

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

November 2011

F R O M T H E



On Saturday afternoon, the Bishop began his sermon, "Anyone here like to be lied to?" No one raised their hand. He said then that he would

not lie to us. And then he began to speak to us seriously about confirmation. It is not, as many people seem to think, the end of their learning at church, (let alone often the end of church attendance); instead, it is the beginning of our lives as mature, adult Christians.

Our confirmands have been reflecting on the significance of confirmation for them. Here is what three of them said on Sunday to our congregation:

Lindsay Petschauer:

I have made the choice to be confirmed this year. I want to be confirmed for many reasons. It is the continuation of my growth in faith, which began when I was baptized as a baby here at St. James.

My first reason I want to be confirmed is to get closer with God and be the kind of person that God wished for me to be. I want to be a full Christian, and not only be a part of the church, but serve others here in the

church as well.

Confirmation class in the past few weeks has helped me fully understand what it means to be a Christian, and how to live the life of one. I feel that it will make me become a more responsible individual to make my own decisions. I will be responsible for coming to church and praying more on my own.

In confirmation class I have learned that to be close to God there are many steps for you to take. One of the key things I will always remember is to forgive. I believe forgiveness is a choice we make through a decision, motivated by God and his command to forgive. Whatever affliction you may have against another, it is only right to forgive, like God forgives me.

Confirmation class has been a learning experience for me. As a teenager, I finally have had a major choice to make on my own, which was to renew my baptismal vows made by my parents on my behalf when I was a baby. By this, I mean I have made my own decision to be confirmed, without anyone else's consent. I think confirming my Christian faith will overall help me in making the decisions ahead of me in my life and will help me understand more of the teachings in church. It will also strengthen my relationship with God and to

be with the Holy Spirit.

Kristina Euler:

This journey into confirmation has taught me more than I ever imagined it could. I have grown to realize that these lessons taught to us in class are more than just biblical stories; they are lessons that can be applied to our everyday lives. As Christians we are taught to handle our lives as Jesus would. For instance, if someone tries to hurt you, you are meant to turn the other cheek and forgive that person. It never occurred to me how doing this can make you happier. However, through these past few weeks, I applied this to my own life and I have found more peace and a deeper level of friendship.

I was asked to identify the gift that God gave me. After a while of thinking about this, I realized my gift was the ability to listen and to understand people. I am grateful for this gift God presented me with, because it led me to create strong friendships. Life is centered on the relationships we build, to help support, love, and care for you.

As I look to my future, I choose to continue developing into a meaningful Christian this religion is more than just attending church and praying to God. It is about being a community and being kind to one another. In class we learned the true meaning of the church. It's not just simply a building or the house of God, it is the people inside that are the church. Though it may be very difficult, my goal is to live through all aspects of Christianity. I want to have faith, prayer, and fellowship. At home, I am taught to find my purpose in life and I live it every day. I am certain my purpose will accentuate the meaning of being a true Christian.

At first, when I was given this assignment, I was really worried about how I would write it. I wasn't sure what I would write or how

long it would take me. However, after I started writing, all the words that I wanted to say just came to me. I realized it was so easy to write this essay because it wasn't like writing an English or history essay; I was able to write about my own thoughts and feelings about something that was truly important to me. Through these past few weeks I learned how to look at life through my heart rather than my eyes. I learned how to find faith, courage, and strength, not only from those around me, but within myself.

Alexandra Orlich:

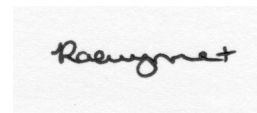
Well, I've finally made it through my confirmation, one of the most important experiences of my life to date. Although I generally dislike talking aloud to groups of people, discussing what getting my confirmation means to me is certainly an important topic to talk about. It helps to understand why going to church is so important and especially why confirmations are a big deal.

As I look around the church every day, I see people who I have known for a very long time, even if I might not remember them. I may not know them personally, but there are some that have been there to watch me get baptized and have now also gone to see me get my confirmation. By being in this church, I also feel like I am part of something bigger; I feel like I am part of a family – everyone in church is so loving and supportive, and I immediately felt welcome the day I came to church for the first time when I was little. And I was warmly welcomed again when I started coming back a few years ago. I've also realized that church is like a mini version of a perfect world – people are kind, there are always events to join to help others, and there is an air of hope and happiness once you set foot inside. It's as though all worries are left behind when you come to this church.

