

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

March 2016

FROM THE



RECTOR

Today, March 1, as well as being roughly halfway through the season of Lent, is the feast day of St. David.

St. David lived in the sixth century in what is now Wales. At that time, England was largely pagan. Christianity had been established there under the later part of Roman rule but had been suppressed by the Angles and Saxons when they invaded England, bringing with them a host of Germanic gods. Many British Christians fled west to the hill country of Wales, which remained largely unreached by the Anglo Saxons, and there they joined with the local Celtic church.

David himself was a monk of noble birth, well-educated, and a famous teacher and preacher. He founded several monastic communities in Wales, and these served as places of refuge for the homeless, as centers for the spread of Christianity, and as bastions of learning, justice, and good order in a hostile environment. David was the abbot-bishop of the monastery at Menevia. He, and other hearty pioneer monks like him, kept the light of the gospel shining in a very dark and terrible time.

St. David is, I think, a saint for our times. While Christianity has been the dominant religion in the United States for many years, we are seeing its importance diminishing, challenged in part by other religions, but more substantially by secularism. Sometimes it feels as much as if we are under siege as the Welsh Christians were in David's day, and we are tempted to withdraw into the safety of our own communities.

But the reason David is remembered is that under his leadership, in a time of threat, the church grew. He established monasteries, encouraged people to let go of those things that held them back from devotion to God, and emphasized the importance of knowledge of the faith. In his final sermon before he died, he is reported to have said, "Lords, brothers, and sisters, be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed, and do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about. And as for me, I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us."

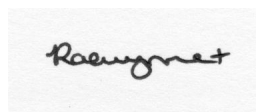
As we head towards Holy Week and Easter, when we will celebrate the death and resurrection of our Savior and our joining with him through baptism, we might do well to ask, "What does it mean for us to be joyful, to keep our faith and our creed, and do the little things that Jesus first did?" Or in other words, to ask "What does it mean to

be a Christian?"

In these next few weeks, I ask you to do two things. First make a priority of walking the path of Holy Week and Easter with Jesus. Plan to take time for worship and prayer, so that your faith might be renewed.

Second, reflect on that question, "What does it mean for me to be a Christian?" And I invite you to share that with me, in writing or by email. I will read and reflect on your responses, and then work on a way to share them with our parish as a way of encouraging one another in our faith.

Blessings,



LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Palm Sunday - March 20

Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist II with Palm Procession
9:30 a.m.

The waving of palms on Passion (Palm) Sunday reminds us that we are called to be followers of Jesus, not just fans who cheer from a distance. We then move to the Passion narrative, which anticipates the whole story of the week.

Tuesday of Holy Week - March 22

Chrim Mass at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Garden City 11:00 a.m.

The Chrim Mass gathers the faithful at the mother church of the diocese to prepare for celebrations of Christ's Resurrection in congregations. In the early church bishops baptized catechumens at the Easter Vigil with blessed oils. Obviously, one bishop

can't be at every parish at Easter, so during this service, oil is blessed by the bishop to be used in congregations for the sick, for those preparing for baptism and for baptism itself. Likewise, the bishop recommissions clergy to act in his stead by the renewal of ordination vow.

Holy Thursday - March 24

Supper and service 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday (from mandatum, 'commandment', because of the use of John 13:34 in the Antiphon) contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane. We join together in a simple meal, during which we hear again the story of Christ's meal with his disciples on the night before he died. We then move to the church to celebrate the Institution of the Eucharist, to remember Christ's vigil of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, and to strip the church of all decoration.

Good Friday - March 25

Good Friday Liturgy 12 noon - 3:00 p.m.

The veneration of the cross on Good Friday reminds us that, as Christians, we believe that Jesus can overcome anything, even death. We spend an extended time in prayer and reflection as we remember the hours Jesus hung on the cross. It is a widespread custom for there not to be a celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday, but for the consecrated bread and wine remaining from the Maundy Thursday Eucharist be given in communion.

Good Friday Office 7:00 p.m.

A simple service of remembrance of the death of our Savior. Once again the consecrated bread and wine remaining from the Maundy Thursday Eucharist are given in communion.

Holy Saturday - March 26

Holy Saturday office 9:00 a.m.

We pause to pray on Holy Saturday amidst the silence and desolation of Christ's death.

Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.

The Easter Vigil marks the end of the emptiness of Holy Saturday, and leads into the first celebration of Christ's resurrection. The lighting of the Easter fire and the celebration of baptisms on the Eve of Easter speak to us of the new life that is ours because of Jesus' triumph over the darkness of sin and death through his resurrection.

