

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

May 2011

F R O M T H E



Late last night, I was about to go to sleep when I heard my iPad ding. That's the signal from the New York Times that there is breaking news. I went online,

and discovered that the President was to make a statement on national security. It was on Facebook that I first heard that Osama Bin Laden was dead. I found myself breathing out, as if I'd been holding my breath, without even being aware of it, and feeling an immense sadness, as his death brought home all the deaths these last ten years that one way or another have been related to the 9/11 attacks - here in the US, in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and elsewhere.

And I thought of those who lost family and friends on 9/11, and especially our junior warden, Debbie LaMano, whose brother-in-law was killed that day. As we waited for the President's announcement, Debbie and I began to chat online, as we struggled with how we should respond as followers of the Jesus who said we should love our enemies and forgive seventy times seven.

The reality is that it would be simplistic to say that we should have just forgiven Bin

Laden and Al Qaeda. Yes, we are called to forgive. But true forgiveness is not something easily done. It can take a lifetime, or longer, of intentional work, just as it can take a lifetime, or longer, to heal.

But there is another question that as Christians, we have to address. How do we deal with evil? Is it ever right to kill someone? What's the difference between revenge and doing something to prevent someone from committing more evil? Does the technological capacity to do mass murder make a difference?

Those are questions that have exercised Christian theologians ever since Jesus was crucified and resurrected. There is consensus that we should always resist evil - but there is less agreement on how we do that. Some concluded that it is right - or at least justifiable - to participate in a small evil to prevent a greater one. Others concluded that it is never right to participate in evil, and that non-violence is the only option for us as Christians. And there is a whole range of opinion in between.

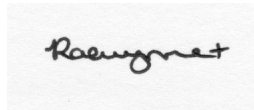
We live in a fallen world. There are no easy answers or perfect solutions. There is no doubt that Bin Laden was the leader of an organization that was committed to bringing death and destruction, and was the

perpetrator of evil. We are called to resist that evil.

But I do not rejoice in his death. I wish - and yes, I know it's not particularly realistic - but I wish that he had repented. I wish he had been brought to justice. And I pray that his death will not fuel a further cycle of violence and fear. It is time to stop.

As we wrestle with these difficult questions, perhaps the best thing we can do is pray. And so we turn to our prayer book:

"O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord." "A prayer for our enemies," *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 816



MEMORIALS FOR THE REV. DONALD A. WEBSTER

We received the sad news a few weeks ago that the Rev. Donald Webster passed to his eternal rest suddenly on April 11th in Maine. Father Webster was Rector at St. James from 1981 - 1989. His funeral was held at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke in Portland, Maine. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Priscilla, at 29 Centennial Street, Peaks Island, Maine 04108. Donations in his memory can be made to the Protestant Campus Ministry, where he was Chair of the Board for most of the period when he was Rector at St. James. It is an outreach ministry close to St. James that he felt was very important. Checks can be mailed to

Herta Wulff, PCM Treasurer, 11 Hamilton Road, Setauket NY 11733. Please note "the Rev. Donald Webster" on the memo line. Our prayers are with Priscilla and his family.

THE WARDENS' WORDS

The Easter season is the time during which we revel in the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is also at this time that we will find ourselves wrestling with the implications of the Resurrection, and perhaps even questioning our faith. While this is a scary prospect, it is a sign of a healthy spiritual life.

St. James offers many opportunities to explore our faith and search for these answers. First and foremost you can be assured that on Sunday Raewynne will present a meaningful sermon that will explain how God and scripture intersects our lives.

The second opportunity is in Bible study. These small groups offer the perfect forum to discuss our faith. Always open and welcoming, these studies are a safe community of your fellow Christians here at St. James.

Finally, there is the parish wide focus on prayer. Prayer is the means by which we allow the grace of God into our lives. In recent months I have changed how I pray. I would normally pray for people in the order they are in my life. Ask for certain things to be looked over, help me organize myself and my life - keep everyone safe and healthy - and yes, ask for peace in this great world we live in. Well, I still do most of these prayers. However, I find myself asking for God to be with us and in us (which was mentioned in the Easter Sunday sermon).

Yet, when I was having a bad day recently, I too needed someone to remind me that “You are never alone!” God is always with us and in us. That is the power of the Church, and the support that can be found in a parish family. So, we invite you to explore your faith here at St. James this Easter season. All you need to do is take advantage of the opportunities.

