



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

May 2015

FROM THE



In the last couple of days, I've been on a short vacation in Utah. Why Utah? Skiing. But the incredible mountains and canyons are not the only things I've

noticed here. The one thing you can't escape is religion. One of the Salt Lake City newspapers, the Deseret News, has a Mormon section (and at least half of the other stories refer to religion in some way); the shuttle driver, who picked me up at the airport chatted constantly, connecting politics, sexuality, and business with his faith. He even had a good word for us Episcopalians – and the newspaper reported on the local Episcopal bishop's recent visit to Cuba. And if I were looking for God, I might just have asked my shuttle driver.

Our culture on Long Island is very different. We're not used to seeing much at all in our papers about religion, unless something terrible has happened. And religion isn't something we talk about a lot.

But as I listened to the driver, it struck me how often we miss out on opportunities to share our faith. We always answer "we will" to the question in the Baptismal Covenant, "Will you proclaim by word and

example the Good News of God in Christ?", but I suspect most of us find it difficult to actually do.

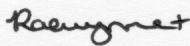
But what the driver did was just gently weave his faith into every part of the conversation. "Did you know that the President is coming to visit Utah? Not that there's much support for him; most Mormons are Republicans; Mitt Romney, you know." "Episcopalian, huh? I have a friend I grew up with, and he's gay, and his parents disowned him, but he found a place in the Episcopal Church. My church isn't so open, but I'm so glad he has faith." "You see that up there? It's a storage facility cut into the canyon wall, for genealogical records. Our church thinks it's pretty important to keep that history, so we built it, and now businesses are coming to store their records there, because it's built to survive a nuclear attack."

We probably don't have exactly the same opportunities – the Episcopal Church doesn't build bomb proof archives! But what if we began to look for ways to weave our story into our conversations? Someone talks about a news story on poverty, and we say, "You know, our church supports a food pantry, and a bunch of us volunteer there." Or someone says they're not well, and we say, "You know, when I was sick, some people at my church prayed for me. Would

you like me to pray for you?" Or someone talks about the violence we keep hearing about all around us, and we say, "One of the things I love about our church is seeing how safe the kids feel." I'm sure you can think of many more.

These sort of conversations are wonderful, because they open up the issue of faith in a gentle and unthreatening way. We may be surprised how people respond!

Blessings,



WARDEN'S COLUMN

My dear family,

It is with great humility that I write to you as one of your Wardens. I ask that you keep Alex, Raewynne and me in your daily prayers that we may keep the Lord present in our actions, thoughts and words as we serve this parish and congregation.

This past Saturday, ten Vestry members and seven parishioners attended the Safe Church Training class at St. Thomas of Canterbury in Smithtown. Safe Church is a movement focused on prevention of sexual harassment, child abuse, and neglect and/or abuse of the elderly and infirm. *"The Episcopal Diocese is committed to keeping our churches and ministries safe. Sexual misconduct on the part of any congregation, institution, organization, school, or agency within the diocese violates the mission of the Church, is prohibited by law, and will not be tolerated."*

Using the 'Safeguarding God's People' training series the diocese offers educational training to protect children and adults, in both on site classes and web-based training formats. These classes teach participants to recognize the signs of sexual abuse and the behavior of sexual predators; how to respond to those signs and behavior patterns when they are observed; and to provide screening systems to help prevent abuse before it happens."

We watched two videos, each followed by lengthy discussions led by our presenter, the Rev. Christina Van Liew. I would be glad to discuss them in more detail at any time. Most importantly, we would like to ask all of you to always listen to your instincts regarding a personal interaction or something you have witnessed. Never hesitate to say something directly to our

Rector. These issues are uncomfortable but necessary topics for all of us to be aware of and to discuss.

Our goal for this year is to have all key holders, employees, and all members working with our children to complete or update this crucial training. In requiring members of our congregation to attend, we are trying to better prepare and equip you to recognize the signs of harassment or abuse. If you see an incident or suspect a problem, please talk to our Priest directly or contact the Wardens.