Now that I've gotten my confirmation, I feel like I am even more part of the church. I used to think that going to church every single week wasn't completely necessary – that going a couple times a month or for big holidays would suffice – but on my way to getting confirmed I have discovered that honoring God weekly in church is more than important. As we get older, we depend on church and prayer as a source of hope for our future, our health and our family. By getting our confirmation and renewing our baptismal vows, it means that we can finally take those responsibilities promised by our loved ones into our own hands, showing how we are growing up and becoming more influential in the church. It also shows how we do truly believe in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to help us through our troubled times and trust them to make the better decision so that things turn out best for us.

In the book of Hebrews, chapter six, line two, it is stated that, "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost...." This, of course, is referring to baptism and the renewal of one's baptismal vows. The chapter goes on to say how, if one shall "fall away," to once again accept them and their wrongdoings. "Enlightening" was precisely what we were doing in confirmation class – opening our minds to what confirmation and the belief in God is all about. In doing so, we have learned what Confirmation literally and figuratively is and how to receive it. Besides learning about that, we have also learned interesting facts such as, in times past and in the Middle East now, baptism is received by submerging the child or person who wishes to receive the Holy Spirit, fully under water. Although it might now seem that important to know as of now, it helps in understanding the way the Catholic church has changed and molded into how it is now. So, overall, my experience of being

confirmed was very educational and enlightening. I have a deeper understanding of the church and believe more in the importance of "prayer, worship, fellowship, education, outreach, and service."



THE WARDENS' COLUMN

“So, first of all, let me assert my belief that all we have to fear is fear itself.” -FDR

We think we are all feeling it. **Fear.** An underlying anxiety of what the future will hold. The threat of terrorism, the downturn economy, governments on the brink of bankruptcy. Dealing with the emotional toll of natural disasters here in the U.S.A. and throughout the world. Combined these concerns with our usual worries about our health and the safety of our children or loved ones, and that is a lot of worries. When so overwhelmed we naturally become afraid.

In the past few months we have noticed emotions running very high here at St. James. We all seem to be too passionate about our ministries. That the success of our church hinges on the personal success of our individual efforts. First, we need to be mindful of the fact that it is not our church, but rather that we are “His Church,” and “His will, will be done.” And that we are also children of God, and God loves us. Secondly, to quote the former archdeacon of Queens, the Venerable Bernard O.D. Young, “we are responsible for the effort and God is responsible for the results.” Yes, we have choices, and are faced with many decisions. But all that we have, and all that we can be is by the grace of God.

St. Paul, in his letters, instructs us not to worry about the worldly matters, but to focus on the spiritual needs and our external life in heaven. That is not to say that we don't need to care for this physical existence, but that we need not worry about it. Jesus assures us, ***“In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.”*** We need not be afraid. God does provide and will provide.

As individuals we are not perfect. But as a church we can strive for that perfection. Hold fast to our faith, “love one another as He loves us,” and put our fears aside to build a heavenly kingdom here on earth. We have been faced with many challenges as a parish and will be faced with more in the future. Please remember that “we are responsible for the effort,” and we are confident that God will provide the results.

Peace and blessings,
Debbie and Chris

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

At the October Vestry meeting, the members of the Vestry, in preparation for the annual stewardship campaign for our church, gave thoughtful and prayerful consideration to the question, “Why should we tithe?” While every member of our church will examine and answer this question for himself or herself; we were guided in our discussion and deliberation by reading the following message from the Stewardship office of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America (www.episcopalchurch.org/stewardship).

Five Reasons to Tithe

1. Ancient Model, tithing is our most ancient model of giving (see Genesis 28:10-22).
2. Trust in God, tithing helps us worship God more in our lives, it encourages our spiritual growth and trust in God.
3. Financial Wisdom, tithing brings God's wisdom to our finances, exercising a healthy spiritual discipline over them, helping us to combat excessive materialism and destructive greed.
4. Ministry Support, tithing provides the means to keep our priests and missionaries in full service to God.

5. Congregational Strength, tithing strengthens the ministry, outreach, and health of our congregations, molding us into true Christian communities of faith, love, and grace.

Your Vestry and the Stewardship Committee invite you to consider the above as you prepare your pledge of support for St. James Church in 2012. Please reflect deeply on the central place God, and by extension the life and work of this church, has in your life. Stewardship of our resources and the giving of gifts not only enriches our common life as a church community, but makes us whole in God's eyes and secure in the knowledge that what we give will come back to us in far richer ways.

