after they had been saved from the bubonic plague. The townspeople are the actors, and for the last three hundred years they have put on this spectacular performance every ten years. Sitting in the amphitheater when the play opens with 300 townspeople/actors depicting the scene of Jesus entering the town of Jerusalem on a donkey, and while we all know the story, it was an extraordinary experience none of us will forget. The play is an all day event and it will be staged next year (2010) usually

between April and October. When checking on this, we discovered several travel dates on one of the Collette Tours are already sold out. Collette Tours offers several itinerary choices, so if anyone is interested in going to see this most moving, magnificent presentation, we suggest that you go on line now to start making plans – perhaps gathering a group together, or join a tour on your own.

[http://en.wikipeida.org/wiki/Oberammergau\\_Passion\\_Play.](http://en.wikipeida.org/wiki/Oberammergau_Passion_Play)

[http://www.collettevacations.com/oberammergau.cfm.](http://www.collettevacations.com/oberammergau.cfm)

*- Ruth & Ken LeCluse*

**DO WE HAVE YOUR INFORMATION?**

Have you changed your email address? Do you have a new phone number? Have you moved? Do we have your birthday and/or anniversary dates (month/day) so that we may include you in our weekly prayers? If not, please email ([stjamesc@optonline.net](mailto:stjamesc@optonline.net)) or call the office (584-5560) with the updated information. You don't want to miss out on any parish news or events, now, do you?



## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 1 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.  
Annual Parish Meeting 10:30
- 2 Yoga 5 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Yoga 3:30 p.m.  
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 9 C.F. & E. meeting 7:10 p.m.  
Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Yoga 5 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Bible study 10 a.m.  
Yoga 3:30 p.m.  
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 14 **St. Valentine's Day**
- 16 **Presidents' Day** - office  
closed
- 17 Yoga 5 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Bible study 10 a.m.  
Yoga 3:30 p.m.  
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 20 Life Line Screening 9 a.m. -  
5 p.m. - Mills Hall
- 24 Lunch Bunch - Mykonos  
Greek Restaurant 12 Noon  
**Shrove Tuesday** - Mardi  
Gras pancake supper 5:30 pm  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 **Ash Wednesday**  
Holy Eucharist 12 Noon  
Holy Eucharist 8 p.m.
- 26 Bible study 10 a.m.  
Yoga 3:30 p.m.  
NA meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kerrick Wille  
Peter Cahill  
Joan Quinn  
Annabelle Wille  
Colette Tarantino  
George Krall  
Joan Mercep  
Kelly Lally  
Lorelei Glogg  
Jeff Smith  
James Schultheis  
George Donohue  
Amelia Bowden  
Kevin White  
Leah Tarantino  
Dan Maybee  
Becky Linthwaite

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Theresa Donohue