In God's love,
Matthew Trump

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY NEWS

I am so deeply grateful to report that our youngest Family Bible Study member, Seraphina, Kathy Sacher's and Steve Baez' four year old daughter, underwent successful eye surgery on Monday, April 20th, and is happily home and recuperating gently in the warmth and security of her loving family.

Our next Family Bible Study is Tuesday, April 28th, at 5:30 p.m. Each time we gather it is a joy and a wonder to behold our youngest parishioners as they read and reveal and discover God's word. An endless blessing!

- Alex Rich

BOOK GROUP TO BEGIN NEW BOOK

On Tuesday, May 12, the Book Study Group will start a new book, *A Faith of Your Own: Naming What You Really Believe* by Ronald J. Allen. Following is a description of the book.

“A faith should be a living thing. What we believe necessarily evolves in response to insights into the Bible, to questions or doubts we face, to changes in life circumstances, or to things that happen in the larger world. Nevertheless, Christians often find it helpful to identify what they can most fully believe at a given moment. Such clarity empowers the present and leads us toward the future. Such moments can also be mile markers by which we measure our faith journey.

In each chapter the first section lists the most common ways a certain topic is understood in the Bible. The second section identifies important ways the church has interpreted that topic since the Bible's inception. The third section introduces contemporary perspectives. With that foundational knowledge, readers can make a judgement as to which viewpoints seem more or less persuasive to them personally. Finally, each chapter ends with questions for reflection for individuals or small groups.”

Everyone is invited to join this group at any time. Copies of the book are available for \$10 in the office.

KINGDOM OF GOD

A search of the term “Kingdom of God” will show it occurs four times in Matthew, fourteen times in Mark, thirty-two times in Luke, twice in the Gospel of John, six times in Acts, eight times in Paul, and once in Revelation (12:10). Matthew actually prefers the term “Kingdom of heaven” which he uses over 20 times in his gospel. It would certainly seem to be an important concept and one that as Christians we should be familiar with.

The presence and coming of the Kingdom of God was the central message of Jesus. For example, “his teaching was designed to show men how they might enter the Kingdom of God (Matt. 5:20; 7:21). His mighty works were intended to prove that the Kingdom of God had come upon them (Matt. 12:28). His parables illustrated to His disciples the truth about the Kingdom of God (Matt. 13:11). And when He taught His followers to pray at the heart of their petition were the words, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10). On the eve of His death, He assured His disciples that He would yet share with them the happiness and the fellowship of the Kingdom (Luke 22:22-30). And he promised that He would appear again on the earth in glory to bring the blessedness of the Kingdom to those for whom it was prepared. (Matt. 25:31, 34).” [1]

So what actually is the Kingdom of God? Graeme Goldsworthy has summarized a definition of the Kingdom of God as “God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule.” [2]

As good **stewards** of the Church of Jesus Christ it is important to understand what it means to be “God’s people”, and what “God’s place” looks like. The best place to find these answers is in the reading and hearing of scripture. I encourage you to

participate in Sunday worship and bible study. Sunday worship is a very convenient means of hearing scripture (Liturgy of the Word) with the extraordinary added benefit of a sermon from Raewynne to help us understand its meaning in our lives. As good **stewards** it is also important that we accept living under God’s rule; and I’m pretty sure God wants us to go to church! See you on Sunday.

Peace and Blessings,
Chris Mauro

Notes:

1. What is the Kingdom of God?, by George Eldon Ladd.
2. Gospel and Kingdom: A Christian Interpretation of the Old Testament, p. 53.

SMITHTOWN RELIGIOUS HISTORY DAY SUNDAY, MAY 17TH

On this day Smithtown’s houses of worship will be sponsoring Open Houses. This will be an opportunity for people to learn about the town’s history from diverse religious points of view and how they played a role in the foundation and creation of the town.

We will be holding an Open House from Noon until 4:00 p.m.

It is a wonderful opportunity for us to share our church history and to tell our story to the community – but it is also a wonderful opportunity for us to gather together and celebrate what this church has meant to past parishioners and continues to mean to us.