Peace and blessings,
- *Debbie and Chris*

“Your religion is what you do when the sermon is over.” - H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

BISHOP PROVENZANO’S VISIT MAY 18, 2011 7 P.M.

The Bishop is coming, the Bishop is coming! On Wednesday evening, May 18th we will be hosting our first official visit from Bishop Provenzano. The Bishop will celebrate the Eucharist, and preach at a service at 7 p.m. that evening. The Bishop only visits each parish once every three years, so please make it a priority to come and meet him, welcome him here, and support the parishioners who are being received into the Episcopal Church.

We are planning a reception for after the service, and are calling on all bakers who would like to make something to contact Stephanie Coleman (ssc6263@aol.com or 751-4151). If you don’t like to bake, but would still like to contribute, we will be needing people to purchase liquid refreshments (juice, wine, etc.).

VESTRY RETREAT

The Vestry will be on retreat on Saturday, May 21. Please pray for us as we continue to discern God’s will for our parish.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL JUNE 11, 2011

Our annual Strawberry Festival is fast approaching! This event provides many opportunities for us to participate by giving of our time, talent, and treasure. First, we can join in any of the pre-Festival preparations, such as sorting and pricing of Grandma’s and Grandpa’s Attic items, helping in the jam making sessions, or in giving a few hours of time to help out the day of the Festival. Second, those who enjoy baking are invited to make breads, cookies, simple cakes or pies for the Baked Goods table, or, if gardening is your “thing,” you might pot up any extra perennials for the Plant table. Third, you might donate some of your “treasures” for the yard sale. Working on the Festival provides us with many opportunities to get to know other parishioners. Besides, it’s a lot of fun! Be sure to read the article below, and watch the Sunday bulletins for more details

YARD SALE INFORMATION

It is time again to get ready for our Strawberry Festival /Yard Sale. As you know, it “will be” successful if we all join in and help. Listed below are the scheduled

times for sorting, cleaning, and pricing all of the treasures. You can either call me to let me know you are coming, or you can just show up to any of the pricing times listed below. If you are interested in co-chairing Grandma's Attic, PLEASE let me know.

Your help will also be needed on the day of the Festival. If you are available for the day, or part of the day, PLEASE let me know. Calls will be going out for your assistance. So, please check your calendars for all available dates, and contact me at 584-3545.

Tuesday, May 24 th	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday, May 26 th	6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Wednesday, June 1 st	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday, June 6 th	3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday, June 8 th	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday, June 10 th	5 p.m. - ?

Thank you,
Debbie LaMano

OUTREACH

Thank you to all who staffed the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry in March! By the end of that long, busy month, WE served 125 families, a total of 423 individuals. This was several meals for each of these folks. Thanks also go to Claudette Plaschka and Pat Westlake for their faithful coordination, and to Bob O'Neill who transported our food donations weekly. Pat says the Pantry currently needs donations of fruit juice, baked beans, and peanut butter and jelly. When you see food in our cart in the education wing, please take a turn delivering the food to the Pantry.

Our Good Friday Blood Drive took in 30 pints of blood for Suffolk Blood Services. Thank you especially to all who donated, to those who made phone calls, and to Edna Rousseau for coordinating this life-saving outreach!

The Friday Fast for Lent brought in \$255 which is being sent to Episcopal Relief and Development. Disasters continue to happen, both near and far, and your dollars will allow ERD to help those who have experienced terrible devastation. Thank you to all who contributed.

Seamen's Church Institute will receive scarves and hats our parishioners created during Lent. Thank you all for using your time and your talents.

Good Friday's offering of \$126 is being sent to the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East to show our love and support for our brothers and sisters in Christ who live there.

Episcopal Charities of Long Island's Annual Appeal was held in April. Up to \$50,000 in gifts from parish donors in the diocese will be matched by a generous contributor. For the first time, 25% of St. James' gift will be returned to us for local outreach. Because all administrative and fund-raising costs of Episcopal Charities are covered by endowment, every dollar of our gifts will go directly to serve those in need. Last fall St. James received a grant from Episcopal Charities for Protestant Campus Ministry and hopefully we will receive a follow-up grant this coming fall. April may have passed, but it is never too late to donate to Episcopal Charities of LI.

