

# Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

January 2013

F R O M T H E



RECTOR

Last week I received an unusual email. It was from a woman whose marriage I celebrated over 10 years ago. The couple had family ties to the town

where I was working, but lived on the other side of the country. They did their preparation there, and flew in the day before the wedding; I met them briefly that day for a rehearsal, and then on the day of the wedding.

Since then I had heard nothing more. They flew home, and out of my life. So to receive an email was unexpected, to say the least. The bride had tracked me down. She is going through a tough time in her life, and wanted advice on how to pray.

Wow! I never expected that.

Silly me.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together..."

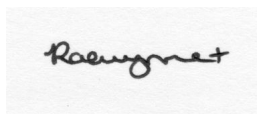
Have you ever shared your faith with someone? Perhaps given a word of comfort, or invited them to church, or offered to pray for them. And it's felt as if it has fallen on deaf ears. Perhaps they've responded positively at first, but time has passed, and you've heard nothing more. And how many

<p>RFB The Original COFFEE WITH JESUS</p>	<p>I think my sermon yesterday fell on deaf ears, Jesus.</p>	<p>You have no idea who was reached or what they took from it, Joe. It could be years from now when someone remembers what you said.</p>	<p>But you know I've always wanted to bring in a great harvest for you, Jesus!</p>	<p>You plant and water, Joe, let me worry about what grows.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CoffeeWithJesus.com</p>
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times have we helped out with a wedding, or prayed for a child being baptized, never to see the family again?

St. Paul reminds us that it's not all up to us. In our baptismal covenant, we are reminded "to proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ," to share our faith, in word and in action. That's our mission, our calling. From then on, it's up to God. Maybe someone else will reach out to that person. Maybe God will work quietly in their hearts. God works in many and various ways, and often we don't get to see the end product.

Someone else planted the seed that let to the couple getting married in the church. I added a little water. Perhaps someone else has put on fertilizer. But it is God who has brought about growth. Thanks be to God.



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## THE WARDENS' COLUMN

It's interesting how the seasons of the Church correspond liturgically with parish life. The largest season being after Pentecost is also referred to as ordinary time. It is at the end of that season that we conduct our pledge campaign. But stewardship is a year round activity. Advent, a time of preparation, corresponds to the time when we prepare the budget for the coming year. During the Christmas season nominations for the lay leadership are being made. It is a time when we are asked to share the "gifts" that God has given us. The time after the Epiphany and before Lent is also referred to

as ordinary time and is when we have our annual meeting and election of those lay leaders. Often it is in the Easter season that the lay leadership retreats and plans for the mission of the coming year. This brings us back into the ordinary time after Pentecost, in which we look to live out that mission. And the cycle repeats. We think it is important for us to see stewardship as a year round activity. Knowing how our stewardship corresponds liturgically can help us do this.

At this time we, the wardens, find ourselves preparing for another year. However, this time we find it necessary to make a special stewardship appeal to the parish. An appeal not just for your treasure, but for your time and talent as well.

First, we set a financial goal of \$170,000 in pledges for 2013, and that a tithe in giving is the Christian standard. We suggested increasing your pledge by 5% as a means of collectively achieving these goals. At this time we find ourselves ~\$15,000 short of the goal for 2013. As such, we are appealing to the parish as a whole. If you have not pledged support to our church please do so. If you have pledged, we are asking that you consider pledging \$5 more per week. \$5 more per week per family would eliminate the ~\$15,000 budget deficit. It's that simple.

Next, the church needs your commitment of time and talents to further its mission. We know many of us are involved, and some "over" involved. We are sincerely grateful for your dedication. However, we need our entire Christian community to be active in our mission. This will likely mean living outside your comfort zone. We need your commitment to lead, teach, and worship with this parish. New faces and hands are needed and wanted in every aspect of our parish life together, in particular on Vestry,

in our Sunday school, and in our choir. It will likely be a “leap of faith” to make these commitments, but we are sure that God will provide and that your Christian brothers and sisters will gladly walk with you. All we ask is that you please pray on this and listen to where God is calling you.

Peace and blessings,  
*Chris and Debbie*

- \*Warden (1) for a two-year term
- \*Vestry persons (3) each for a three year term
- \*Clerk of the Vestry (1) does not have to be a Vestry member
- \*Youth delegate (1) age 18 and younger

Please talk with Debbie LaMano (584-3545 or [dlamano67@gmail.com](mailto:dlamano67@gmail.com)) if you are interested.

- *Raewynne Whiteley  
& Debbie LaMano*

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2013**

It's that time of year again, as we begin to prepare for the annual meeting and the election of new Wardens and Vestry members. It's easy to imagine that the Vestry is the board of directors of the church. But it's not as simple as that. While a Vestry has legal and fiscal responsibilities, the primary responsibilities (as defined by church law) are to share with the Rector in promoting the spiritual welfare of the parish and to aid the Rector in the institution, conduct, and development of the program of the Church both within and without the parish.

