



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

September 2008

FROM THE



This month has been a month of late night TV. Not the usual fare of Letterman or Nightline, but the last couple of weeks the Olympics (somehow I could never quite drag myself away from the swimming or gymnastics or diving at my usual bedtime!), and this week the Democratic National Convention in Denver. And of course, it will stretch into September with the Republican National Convention.

One of the things that these have in common (apart from the late night time slot) is the sense of anticipation and expectation. We don't know what will happen - whether it's the diving results or the election - but we do know that we will see people striving, reaching out, offering their best, for something beyond themselves. And when they win - whether its an Olympic medal or an election - it is not just they who win, but all of us. We are caught up in the excitement; we're inspired, if not quite to Olympic or Presidential heights, to become the best we can be.

This fall, as well as dealing with the business of the parish, the Vestry are spending time at our meetings studying the New Testament book of Philippians. Last week we read Philippians 1:1-11, most of which is a wonderful prayer prayed by the writer for the

church in Philippi. It begins and ends like this: *I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ....And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.*

It must have been amazing for the people in that church to receive the letter, and know that they were being prayed for by one of the great leaders of the church. There is confidence in the faith they already have, and encouragement to strive, to reach out, to offer their best to God. There was no TV to inspire them back in the first century, but these words still ring true for us. They urge us to strive, to reach out, to offer our best to God - knowing it is not in our own strength that we do this, but resting on the loving strength and power of God through the Holy Spirit.

At Vestry, I challenged the members to take this prayer and pray it for one another. But let's widen that: let's all pray for one another. Just imagine what it will be like, when God does

indeed fill us with faith and love and hope, so that it can't help but overflow into one another and our communities and our world.

Raewynne J. J. J. J.

A WORD FROM THE WARDENS

As we read together this past Sunday:
For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Romans 12

As the new year begins (and Pat really does believe that the year begins in September!!) we need everyone to share his/her special gift.

We are looking forward to the change in service times and the opportunities it will bring for more Christian education and fellowship.

The Pig Roast (Saturday, September 20) is a time for the young, the "middle" and the chronologically blessed to gather and have a good time. Please join us for good food and the best of fellowship. There are plenty of ways to get involved (not just eating) - give Pat a call (584-6628). We need help setting up, serving, and (as always) clean-up.

Sunday, September 28 is St. James Day. We will have a booth and will be selling raffle tickets. Edna Rousseau (584-7853) and Debbie LaMano (584-3545) will be organizing this but

will need much assistance. The most important part of being at St. James Day is greeting the community. We need groups of people (families) to spend an hour talking to people and handing out flyers about our church and our activities. We are proud of our church ~ let's share it with the community.

We held a Harvest Festival meeting on Sunday, August 24. People are already hard at work preparing. PLEASE GET INVOLVED!! All activities will need assistance, but right now we need people to step forward to chair the following areas:

- * Lunch
- * Wake-up Call (coffee and doughnuts)
- * Church information table (literature about the church and activities).
- * Children's activities

WE CAN "TRAP" YOU IN CHURCH AND ASK YOU ~ BUT IT WOULD BE SO NICE FOR SOMEONE TO CALL US!

At the August Vestry meeting we began a Bible study on Philippians. We read and discussed Philippians 1:1-11. We will continue this study in upcoming months.

Raewynne led the Vestry through an activity about Congregational Size Theory. St. James is a Pastoral size church, but we incorporate many aspects of a Program size church. The hope is that by gaining a better understanding of this theory we will be able to better serve the needs of our parish.

The sale of 493 North Country Road (the rental house across the street) may take place. Ron Davies has been working on this for the past months. Due to an old will (1915) there was a question about the title. Ron was able to track down all of the heirs and have them sign off. We have all the necessary approvals and are waiting to hear from the prospective purchaser.

Much activity will be taking place the next few months. We hope that you will join in. Sometimes it can seem overwhelming... Christian education (both for children and adults), Pig Roast, St. James Day, Blessing of the Animals, Harvest Festival, All Saints Day Party (something new), Thanksgiving (our month at the Food Pantry is November), Adopt-a-Family, Pick-a-Star, Christmas pageant (only 4 months away)....

