



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

October 2013

F R O M T H E



Fall is here once again, clear sunny days and crisp nights. The leaves are beginning to turn, and pumpkins are on sale, and apple pies and cider beckon to

us from the grocery aisles.

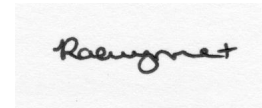
Here at church, we're still in the midst of green season, that time when we hear stories of the life of Jesus, learn from the wisdom of the Epistles, and get back into the habit of regular Sunday worship and Christian formation after summer and vacations.

And we also have a lot of special events: Kick Off Sunday and the Ministry Fair, the new parish BBQ, the Harvest Festival, Blessing of the Animals, All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, and then we're into Advent and Christmas. They are all wonderful occasions, where we not only raise funds, but also build our relationships with each other and with God.

It's easy to get seduced by the big events, to think that they are somehow more important than ordinary Sundays. But the great Reformation preacher, Hugh Latimer, once said that preaching is like meat not strawberries, because strawberries come but

once a year. In other words, we need the steady routines of our faith: they allow us to grow spiritually strong and healthy – spiritual health that sustains us in times both good and bad. Weekly (at a minimum) worship, daily prayer, reading the Bible, attending Godly Play or J2A, or Bible study; all of these help us grow in our faith – and although we often don't realize it, deepen our relationships with each other.

So this fall, as you look at your weekly calendar, make sure you make time for God. Not as a special occasion kind of thing, but as the habitual practice of a life lived as a disciple of Christ.



THE WARDEN'S COLUMN

“Every problem comes to you, bearing in its arms, a gift. You invite these problems into your life, because you need their gifts.”

This is statement #4 of Suggestions for Living that was given to my business partner by his grief counselor. It is quite a statement, one that takes a lot to wrap your head around. I've come to believe that this statement is the basis for Christian stewardship.

What is a “problem” anyway? Simply put, it is something you don't want in your life. One of the topics of our summer Bible study was the role of God in our lives. The study explored the common misconception that God puts these problems into our lives and also that God, if properly motivated, will solve them for us.

Good Christian stewardship is realizing that the entirety of our lives, the blessings and the problems, is a gift from God. What we make of them is up to us. That is not to say we should put on rose colored glasses. But rather to seek the best in ourselves and the gifts that have been offered.

This past Sunday in church we heard the parable of the rich man; Luke 16:19-31. As it was pointed out in the sermon, we don't often identify with being rich. I think as Christians we often don't even identify with being rich in the Spirit. Or identify with being the body of the living Christ. Our focus is on what we don't have, and in times of grief what has been taken from us.

I have been working, with my grief counselor, on realizing the gift of a very special life that ended all too soon. In doing so I've come to realize how much I cherish

our lives and times together in Christ. And what a gift our “problems” are in my life. God Bless each of you, and God bless our parish.

Love,
Chris

HARVEST FESTIVAL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Rain or shine

Here are some last minute ways that you can share your time, talents, and treasure to make sure that this important fund raiser is successful:

Baked Goods: Calling all St. James bakers (and baker wannabees)! The Harvest Festival is just around the corner... we're looking for donation of your yummy goodies to make the Bake Table a success again. Help support St. James by making an item or two (cookies, bars, breads, muffins, cakes, brownies, cupcakes) for the Bake Table. The more we have, the more we sell. Sugar-free or gluten-free goods will be appreciated as well. Please label your donations (especially if you put in nuts), and bring them early on the day of the Festival. Contact Karen Douglass (928-6633, kdouglass@optonline.net) or Colette Tarantino (751-7932 or lcol0208@aim.com) or tell us in church if you will be baking!

Book Nook: Help to transport books from the C.E. building to Mills Hall on Tuesday, October 1 at 7 p.m. Help to organize the tables and books on Wednesday and Thursday, October 2 and 3 starting at 6 p.m. The Book Nook is open on Friday, October 4 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., as well as on Saturday. If you can work one of those days, contact Stephanie Coleman (751-4151 or ssc6263@gmail.com;) for more information.

Craft Table: Are you creative? Please give your donations to Pat Kregler (863-1113, or patkreg@verizon.net), Linda Misa (862-6421) or bring them to the office by Thursday, October 3.

Farmers' Market: Does your garden have an overabundance of vegetables this year? If so, please consider donating some for sale at the Farmers' Market this year. You may bring your donations early on the morning of the Festival. Help is needed to staff the table on the day of the festival. Please contact Edna Rousseau at 584-7853, if you would like to help out.

Gold Elephant: The Gold Elephant table is requesting donations of lightly used gift items, good china and glassware, and "antiques". No yard sale items, please. Donations may be left in the lobby of the Christian Ed building until October 3. Contact Joan Mercep (724-4457 or mercep8285@verizon.net) or Thea Welch (theadora13@aol.com or 675-2851) for more information.

Jewelry Table: Do you have jewelry that you no longer wear? We will be happy to find it a new home. Donations of necklaces, pins, earrings, etc. are always welcome. You may give your donations to Lil Moleti (boblil2@optonline.net or 675-0385) or bring them to the office by Wednesday, October 2.

Raffle baskets: Would you like to create a basket for the raffle? All you need to do is select a theme and fill a basket with items relating to that theme – approximate value at least \$25. If you would like to contribute in this way, bring your basket in to Laurie Mannix in the office by Thursday, October 3, so they can be properly tagged.

