



# Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

March 2010

FROM THE



Lent is a season when we are encouraged once again to turn our minds and hearts to God. A central part of that is prayer. Prayer is, most simply, a conversation with God. But there are many different ways that that conversation can take place:

**The Prayer Book:** As Episcopalians, when we think of prayer, we often think of the prayer book. It shapes our Sunday prayer in the context of worship, and also has resources for other kinds of prayer - the psalms, which were originally prayers, short services for use by individuals and families throughout the day, and prayers for particular issues and occasions.

**Bedtime Prayers:** Many of us remember the prayers we learned as children, often said at bedtime - we learned to pray for people and animals we knew and loved.

**Arrow Prayers:** Often we pray "on the run", with short prayers of thanksgiving or blessing or asking for God's help "right now."

**Praying with Scripture:** One way of praying is to take a piece of scripture and pray through it, reading each verse and talking over it with God.

**Meditation:** Marked by silence, this kind of prayer is when you sit in silence focusing on the presence of God and listening for God's voice. Sometimes people use rosaries or the repetition of a sacred phrase to focus their listening.

**Using our senses:** Some people find they pray best when they use their senses. They may listen to a chant or quiet music, sing, or look at an icon, or use incense. All these things help focus our attention on God.

**Praying with our Bodies:** Prayer can be expressed through your body. This might be in knitting a prayer shawl, or walking while you pray, or dancing to the glory of God.

There are many different ways of praying. All are valid, but some work better for some people than others. Lent is a good time to explore a form of prayer with which you are unfamiliar - you may discover a new depth in your connection with God!

- Raewynne



## A WORD FROM THE WARDEN

I would like to offer a sincere thank you to the parish for your vote to elect me Warden. It is truly an honor to serve a parish so rich in history and so alive in the good news of the Gospel. As I pray and meditate daily on this new role, I find myself continually drawn to two thoughts. First, I thank God for the support of my wife Kathy, because we walk this path together. Second, are the words below from the Baptism Covenant. I think remembering these vows serve all of us well on our personal faith journeys.

*Celebrant:* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People:* I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant:* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People:* I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant:* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People:* I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant:* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People:* I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant:* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People:* I will, with God's help.

- Peace,  
Chris Mauro

## PEOPLE IN THE PEWS

*This month we feature Barbara & Tony Bastin.*

Our life's journey began in England; Tony was born in London, Barbara in Manchester. As a little boy, Tony and his younger brother, Eric, were evacuated to a farm in Cornwall at the outbreak of WWII; Tony was there for 3½ years, during which time Tony and Eric attended a Methodist church every Sunday, as the farmer was a Lay Preacher.

*Tony:* I had very interesting experiences during my evacuation. Even though the object of the mass evacuation of children was to protect them from potential danger, it turned out that I ended up being in more danger than if I had stayed in London. There was considerable bombing of the port of Falmouth, a mere 5 miles away from the farm, and on two occasions bombs fell on the farm close to the farmhouse.

After my high school graduation I attended a College of Technology and during the summers worked as an intern in a large engineering firm in Manchester. I focused on electrical engineering, and during that time met Barbara at a party celebrating the birthday of a mutual friend. We dated for 3 years until I graduated, and then married.

Almost a year later we emigrated to Canberra, Australia, where I was offered a position in the Physics department of the Australian National University. We had a wonderful five week sea voyage to Australia, traveling to Canberra via Sydney to begin a new career and a new life. We spent 4 years in Canberra and three of our four children were born there. After 4 years I accepted the position of Chief Engineer in the Nuclear Physics department at FSU in Tallahassee, staying there for 2 years. As Barbara was then expecting our fourth child, Paul, we decided to return to England to join

the family business. After two years I realized I missed my engineering career and we returned to the U.S.A. to accept an offer to join the Nuclear Structure Laboratory at Stony Brook University. We have been here ever since, and became U.S. citizens in 1997.

Our four children adjusted very well to the move, Mark attending the small schoolhouse in Nissequogue and Julie and Jane attending St. James elementary. Paul was not quite two years old.

We joined St. James Church in October 1967, just prior to Father Joe Mills retiring. I have been a Warden twice and spent several terms as a member of the Vestry. I have been on the Finance Committee, a Lector since 1975, the Project Manager for the renovation of the church building in 1992, and most recently worked with the committee to protect the beautiful stained glass windows.

My most recent book read was Lost Symbol by Dan Brown. A hymn that I would take to a desert island is probably “The King of Love my Shepherd is” and I do not have a specific favorite verse from the Bible, but enjoy Paul’s letters to the Corinthians. I enjoy sailing and the satisfaction of completing a renovation project.