Church Picnic

Open to all. Hot dogs, apple pie and other goodies, lemonade. Games from the 1850s.

Guided Tours of the Church

Learn about our stained glass windows and historic plaques.

Guided Tours of Our Historic Cemetery

You will recognize the names of the first settlers of St. James and Smithtown.

Display of historic photos and documents in Mills Hall.

******Get Involved******

Refreshments - Stephanie Coleman
(751-8451) ssc6263@gmail.com
Cemetery Tours - Joan Mercep
(724-4457) mercep8285@verizon.net
Church Tours - Pat Westlake
(584-6628) pkings20@optonline.net
Set-up and Displays - Karen Noack
(981-3989) kjsnoack@optonline.net
Games and Children's Activities - ????
We Need YOU!
- Pat Westlake

PARISH COMMITTEES

Here is an updated list of parish committees as of the April 20th Vestry meeting.

Buildings and Grounds -

James Andrews
Tony Bastin
Peter Cahill
Frank Giardina
Debbie LaMano
John McDonald
Bob Moleti
Andrew Prentiss
Matthew Trump (Vestry liaison)

Cemetery

Ken LeCluse (Chair)
Joan Mercep (Co-Chair)
Leighton Coleman
Robin Dahlgard
Fjeril Deal
Claude Deal
Tony DeVito
Ernie Harders

Louise Harders
George Krall
Ruth LeCluse
Barbara LoPresto
Laurie Mannix
Ruth Ward
Pat Westlake
Margo Goodman (Vestry liaison)

Christian Education

Raewynne Whiteley
Alex Rich
Jennifer Lawrence

Endowment Board

Bruce Lawrence (Chair)
Kathy Mauro
Bob Moleti
Jack Schultheis

Finance

Charlie Kreussling (Chair)
Doug Dahlgard
Bob Scott
Pat Westlake
James Andrews (Vestry liaison)

Outreach

Madelyn Cousins (Chair and
Vestry liaison)

Parish Life

Awaiting members

Public Relations

Jack Harrington
Peter Plaschka

Stewardship

Chris Mauro (Chair)
Jennifer Lawrence (Co-Chair)
Alexandra Rich
Matthew Trump
Raewynne Whiteley

Worship

Colette Tarantino (Chair and
Vestry liaison)

Raewynne Whiteley

Donna Austin

Istvan Dioszegi

Theresa Euler

- Alex Rich

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 13TH

St. James' annual Strawberry Festival is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is one of our biggest fundraisers, and also an opportunity for all parishioners to get involved in one way or another to help make it a successful event. Here are some ways in which you can contribute your time, talents, and treasures:

***Baked Goods table** - Do you like to bake? Your talents can be put to good use here. We need donations of cookies, breads, muffins, simple cakes, bars, and pies. Gluten-free and sugar-free items are also welcomed. Please make sure to label them, especially if they include nuts. You may bring your donations on the morning of the Festival.

***Frame it Up** - Do you have empty picture frames that you no longer need? This table will offer frames of all sizes and composition to enhance your photos and art work. Donations may be brought to the lobby of the Christian Ed. building beginning on May 4th.

***Jam making** - Sessions are being scheduled for weekday afternoons in the Mills Hall kitchen. Watch the Sunday bulletins for upcoming dates. No experience

is necessary. If you enjoy cooking, or would like to find out how to make our "famous" jams, you might want to drop by and help.

***Plant table** - If you are dividing annuals this spring, please pot up and save a few for this popular table. Also think of potting up seedlings that you are thinning out. Please label the plant as to variety and light requirements. Plants can be brought on the morning of the Festival.

***Strawberries for Sale** - Help will be needed to hull berries right before the Festival, and to staff the table on the day of the Festival to sell berries and serve the berries and ice cream.