An outreach meeting was held in April to determine where the \$2,000 in the church's outreach budget will go. All parishioners are invited to attend these meetings. It was voted to allocate the money as follows:

\$250.00 Bread for the World

\$250.00 Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk

\$1,500.00 Protestant Campus Ministry

\$2,000.00 Total

Lent 2011 was a meaningful time for outreach from St. James Church. Bless you all for donating your time, your talent, and your money.

-Sue Krall

THANK YOU

A huge “thank you” to our ever-faithful Blood Drive callers, Joan Bengtson, Sue Krall, and Polly Neyssen, who made our Good Friday Blood Drive a success. We received 30 units of whole blood, 7 more than last year.

- Edna Rousseau

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

On Holy Saturday, we gathered in Mills Hall for our fourth annual joint prayer shawl meeting. Thirty-five women from all over the Diocese were present, representing several different Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic churches. The delicious light breakfast was made by the members of our prayer shawl group, and included fruit salads, coffee cakes, bagels, and scones.

We were so blessed to have Jeanne Provenzano, the wife of our Diocesan Bishop, with us as our guest speaker. As we sat in a large circle of chairs around the perimeter of the room, Jeanne described different circles: knitting circles, sewing circles, quilting circles, book groups. She went on to tell us about the Beijing Circle she has started as part of the Women’s Commission on Ministry in our diocese. The Beijing Circle focuses on issues that

were initially identified at the Fourth World Conference held in Beijing, China in 1995. The United Nations Millennium Development goals of 2000 mirror these issues. The Beijing Circle provides a unique opportunity to individually and collectively raise awareness of the possibility of change for all women. We heard some hard statistics about domestic violence, slave trafficking, and educational and work opportunities for women.

At the end of Jeanne’s talk, we had some quiet, meditative time to knit or crochet, and to think about the facts she had given us, and the changes we would like to see. Dara Linthwaite led us on her guitar in a beautiful Taize chant, and the voices of thirty-five women ascended in praise. A beautiful, lacy scarf, knit by Joan Bengtson, was given to Jeanne, along with a check in her honor to Episcopal Charities, and at the end of the meeting many shawls were blessed by Raewynne. It was a lovely, peaceful way to end Holy Week and enter into the joy of Easter.

- Wylie Hunt

FESTIVAL OF FILMS AND FAITH

The Festival of Films and Faith, sponsored by the greater Port Jefferson-Northern Brookhaven Arts Council, Little Portion Friary, Protestant Campus Ministry, Temple Isaiah, and several local churches, resumes in mid-May. Films will be shown at Theatre Three, 412 Main Street, Port Jefferson at 7 p.m., followed by an interfaith panel discussion with audience participation, and a reception. Free tickets are available in the rear of the church.

Thursday, May 19 - *Little Miss Sunshine*
Thursday, May 26 - *Goodbye Solo*

These are always enlightening, enjoyable evenings!

- Sue Krall

COMMUNITY GARDEN

One of the things we all need to be healthy is fresh produce. Our Food Pantry is wonderful in providing basic nutrition, but a number of us, in both the church and the wider community, have been dreaming that we might be able to offer fresh produce as well. To that end, the Vestry has approved the creation of a small garden on our property to grow fresh food for the Food Pantry, and also agreed with the recommendation of the Outreach Committee to fund any expenses from the money that is returned to us by Episcopal Charities. We hope to get donations of seed and plants, and invite all parishioners and those you know in the wider community who enjoy gardening to join us in working on this project.

- Raewynne

PROTESTANT CAMPUS MINISTRY

Last fall St. James Episcopal Church and Caroline Church of Brookhaven received a grant of \$10,000 from Episcopal Charities of LI to be used by PCM at Stony Brook University, where both Raewynne and Father Visconti serve on the Board. (I am the lay representative from our church.) This grant has allowed the Board of Directors to expand Chaplain Brenda Ford's hours from 15 to 20 hrs./wk. as she ministers to students, faculty and staff. This is not a lot of time when you think of the number of people on this campus. But every extra hour helps. It has also allowed her to be covered

for health insurance. Chaplain Brenda is an amazing spiritual influence on all who meet her and she has no boundaries on her willingness to help others.

Follow-up grants of \$4,000 each for year #2 and year #3 are a possibility from Episcopal Charities, so our two churches are again co-sponsoring a grant application for year #2. To maintain Chaplain Brenda's 20 hours and health insurance will be a challenge, one that the Board is determined to try to do. Math, never my best subject, tells me \$4,000 is \$6,000 less than \$10,000, so you will be hearing about other fund-raising ideas to make up this difference.