*Barbara:* As Tony has covered most of our life together, I shall begin with my early memories of attending my church, St. Barnabus. My parents did not attend but made sure I attended Sunday school and services at a very young age. As I reached my teens I became very involved with the youth group, and I remember a wonderful trip our group made to Wembley stadium (in London) to see Billy Graham; a true life changing experience. After high school I took business and secretarial courses, but changed my career options when I applied

for a position in a design and fashion house in the city. Fortunately, I was hired, and it was there that I met June, who introduced Tony and me and the rest is history!

Since arriving on Long Island I worked for 18 years in a local pediatricians office where I was a medical assistant until I retired 14 years ago. I loved the interaction with all the babies and children – it was a wonderful and rewarding job.

We have seen many changes here at St. James, and it has been our “second home” through the years. I was a Sunday school teacher for eight years – starting during Rev. Peter MacLean’s tenure through Father Cobb’s time with us, and then for a while with Father Don Webster. I have been on the Altar Guild since Father Cobb first arrived – 38 years ago! I have been on the Parish Life Committee, am a greeter and coffee hour host, and am involved in making jam for the fairs. One of my favorite hymns is “Morning has Broken” – I sang it in school assembly each morning and have loved it ever since! My favorite color is blue – Tony’s also!

One of our favorite movies is “Casablanca.” We both enjoy leisurely Saturday mornings, certainly now that most of the renovation has been finished on our 1840 house. One of the most recent books I have read and enjoyed is Sarah’s Key by Tatiano de Rosnay.

One of the most meaningful verses of scripture for me is Proverbs 3:6 “In all thy Ways acknowledge Him and He shall Direct thy Path.” This was written in a Bible that was presented to me on the occasion of my Confirmation in 1953.

We have been blessed with our four wonderful children and eight grandchildren, and our greatest joy is spending time visiting with them as often as we can.

## **WEEK 1 SUMMARY OF THE LENTEN STUDY OF MERE CHRISTIANITY BY C.S. LEWIS**

Last Wednesday night, 2/24 at 7:15, a group of 14 fellow parishioners gathered to discuss the Introduction, Preface, and Book 1 of Mere Christianity. The lively discussion centered on the existence of a universal law of human behavior (moral code). The following excerpts from Mere Christianity best summarize the week 1 study:

**Motive for writing the book.** “The best thing I could do for my unbelieving neighbors was to explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times.” (p. viii).

**What is meant by “Mere Christianity”?** “One of the things Christians are disagreed about is the importance of their disagreements. When two Christians of different denominations start arguing, it is usually not long before one asks whether such-and-such a point ‘really matters’ and the other replies: “Matter? Why it’s absolutely essential.”” (p. x).

**The Law of Nature.** “I know that some people say the idea of a Law of Nature or decent behavior known to all men is unsound, because different civilizations and different ages have had quite different moralities. But this is not true. There have been differences between their moralities, but these have never amounted to anything like a total difference. If anyone will take the trouble to compare the moral teaching of, say, the ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, Hindus, Chinese, Greeks, and Romans, what will really strike him will be how very like they are to each other and to our own.”(p. 6).

**Two points.** “These, then, are the two points I wanted to make. First, that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious

idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in a certain way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in.”(p. 8).

**Is moral law nothing more than instinct?** “The most dangerous thing you can do is to take any one impulse of your own nature and set it up as the thing you ought to follow at all costs. There is not one of them which will not make us into devils if we set it up as an absolute guide.” (p. 11).

Please join us next Wednesday, 3/3 at 7:15 p.m. in the Webster room as we discuss book 2 - What Christians Believe, and welcome Fr. Morrison of St. John’s, Huntington, a noted C.S. Lewis scholar, as guest lecturer.

- *Chris Mauro*

## **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

We will be having our first meeting of this new year on Thursday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. in Mills Hall. This year, besides the unusual maintenance and sprucing up projects we undertake, we will begin discussions and planning for an exciting major renovation to Mills Hall.

If you enjoy working with your hands, want to offer suggestions for projects for this year, or have thoughts on the Mills Hall project, please attend this meeting, or any of the monthly B & G meetings that will be held during the year.

- *Kurt Rettig*

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

All who are interested in confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church, or are just interested in an inquiry of our Episcopal faith, are hereby called to attend an "Inquirer's Class" to be held on Sundays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Webster room. This will be a 7 week series that will explore an outline of our faith, commonly referred to as "The Catechism." Episcopal theology as it is revealed in the "Nicene Creed" and "The Lord's Prayer" will also be studied. In addition, "The Episcopal Handbook" will be used to familiarize ourselves with the practice of our faith traditions. Classes will be held on April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 16, 23, and June 6. Attendance is mandatory for confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church at the Diocesan Confirmation Service on June 19. All who are planning to attend should notify the church office or contact Chris Mauro.