***Yard Sale** - Donations of items in good, clean, salable condition are being sought to sell in Grandma's Attic and Grandpa's Garage. We need dishes, glassware, linens, household items, decorative items, etc. for Grandma, and tools, sports equipment, furniture, working electronic equipment and gardening tools for Grandpa. Donations can be brought to the lobby of the Christian Education building beginning May 4th. If you have time, you may also want to help sort and price items in the weeks before the Festival. Watch the Sunday bulletin for announcements of pricing sessions.

***Set-up and Clean-up** - Help will be needed on the day of the Festival to set up tables and tote "stuff" in the early morning, and to break down and clean up at the end of the day.

If you are new to the parish, or even if you have been here a while, becoming involved in one of our Festivals is a great way to meet other members of the parish. Even if you can't spend the whole day, volunteering for a couple of hours either before or during the

Festival can help you get to know some of the other members of our parish family. Don't be shy, it's really a lot of fun!

about it. This is the reason for the "Safe Church" program.

- Ruth LeCluse

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Along with several other members of the St. James Church community, I attended the "Safe Church" program held at St. Thomas of Canterbury. The Diocesan program was led by the Rev. Christine Van Liew, who showed several videos and led the discussion following.

The bottom line taken from the program is:

"If you see something - say something"

Where our church is involved, if you see something inappropriate – in particular a behavior that you think crosses a line in a "too familiar" manner – you need to report your "suspicions" or concern to our Rector.

Unfortunately, in today's world times are much different and we need to be alert to every possible wrong-doing that can occur – especially when our innocent and vulnerable children are involved. There now are clear guidelines from our diocese for avoiding and/or uncovering child abuse situations.

I taught Sunday school way back in the early 80's. At that time I am sure none of us gave a thought to the possibility that a pedophile might be teaching in our Sunday school.

It is a sad commentary for our world that our kids are told almost from day one of their lives not to talk to strangers, and that they have to be shielded from child predators and cannot play outside without adult supervision..

The bottom line again: if you see something you feel uncomfortable with, or is inappropriate, you should talk to Raewynne

GET HEALTHY AT ST. JAMES

Two new classes have joined the Friday afternoon Yoga class (3:00 p.m. in Mills Hall; contact Mary Jane DeVito at 750-5414 or mjdev@otponline.net). They offer additional opportunities for St. James parishioners and community members to improve their health and flexibility:

Tai Chi Class, run by Mike Welch, provides gentle exercise and movement. Originally developed for self-defense, tai chi has evolved into a graceful form of exercise that's now used for stress reduction and a variety of other health conditions. Often described as meditation in motion, tai chi promotes serenity through gentle, flowing movements. Tai chi is low impact and puts minimal stress on muscles and joints, making it generally safe for all ages and fitness levels. In fact, because tai chi is low impact, it may be especially suitable if you're an older adult who otherwise may not exercise.

Classes are Thursday at 6:30 in Mills Hall. For more information, contact Mike Welch at mwelch@gmail.com.

Weight Loss Solutions: a class which will enable you to adopt a more healthy lifestyle and lose weight is being offered on Tuesday evenings from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Christian Education building. For more information, contact Linda Weber at 834-9853 or ahealthyyou@gmail.com.

LEARN HOW TO KEEP YOUR HEART HEALTHY AT EVERY AGE

This event will be presented on Thursday, May 14 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Charles B. Wang Center, Stony Brook University. The free event includes:

- *Panel of experts to answer heart health questions.
- * Heart-healthy dinner
- * Blood pressure and cholesterol screening

Stony Brook University Heart Institute cardiac experts will be on hand to explain risk factors, share prevention tips, tell you what symptoms and signs to look for and explain the latest treatment options available.

Attendees will receive a validation for free parking. For more information, call 631-444-4000. Registration is required. To register, visit: stonybrookmedicine.edu/hearthealthy. The first 200 registrants will receive a heart-healthy cookbook at the event.

- Madelyn Cousins

ENERGIZE AND ENGAGE YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY

The Long Island Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue presents “Energize and Engage Your Faith Community: Strategies That Work” on Sunday, May 31, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Roman Catholic Church of Christ the King, 2 Indian Head Road, Commack.