Raffle: This year we are a bit short on volunteers. If you are able to assist in going around to local merchants asking for donations, or if there is a local place which you frequent and can ask them for a donation of merchandise or gift card it will be a big help. Please contact Debbie LaMano (dlamano67@gmail.com, or 584-3545) if you can help to make this effort a success. We thank the members of the Dexter family for once again donating two nights at the Henry Farm Inn, located in Chester, Vermont for use as our grand prize in the raffle. This donation is made in memory of their mother, Kathleen, a faithful parishioner.

Set up/Clean up: If you can help set up tables or tote boxes early in the morning or take down tables and clean up later on Saturday, please contact Doug Dahlgard at doug34@optonline.net or 338-9651 to offer your assistance.

Pray for good weather!!!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The blessing of the animals will be held during the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, October 6. All animals will receive an individual blessing. Bring your pets! Please be sure your animal is leashed, crated, or properly restrained.

OUTREACH

The Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry needs donations of everything, especially juice, fruit, and baked beans, according to Director, Pat Westlake! Donations can be left in the cart in the hallway of the Christian Education building. If you see the cart is getting full, please take a turn delivering the food to the Pantry during the week, between 9 a.m. and Noon. The Pantry is located at St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church.

Protestant Campus Ministry students at Stony Brook University are collecting toiletries again this fall to benefit women transitioning from domestic violence and pregnant teens at a home for unwed mothers. Please continue to place those small bottles from your vacation trip this summer in the basket in the narthex.

The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, located right in Smithtown, breeds, raises, and trains service dogs for blind and visually impaired people well beyond our neighborhood. A recent visitor to our church from Meadville, PA, who is training with her new dog and learning to work as a team, reminded us of this at coffee hour. She said her new dog will not just “help her see” but will change her life! You will find information at church on the Guide Dog Foundation’s fund-raising efforts or you may wish to send a life-changing, tax-deductible check to the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc. 371 E. Main Street (Jericho Turnpike), Smithtown NY 11787-9897.

The Seamen’s Church Institute’s Christmas at Sea Program will be giving hand-made scarves and caps to seamen from around the world. If you knit or crochet, or would like to learn on a simple project, why not begin early for Christmas this year. Speak to Raewynne about patterns available for these projects.

Our annual Harvest Festival is scheduled for October 5. A portion of the proceeds from this sale will be used for next year’s outreach budget. See the article above for opportunities to help.

- Sue Krall

ALL SAINTS’ DAY POTLUCK SUPPER

Do you have a favorite saint? On Friday, November 1, in celebration of All Saints’ Day, we will gather in Mills Hall to enjoy fellowship and a potluck supper. You are invited to research a saint and dress up as that saint, if you wish. We have learned about many saints in the past. Now is your chance to have some fun while finding out about those paragons of faith. The party starts at 6 p.m.

ST. JAMES TEXAS BBQ

Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make our Texas BBQ such a success – chefs Bruce Lawrence and David Douglass, organizers Stephanie Coleman, Mary Jane and Tony DeVito and decorator/kitchen chief Karen Noack. Thanks also to all who brought food and those who cleaned up. The weather cooperated, and a good time was had by all.

HELP SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY
HAVE A SPECIAL NIGHT OUT

**“A TASTE OF SMITHTOWN”
AN EVENING OF FINE FOOD
TASTING**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**MERCEDES BENZ OF SMITHTOWN
\$25.00**

Please make the check out to:
“Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry”

For information and tickets speak with
Pat Westlake and Claudette Plaschka

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Amanda Mercep, daughter of Joan and Tony, recently began a part-time program at Columbia University to receive a Masters in Public Health (M.P.H.). with a concentration in Healthcare Management. Amanda works full time as a Wellness Director of Programs and Communications at a financial firm in New York City.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 1 Life Line Screening 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. in Mills Hall
Gold Elephant pricing - morning
Fall Clergy Day 10:00 a.m. at Cathedral
Jewelry pricing - afternoon
Book Nook set-up 7 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Knitters’ group 11:30 a.m.
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
Book Nook set up 6:00 p.m.
- 3 Jam making 2:00 p.m.

- Book Nook set up 6:00 p.m.
- 4 **Book Nook** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 5 **HARVEST FESTIVAL** 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 6 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Blessing of the Animals
- 7 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Knitters’ group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 11 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 13 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Formation classes
- 14 **Columbus Day** - office closed
- 15 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Smithtown Book Club 7:00 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Knitters’ group 11:30 p.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.
- 17 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Nursery School Rummage Sale
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 20 **Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.**
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Formation classes
- 21 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Holy Eucharist 9:30 p.m.
Bible study 10:00 a.m.
Bible study 7:15 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Knitters’ group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 25 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Bible study 9:30 a.m.

- 30 Knitter's group 11:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
Family Bible study 6:00 p.m.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Art Gureck
Theresa Euler
Paige Lawrence
Cynthia Bennett
Anna Rung
Brendan Jeffrey
Leslie Price
Jeremy Siedlak
Sue Krall
Sean Glogg
Alex Euler
Jake Dean
Calvin Dean
Isabella Corbo
Robin Dahlgard
Helga Reisenauer
Ivan van Praagh
Emily Mauro
Naomi Ryan
Ryan Grigoletto
Tony Mercep
Alex Moleti

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dennis & Donna Guinaw
Bill & Amelia Bowden