- *Chris Mauro*

## CALLING ALL SKIERS & SNOWBOARDERS!

Any adventurous types interested in attending this year's Ski/Snowboard trip to Mohawk Mountain in Cornwall, CT must register by Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. The trip will take place on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. It's a three hour drive, and you should plan on arriving at 9:30 a.m. This is their annual "Mohawk Madness Day," and there will be a radio station, barbeque, lots of fun ... & SNOW!!!! The cost is \$65, which includes: lift ticket, rental equipment, and group lesson. Please contact Dennis Guinaw at 269-4276 if you have any questions.

- *Dennis Guinaw*

## OUTREACH

\*Be sure to read about Outreach in the 2009 Annual Report to see what this parish did to reach out to others during 2009.

\*If you ordered daffodils to benefit the American Cancer Society, they will be delivered on Sunday, March 21. Please be sure to pay Pat Martinsen or her daughter, Brooke Moos ASAP. Make checks payable to the American Cancer Society.

\*Our Friday Fast for Lent will continue this year. We will donate the money everyone saves from lunch to Episcopal Relief and Development.

\*Seamen's Church Institute will again receive scarves and hats that our parishioners knit and crochet during Lent. Look in the narthex for suggested patterns, or see Raewynne.

\*Our annual Blood Drive will take place on Good Friday, April 2. Calls will be made to parishioners to sign up to donate from 3 - 7:30 p.m. If you can offer to help the day of the drive, contact Edna Rousseau at 584-7853.

\* Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry - our next turn to serve will be in August. At this very minute the Pantry has plenty of food, but that won't last long! Wait a couple of weeks and then continue to donate essential foods and take a turn checking the cart and delivering donated items to the Pantry.

\*An outreach meeting will be held soon to determine how to allocate the \$2,000 in the 2010 budget for outreach. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the date of the meeting.

- *Sue Krall*

## SHAWL MINISTRY NEWS

At our last meeting in February, we received ten beautiful shawls to replenish our stock. So we have been very productive and creative during these snowy, wintry months! Several of our members are also knitting blankets for children in Haiti and scarves and hats for the Seamen's Institute.

We are so pleased that several St. James parishioners, Joan Bengtson, June Davies, and Ann Tebbutt, have joined our group, and Marty Scott has been knitting for us as well. Several shawls have been blessed and given to parishioners of St. James, and one was given to the sister of a friend of Raewynne's.

We meet always on the third Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m., rotating amongst the homes of our members. We are a welcoming and diverse group. We enjoy a light breakfast, knit, crochet, share, listen to a meditation, and enjoy some quiet time and prayer. We usually finish by 10 a.m. This month we will meet at the home of Bonnie Meyer, 10 Brewster Hill Road, Setauket, on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

In April we will gather at the First Presbyterian Church in Smithtown for an ecumenical joint prayer shawl meeting, on Holy Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9 to 11 a.m. This will be our third annual joint meeting. We specifically chose Holy Saturday to gather as we meditate on the faithful women who gathered at the tomb of our Lord and Savior, and share in fellowship and prayer. This year our gathering will include women from our host church, First Presbyterian, St. James Episcopal Church, St. James Roman Catholic Church, Setauket, Caroline Church of Brookhaven, the Setauket Presbyterian Church, St. Mark's, Islip, Emmanuel Church, Great River, and St. Thomas of Canterbury, Smithtown. Last year's meeting was attended by approximately 40 women

and it was a lovely morning of fellowship, witnessing, and quiet meditation, and truly the perfect way to spend Holy Saturday morning. We hope you will consider joining us.

You do not need to be an accomplished knitter or crocheter to be part of our circle. We have some excellent and patient teachers, and have taught many women different techniques and patterns. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining us.

- *Wylie Hunt*  
751-5618

## GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

Our Blood Drive this year will be held in Mills Hall on Friday, April 2, from 3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Blood donors must be 16 through 76 years of age, and present identification with signature or photo. We would love to have members of our youth group each bring a friend to donate. Each time you donate blood you'll earn Red Cell Advantage points, redeemable for gifts and gift cards. For any questions about medical eligibility, please call 1-800-688-0900.

- *Edna Rousseau*

## FESTIVAL OF FILMS & FAITH

The Festival of Films and Faith will be held again this year at Theatre Three in Port Jefferson. The Festival is sponsored by the Greater Port Jefferson-Northern Brookhaven Arts Council, various churches in the area, and Protestant Campus Ministry at Stony Brook University. The first film, “Mugabe and the White African,” is being shown in collaboration with the Port Jefferson Documentary Series.

