

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

October 2010

F R O M T H E



How much do you know about our faith? America is one of the most religious nations on earth, but we're not so good when it comes to basic questions about our faith.

Today, the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life released the results of a survey that tested respondents on thirty-two questions on knowledge of the Bible, world religions and what the Constitution says about religion in public life.

People only got an average of sixteen right. That's a bare pass, at best. And mainline Protestants (that includes us Episcopalians) didn't even do that well.

Now, part of the reason for this is that they weren't just asked about their own faith. It's understandable if Christians don't know what religion Maimonides was (Jewish) or the Dalai Lama (Buddhist). Likewise, we might not expect Muslims to know the names of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), or who was a key figure in the Great Awakening (Jonathan Edwards). But Mormons scored best on questions on Christianity, and atheists and agnostics scored best overall. And every faith category – from Jews to Mormons – did poorly in

giving correct answers to questions they should know about their declared faith. Christians had problems with questions about what religion Mother Teresa was (Catholic), what Catholic beliefs about the Eucharist are (the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ), and whether the golden rule is one of the Ten Commandments (no).

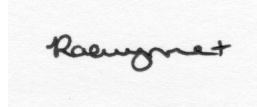
And then there are the Constitutional issues. Teachers in public schools are not, of course, allowed to lead their class in prayer; they can, however, read the bible as an example of great literature, and teach a class on comparative religion.

We all know that surveys aren't perfect, and you don't want to read too much into them. But it does give one pause for thought. Why is it that as American Christians, we don't know a whole lot about our faith?

One of the areas the vestry believes that God is calling us to, is to grow in faith in scripture and prayer. Part of that growing is to learn what we believe. And it's not hard. All we have to do is get out our bibles, and begin to read (the gospels are a good place to start). Join a bible study. Open the Book of Common Prayer and read the Catechism (near the end) - or ask one of this year's confirmation candidates what the highlights are!

Most of us are not likely to be included in a Pew survey of religion. But we have friends, family, work colleagues and acquaintances who are searching for meaning in their lives, and might just find that meaning in Christ - as long as we know what to tell them!

Blessings,



A WORD FROM THE WARDENS

What is it about **secrets** and **surprises**? With a few exceptions, most of us love secrets and surprises. Even if you don't like being surprised, you probably love planning a surprise party or giving an unexpected gift. The same holds true for secrets. While we don't condone gossip, it is almost impossible for most of us to keep a really great secret. We want to share the news! When we share secrets, or surprise others in a positive way, we often find ourselves in what is referred to as a "Kingdom Moment". Unexpectedly we find ourselves immersed in the love of God, seemingly in perfect communion with our neighbors and the feeling that we are right with God's intended purpose for us. We suspect for many of those who participated in our recent celebration of "Our Golden Couples" it was a Kingdom Moment.

This is precisely the good news of the Gospel. While it is not a secret, it certainly can be mysterious. But when we share the Gospel of Christ with others, and live it out, we often find ourselves being surprised in a very good way, and living in the Kingdom of God.

"Summer and The Living Is Easy" may be over, and we certainly find ourselves in the

BUSY season of the start of our Church's program year. We have already held our Ministry Fair, enjoyed the annual Pig Roast, and started Sunday School. The choir has returned to lead us in song, Bible Studies have resumed, and as mentioned above we had a wonderful celebration of "Our Golden Couples." The Shawl Ministry is meeting again, we will bless the animals this Sunday in celebration of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, and members of the parish have been busy for weeks and months planning, organizing, and preparing for our Harvest Festival.

It is our intention that St. James provide opportunities for you to participate in our various ministries, for you to share your talents in the activities of our parish. We are unique individuals with special gifts. As you read about the happenings at St. James we pray that you find a special way to join in fellowship with your fellow parishioners, share the good news of the gospel, and find yourself in your own Kingdom Moment.

*Peace and Blessings,
Pat and Chris*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & FORMATION Join Us in Bible Study!

In late September, three Bible Study groups reconvened for a 10-week study of I and II Timothy and Titus - books commonly known as the "pastoral letters" since they are written to an individual, rather than to a gathered church community. Groups currently meet on Tuesday morning, Tuesday evening, and Wednesday evenings. In addition, a Monday evening group looks primed to begin the first week of October (contact the Rector, Chris Mauro, or me if you are interested in any of these groups ~ no experience needed!) Our discussions are

always thought-provoking and sometimes quite animated. As we have shared our questions and discoveries, and as we have been challenged to think about the relevance of our faith for our daily lives, we have encouraged each other in prayer and presence, with new friendships growing out of these spiritual conversations.