Let's rejoice that we have this wonderful parish filled with members we enjoy and want to spend time with. Working together at these events will fill us with joy.

- Pat and Jeff

FALL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The Christian Formation and Education Committee is excited to announce our program for Sunday mornings in the Fall. We begin with three weeks following up on our visioning process in the Spring, when we met as a parish family to "dream" about what God might be calling us to be and to do as a result of having read Diana Butler-Bass' *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith*. Of the many responses received, three dominant themes emerges: Worship, Hospitality, and Contemplation/Prayer. These seem to be central concepts engaging the hearts, minds, and imaginations of members of our parish community.

To remind ourselves of the scriptural core of these themes, we will launch our Fall Adult Christian Formation and Education program by one-week studies of each topic on September 14, 21, and 28. Join us as we bring closure to last year's discussions and as we continue to integrate this material into our parish life.

A complete list of Fall Christian Formation and Education offerings follows:

September

- 7 Welcome - Mills Hall
- 14 Where are we called? Worship
- 21 Where are we called? Hospitality
- 28 Where are we called? Prayer

October

- 5 Being Episcopalian
- 12 Being Episcopalian
- 19 Being Episcopalian
- 26 Voting and Faith

November

- 2 Voting and Faith
- 9 Bible study - the book of Jude
- 16 Bible study - the book of Jude
- 23 Bible study - the book of Jude
- 30 Advent wreaths - Mills Hall

December

- 7 Waiting on God
- 14 Waiting on God
- 21 Waiting on God
- 28 Celebrating Christmas

Unless otherwise noted, we'll gather in the Webster room each week at 9 A.M.

- The Christian Formation and Education Committee

GET YOUR OPEN DOORS ONLINE!

Beginning in October, we will be emailing a link to the online copy of *Open Doors* to those parishioners whose email address is in our files - you can read it online or print out a hard copy!. This will result in significant savings in both postage and office time (it takes much longer than you would expect to print, collate, address, and mail 130 copies each month). If we do not have your email, please send it to us at stjamesc@optonline.net.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING

Sunday School Opening Day and Registration will be held on Sunday, September 7th, from 9 to 9:45 A.M. in Mills Hall. Please join us at this time to catch up with friends, enjoy brunch, and get back into the swing of things. Also on this day at our services, we will be blessing our children's backpacks (and them!) As they begin the new school year - so please bring your kids backpacks to church that day.

This will be the first week of our new Sunday schedule, which is as follows:

- 8 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 9 A.M. Sunday School and Adult Ed.
- 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist

Families are welcome at both services! If you're wondering what to do while your children are in Sunday School, we will be offering an adult education program (see related article), or for those who prefer, coffee and newspapers will be available in the foyer of the education wing for "Parents' Time Out." We hope to offer a parenting discussion monthly.



PIG ROAST SEPTEMBER 20TH

Come one and all to the annual St. James Pig Roast, to be held on Saturday, September 20th beginning at 5:00 P.M. in Mills Hall.

Art Gureck is gathering a crew of chefs to coax the pig into delicious barbequed fare. If you would like to help him, call 751-2614. In addition to the pork, the menu will include hot dogs, potato salad, pasta salad, baked beans, cole slaw, soda, coffee and dessert. You may bring your own wine or beer.

The cost of the evening is \$15 per adult (over 16) and \$5 per child (6-16). Reservations are required by September 17th. Sign up after church, during coffee hour, or call the church office during the week.

HARVEST FESTIVAL NEWS

Our Harvest Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th. All parishioners are encouraged to participate, sharing their time and talent to make this a successful fundraising event. There are many opportunities for each of you to become involved. Please volunteer to help, or say yes when asked to contribute in some way.

Bakery Table - Make simple home-baked breads, cakes, pies, brownies, cupcakes, muffins and cookies. Donations may be brought to the table early on the morning of the festival.

Book Nook - donations of gently used books (no encyclopedias, condensed books, or magazines, please) are needed. We ask that you check your books and donate only those in good condition. Books must be delivered by Tuesday, October 14th, so they can be sorted and priced. Donations may be placed in the lobby of the Christian Education building. Contact Stephanie Coleman (689-0663) or Donna Austin (499-6050).