To heighten your thinking and to engage your support, the Stewardship Committee has planned to devote the four Sundays of November to consideration of stewardship at our church. Our theme is: "Stewardship is Sharing, for God's Sake....from all of us, for all of us." On November 6th, we will share our call to give, on November 13th we will consider what we can give, on November 20th we will begin to offer our gifts to God in Thanksgiving in the form of our pledges, and on November 27th (the first Sunday in Advent) we will begin our new church year with a renewed commitment to our common work by concluding our campaign with our final collection of pledges.

Consider God's call, consider our response, and consider the possibilities of what we can do as a robust community of faith. Please be generous in your giving this year as you read your pledge letter that will arrive shortly and respond with a renewed commitment to our common work.

Faithfully,
Duncan L. Marshall
Chair, Stewardship Committee

ALL SAINTS DAY POTLUCK SUPPER

Do you have a favorite saint? On Tuesday, November 1, in celebration of All Saints Day, we will assemble in Mills Hall to enjoy fellowship and a pot luck supper. You are invited to research a saint and dress up as that saint, if you wish. We have learned about many "lesser known" saints in the past. Now is your chance to have some fun while finding out about those paragons of faith. The party starts at 5 p.m.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

This year's joint Thanksgiving Day Eucharist with All Soul's Church will be celebrated at St. James Church on at 10 a.m. If you are in town, please join us as we praise God for all the blessings we have received.

The community Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be held on Wednesday, November 23rd at 7:30 p.m. Location is to be decided.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is back in full swing. Please feel free to join any of our groups if you are able.

Family bible study is on Monday evenings on 11/7 and 11/21 - pizza will be served and all are welcome.

Tuesday morning is in full swing meeting every Tuesday. This group includes a Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday evening Bible Study will begin on 11/8 at 7:15 p.m. and continue 11/29 and 12/6 rotating between homes. The first

meeting is at Kathy Sides' house. They will be beginning Philippians.

The Wednesday evening Bible Study meets at 7:15 p.m. in the Webster Room every other week. November dates are 11/2, 11/16, and 11/30. This group is finishing up Philippians and will be starting Thessalonians.

- Stephanie Coleman

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The annual Convention of the Diocese of Long Island will take place on November 11th and 12th. In addition to the Rector, Donna Austin - delegate, Peter Cahill - alternate delegate, and Jeremiah Glogg - youth delegate, will be attending.

OUTREACH

St. James Church served at the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry all during October. It was a busy month at the Pantry, as most months are these days. Thank you to all who volunteered their time to serve and to all who donated food. Even though November is not "our" month, the food needs continue. Currently the Pantry especially needs beef stew and chunky soups. Food Pantry Director Pat Westlake asks that students talk to school advisors to see if their school can hold a food drive specifically for the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry. This would be a great service project for scout troops as well. St. James Church thanks Claudette Plaschka for coordinating our participation and for the many days she worked at the Pantry. Thanks always go to the Pantry's tireless Director Pat Westlake!

St. James hosted the Annual Bread for the World Dinner on October 16. Thank you to all who brought desserts and those who helped set up and clean up. St. James Church gave BFW a check for \$250. (All \$2,000 of money from the outreach budget for 2011 has now been distributed.) Many thanks go to Sandy Grigoletto, our representative to BFW, for coordinating the dinner and for organizing the letter campaign to our legislators this past spring.

Camp DeWolfe is getting ready for winter retreats and the summer camping season.

Many churches, including St. James, have donated service hours to spruce up the buildings. You'll find a NEEDS LIST in the back of the church for large and small items the camp can use. Check it out. You may have something stashed in your basement, garage, or even in your house that you'd gladly pass along for the camp to use. They will even be happy to pick up your items! Contact Matt Tees at 631-929-4325 or e-mail him at MTees@campdewolfe.org.

Habitat for Humanity's Suffolk's Friends Reception will be held on Tuesday, November 29 at the Watermill in Smithtown. St. James Church is one of Habitat's friends! (We donate outreach money and we've had a work day in 2010 and 2011.) Contact Ken LeCluse at 588-1176 for more information. You may not know that Habitat's Restore will recycle your eWaste, including old cell phones, lap tops, and any electric cords and wires. Call 631-521-7789 or visit the Restore at 2111 Lakeland Avenue, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779. You can also donate a used car, truck, boat or RV to Habitat's Cars for Homes Program.

The Long Island Council of Churches "Share the Harvest" is sponsoring a Wine and Chocolate Pairing at Giorgio's in Baiting Hollow on Thursday, November 10 from 5:30-9:00pm. For more information on

becoming a sponsor or attending this event, visit their Event Journal at www.liccharvest.com.