On Confession: Recently, some members of the CF&E Committee had an e-mail discussion about the importance of confession in our corporate worship service. If you'd like to add your own comments on this topic, please e-mail them to me at kjsides@gmail.com. With your permission, I may share our combined insights in the November *Open Doors*.

Looking Ahead to Advent: During the first three Sundays of December, the CF&E Committee will sponsor an in-between service study (Sundays, 8:55 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.) of the Advent poems of John Donne, and George Herbert, Gerard Manley Hopkins. In addition, a parish trip to The Cloisters (the branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Arts devoted to medieval art and architecture, both religious and domestic) is planned for Saturday, December 4. Watch for more details.

Interested in a One-Day Retreat?

Removing ourselves from our everyday environment and spending deliberate and extended time in God's presence, both in silence and in the company of others, can dramatically reinvigorate our spiritual lives. If you would be interested in a January or February one-day retreat, please be in touch with a member of the CF&E Committee: Les Bengtson, Stephanie Coleman, Chris Mauro, Jack Schultheis, or Kathy Sides.

- *Kathy Sides*

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS OCTOBER 3

During the 9:30 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist on Sunday, October 3, we will have our annual Blessing of the Animals. Parishioners and their friends are invited to bring their pets, who will receive individual blessings during the service. Please have your pet leashed or appropriately contained. All pets are welcome!

HARVEST FESTIVAL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

Last minute preparations are underway for our annual Harvest Festival. Here's how you can help to make this event successful:

Baked Goods table: We could use home-baked cookies, cupcakes, brownies, quick breads, muffins, etc. Donations can be brought on the morning of the Festival. Contact Karen Douglass (928-6633 or kdouglass@optonline.net).

Book Nook news: We are still accepting gently used books, hardcover and paperbacks, as well as CDs, DVDs, and sheet music. All must be in good condition. The last day to bring in your donations is Tuesday, October 12. Help is desperately needed in sorting books any time before that date, so if you have a few hours to spare, we would greatly appreciate the help. We will also need people with strong backs to move books to Mills Hall and set up tables on October 13, and to arrange books on the tables on October 14 and 15. The Book Nook will be open both Friday and Saturday, so help is needed to staff it on both days (Friday 9 - 4, Saturday 9:30 - 3). The Book Nook is very labor intensive, but we do generate a lot of money, and many hands make light work. Please contact Stephanie Coleman (ssc6263@aol.com /751-4151) if you are able to help in any way.

Bottle table - Donate bottles of any size, filled with items worth from \$1 to \$10. Be creative and fill a bottle yourself, or donate one already filled (wine, salad dressing, bath salts, etc.). Give your bottles to Joan or Les Bengtson (lesliebengtson@aol.com or 656-5850), or bring them to the church office by Thursday, October 14.

Craft table: Do you craft, knit, sew, do woodworking, painting, etc.? The craft table needs donations of hand-made items. Help is needed to staff the table the day of the Festival. Contact Pat Kregler (patkreg@verizon.net or 863-1113).

Farmer's Market: We are looking for donations from local farmers of fruits and vegetables. If you have an "in" and can obtain some produce, contact Edna Rousseau (edna.rousseau@chsli.org or 584-7853).

Gold Elephant table: The Gold Elephant table is looking for donations of **quality** items such as: antiques, collectibles, new gift-type items. Table space is always limited, so please no cracks, chips, or missing parts, personal care items that are used, no yard sale items, no junk! Please take the time to dust/wash your items before packing them up for church. Clean things bring in more money. However, do not polish metal. The buyer should be in on the "fun" of that discovery process! If you would like to help sell at the Gold Elephant table the day of the Festival, call Sue Krall (862-6563) or Joan Mercep (724-4457) to schedule a time.

Jewelry table: Your no longer worn jewelry can find a new home! Someone else will love it. Donations may be given to Kathy Mauro (kathy.beers@cmsheattransfer.com or 689-1419).

Raffle: In an attempt to make this the BEST year ever for the raffles, we are asking that if there are any local businesses that you frequent, PLEASE ask if they are willing to donate a gift certificate to their

establishment. Also, there were raffle tickets mailed to your house, please be so kind to send in or drop off the raffle at the office or at church with your payment. Once they are all sold, please do not hesitate to pick up some more for sale to your friends and family. Contact Donna Austin (499-6050, grandmamoxie@juno.com) or Debbie LaMano (lamanoscorner@optonline.net, 584-3545).

