

Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

September 2013

FROM THE



RECTOR

One of the gifts of travel is seeing how other people live, and as Christians, seeing how they live out their faith.

While I was in Australia, I

worshipped with a number of different churches.

A little context: Australia is a religiously diverse country and has no official religion. Christianity is the predominant faith – about 65 percent of the population, but over 22 percent state that they have no religion, an increase of almost 4 percent in 5 years. Although the churches run many schools and hospitals, and most children are taught about religion at school, only about 7.5 per cent actually attend church.

Ferntree Gully Anglican Church is a small, outer suburban church, in an area not unlike Nesconset or Lake Grove. I went to the 8 a.m. service (followed by tea and scones), which had mostly older members, and a couple of families. They have few facilities – just a church and multipurpose foyer, but have a major ministry at the local hospital, sharing their priest as a chaplain there.

Open Door church in Monbulk, a town on

the outskirts of Melbourne, was formed when two local churches (Uniting - a denomination that draws together Presbyterians, Methodists, and Congregationalists - and Churches of Christ) combined and moved their location into town. Their primary ministry is a thrift store in town, which also offers a food pantry, financial counseling, mentoring of school children, and other supportive services. They are small, but have a wide range of members!

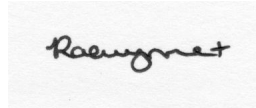
Taree Anglican is a big building in a largish country town. It's Anglo-Catholic in style, and has mostly older members, though there was an extended family present for a baptism the day I was there. They have a good choir, and look pretty much like an average church here in the U.S. – but are part of a group of four or so churches, sharing a rector, two non-stipendiary clergy, and a young assistant who is also chaplain to a local Anglican school. Every child baptized there is given a hand knitted teddy bear, and then once a year all are invited for the annual “teddy bears’ picnic”!

Tinonee Anglican is a little church in a tiny town about 15 miles from Taree. It shares a priest with another slightly larger nearby town. My mother is one of the youngest members! They are faithful members who pitch in together to clean the church, play

the organ, cook for coffee hour, and care for one another.

Each of these churches is faithfully carrying out their witness to Christ in an increasingly disinterested culture. They have learned to do more with less, and continue to share their love of Christ with the communities around them.

And all this raises the question for us in the U.S.A., where the role of religion in our culture is heading in the same direction as Australia. What are the essentials of our life together? What are the things we can let go of, in order to more fully witness Christ?



SPECIAL FALL EVENTS

September

- 8 Kickoff Sunday - Ministry Fair
- 14 Confirmation, Grace Church, Massapequa, 11:00 a.m.
- 15 Children's Formation classes begin
- 21 Parish Barbeque 4:00 p.m.

October

- 4 Book Nook sale 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 5 Harvest Festival 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 6 Blessing of the Animals 9:30 a.m.

THE WARDEN'S COLUMN

As many of you know, Steven White, Jr., 26, son of our Warden Chris Mauro's business partner, Steven White, Sr., was killed in a car accident last week. Chris has known Steven, Jr. since he was a child, and he had worked for the business for the last ten years. Chris spoke at the funeral, and has been providing leadership and support in this time of tragedy. Please keep Steven, Sr., his wife Lisa, and daughters, Teresa and Kelly, in your prayers.

Thank you all for your prayers and support this last week. It has been a difficult time for all of us as we seek to find God's comfort.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and the love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

- Chris Mauro

CONFIRMATION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Joseph LaMano is St. James' only candidate for Confirmation this year. The ceremony will be held on Saturday, September 14, 11 a.m. at Grace Church, 23 Cedar Shore Drive, Massapequa. Congratulations, Joseph!

KICK-OFF SUNDAY & MINISTRY FAIR

This Sunday, September 8, is our annual “Kick-Off” Sunday and Ministry Fair. During coffee hour we will have the opportunity to see the many ways we at St. James are serving God. Join us!

Our program of Christian Formation for children and youth begins again on September 8 with registration for classes, which begin the following week. We are excited to once again be using the Godly Play program for our children and the Journey to Adulthood (J2A) with our teenagers.

If you are interested in helping teach these programs, please speak with Jennifer Lawrence for Godly Play, and Chris Mauro for J2A. We would love to have more adults involved in mentoring and teaching our kids.