Easter Day - March 27

Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

The Easter Gospel is proclaimed with all the joy and splendor that the church can find. All the resources of the church – music, flowers, bells, colors – are used to celebrate Christ's resurrection. The 'Alleluia', which has been silent throughout Lent, returns.

"Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor, with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render."

(John of Damascus)

EASTER INVITATION

Worship and prayer are at the center of our life together at St. James Church, and no day is more glorious than Easter Sunday. Easter is the day when we as a congregation are joyfully gathered together.

This is a suggestion for all of us to reach out during Holy Week, not to those we know who plan to attend church on Easter, but to someone or some family who might not be in church at all, and would be missing out on one of the most meaningful worship services at St. James Church. Please offer them a warm invitation to join you and our church family for Easter services and coffee hour.

- Doug Dahlgard

THE WARDEN'S COLUMN

Forty Days

This is the offer of a lifetime. No money down. At the end of your 40 day trial, you can keep the gift and do not have to pay a dime, nada, zilch. So, what's the catch? There isn't any.

The gift of Lent is forty days. When were you last given a chunk of time like that? Not your last vacation. Not as an allowance to consider a job offer. Lent offers us, guilt free, no added tax, forty days of reflection, contemplation, repentance, thanksgiving, fasting, prayer.

Most of my life I observed the Lenten period largely in absentia. I attended the ritual services on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Palm Sunday, and Easter. I thought I had done my duty and paid my respect. It is only in the past few years, through the grace of priestly guides and honored friends in faith, that I discovered the real gift of those forty days. Every day, every meditation, every Eucharist, every prayer and devotional is a part of this sacred period in time. One builds on the other. The journey in faith deepens with each step.

The **Lenten Series** of prayer, study and good preaching from our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, is an integral part of our forty days this year. It allows us to know him more deeply, to understand his calling to us to be radical, "crazy" Christians, just as Jesus was when He walked among us. And, most movingly and profoundly, it allows us to know one another on a level that can only be touched in the intimacy and immediacy of coming together in prayer and worship.

We all love our coffee hours, festivals, shared meals and celebrations. Again and again I hear from all of you that it is the "family" aspect of our parish that warms the

hearts of every generation. We share our Sunday services, the gift of the Eucharist, our songs of thanksgiving. But this is not enough for us or for our beloved church. If we are to fully achieve and maintain our vision and our mission, it is essential for us to come together to hear our individual calls to faith and service. *How did you come to St. James? Who in your life have you thought of as holy? When have you felt the comfort of the Lord in your life? Have you ever looked into the eyes of another and seen God?*

These questions and their deeply personal answers open up doors to wonder, delight, insight and creativity. They bind us to our faith in new and expansive ways. They reveal our Lord's work within each of us. We "know" each other more deeply and richly. In this simple forum of shared worship and prayer we find precious light and revelation.

Many more days are ahead of us during our forty day Lenten journey. **Please join us on Tuesday evenings.** The church is open at **6:30** for music and contemplative prayer. The Eucharist is celebrated at **7:00** and this is followed by Bishop Curry's entreaty (the video is different each week) to join in the transformation of our Christian souls into those of Jesus' true disciples. Then Raewynne leads us in a discussion of biblical passages, where God is calling us, and a probing series of questions about the role of every day Christians within a fractured and troubled world. It is a quiet time in a busy world of noise. It is a time to hear the voice of our living God. Please join us.

In peace and hope,
Alex

MAUNDY THURSDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Maundy Thursday service will begin in Mills Hall at 6:30 p.m. with readings, prayer, and supper, and continue with Holy Eucharist in the church. You are asked to bring a dish to share for the supper. Middle Eastern food (or hummus, pita, olives, figs, etc.) is especially welcome. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information as we get closer to Holy Week.

GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

St. James will be sponsoring our annual Blood Drive on Good Friday, March 25 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Mills Hall. More details will be available in upcoming Sunday bulletins.

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has asked us to "remember our sister and brother Christians in the Holy Land who maintain the faith which we hold so dear."

"As you know, each year, every bishop and congregation is encouraged by the Presiding Bishop to participate in the Good Friday Offering", he wrote. "This tradition is decades old and is an important statement of our solidarity with the members of the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. We have a Gospel imperative to be sure they know they are not forgotten behind the headlines or because of the distractions in our own lives."

Funds collected from the Good Friday Offering are gathered and distributed to the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East,

which includes the Dioceses of Jerusalem and Cyprus and the Gulf, all members of the Anglican Communion. Donations are used to make physical repairs to schools, hospitals and community centers, so that children and their families can learn, play, and be treated in comfortable environments and to provide education and healthcare to the residents of the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Checks can be made out to "The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society" with "Good Friday Offering" added in the note field. They will be collected at the Good Friday service, or can be mailed to the office.

ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

At the Annual Meeting on February 7 elections were held, the budget for 2016 was presented, and reports were given. Alex Rich was elected to a one year term as Warden, Margo Goodman and Amy Jeffrey were each elected to a three year term as Vestry member. Thanks were expressed to Chris Mauro, Jennifer Lawrence, and Colette Tarantino for the completion of their terms as Warden and Vestry members.

DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

We know there are people in our parish who have good voices. We invite you to try singing with the choir for Palm Sunday and Easter this year. Holiday services are that much more special when we have good music! We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 11:15 for about 45 minutes in the Webster room of the Christian Ed. building. Join us for a few Sundays, no commitment beyond that is necessary. You might enjoy singing with a group.

OUTREACH

At a meeting of the Outreach Committee on Sunday, February 28, the following grants were set up in the 2016 budget:

Protestant Campus Ministry	\$2,000
Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society (for Jerusalem)	\$250
Bread for the World	\$250
Habitat for Humanity	\$500*
*(\$1000 pending from 2015)	
Emergency	\$1000

We are looking into the possibility of setting up a build date for Habitat for Humanity, perhaps combining with other churches.

- Madelyn Cousins

CELEBRATION OF LIFE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DAN & CAROL MAYBEE

On April 2 at 1 p.m. we will be celebrating the lives of long time parishioners Carol and Dan Maybee with a memorial service and interment of ashes in the cemetery. Carol and Dan were an integral part of the St. James family for many years before they retired to Florida. For those of us who knew and loved Carol and Dan, we will be hosting a reception after the service. We will be providing light fare such as finger sandwiches, cookies, cake, punch, etc. We will also be collecting food donations for the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, with which Carol was heavily involved during her time at St. James.

If you would like to contribute food or your time to this celebration, please contact Stephanie Coleman at 631-751-4151 or via email at ssc6263@gmail.com.

- Stephanie Coleman

**LUNCH BUNCH
TO VISIT PATIO PIZZA**

The Lunch Bunch has selected Patio Pizza, 262 Lake Avenue, St. James as their destination on March 29 at 12:30 p.m. All parishioners and friends are encouraged to attend. Contact Fjeril Deal (724-3720) to make your reservation.

GOT PLANTS?

If you are planting seeds this spring, when the time comes to thin the plants out, please consider potting some up to sell at the Strawberry Festival.

**TRIP TO SEAMEN'S CHURCH
INSTITUTE**

Each week we pray for the Seamen's Church Institute, and many parishioners have knitted hats and scarves for the seamen. Now, parishioners are invited to tour the facility and port. On Tuesday, April 26 the Suffolk Archdeaconry ECW is sponsoring a bus trip to Port Newark, N.J. The trip includes Holy Eucharist, lunch, tour of the facility and port, tip to bus driver, snacks, and a donation to the Seamen's Church Institute. The cost is \$50.00 per person.

Bus pick up will be at the Melville Park and Ride, LIE Exit 49, westbound, east of Route 110.

Reservations are required by April 4. Checks made out to Suffolk Archdeaconry ECW, and sent to Angie Morris, 4 Ellen Place, Huntington Sta., NY 11746.

**YOUTH RETREAT
AT CAMP DEWOLFE
April 29 - May 1**

Youth are invited to go to Camp DeWolfe for a weekend retreat to play and pray on the beautiful scenic camp grounds. Iconographer Regan O'Callaghan will be an artist in residence for the Diocese of Long Island and has been invited to teach youth the prayerful practice of drawing or writing icons.

"The joy of creating an icon in community is to experience and share the love of God. The end result, of God working in us and through us, goes far beyond the painting on the panel and into the realm of the mystery of our faith. Come join us and 'fear not' your ability, simply come open to love."

For more information, contact Patrick Kangrga, Associate for Youth and Young Adult Ministries at (516) 248-4800 Ext. 117, or pkangrga@dioceseli.org.

SAFE CHURCH WORKSHOP

The Diocese of Long Island requires that all Vestry members, Eucharistic Visitors, those who work with children, staff, and building key holders undergo the Safe Church program on Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse Prevention training. If you are in any of the above mentioned groups and have not taken the training, the next session is on April 16 at the Mercer School in Garden City. You can sign up online at <http://www.mercerschool.org>.

**MIND, BODY & SPIRIT DAY
AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY**

Experience a holistic day of relaxation and learning with experts from the Stony Brook University community on Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Featured events are:

The Golden Rule and a Healthier, Happier Life 10 a.m. - 11 a.m., Charles B. Wang Center, Brook Alumni Room 401.