Raffle baskets: Once again we will be offering gift baskets for our raffle. We have several baskets available for filling, and items waiting to be combined into a basket. You can pick a theme for your basket and fill it with items worth at least \$25, wrap it with cellophane and bring it in. Please see me if you would like a basket or have any questions.

Silent Auction: Donations of quality furniture, antiques, art work or sports equipment in working order are being sought. No yard sale items, please! They may be brought to the church office. Contact Debbie LaMano (584-3545 or lamanoscorner@optonline.net).

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Letters of Thanks

To Pat Westlake, Stephanie Coleman, and Colette Tarantino:

We wish to thank you and all the people who worked with you for creating such a fine occasion on September 26, 2010 honoring the couples who have been married for fifty years or more. Your efforts on our behalf were extraordinary and we greatly appreciate all that you did for us.

The recognition in church was, in itself, very nice, but what followed was not only unexpected but quite wonderful. The food was delicious, the picture display brought

back many fond memories and the fellowship with all the parishioners capped off a terrific day.

Once again, thank you.

Eileen & Hank Hull

Applause, applause!!

Just want to say a BIG THANK YOU to all...To our Rector, Wardens, Vestry, and Terrific Committee who put together the wonderful celebration for our fifty-plus years of married bliss! Our church has meant a great deal to us through the years, and we truly appreciated the efforts and great deal of planning that went into Sunday's memorable celebration. I know ALL the "brides and grooms" were touched by you all acknowledging our many years of wedded bliss...and making us feel special. The atmosphere so very festive, the food fantastic and it was fun listening to some of that great 50's music. It couldn't get any better than that!!! Thank you one and all.

Ruth & Ken LeCluse

To ALL 14 couples who made their 50 plus year Golden Wedding Anniversary: You are such an inspiration to all the couples who have not reached theirs yet! THANK YOU for sharing your GREAT insights with all of us!

I just wanted to send out a very BIG THANK YOU to all who made the unbelievable day a GREAT success. Being a guest at this great occasion was wonderful!

*All the best,
Debbie LaMano*

Wisdom of the Couples

These words of wisdom were shared by our "golden couples."

"Love much, laugh often, live well! An old and true saying."

Tony & Barbara Bastin

"It has been a wonderful 60 years and we wouldn't change a thing!"

Bill & Maria Bataller

"A successful marriage is like a successful corporation whose products are love, trust, respect, and giving 110% of everything you have, every day."

Bill & Amelia Bowden

"Hang in there!" (Ron)

"Chart your own course with God's help."

(June)

Ron & June Davies

"Being a good listener—always being there for each other—being willing to give each other their 'space'—love and laugh—always keep the lines of communication open."

Art & Arlyne Gureck

"Marriage is a give and take, communication with each other is important. Also, never go to bed feeling angry."

Ernie & Louise Harders

"Marriage is a lot of give and take, showing compassion, being a good listener, and loving one another through thick and thin."

Hank & Eileen Hull

"Patience, patience, patience."

Walt & Pat Kregler

"Willingness to compromise."

Charlie & Marge Kreussling

"Never end a day with anger or cross words between you. A kiss and an 'I love you' can change the day."

Ken & Ruth LeCluse

"Laugh a lot. Don't sweat the small things."

Bob & Lil Moleti

"Polly said, 'Pray a lot.' I agree."

Mike & Polly Neyssen

"Marriage is a give and take relationship between two people. There must be a lifetime commitment, love, and dedication to make the marriage succeed."

Chris & Anita Sequino

"Laugh a lot. We saved each other and we are still doing it."

Harry & Betty Toop

OUTREACH

Protestant Campus Ministry held a chili dinner in September for supporting and new congregations. Several Vestry members and parishioners attended. Chaplain Brenda Ford gave an overview of her ministry on Stony Brook University's campus. It was a chance for local parishioners to connect with PCM's Chaplain, with several university students, and also with other local churches. Local ministers competed in a chili cook-off, raising almost \$500 in "tips" for their chili. The interim pastor at Setauket Presbyterian Church won the golden spoon award! The Board of PCM wants churches to continue to fund this important ministry. St. James gave PCM \$1,500 from our outreach budget this year.

Bread for the World's representative from St. James Church is now Sandy Grigoletto. We thank Ron Tebbutt for his many years of service in this role. And we thank Sandy for taking over. (See Sandy's article on the upcoming Bread for the World Annual Fellowship Dinner and see how you can help.)