Pope Francis in “*The Joy of the Gospel*” has called all Christians to meet the challenges of evangelization in today’s world. Come hear three pastoral leaders who are leading the way:

*The Rev. Danielle Miller has served the “spunky”, fun and faith-filled congregation of Oceanside Lutheran Church (ELCA) for seven years and is always dreaming up ways to creatively share God’s love with a world in need.

*The Rev. Kerlin Richter is pastor of the edgy Bushwick Abbey, an “unapologetically Christian” “meet you where you are” Episcopal Church in Bushwick, Brooklyn.

* Mr. Chris Wesley is director of student ministry at the Roman Catholic-Church of the moment, Nativity, in Timonium, Maryland. The parish is the subject of the wildly popular books, “*Rebuilt*” and “*Tools for Rebuilding*”. Chris is the author of “*Rebuilding Youth Ministry*.”

The cost, \$10 per person, is payable to Advent Lutheran Church. To register, call, email, or send to: The Rev. George Summers, Advent Lutheran Church, 1290 Oriole Rd., Southold NY 11971, 631-298-4918 or summers@optonline.net.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

On Easter Sunday we welcomed into the parish family Sarah Harrington and Jonathan Ross Harrington, Jr., who were baptized. Sarah and Jack, Jr., live with Jack’s dad, Jack, Sr. in Stony Brook. Jack Sr. is the newest member of our Vestry. Congratulations to the whole family!

Sandy Grigoletto’s mother, Elizabeth Tyler passed away on April 16 following a long illness. Our prayers go out to Sandy, her husband, Keith, and sons, Kenny and Ryan as they deal with their loss.

In the spring bulletin of The Stony Brook School students were asked to tell what they most appreciate about the eight teachers who serve as department chairs. Among those

featured was our own Tim Beirne, who is Chair of the History Department. His students had this to say about Tim: “He has so much energy and he’s so incredibly passionate about the material. It’s infectious!” His understanding of U.S. history is evident, but more than that, “he teaches more than the facts.” His students also praised his classroom management and impeccable use of class time: “Ninety percent of the time, he finishes his last sentence, and then the bell rings. It’s crazy how he does that.” Oh, and they also depicted him as “a really snazzy dresser.”

MAY CALENDAR

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| <p>1 Yoga class 3:00 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>3 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Formation classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>4 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>5 Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Rector at Clergy Conference
Weight Loss Solutions 6:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>6 Rector at Clergy Conference
Knitter’s group 11:30 a.m.
Nursery School board mtg. 7 p.m.</p> <p>7 Piano lessons 3 p.m.
Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>8 Yoga class 3:00 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>10 Mother’s Day
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Formation classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>11 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>12 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Family Bible study 5:30 p.m.
Weight Loss Solutions 6:00 p.m.
Book study group 7:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>13 Knitters’ group 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>14 Piano lessons 3:00 p.m.
Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>15 Yoga class 3:00 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>17 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Formation classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
Town of Smithtown 350th
Anniversary tours 12 - 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>18 Vestry meeting 7:00 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>19 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Piano lessons 3:00 p.m.
Weight Loss Solutions 6:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>20 Knitters’ group 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>21 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>22 Yoga class 3:00 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>24 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Formation classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>25 Memorial Day - office closed</p> <p>26 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Piano lessons 3:00 p.m.
Family Bible study 5:30 p.m.
Weight Loss Solutions 6:00 p.m.
Book study group 7:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>27 Knitter’s group 11:30 a.m.
Special Connections group 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>28 Tai Chi class 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>29 Yoga class 3:00 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>31 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Formation classes
Choir rehearsal 11:15 a.m.</p> |
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MAY BIRTHDAYS

Matt Coleman
Maria Bataller
Karen Noack
Barbara LoPresto
Alyssa Green
Finn Dineen
Jeremiah Glogg
James Allen
Cathi Hart
Kristen Dean
Thomas Mauro
Katie Allen
Joan Strassle
Walt Kregler
David Schmidt
Sarah Harrington

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

John & Florence Donohue
William & Maria Bataller