



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

July/August 2009

FROM THE



In just under two weeks, the Episcopal Church will gather in Anaheim for our seventy-sixth General Convention. Every three years, the bishops plus eight deputies from each

diocese — four clergy and four lay people, elected at Diocesan Convention — come together to make decisions for the church. They pray and worship, and they talk about things like the prayer book, music, how to help churches in small communities, relationships with other churches, stewardship, education and almost anything else you can think of that might have something to do with the church. It takes almost two weeks, and just the pre-reading takes up a huge binder.

Among the many items to be discussed are:

- resources for prayers and new liturgies
- programs to help alleviate poverty both within the US and overseas
- continued support for the Millennium Development Goals, crisis and peacemaking efforts in conflict areas such as the Middle East, Sudan, Sri Lanka and the Great Lakes region of Africa
- the proposed Anglican covenant.
- our relationships with other churches and religions
- clergy discipline
- funding for training for ordained ministry
- sexuality

It is, of course, this last one that will get all the press. But when you hear the press reports, and when people talk to you about what they are hearing, remember a few things:

- Regardless of what is decided, we will gather together, Sunday by Sunday, and worship God as we have always done. Our Sunday School will continue. We will be using the same liturgies, the same hymns, the same prayers. We will baptize in the name of Christ; we will share the body and blood of Christ as we have always done.
- Human sexuality is something the church has struggled with for millennia, and we will no doubt continue to struggle with it. There have always been disagreements, and good arguments on both sides. They focus around things like how do we understand and interpret the bible, what it means to be made in God's image, what is sin, where do grace and justice fit in, can we as the church agree to disagree, where is the line between opinion and heresy.
- These are difficult questions, and there are no easy answers. And they are not just abstract questions — we are talking about real people, and they are our brothers, our daughters, our friends, even our clergy.
- We are reminded in scripture that the gospel is for everyone alike; we are all the same from God's point of view. All of us, without Christ, would have no hope of being right with God, without Christ, none of us could know what it is to be forgiven by God, without Christ God would be as far from us, and us as far from God

as we can imagine. But Christ has reconciled us to God, Christ has brought us near, Christ has welcomed us as citizens of heaven and members of the household of God, along with the prophets and apostles and saints. Christ's life and death and resurrection has broken down all the barriers between us and God. That is *far more important* than the things we disagree on. It means that we choose not to put up barriers between us, that we choose to love one another *even when* we disagree, that we pray for one another.

And if you want to keep in touch with what is going on at convention, see the Episcopal Church's convention news site at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gchub/>. I also recommend <http://www.centeraisle.net> from the Diocese of Virginia and <http://episcopalcafe.com/from> the Diocese of Washington.

- Raewynne

A WORD FROM THE WARDENS

We entertained some special visitors this spring. Raccoons and squirrels took up occupancy in the bell tower. Thanks to "Wildside Wildlife Management" traps were set, the tower cleaned, and new screening installed to close down the Bell Hotel.

Luck was with us ~ or was it the power of prayer ~ on Saturday, June 13 as our Strawberry Festival enjoyed one of the few mostly dry days of the past months. We had our best year yet and a big thank you goes out to all who participated. It is in working together and enjoying the fellowship that makes this day special.

Planning for the Harvest Festival has already begun. Look for a meeting in August. We are sure that the "Jammers" will be at work very shortly!

"Summertime and the Living Is Easy....." but still very busy here at St. James. Please stay involved - we are collecting for the Habitat Backpacks, Bishop Ottley will be with us on July 26. July 11 and August 8 will be our Saturday evening services with Bar-B-Ques following. There will be a dinner, sponsored by the Vestry, for Newcomers on August 16. And plans are being made for a Beach Picnic following a Sunday Service in August.

The Window Committee is busy completing the trim work and installation of the coverings for our stained glass windows. Be sure to thank Donna Austin, Tony Bastin, Bob Scott (hard at work after being back from his European home for less than a week), and Barbara LoPresto.

Our gardens can always use a bit of weeding.....why not give a hand (joining parishioners who have already adopted a garden) and spend some time making our church property even more beautiful? Beautiful weather, take that Sunday coffee outside and get a little exercise while you enjoy the goodies!

You may be planning vacations to exotic locations or you may be planning to enjoy the local area. Wherever you choose to spend these summer months may you find time to enjoy God's wonderful creation and may you give thanks for the greatness of our Earth.

- Pat & Jeff

BISHOP OTTLEY'S VISITATION

Bishop James Ottley will be making his visitation to St. James on Sunday, July 26. On that day, we will have only one service at 9:30 a.m. During the service we will be having a baptism, and four adult church members will officially become Episcopalians. We hope all parishioners, including children, will attend.