Bottle Table - Donations of bottles of any size, filled with items valued from one to ten dollars are needed. Be creative and fill a bottle yourself, or donate one already filled (such as wine, salad dressing, bath salts, etc.). Give your bottles to Les and Joan Bengtson (656-5850).

Craft Table - Donations of any kind of new craft or needlework is being sought for this table. Since it will be fall, perhaps mittens or hats for kids would be appropriate. Fancy socks seem to be all the rage. If anyone is "into" jewelry making, some interesting pieces would

sell. A few of us are making tote bags to encourage the use of reusable packaging. Fall and winter decorative items are always welcome. Pat Kregler is available to answer your questions. Call her at 863-1113.

Gold Elephant - Good quality gift and decorative items, and gently used "treasures" are needed for this table. Contact Sue Krall (862-6563) or Joan Mercep (724-4457).

Jam Table - Jam making sessions have been going on since August, but your help is always welcome at any time. Please join us at any of the sessions listed on the monthly calendar. Call "Jam Queen" Nancy Rasmussen (724-2083) for more information.

Raffle - The Dexter family has generously donated our Grand Prize: a two-night stay at their bed and breakfast, the Henry Farm Inn in Chester, VT in memory of their beloved mother, Kathleen. We are looking for additional prizes to entice ticket purchases. If you can secure gift certificates from local restaurants or merchants, or other suitable gifts, contact Debbie LaMano (584-3545) or Jack Schultheis (689-9467).

Our gift basket raffle also creates interest among fair goers. We have many baskets to be filled! Pick a theme, and fill a basket with new items. Wrap the basket in cellophane and bring it to the church office. Contact Laurie Mannix at (584-5560).

JAM SESSIONS RESUME

In preparation for our Harvest Festival in October, we have already started making our famous jams, jellies, and salsa. We grossed over \$1400 at the jam table during the Strawberry Festival, leaving only about 2 dozen jars of inventory. Please join us for our jam

sessions in September and continuing through mid-October. Except for September 3, all sessions will be on Thursday afternoons, beginning at 4:30 P.M.

If you can't join us, perhaps you would like to help in other ways by donating any of the following:

12 oz. and 8 oz. canning jars - \$9/case
Sugar - 25 lb.- \$10; 50 lb. \$20

This will help greatly with expenses.

Of course, we always ask that you return our jars once you have enjoyed eating our jam, as well. Fewer expenses = more profit!

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Our Festival in June was a resounding success! Here is the statement of profit and loss.

<u>Table</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Profit</u>
Strawberries & Ice cream	\$830.00	\$260.00	\$570.00
Jams & Jelly	\$1,469.00	\$261.19	\$1,207.81
Grandma's Attic	\$1,459.02	-	\$1,459.02
Grandpa's Attic	\$1,221.00	-	\$1,221.00
Hot Dogs & Burgers	\$359.00	-	\$359.00
Crafts	\$145.25	-	\$145.25
Golf	\$46.55	-	\$46.55
Plants	\$539.00	-	\$539.00
Lemonade	\$57.85	\$17.40	\$40.45
Baked Goods	\$379.25		\$379.25
Total	\$6,505.92	\$538.59	\$5,967.33

- Charlie Kreuzsling

OUTREACH

Habitat for Humanity - 13 backpacks were loaded with school supplies and given to Habitat to be distributed to homeowner children at their annual summer picnic. These children will head off to school confidently, thanks to all at St. James who bought the backpacks and supplies and packed them with care. Please keep your pledge to St. James up to date. Our budget depends on us all! We hope to give Habitat a second check for \$500 this year in time to celebrate Habitat's 20th anniversary in Suffolk County.

Little Portion Friary - We received a thank you note from Brother Dunstan on behalf of all the brothers for our donation of \$500 in July. They greatly appreciate our thoughtfulness and concern for their life of works and worship. They are also happy to have our prayers. Brother Dunstan said, "God bless you richly!!" If you would like to be on their mailing list for their upcoming events, or would like to send them a donation yourself, the address is:

Little Portion Friary
P.O. Box 399
Mt. Sinai NY 11766

Smithtown Food Pantry - We continue to collect non-perishable food for the pantry in the hamper of the Christian education building. Juice boxes and, of course, peanut butter and jelly would probably be useful as the kids go back to school. If you are headed in the direction of Smithtown, check our hamper to see if you can deliver some food to St. Thomas' back door.