The work of the Vestry is God's work, and the Vestry are spiritual leaders in the parish. We are looking for mature and prayerful Christians to share in this work of leadership. Is God calling you?

On Sunday, February 3, 2013, St. James will hold its Annual Parish Meeting. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. There will be updates from the Rector and various chairpersons of committees, and the annual budget will be presented. The meeting will take place in Mills Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service. At this meeting, nominations will be submitted and elections held for the following positions:

## **OUTREACH**

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**  
Many thanks go to all St. James parishioners for the myriad ways you reached out to others during Advent and Christmas. You **HAVE** made a difference! Your service at the **Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry** during December was invaluable. Many of you also donated turkeys and other food which made the days leading up to Christmas and the holiday itself a joy for neighboring families in need. Please keep your donations coming. Special thanks always go to Claudette Plaschka and Pat Westlake for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Pantry. Your gifts for our **Adopt-a-Family** brought many smiles I am sure on Christmas Day and beyond for one deserving family. Special thanks go to Donna Guinaw and Claudette Plaschka for organizing this outreach, and to Jack Schultheis for delivering our gifts to the Diocese. Your gifts for **Pick-a-Star** were received with excitement and delight as Santa, along with many elves, personally delivered each one to our developmentally disabled neighbors. Special thanks go to Stephanie Coleman for organizing this fun outreach and to our incomparable Santa, Kurt Rettig. If you visited one of our home-

bound parishioners with a gift, we know you were met with gratitude. Your efforts and donations to help those **recovering from superstorm Sandy** are greatly appreciated by our Diocese and the many people affected by the storm. Thank you to all who donated money, supplies, or their time. We thank all those who knit or crochet and are working on prayer shawls for the families of the **victims of the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School** in Connecticut. The families will surely feel our love and prayers. Contact Wylie Hunt for more information about the prayer shawls. Your toiletry donations to Protestant Campus Ministry students at Stony Brook University will continue to be passed on by them to both **women transitioning from domestic violence** and **those recovering from superstorm Sandy**. If you reached out in other ways to **ERD** or to **Episcopal Community Services** you can rest assured your donations were greatly needed and appreciated! Thank you one and all.

- Sue Krall

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

As a gesture of God's love, peace, and hope, we are hoping to collect at least 26 prayer shawls, lap robes, or quilts to send to the families of the victims of the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. We would like to surround these families with our love and prayers. Other prayer shawl ministries in our Diocese have also been contacted for donations. If you have a shawl in progress or if you would like to begin one to donate, please let me know. Please continue to pray for these grief-stricken families whose lives have been so devastated by such violent loss.

Our next Prayer Shawl meeting will be January 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m., at the home of Susan Seel, 16 Knox Avenue, Stony Brook New York, telephone 689-0683. All are welcome to join us.

- Wylie Hunt

### **LUNCH BUNCH**

The Lunch Bunch will begin the year with a meeting at Attilio's Restaurant on Route 25A in St. James (south side shopping center) on Tuesday, January 29 at 12:30 p.m. All parishioners are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

- Fjeril Deal

### **OFFICE ANGELS NEEDED**

Volunteers are being sought to provide coverage for the office from February 5 through February 15 (9 days) while Laurie is away. If you are able to come in a few hours a day to answer phones, take care of the mail, etc., please contact Laurie as soon as possible.

### **ANTIQUÉ SHOW AT ST. JAMES CHURCH**

On Saturday, January 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mills Hall will be filled with vendors offering antiques and collectibles for sale. Come and shop the various booths for interesting, useful, and beautiful items to add to your decor and collections.

## JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 **New Year's Day**  
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
- 2 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 3 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**  
Epiphany brunch
- 7 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.  
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
- 11 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Diocesan Convention
- 13 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**  
with Children's Formation  
classes
- 14 C.F.E. meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Smithtown Book Club 6 p.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.  
Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.  
Nursery parent workshop 7:30 p
- 17 Endowment Committee 9 a.m.  
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Prayer Shawl meeting 8:30 a.m.  
Nursery School Open House  
10 a.m. - 12 Noon
- 20 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**  
with Children's Formation  
classes
- 21 **Martin Luther King Day** -  
office closed  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

- Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Knitters' group 10:30 p.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.  
Family Bible study 6 p.m.  
Nursery parent workshop 7:30 p
- 25 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Antique Show 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 27 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.**  
with Children's Formation  
classes
- 28 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.  
Lunch Bunch 12:30 p.m. at  
Attilio's Restaurant.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.  
Yoga class 5:30 p.m.  
Nursery parent workshop 7:30 p  
February Open Doors deadline

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jerilyn Glogg  
Donald Scott  
Felicia Van Praagh  
Polly Neyssen  
Marge Cobb  
Willy Bataller  
Brooke Lynn Prentiss  
Ruth Ward  
Brian Noack  
Bruce Lawrence  
Matt Petschauer  
Claude Deal

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bruce & Amy Jeffrey  
Ian & Felicia Van Praagh