Following the service there will be a celebratory brunch in Mills Hall. If you are able to help with the food or set-up, please call Sue Krall at 862-6563.

SUMMER SATURDAY SERVICES

This year we will be having two summer Saturday services, on July 11 and August 8. The service will begin at 5:30 p.m. Following the service we will have a picnic and play some games. Come from the pool or beach, invite your friends. Dress is casual. Bring picnic food to share.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Although we have not received final figures, rumor has it that we set another record, with final numbers estimated to be more than \$6,000. The most impressive factor was the excellent turnout of volunteers to make everything run smoothly. Set up and break down went faster than ever before; it was a pleasure to see so many people involved.

My thanks to everyone, especially all the committee chairpersons, for their efforts, Karen Douglass for getting so many volunteers, and Laurie Mannix for timely reminders in church publications.

*- Jeff Smith
Festival Chairperson*

THANK YOU GRANDMA'S ATTIC VOLUNTEERS

It was another financial success for the Grandma's Attic segment of the Strawberry Festival & Yard Sale this year. Linda and I want to publicly thank the many volunteers who made it all possible. We worked hard, we had some laughs along the way, and we raised over \$ 1,300.00. Good job everyone!!

As always, Laurie Mannix does more work for this event than anyone can imagine. As soon as the donations begin to arrive, Laurie sorts them and then she attends most of the pricing sessions where she not only prices items, and sorts, she also takes the time to clean the dirty china and glassware so that it is sellable. And her efforts do not stop there. On the day of the Festival, Laurie spends her time at the wrapping table before moving to another booth to do another days work.... Thank you so much, Laurie. You are very special.

Many volunteers work many hours before the big day sorting, pricing and boxing the donated items. Our thanks for volunteering for this task go to: Arlyne Gureck, Joan Mercep and Louise Harders, regulars who came and priced. They come year after year and arrive with a great 'can do' attitude. If the donated items were not organized and priced before the Festival, things would not go as smoothly as they do. Thanks to each of you for your help.

Also, thank you to Donna Austin, for finding time in her busy schedule to come down and help price. This is the first year that Donna was not able to be there as much as she would have hoped for, but I know she prayed for us. Also, if it were not for Donna to show me how and to give such great notes, it would not have been possible.

The set-up crew this year did a wonderful job getting tables to our area early so that the

many, donated items could be placed on the tables in some sort of order before the crowds arrived. Once the tables were up and the boxes of priced items brought out, even more volunteers appeared to arrange the items on the tables, assist customers, keep the tables neat, look after the cash box, and wrap purchases. It is an enormous task.

We thank Marge Cobb, who volunteers to be our all-day-cashier every year. Laurie Mannix, Arlyne Gureck, Louise Harders, Joan Mercep, and Polly Neyssen, volunteers who know the routine well, worked all or part of the day in Grandma's Attic. Also, to my husband's mom - not just a mother-in-law, Risha - thank you so much for every year coming and helping for the day and supporting me in this wonderful event, as well as donating so much stuff! I really do enjoy living next door to you! Thanks also to Donna Wachter who came to assist in Grandma's Attic this year, and saw how much fun it is to be a part of Grandma's Attic.

To my boys, Thomas, Michael, and Joseph, and Tom - for moving so many boxes, and moving them again for me and arranging tables when I could not decide - THANK YOU - I may get you up early and you may not be very happy doing it, but you do it for me anyway. I love you!

It is the effort and solid support that make this event such a success....Also, an extra special THANK YOU to Joan Mercep, for helping me "keep it" together when I wasn't sure I could.....

For Pat Kregler getting Walter to bring out all the "Craft" items and selling so many wonderful items!

It is these folks which make us so successful. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

It IS a lot of work and it takes a lot of time, but the volunteers and system are in place and for many years it has been a joyful way for us to participate in the life of our parish.

- Debbie LaMano & Linda Misa

LET'S PERK UP COFFEE HOUR!

A number of parishioners have noted that coffee hour has become less welcoming than in the past. We need to renew the spirit of community and openness of this important ministry, for both new- and old-comers alike. We will be changing the layout a little to keep people moving into Mills Hall and allow for better mingling. Here are some other ways we can make our coffee hour a more inviting time for everyone:

- * Talk to someone you haven't talked to before.
- * Talk about the sermon.
- * Talk about the Gospel.
- * Keep your groups open.
- * Scan the room for people who aren't talking to anyone and invite them in.
- * If you don't know someone, introduce yourself.
 - + Even if you've been attending forever.
 - + Even if they've been attending forever.
- * If you recognize someone, but don't know their name, just say, "I know your face, but your name escapes me."
- * If you don't feel like reaching out, do your best to let others in.
- * Come to coffee hour!