- Sue Krall

SMITHTOWN EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry has been "adopted" by Lowes. For the past three weeks employees of Lowes have been volunteering after work to build a new table and new shelves in the basement storage area and install new doors and new flooring. The most exciting new feature being installed is a dumb waiter which will bring food up from the basement! The construction should be over the first week in October. Until that time we have only been bringing over small amounts of your donations at a time as we have very limited space to store food and supplies.

- Pat Westlake

BREAD FOR THE WORLD ANNUAL DINNER

Sunday, October 24th is Bread for the World's Annual Fellowship Dinner for Suffolk BFW representatives. Every year, our church sponsors a Bread for the World letter drive to our representatives in Congress, a drive that affects millions of people in this country, and is a significant form of stewardship. An outreach donation of \$250 will be given to BFW. The dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. in Mills Hall, and parishioners are welcome.

As St. James Church is host, desserts will help make this event a success. **Please consider donating a dessert.** To sign up for a dessert, please contact me at 751-2579 or styler@optonline.net.

- Sandy Grigoletto

PIG ROAST

Artie and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone responsible for making the pig roast such a success. Gratitude to Ernie Harders, Chris Sequino, Bob Moleti, Ken LeCluse, Tony DeVito and Hank Hull for everything to do with picking up the pig, assembling the oven, cooking and preparing the main course for serving. Many thanks to Louise Harders, Ruth LeCluse, and Eileen Hull for making potato salad and to Stephanie Coleman for making the coleslaw. In addition to the aforementioned ladies, thank you to Anita Sequino, Laurie Mannix and Pat Westlake for setting up Mills Hall. After dinner, Chris Mauro, Stephanie Coleman, Debbie LaMano, Peter and Justin Plaschka volunteered to strip the pig. We will enjoy "pulled pig" sandwiches at our Harvest Festival because of their efforts.

Last, but not least, we thank Jerilyn Glogg for being our affable hostess and money collector, Lil Moleti for her help in clean-up and Nancy Rasmussen for arranging games for the children.

*God's Peace,
Arlyne & Artie Gureck
(And THANK YOU, Art & Arlyne for doing
such a superb job of organizing the event!)*

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Lauren Tarantino, a senior at Ward Melville High School, was featured in *Newsday* on September 20 as a "Player to Watch." Lauren is a goalie in field hockey, and had 15 shutouts and a .915 save percentage in games last year. A larger article, with a photo and her name in the headline appeared in the Sunday, September 26 edition. Both can be seen on the bulletin board in the C.E. building. Congratulations, Lauren!

On Sunday, September 19, we welcomed into the parish family Addison Hope and Nathan Brady Kittredge, children of new members Kim and Gary Kittredge, and Madelyn Denise Aspromgos, daughter of Kathleen (Cerrito) and Nicholas Aspromgos, who were married in St. James church several years ago. We look forward to watching them grow up and grow in faith in our parish.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Art Gureck
Jean Fitzhenry
Theresa Euler
Paige Lawrence
Cynthia Bennett
Anna Rung
Leslie Price
Sue Krall
Sean Glogg
Alexandra Euler
Thomas LaMano, Sr.
Ian Van Praagh
Emily Mauro
Ryan Grigoletto
Kurt Rettig
Sophie Moos
Tony Mercep
Alex Moleti

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dennis & Donna Guinaw
Bill & Amelia Bowden

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

- 1 Wedding rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Westhoff/Elek wedding 3:30pm
- 3 **Holy Eucharist 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. with
Blessing of the Animals
Sunday school
- 4 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Bible study 10 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m. - rectory
- 7 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 **Holy Eucharist 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. w/
Sunday school
- 11 **Columbus Day** - office closed
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 12 Bible study 10 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
Bible study 7:30 p.m. - rectory
Book Nook set-up in Mills Hall
- 14 Jam making 4:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
Book Nook set-up
- 15 Book Nook open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 **Harvest Festival** 9:30 a.m. - 3
p.m.
- 17 **Holy Eucharist 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. w/
Sunday school
- 18 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Bible study 10 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 21 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Toastmasters group 9:30 a.m.
- 24 **Holy Eucharist 8 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. w/
Sunday school
Parish Life Committee 11:15
a.m.
Bread for the World Dinner
5:30 p.m.
- 25 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Bible study 10 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Knitting group 10:30 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
- 28 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Nursery school Halloween party
10 a.m.