Contributing to the lives of others according to the logic of the Golden Rule has certain positive side effects – increased happiness, serenity, resilience, ability to deal with loss and disappointment, meaning, and deeper friendships. Based on a national survey conducted by United Health, and various other investigations, Stephen G. Post, Ph.D. will present the scientific case for why it's good to be good.

What is Yoga? An Experiential Workshop 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Charles B. Wang Center, Brook Alumni Room 401. This insightful, healthy, and fun workshop is designed to demystify the art and science of yoga. Amy Floria Perri, professional instructor, experienced yoga instructor and Reiki master, will present a live yoga demonstration with instructions for simple yoga techniques, breath work, meditation and simple seated postures.

Health Food Cooking Demonstration with Executive Chef Paolo Fontana 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Simons Center for Geometry and Physics, SCGP Café, 2nd floor. Join award-winning chef Paolo Fontana and café manager, Julie Pasquier for a cooking demonstration followed by lunch made with fresh ingredients and care. Chef Paolo brings fresh, regionally sourced food with an Italian sensibility to an elegant café surrounded by gardens of herbs, flowers, and vegetables.

Space is limited. \$25 per person includes all 3 of the above activities. To register, or for more information contact Barbara Hakimi at barbara.hakimi@stonybrook.edu or at (631) 632-4880.

Madelyn Cousins

**FARM FRESH PRODUCE:
GARDEN OF EVE FARM SHARE**

Imagine...a weekly selection of the freshest, just-picked organic vegetables, straight from the farm to your table! What are the benefits?

- * Cook healthier, more delicious dishes:
The share includes more than 40 varieties of vegetables which will challenge you to eat more fresh foods.
- * Help the environment: We do not use any toxic pesticides, herbicides, or chemical fertilizers.
- * Support your local farmers and the local economy; enjoy farm visits and tours, CSA member potlucks, and a relationship with your farm.

This is like a subscription or a vegetable-of-the-week club. You pay in full for your share before the distributions begin in early June, and in return for your commitment to the farm, they provide you with just-picked organic produce at a good value from then through late November. You can select from vegetable, fruit, egg, flower, meat, bread, cheese and pickles/preserves in your share. There is a convenient pick up site right here at St. James! For more information, talk with the Rector, and to sign up, check out Garden of Eve's website at www.gardenofevfarm.com/csa.htm.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into our parish family Vincent Douglas Andrews, who was born on February 12 to Kathleen and James Andrews. Big brother, James Jr., is excited to be welcoming him home as well. We look forward to meeting him soon.

MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Lenten series 7 p.m. (church)
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Women's Yoga 7:00 p.m. - M.H.
- 4 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Lenten series 8:50 a.m. - M.H.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 7 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Lenten series 7:00 p.m. (church)
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Women's Yoga 7:00 p.m. - M.H.
- 10 N.A. meeting
- 11 Nursery school fundraiser 5:00 p.m. - M.H.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.
Lenten series 8:50 a.m. - M.H.
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 14 North Shore Garden Club 3:00 p.m. - M.H.
Vestry meeting 7:00 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Lenten series 7:00 p.m. (church)
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Women's Yoga 7:00 p.m. - M.H.
- 18 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 **Palm Sunday**

- Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with
Palm Procession
- 21 North Shore Garden Club 3:00 p.m. - M.H.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
 - 22 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Chrism Mass at Cathedral 11 a.m. (Rector)
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
 - 23 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Women's Yoga 7:00 p.m. - M.H.
 - 24 **Maundy Thursday**
Supper & Eucharist 6:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
 - 25 **Good Friday**
Good Friday Liturgy 12 Noon
Blood Drive 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Office 7:00 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
 - 26 **Holy Saturday**
Holy Saturday Office 9:00 a.m.
Decorating of church
for Easter
Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.
 - 27 **Easter Day**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
 - 28 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
 - 29 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
 - 30 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Challenger Teen group 7:30 p.m. - M.H.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Seraphina Baez
Anna Marie deLeyer
Tony DeVito
Ken Wille
Violette Baez
Gabi Reisenauer
Amy Giardina
Wylie Hunt
Justine Guinaw
Ruth Rutigliano
Derek Lally
Mary Jane DeVito
Michael LaMano
Matthew Trump
Ryan White

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff & Karen Smith
Ralph & Pat Martinsen
Doug & Robin Dahlgard
Jim & Nancy Petschauer

EASTER FLOWERS

Each year, the Altar guild decorates the church for the Easter services. They invite you to give thanks for blessings or to honor the memory of a loved one by contributing money towards the purchase of flowers. This can be done by using the envelopes in the back of the church in the weeks before Easter, or by completing the form below and mailing it with your check (payable to St. James Church) to the church by Monday, March 21.

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Easter Flower Offering

In thanksgiving for:

In memory of:

Given by: _____

Amount: _____