Episcopal Relief and Development has some generous donors who have agreed to match all gifts given to ERD by November 30. Any amount you give will have twice the impact to help people suffering around the world. Checks may be sent to: Episcopal Relief and Development, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield VA 22116-7058.

Protestant Campus Ministry, one of the recipients of St. James' outreach money, will be receiving a follow-up grant of \$4,000 from Episcopal Charities of LI. Last year's grant of \$10,000 allowed the Board of PCM to extend Chaplain Brenda Ford's part-time hours on campus and cover her health insurance. The Board wants to continue her hours and health insurance, but \$10,000 minus \$4,000 leaves a \$6,000 gap for next year. Many parishioners have given personal donations, some very generous ones, which are helping to close the gap but additional funds are still needed. If anyone holds an event and would like to give a percentage of the profit to PCM, please let Raewynne or me know.

- Sue Krall, Outreach Chair

BOOK GROUP

Well, the Book Group has gotten off to a small, but well-received start. Our first book "Love Wins" by Rob Bell was enjoyed by all. We met on an exceedingly wet night at Panera Bread and had a wonderful time. Our next book is "Searching for God Knows What" by Donald Miller. This book is available for order online at both Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Local libraries can also order it through the Suffolk Web. Our

meeting will be held on Monday November 7th at 7:30 p.m. at the Panera Bread by the SmithHaven Mall. Please join us even if you are unable to finish the book in time! Our December book will be "Simply Christian" by N.T. Wright. Hope to see you there!

- Stephanie Coleman

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Last Sunday we had a very successful Clean Up Day after the 9:30 a.m. service. We took advantage of the good weather to spruce up the outside of the buildings. We weeded and mulched the gardens, removed air conditioners, cleaned gutters, and power washed the outside of the education wing, reset the front sign, and scraped paint from windows in Mills Hall. We worked steadily for three hours, and then ended our time with fellowship and pizza. Pictures will be up soon on the church's Facebook page.

Thank you to all who gave of their time and talents: Tom and Debbie LaMano, Thomas, Michael, and Joseph LaMano, Jeremy Dean, George Krall, Edna Rousseau, Laurie Mannix, Ken LeCluse, Peter Cahill, Jack Schultheis, Steve Baez and Katy Sacher, Skyler and Violette Baez, Les Bengtson, Sandy Grigoletto, Ryan and Kenneth Grigoletto, Dara Linthwaite, Bob O'Neill, Lil Moleti, Bob Wagner, Pat Westlake, Raewynne Whiteley, and Wylie Hunt. Hopefully, I've not omitted anyone. It was a very productive day, and I'm hopeful that we will be able to schedule another one in the near future, and others will turn up to help. Many hands make light work!

- Matthew Trump, B & G Chair

**HARVEST FESTIVAL
FINAL RESULTS**

The final figures are in for our 2011 Harvest Festival! The net proceeds were \$8755.71, which is \$1248.26 more than we made in 2010. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Festival. Here is a breakdown of table income after expenses:

Baked Goods	\$557.20
Bottle Table	\$54.21
Book Nook	\$1257.65
(includes \$58.25 from Hospitality)	
Children's Activities	\$25.40
Crafts	\$354.95
Farmers' Market	\$172.25
Food (lunch)	\$446.25
Gold Elephant	\$836.60
Holiday Table	\$236.55
Jams & Jellies	\$1832.50
Jewelry	\$956.20
Plant Table	\$222.75
Raffle	\$1853.00
Net Total	\$8805.71
+ General donation	\$70.00
- Dumpster pick-ups (2) (\$120.00)	
Final total	\$8755.71

Thank you to Art and Joan Strassle for acting as Festival Treasurers, and to Art for compiling the final report.