Our next Outreach meeting will be on Monday, September 8 at 7:30 P.M. We are likely to discuss outreach to the Millennium Village in Rwanda, Africa. All are welcome to attend.

- Sue Krall

CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT

At this writing, we have made the first interment in the new Cremains area, which is located in the circle at the end of the new driveway behind the Biblical Garden.

On Sunday, August 10th, the congregation, led by the acolytes, processed from the church through the cedar allée to the new Cremains area for a special blessing of the new memorial benches. The coffee hour was held on the grounds by the Biblical Garden.

We have opened two sections of the new cemetery area for purchase of new grave sites. If you have already paid for a grave but have not yet selected a site, now is the time to do so. Call Laurie Mannix in the office (584-5560) to make an appointment to see what is available. Early this fall we anticipate opening up sales to non-parishioners.

In July, an evening "dinner" meeting was held in the Biblical Garden with many hands making light work of the clean-up and weeding. We were joined by two new members. We are planning a fall clean-up meeting which will include refreshing the paint on the arbor and fencing at the entrance. Please consider joining us - all are welcome. Speak to Ken LeCluse (588-1176), Chairman, or one of the committee members if you have questions, or need more information.

ALSO - if you are dividing plants this fall, specifically Hosta, ferns, iris, pachysandra or other ground cover, we could surely use any and all in the Garden. We would appreciate your donating them to the project.

Our Church gardens constantly need attention, and we would like to invite anyone who has a spare hour (or less) to stop by at any time to pull a weed or two, or deadhead spent flowers, etc., at your convenience. **We need help.** There are many "garden" areas surrounding the church

and some are being maintained by parishioner volunteers; however, there are some areas that are "under the radar" and please feel free to "pull that weed" you notice when walking by! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you can commit to helping with regular maintenance of one area. Thanks for your continued help.

- Ken LeCluse

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

The choir wants YOU! This fall, we are losing a lovely soprano voice, as Rachel Linthwaite moves to Boston. She will be back for major holidays, but we need more singers. If you can carry a tune (soprano, alto, tenor, baritone or bass) we invite you to come and sing with us.

Rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 4, at 8 P.M. in the Webster room. Everyone is welcome. Speak to Dara Linthwaite (476-4844) or any member of the choir for further information.

YOGA CLASS

Yoga class has been meeting every Tuesday and Thursday since the end of April and will continue into the fall and winter - Tuesdays at 5:00 and Thursdays at 5:30. If you have even the slightest interest or curiosity, please join us. Yoga, which is focused on each individual's awareness of their unique physical self, is healthy and possible for anyone of any level of fitness. It is totally noncompetitive and non judgmental, and much easier than health club aerobics. We laugh a lot, share an hour of stretching, breathing, bending, and relaxing, and leave energized and renewed. It is never too late, or the wrong time to start.

- Mary Jane DeVito

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

A meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee is scheduled for Monday, September 8, at 7 P.M. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend.

- Jeff Smith

ONE STROKE PAINTING CLASS

As a result of the success of last year's one-stroke painting class, we are considering having another class sometime within the next few months. If you are at all interested, please contact me at 588-1176, so we can set up dates and times for a new class.

- Ruth LeCluse

A LETTER FROM CAROL & DAN MAYBEE

Note: this letter was received just after the July/August newsletter was published.

To all at St. James,

Greetings from the Maybee family. We are alive and well in St. Augustine, Florida. It has been about seven weeks since we drove out of Smithtown in the big U-Haul truck. The trip was uneventful except for multiple stops for gas. After spending a few days in a hotel, we moved to a two bedroom furnished condo. Our car arrived within two days of our arrival—thank you, Ernie! Since then we have been house shopping and getting acquainted with the local area. Enjoying fresh fruit and vegetables at a nearby farmers market every Wednesday and Saturday morning. I have been walking 4 - 5 miles on the beach every day. It is wonderful, every day the beach is different.

We have found Trinity Episcopal Church in old downtown St. Augustine. It is much like St. James, larger, but the same homey warm atmosphere. Trinity is the oldest Protestant church in Florida, founded in 1821.