Hospitality is a ministry this parish has identified as central to whom we are at St. James. This ministry is not limited to our greeters and ushers, nor does it end with a warm exchange of the peace. Coffee hour is perhaps one of the greatest opportunities of hospitality here at St. James. It is a time to welcome each other into our lives, not just

visitors, but our fellow parishioners as well! Hospitality is not just about service to others, it is about being open, and inviting others into our communion with God. It is how we share the good news of the Gospel.

Remember, coffee hour is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and catch up with old ones. See you there!

*- Karen Douglass
Parish Life Committee*

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD-A-BACKPACK

Again this year, we will be participating in the "Build-a-Backpack" program sponsored by Habitat for Humanity. This program provides the children of Habitat homeowners with backpacks for the upcoming school year.

The collection of backpack supplies will begin on Sunday, July 5, and continue through July 22. Following is a wish list of supplies. Have fun and use your imagination!

- Back pack
- Loose-leaf binder
- Pocketed folders
- Marble note books
- College or wide-ruled paper
- Spiral notebooks
- Index cards
- Pencil boxes
- Glue sticks
- Elmer's glue
- Safety scissors
- Pens
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Ruler
- Pocket pack tissues.

If you have any questions, speak to Raewynne.

AUGUST AT THE BEACH

Plans are being made to have a picnic at the beach following the 9:30 a.m. service on one of the last Sundays in August. Watch the Sunday bulletin and "This week at St. James" emails for further information as we head into August.

OUTREACH

*** Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry --** St. James parishioners served the pantry during the entire month of June. It was a busy month. The pantry has been cleaned up and a number of our parishioners helped reorganize the shelves. Thank you to Claudette Plaschka and Pat Westlake for their coordination and to all parishioners who served or donated food. The pantry continues to need the usual nonperishable donations of canned meat and fish, stews, pork and beans, hearty soups, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, cereal, fruits and vegetables. There is never enough fruit juice. It would help if you would check the cart in the Christian Ed building and transport donations to the pantry.

*** Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk --** In June Ken LeCluse showed a video about Habitat which celebrates their 20 years of work in Suffolk County. To date, 125 homes have been built and this year a community of 24 more homes is planned. After church, a number of parishioners signed up to help build a Habitat house. If you would like to sign up, please call Ken at 588-1176. When he knows how many volunteers are interested, Ken will approach Habitat about scheduling our church for a work day. Again this year we are participating in the "Build a Back Pack" program for Habitat homeowners' children. A list of items needed, including the back packs, will be in Sunday's bulletin. All

donations should be brought to church by July 19. Envision the smiles on the children's faces.

* **Bread for the World** -- In June parishioners signed 202 letters to be mailed to congressional leaders to encourage them to reform our foreign aid programs, to monitor and evaluate their efficiency, and to insure the public has full access to information on all foreign assistance programs. Thanks go to Ron Tebbutt for coordinating this effort each year and to all who showed they cared.

* **The Seamen's Church Institute** sent a thank you note for the scarves, hats, and socks that St. James parishioners knitted and crocheted for mariners during Lent. They said, "Your generous donation is greatly appreciated." We can continue to knit and crochet and get a head start for next year!

- *Sue Krall*

ALTAR FLOWERS

We have openings for altar flowers for all Sundays from July 19 through September 27. Flowers can be given as memorials or thanksgivings. The cost of the flowers is \$35, which provides financial support for the purchase of flowers, candles, wafers and wine, and for laundry and dry cleaning service for the altar linens.

If you would like to sign up to give flowers, forms are available in the back of the church, or you can mail your check to the office with a note specifying the date and names to be memorialized or the specific thanksgiving to be acknowledged.

WAYS TO SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE

1. Decide what's most important to you. What do you value most?
2. List your current commitments and evaluate them in light of these values. What do you want to be doing with your precious time?
3. Simplify work tasks. Focus on the essential tasks and eliminate the rest.
4. Do one thing at a time. Multi-tasking is more complicated, more stressful, and generally less productive.
5. Sort through your stuff. Pick a room or closet or a work area and do a thorough purging. Separate into three piles: keep, give away, and trash.
6. Simplify your wardrobe. Give away things you haven't worn in the past year.
7. Limit your purchases. Buy less stuff. Ask yourself if you really need this and if you really need to own this before purchasing it.
8. Have a place for everything.
9. Limit your communications. Decide when and how much time you will devote to email, IM, phone calls, etc.
10. Eat slowly. Slow down to lose weight, improve digestion, and enjoy life more.
11. Exercise. It helps burn off stress and makes you feel better.
12. Spend time with the people you love.
13. Spend time alone. Learn to meditate.
14. Slow down. Live life more deliberately.
15. Always ask: Will this simplify my life? If the answer is no, reconsider.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Thank you St. James! On Sunday, June 14th, our church participated in Bread for the World's 2009 Offering of Letters, resulting in 217 letters being sent to our representatives in Washington. Our letters advocated for a new comprehensive global strategy on foreign assistance and more accountability and transparency in all foreign aid programs.