The dates are:

Monday, March 15 - “Mugabe and the White African”

Thursday, April 8 - “Longford”

Thursday, April 29 - “Gran Torino”

All films begin at 7 p.m. Each evening will conclude with refreshments donated by the participating churches.

“Mugabe and the White African” is the story of Michael Campbell, one of the few hundred white farmers left in Zimbabwe since President Robert Mugabe began his violent land seizure program in 2000. Much of the footage was shot covertly because of the risk of imprisonment. The film gives the outside world its only real glimpse of what it is like to live inside Mugabe’s Zimbabwe, while providing an intimate account of one family’s astonishing bravery and faith in the face of implacable brutality.

There will be a special guest speaker, Douglas Rogers, author of The Last Resort, the story of his family farm in Zimbabwe.

“Longford” is a thought-provoking story inspired by real events in the life of British Lord Frank Parkenham, the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Longford, and his controversial headline-making friendship with Moors murderer Myra Hindley, one of England’s most notorious criminals. Longford, a devout Catholic, often visited prisoners because of

his passionate belief in forgiveness and society’s need for prisoner rehabilitation.

“Gran Torino,” directed by Clint Eastwood, is the story of Walt Kowalski, an embittered Korean War veteran who has just lost his wife and who can’t get along with his kids or his neighbors. When his neighbor, Thao, a young Hmong teenager, tries to steal Walt’s prize possession, a 1972 Gran Torino, Walt sets out to reform the youth. Drawn against his will into the life of Thao’s family, Walt is soon taking steps to protect them from the gangs that infest their neighborhood.

The second and third films will be followed by a panel discussion led by interfaith clergy and laypersons who will explore how the film intersects with our faith practices. Free tickets will be available in our narthex.

- Sue Krall

## LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, March 23, 12 noon at Zan’s Kosher Deli, next to Trader Joe’s on Alexander Avenue, Lake Grove. All are invited to join in the fun. Contact Joan Strassle (724-7275) or Maria Bataller (584-5242) to sign up.

- Joan Strassle

## MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Bible study 10 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.  
Lenten study 7:15 p.m.
- 4 Yoga class 4:30 p.m.  
N. A. meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 5 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II with Sunday  
school 9:30 a.m.
- 8 Finance Committee 7:30 p.m.  
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Bible study 10 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.  
Lenten study 7:15 p.m.
- 11 Yoga class 7:30 p.m.  
Buildings & Grounds Committee  
7:30 p.m. - Mills Hall  
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 12 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Parish ski trip
- 14 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II with Sunday  
school 9:30 a.m. Pretzel day.
- 15 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Bible study 10 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 **St. Patrick's Day**  
Knitting group 10:30 a.m.  
Lenten study 7:15 p.m.
- 18 Yoga class 4:30 p.m.  
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 19 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II with Sunday  
school 9:30 a.m. Daffodil deliv.
- 22 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Bible study 10 a.m.  
Lunch Bunch at Zan's 12 Noon  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

- 24 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.  
Lenten study 7:15 p.m.
- 25 Yoga class 4:30 p.m.  
Choir rehearsal 8 p.m.
- 26 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 28 **Palm Sunday**  
Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 29 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Bible study 10 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.

## Looking Ahead

June 6, 4 p.m. Concert for Haiti here at St  
James!

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Marge Kreussling  
Ann Tebbutt  
Tony DeVito  
Ernie Harders  
Ken Wille  
Harry Toop  
Justine Guinaw  
Ruth Rutigliano  
Patricia Brack  
Derek Lally  
Mary Jane DeVito  
Dolores Marge  
Michael LaMano  
Nancy Rasmussen  
Matt Trump  
Ryan White



**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

Jeff & Karen Smith  
Ralph & Patricia Martinsen  
James & Nancy Petschauer

**ITEMS FOR SALE**

Casio keyboard           \$50.00  
Fender acoustic guitar with strap and case  
  \$150.00  
2 sailboat engines       call for details

*- Alexis & Peter Cahill  
265-0719*

**EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS**

Although it seems like Christmas was just last week, we are in the midst of Lent, with Easter fast approaching.

Again this year, we are asking for your donations for flowers to decorate the church for the Easter services. Flowers can be given as memorials or thanksgivings, or in honor of a special event. Please fill out the form below and send it to the office, with your donation, by **Monday, March 29**, so that it may be included in the Easter bulletin. Flower envelopes will also be available in the church narthex in mid-March.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of/thanksgiving for:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_