We are still basking in the thoughts of May 4 when we were honored beyond our humble expectations. (We were humble – weren't we?) Seriously, St. James, St. James is a very special place. It is a place where God is present and working at all times. St. James certainly was an important part of our life in New York for 30 years, and will always be a permanent part of our fondest memories of Long Island. We love you all!! And thank you for being you.

Our temporary mailing address is P.O. Box 3725, St. Augustine FL 32085; Telephone 904-461-8341; Email wafer@cruisemaybee.com.

- Carol

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Emily Rose Miller was Baptized at St. James on July 27. Her day was shared by her parents, Nancy and Chris, sister Sarah, grandmother Joan Quinn, and many other relatives and friends. We welcome her into the St. James family.

Polly and Mike Neyssen are proud to share the news of the engagement of their daughter, Linda. No date has yet been set for the wedding. We send our congratulations to the couple, and prayers for their happiness.

Happy news has also been received from Mother Paulette Schiff. She finished her chemotherapy at the end of May, and has had a PET scan that was completely clear. She is getting her energy and appetite back, and thanks St. James for all the love and prayers

that were sent her way. She started August 1 as Priest-in-Charge at St. Paul's, Patchogue. She also shared that her and Walter's daughter, Kathryn, received her Master of Fine Arts in writing (specifically, poetry) from Godard College in late June. Congratulations, Kathryn!

We also are happy to report that both Tony Aliscio and Mark DeSimone are doing better after rounds of cancer treatment. Please keep them in your prayers.

Our prayers and best wishes go with our graduates from the high school class of 2008 as they embark on their college studies:

Ashley Citron - Florida International University in Miami.

Rebecca Linthwaite - Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston.

Chris Noack - Suffolk Community College.

Matt Petschauer - Suffolk Community College.

Jade Plaschka - SUNY Geneseo.

Dana Wachter - St. Joseph's College.

And also to our college graduates, as they enter a new period of their lives:

Rachel Linthwaite - starting her career in Boston.

Elizabeth Schultheis - pursuing her PhD. At Michigan State University.

May they all be supported by the love of their families and parish, and showered with blessings from God.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 **Labor Day** - office closed
2 Yoga class 5 P.M.
Recovery group 7:30 P.M.
3 Jam making 4:30 P.M.
4 Bible study 10 A.M.
Choir rehearsal 8 P.M.
7 Holy Eucharist 8 A.M.
**Brunch and Sunday school
registration 9 A.M.**
Holy Eucharist 10 A.M.
8 Buildings and Grounds 7 P.M.
Finance Committee,
Stewardship Committee &
Outreach Committee 7:30
P.M.
9 Yoga class 5 P.M.
Recovery group 7:30 P.M.
11 Bible study 10 A.M.
Jam making 4:30 P.M.
Yoga class 5:30 P.M.
Choir rehearsal 8 P.M.
15 Vestry Meeting 7:30 P.M.
16 Yoga class 5 P.M.
Recovery group 7:30 P.M.
18 Bible study 10 A.M.
Jam making 4:30 P.M.
Yoga class 5:30 P.M.
Choir rehearsal 8 P.M.
20 **PIG ROAST 5:00 P.M.**
23 Yoga class 5 P.M.
Recovery group 7:30 P.M.
25 Bible study 10 A.M.
Jam making 4:30 P.M.
Yoga class 5:30 P.M.
Choir rehearsal 8 P.M.
27 Warren/Mullady wedding 3
P.M.
28 St. James Day
30 Yoga class 5 P.M.
Recovery group 7:30 P.M.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jack Schultheis
Ernie Harders
Elizabeth DeFilippis
Willy Rasmussen
Louise Harders
Allie DeSimone
Nancy Petschauer
Lillian Moleti
Grace Rich
Steven Sides
Arthur Strassle
David DeFilippis
Linda Misa
Lisa Scott
Lani Wille
Charlie Kreussling
Stephen Linthwaite
Gary Perkins

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Steven & Kathy Sides
Ernie & Louise Harders
Tony & Joan Mercep
Arthur & Joan Strassle
Larry & Donna Wachter