Our letters will join thousands of others and will help insure that our representatives in Washington will move toward these goals.

Thank you again for supporting this simple, but important, form of Christian Stewardship!

*- Ron Tebbutt
BFW representative*

BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

New York's blood supply is getting critically low. please consider making a donation. Schedule your appointment at <http://www.nybloodcenter.org/index.jsp> to schedule a donation.

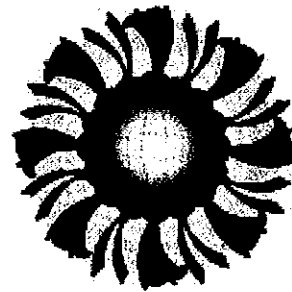
LUNCH BUNCH

On Tuesday, July 28, the Lunch Bunch will gather at 12 p.m. at Zar's Café, which is located on Lake Avenue in St. James. All are welcome to join the fun. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to sign up.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

On Sunday, June 7, we celebrated the Baptism of Paul David Wicks, Jr. as we welcomed him into the parish family. Paul is the son of Paul Sr. and Jaime Christensen Wicks, who live in St. James.

Some of you may remember Jeanne Murray and family who attended St. James when the children were teenagers. Jeanne and her husband Connie are living in India for three years while Connie supervises Coca-Cola facilities all over the area. Jeanne has been volunteering in a school for street children. Their daughter Katie lives in VA with her husband and two small daughters. They are expecting a third girl in October. Oldest son Bryan lives in Baltimore and is engaged to be married next June. Congratulations to youngest son Kevin who also lives in Baltimore and just married Leslie Rautzhan in Pottsville, PA on June 27. The family remembers St. James Church and community fondly and sends their greetings!



JULY CALENDAR

- 1 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 2 Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga 4:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 4 **Independence Day**
- 5 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 6 GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Yoga 4:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 9 Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga 4:30 p.m.
- 11 Summer Saturday Holy
Eucharist 5:30 p.m.
- 12 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 13 Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.
GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Yoga 4:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 16 Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga 4:30 p.m.
- 19 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 20 GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Yoga 4:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 23 Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Yoga 4:30 p.m.
- 25 Toastmaster's Club 9:30 a.m.
- 26 Bishop Ottley's Visitation
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Anderson Baptism
- 27 GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Lunch Bunch 12 p.m. at Zar's
Café in St. James
Yoga 4:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

- 29 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 30 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga 4:30 p.m.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth DeFilippis
Abby Coleman
Nancy Caponegro
Florence Donohue
Larry Wachter
Pat Kregler
Zach Citron
Ken LeCluse
Ariel Rung
Raewynne Whiteley
Barbara Bastin
Joan Bengtson
Carol Perkins
Ashley Citron
Deidre DeSimone
Jasmine Green
Douglas Rettig
Edie DeFilippis

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Les & Joan Bengtson
Werner & Patricia Brack
Mark & Stephanie Coleman
Stephen & Dara Linthwaite
Jacqueline & Todd Wall
Donald & Karen Noack
Donald & Lisa Scott
Robert & Cynthia Bennett

AUGUST CALENDAR

- 2 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 3 GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Yoga 4:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 6 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga 4:30 p.m.
- 8 Summer Saturday Holy
Eucharist 5:30 p.m.
- 9 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.
GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Yoga 4:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 13 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga 4:30 p.m.
- 16 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Newcomers' dinner
- 17 GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Yoga 4:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 20 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga 4:30 p.m.
- 22 Toastmasters club 9:30 a.m.
- 23 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 24 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Yoga 4:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Knitters' group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga 4:30 p.m.
- 30 Holy Eucharist I 8:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 31 GreSheeters Anon. 7:30 p.m.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jacqueline Rettig Wall
David Westlake
Gloria Scibilia
Doris Masters
Justin Plaschka
Rachel Linthwaite
Ron Tebbutt
Sarah Pryor
Nancy Rettig
James DeFilippis
Donna Guinaw
Lucas White
Ralph Martinsen
Robert Bennett
Debbie LaMano

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Jack Schultheis & Cathi Hart
Bob & Lil Moleti
Tony & Mary Jane DeVito
Claude & Fjeril Deal
George & Sue Krall
Joseph & Lisa Moleti
Ken & Lani Wille
Tony & Barbara Bastin
Douglas & Nancy Rettig
John & Nancy Caponegro
Walt & Pat Kregler
Mike & Polly Neyssen
Thomas Jr. & Debbie LaMano