

# Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

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February 2017

FROM THE



RECTOR

A two year old, who knows how to identify the flowers, candles, gospel book, altar, and chalice. A five year old who, in the middle of the service, comes and kneels at the altar rail

and puts her hands out, ready to receive the Eucharist. An eight year old who fills in at short notice for an absent adult reader (our youngest filling in for our oldest!).

These are some of the children who, on a recent Sunday morning, made up over twenty percent of our congregation at 9:30 a.m. That's a wonderful sign of the vitality of our congregation. But it also brings its challenges. Younger children are, inevitably, more active and noisy than the vast majority of the congregation. But it also brings its challenges.

Younger children are, inevitably, more active and noisy than the vast majority of the congregation, and all of us can get distracted by their presence. But it is important that they are among us.

*"Worship is one of the basic ways people learn what it means to be Christian. Children increase their understanding of Christian worship by joining the congregation Sunday after Sunday. They*

*learn they belong to Christ and are welcome in his Church. They learn to know the Lord's Prayer and other parts of the liturgy from memory. They build a fund of memorable, shared experiences of Christian community against which they may draw when they are older. They are enriched by the beauty of music and art as expressions of praise and as human responses to God. They hear stories from the Bible read and interpreted and begin to see Christian worship as one place where God may speak to them. They witness the drama of Baptism and Eucharist as signs of God's kindness and favor. They discover that they are valued as persons by God and by the people of God at Church. Bringing children to worship may not always be easy, but it is an essential part of their growth in Christ. The Body of Christ assembled is incomplete in their absence. We need children!"*

*(The Rev. Tim Schenk, Rector, All Saints Episcopal Church, Hingham MA)*



So, how can we support one another, young and old(er) alike?

**For parents:**

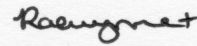
- Bring your little ones up to the front pews after the peace, so they can see what is going on as we celebrate the Eucharist.
- Encourage children to participate. Having them sit, stand, and kneel with the congregation keeps them engaged. Our "Kids Communion" booklets have the service along with pictures to color, simple explanations, and the words of the service. Encourage children of school age to follow the service and sing with the hymns.
- Pick up the activity sheets that are available each week at the back of the church – we have separate ones for ages 3-6 and 7-12.
- Bring quiet snacks, favorite toys and paper for drawing and coloring.
- Make church a time when kids get extra snuggles.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help from other parishioners.
- If your child wanders up to the front during the service, don't worry. The adult acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, and I will keep an eye on them if they venture up into the space around the altar.
- Remind them to use their quiet voices in church.

**For the rest of us:**

- Remember that when children are baptized, we promise to do all we can to support their life in Christ. When a child is being a little rambunctious, turn the potential distraction to a reminder to say a quick prayer for them.
- If you find it difficult to hear, move closer to the front of the church. Not only does being closer make it louder, the space under the balcony functions a little like an echo chamber, magnifying the volume of any noise there and blocking the sound from the front of the church.

- Greet children at the peace – it's one of the first parts of the service that young children actively engage in.
- "Adopt" a family or a particular child. Get to know them at coffee hour, and invite them to sit with you. Help them follow the service. Not only will it help them to focus (and therefore be quieter), their relationship with you will be one of the things that keeps them connected to church. I'm still in contact with kids who I first met when they were babies and I was in my twenties – and they are still involved in church.

Blessings,



**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5  
9:30 A.M.**

This year, the meeting will begin with the service of Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. in the church. At this meeting there will be reports, updates from the Rector, and the presentation of the annual budget. Elections will be held for Warden and Vestry members. At the close of the service and meeting, the congregation will adjourn to Mills Hall for lunch. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

**SHROVE TUESDAY  
MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 6 P.M.**

Mardi Gras is the traditional party of New Orleans the day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. It will be celebrated by our congregation with a duo of both the old fashioned Shrove Tuesday fare (pancakes and sausage) and HAPPY food with HAPPY cake. We will also process out to the cemetery to “bury the Alleluias” – which will not be resurrected until Easter. Join in with our St. James community of believers before the quiet time of Lent begins. Come in costume, just masks, or JUST COME and bring a dish to share.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT**

Ash Wednesday arrives on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Rector invites you to join her to hit the streets and welcome St. James to a Holy Lent. For the last few years, a small group of parishioners have offered ashes on Ash Wednesday morning at the St. James railway station from 6 a.m. We are planning to do it again this year! Join us – a sign up sheet will be available in a couple of weeks.