For example, the current Chairman of PCM's Board of Directors, the Rev. William Edwards (retired, former Pastor of Smithtown Presbyterian Church) and his wife Estelle will soon be moving near their daughter in Princeton, NJ. The "William H. Edwards Fund for Innovation in Campus Ministry" has been established to honor Pastor Edwards for his devotion to PCM. Money received in memory of the Rev. Donald Webster will be added to this fund to help support Chaplain Brenda's salary and on-going ministry expenses. It seems fitting that these two dynamic clergymen from our community will be joining forces for an outreach ministry they truly believed in right in our own backyard.

-Sue Krall

We are in need of a treasurer for PCM. This is not a big job – writing 5 checks a month, receiving, noting, and depositing donations, etc. Please speak with the Rector.

- Raewynne

GODLY PLAY WORKSHOPS

If you are interested in raising our children in faith you are invited to either of two upcoming workshops on Godly Play. Godly Play is a Montessori based program of teaching faith to children. The workshops are to be held on Monday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian Education building, or on Sunday, May 15 (time to be determined). All are welcome: parents, kids, grandparents, or any one else who is interested. Please sign up on one of the sheets at the back of the church, or call the church office.

“WOMEN IN THE IMAGE OF GOD”

On Saturday, April 30th, a group of women from St. James travelled to the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City to participate in a day-long workshop presented by the Diocesan Women’s Commission.

The focus of the workshop was “woman’s created image as compared to her image disfigured and deformed by the world.” We heard the keynote speaker, two presenters, and the homilist talk about how girls and women are portrayed. We were reminded that God made *humankind* in his likeness. We participated in two workshops, “Women and the Media” and “Things My Mother Never Told Me.” We enjoyed a lovely bag lunch, and fellowship, and then participated in a Eucharist in the Cathedral, celebrated by Bishop Provenzano. We left the Cathedral feeling very empowered and inspired. We are hopeful that there will be subsequent, follow-up workshops in the future. “As the body of Christ, when one of us is enslaved, none of us is free.”

- Wylie Hunt

PALM SUNDAY 4/17/11

Sitting in the back row on Palm Sunday, after an absence since Epiphany Sunday due to myriad problems, and not without the usual daily onslaught of self-doubt, wondering once again “where do I fit in God’s family and do I really have a place here with any gifts of talent to offer to the body of Christ?” and, oh, let’s not forget a generous slathering of self-pity, to include “nobody will miss me or even care that I’m absent from the body of Christ.”

....and then it happened. I experienced a full seasonal allergy SNEEZE!

And there it was, so simply, all around me, literally in a semi-circle of MY church family surrounding me, and automatically saying “God Bless You” without any hesitation to my sneeze, and without the world’s political correctness of omitting the “God” from “God Bless You” I felt enveloped and safe and remembered that I really am loved here at St. James Episcopal Church and always have been. It just took a “sneeze” to flood my memory, grounding me back the simplest concept of God’s message of love to each and every one of us.

In gratitude to God’s mercy,
Pat Pawelko

MAY CALENDAR

- 1 **Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Sunday school
Acolyte training 11:15 a.m.
- 2 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m. - Sides
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Jam making 3:30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 5 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Toastmasters' group 9:30 a.m.
Mills Hall rental 5:30 p.m.
- 8 Mothers' Day
Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with children's activity
- 9 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Godly Play meeting 6:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Jam making 3:30 p.m.
Family Bible study 6 p.m.
Vestry meeting with the Bishop
7:00 p.m.
- 13 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 **Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Sunday school
Godly Play meeting TTBA
- 16 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Smithtown Book Club 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Bishop Provenzano visitation
7:00 p.m.
- 19 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Vestry retreat
- 22 **Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
with Sunday school
- 23 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Grandma's Attic pricing 1 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 26 Grandma's Attic pricing 6 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Toastmasters' Group 9:30 p.m.
- 29 Morning Prayer 8:00 a.m.
Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
- 30 **Memorial Day** - office closed
- 31 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Matt Coleman
Maria Bataller
Karen Noack
Barbara LoPresto
Allyssa Green
Jeremiah Glogg
Cathi Hart
Alec Douglass
Thomas Mauro
Diane Rettig
Bob Moleti
Dana Wachter
Allie Brady
Joan Strassle
Walt Kregler
Alexandra Orlich

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

John and Florence Donohue
William and Maria Bataller