BOOK NOOK THANK YOU

As usual the Book Nook at the Harvest Festival was a huge labor of love that so many people contributed to. We were very successful even though we had fewer books, we passed our number for last year! Huge thanks to Matt Trump and the three LaMano boys (Thomas, Joseph, and Michael) along with Thomas' friends for setting up all the heavy tables and lugging all the books across

to Mill's Hall. Many thanks to our super sorters Art and Arlyne (the energizer bunny) Gureck, Ernie and Louise Harders, Hank and Eileen Hull, Nancy Petschauer, Lil Moleti, Abby Coleman (and her good friend Alex Mos) Debbie and Tom LaMano, and Les Bengtson. As usual, the incomparable Margie Cobb was our awesome money take for both days with nary a break, keeping us all well entertained. Richard and Colette Golinsky were there all day Friday helping and on Saturday, their granddaughter Leah Tarantino was a huge help (and customer!) Ruth LeCluse and Abby Coleman kept the coffeehouse vibe going on Saturday with coffee, tea, hot cider and goodies which were incredibly well received. Many thanks to Ruth for getting all the wonderful donations of baked goods! Finally, clean up went really smoothly this year with an amazing crew. Chris, Emily and Thomas Mauro, Matt Trump, Wylie Hunt, Bob O'NEILL and his wonderful daughter Amy, David and Alec Douglass and of course the always amazing Karen Douglass who packs books better than anyone I know and won't leave until the last box is stored. Please forgive me if I have forgotten anyone, this is such a huge undertaking but the results are always worth it.

- Stephanie Coleman

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry had a wonderful meeting in October with ten women attending. All of us have been busy creating over the summer, and our supply of shawls has been replenished. This month a shawl was sent out to Wisconsin, to a young mother, Cristina, awaiting a biopsy found on a mammogram. Thankfully, prayers were answered, the lump proved to be benign, and

she was so grateful for the shawl and the prayers. Another beautiful prayer shawl, made by Joan Bengtson, was blessed last Sunday, and given to Karen Noack after the service. A third shawl is on its way this week to a young woman who is undergoing chemotherapy and attends Three Village Church.

You do not have to be an experienced knitter or crocheter to join our group. Many of us are beginners, and we offer instruction and refresher courses! During our meetings, we enjoy fellowship, prayer, time to work on our shawls, and light refreshments. Our next meeting will be Saturday, November 19th at 8:30 a.m. at the home of Beth O'Connor, 3 Shaker Hollow Road, Setauket. For further information, call me at 751-5618.

- *Wylie Hunt*

LIFELINE SCREENING AT ST. JAMES ON DECEMBER 10TH

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings in the U.S., will hold a session of ultrasound screenings on Saturday, December 10th in Mills Hall. Screenings are provided for stroke/carotid artery, heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral artery disease (all \$60) and osteoporosis risk assessment (\$35). You may get all five screenings for \$149.

Flyers will be available at the back of the church. Pre-registration is required. Call 800-679-5192 or go to:

www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners. Use priority code HSC4623.

OFFICE ANGELS NEEDED

Laurie will be on vacation from November 7 through 11. We need office coverage a few hours each day. All that is required is answering the phones and distributing the daily mail. The bulletin will be set up beforehand, and it will just need to be printed and collated at the end of the week. If you have a couple of hours to spare, please see Laurie to get on the schedule. Your help is much appreciated.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

On Saturday, October 22, four of our young people were Confirmed at the Cathedral of the Incarnation: Kristina Euler, Brian Noack, Alexandra Orlich, and Lindsay Petschauer. All four of them had been Baptized at St. James, as well. We are pleased to welcome them as adult members of the St. James family.

The Noack family experienced a house fire on October 16. Luckily, all family members and pets are safe and sound. Please keep them in your prayers as they deal with the clean-up and rebuilding of their home during the next few months.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Kurt and Diane Rettig and family upon the loss of Kurt's mother, Iris, on October 20 after an illness.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Recently, I discovered that some people haven't been receiving our weekly email, "This Week at St. James." If you haven't, please email the office, so we can make sure you are on the list.

- *Raewynne*

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
All Saints Day Potluck Supper
5 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 3 Yoga class 5:45 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school
- 7 Book group at Panera Bread
7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 **Election Day**
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 5.30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
- 10 Yoga class 5:45 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Diocesan Convention
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school
Parish Life committee 11 a.m.
- 14 Finance committee 7:30 p.m.
C.F.E. committee 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 5.30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Endowment committee 6 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 17 Yoga class 5:45 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Toastmasters group 9:30 a.m.
Mills Hall rental - Lane 1 p.m.
- 20 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school
- 21 Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 5.30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Interfaith Thanksgiving service
7:30 p.m. (location TBD)
- 24 **Thanksgiving Day**
Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.
- 25 Office closed
Glogg wedding rehearsal 4:30 p
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Glogg/Allen wedding 2 p.m.
Mills Hall rental - Meyers 12N
- 27 **First Sunday in Advent**
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school
2012 Pledge Ingathering
- 28 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10 a.m.
Yoga class 5.30 p.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.