Holy Eucharist will be celebrated later that day at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. There will be imposition of ashes at both services.

During Lent there will be a service of Holy Eucharist on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 p.m. and a Lenten program on Wednesday evenings. Full details will be available later in the month.

**LENTEN MEDITATIONS**

This Lent we are doing something new! For our daily Lenten meditations, we are planning to put together a booklet of reflections by our own parishioners. Each person will volunteer for a day, will read the readings set for that day, choose a focus, and then prepare a brief reflection on it. Your reflection may be in the form of a short written reflection, a drawing, a photo, or a quote from poetry or a book. Many parishioners have already signed up – please join them! Kids are welcome. There is a sign up sheet with readings in the back of the church on Sunday morning, or you may speak to Raewynne.

**DO YOU LIKE TO SING?**

We are gathering a small group together to sing songs from the Taize community during Communion on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, the group will meet on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in the Webster Room. You may speak to Margo Goodman or the Rector for more information.

**CHURCH SNOW POLICY**

In the event of inclement weather, we follow the lead of the Smithtown School District. If the schools are closed, the office is closed and all activities are canceled. If the schools are on a two hour delay, so is the office. Sunday services are only canceled if a snow emergency is declared, and motorists are advised to stay off the streets.

## LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, February 21, 12:30 p.m. at Spuntino's Restaurant, 420 North Country Road (25A) in St. James. All parishioners are invited to join in the fun. Contact Fjeril Deal (631-724-3720) to reserve a seat.

## A PASTORAL NOTE

It's that time of year again, with ice on the ground and long dark nights. What you can do to prevent falls:

- \* Remove area rugs
- \* Keep the floor, pathways, and stairs clear of objects
- \* Have sturdy handrails for the stairs and bathroom
- \* Have bright lighting
- \* Walk in shoes, not barefoot or in slippers
- \* Consider wearing an alarm device or carrying a phone
- \* Get up slowly from a sitting or lying position
- \* Wear sturdy shoes with good grip when you are outside.

- Raewynne

## NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

We are happy to hear the good news of births from members of the wider St. James Church family during the month of January:

**Fairlie Grace Coxe**, daughter of Fairlie and Richard Coxe, and granddaughter of **Bruce and Jennifer Lawrence** was born on January 23 in Connecticut. The family will be moving back to St. James in the near future.

**Rafella Juliette Seidman**, granddaughter of **Wylie Hunt and Matthew Trump**, was born on January 26 to Wylie's daughter, Angela, and her husband. Congratulations to all!

On a sadder note, Carol Beers, the mother of **Kathy Mauro**, died in mid-January, after an illness. Our prayers and sympathy go out to Kathy, Chris, Emily, and Thomas as they deal with their loss.

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 1 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 5 **Epiphany 5**  
Holy Eucharist and Annual Parish meeting 9:30 a.m.
- 6 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.  
Rector at Clergy Day  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 9 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Mills Hall rental 11 a.m.
- 12 **Epiphany 6**  
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Formation classes
- 13 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 19 **Epiphany 7**  
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Formation classes
- 20 **Presidents' Day**  
Office closed  
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.  
Lunch Bunch 12:30 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 23 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.

**26 Last Epiphany**

Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist II with Baptism  
9:30 a.m.

Children's Formation classes

27 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.

28 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.

Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras pot  
luck supper 6 p.m.

Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

*Let Your  
Light  
Shine !*

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Kerrick Wille

Peter Cahill

Sandy Grigoletto

Annabelle Wille

Colette Tarantino

George Krall

Joan Mercep

Kelly Lally

Jeff Smith

Maggie Lawrence

Vincent Andrews

Amelia Bowden

Kevin White

James Andrews

Leah Tarantino Roseto

Jeremy Dean

Bruce Jeffrey