NEW THIS YEAR! PARISH BARBEQUE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

After probably about twenty years the legendary St. James Episcopal Church annual Pig Roast has roasted its last pig. Reflection upon this unique tradition evokes warm memories of folks like Ginger and Bill Tuttle, the Toops, the Tebbuts and the Batallers, plus unforgettable images such as Dan Maybee in his Pig Pith Helmet or of Willie Rasmussen guarding the pig late in the day so that Art Gureck, Ernie Harders, Chris Sequino, Ken LeCluse, Hank Hull, and Bob Moleti could rush home to change clothes after many hours of transporting, seasoning and turning the pig in the giant oven built especially for the event. While the men were busy preparing the pig, Arlyne, Louise, Anita, Ruth, Eileen, and Lillian were usually in the kitchen producing

mountains of coleslaw, gallons of baked beans, and tons of potato salad. Other dedicated regulars were always on hand to set up and serve. Tables and chairs were originally, and for many subsequent pig roasts, set up right outside on the grass. Finally after an entire day of vigilance, and careful basting, the pig was ceremoniously presented for all to enjoy a succulent feast of pork and fresh homemade side dishes. It happened every fall just like that. The atmosphere of the pig roast was relaxed and informal; an evening of fun and fellowship. We are so grateful for the core group of parishioners who worked so hard to make it happen year after year, and we invite them to sit back and enjoy what Bruce Lawrence and David Douglass have volunteered to do: a Texas Barbeque!

On Saturday, September 21st Bruce and David will fire up some big grills, mix secret sauces, and cook delicious ribs, chicken, and burgers. Let’s get behind these guys and do whatever we can to keep the tradition alive. The party will begin at 4:00 p.m. with drinks and snacks; barbeque at 5 p.m. The price for a ticket is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 16. All profits will go directly to our church, so please try to attend and invite your family and friends to come as well. Everyone is welcome and all forms of assistance will be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help by bringing a side dish, dessert, or a snack, please contact Stephanie Coleman at 751-4151 or ssc6263@aol.com. There is also a sign up sheet in Mills Hall for projected number of attendees and volunteers to bring food, and/or help with set up and clean up. See you at the Texas Barbeque!

- Mary Jane DeVito

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

During the month of September, many parishioners are busy planning for one of our biggest fundraisers, the Harvest Festival. It takes many hands to make all the pieces fit. There are many opportunities to help make this a successful event. Take the time to read about areas in which your talents and energy may be shared:

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: You can donate those books, CDs, and DVDs you no longer want to the Book Nook. They may be left at the door of the Women's Guild room in the hall of the C.E. building. No magazines, Reader's Digest Condensed Books, or VCR tapes, please. Donations will be accepted beginning September 1. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the schedule of set-up for the books. Contact Stephanie Coleman (ssc6263@gmail.com; 751-4151) for more information.

Craft Table: Are you creative? Whatever your medium, be it cloth, yarn, wood, or flowers, think about making something

special for the Craft Table. Scarves, baby items, bird houses, wreaths, etc., are just some of the ideas to consider. Donations may be given to Pat Kregler (863-1113, or patkreg@verizon.net), Linda Misa (862-6421) or brought to the office during the week.

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. Contact Joan Mercep (724-4457 or mercep8285@verizon.net) or Thea Welch (theadora13@aol.com or 675-2851) for more information.

Jam Table: The St. James Jammers have been busy at work preparing our delicious jams for the Festival. If you would like to help out, watch the Sunday bulletin for a schedule of "jam sessions" each week. Donations of 8 oz. canning jars or bags of sugar are always welcome, as they help our bottom line. Contact Louise Harders for more information at louern@aol.com or 585-7511.

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 during the week.

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. We have several beautiful baskets suitable for filling. If you would like to contribute in this way, contact Laurie Mannix at stjamesc@optonline.net or 584-5560 during the week.

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.

Set up/Clean up: We need at least an additional 12 large (60 inches, prefer 72 inches) rectangular tables for the Festival. If anyone knows of an organization that would loan them to us, please contact Pat Westlake at 584-6628 or pkings20@optonline.net.

CHOIR NOTES

The Chancel Choir is preparing for another musical season of prayer and worship. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. We sing at the 9:30 a.m. service on most Sundays and for many of our special sacred celebrations. If you're looking to participate in a new ministry, now is a wonderful time to get involved.

Our first choir rehearsal hour is Thursday, September 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Webster room in the C.E. building, and the choir will sing on Sunday, September 8, which is also the day for our Ministry Fair, if you'd like to get more information then. We also

welcome “occasional members” who are members of the congregation who, for whatever reason, are able to sing with us at specific times, such as “only in the fall” or “for Christmas Eve.” If that interests you, please contact me via email and I will let you know rehearsal dates for specific Sundays.

Istvan and I are looking forward to welcoming back our returning members and getting to know those of you who are new to the choir.

- Dara Linthwaite
Darasings@aol.com

FOLLOWING JESUS IN DAILY LIFE SUMMER BIBLE STUDY SUMMARY

During four evening sessions in July and August, a dozen parishioners participated in a thought-provoking study that grew from Raewynne's June 2 sermon about the “grounding” principles that guide our daily lives as we seek to follow Jesus. Do we take our cue from popular assumptions about Christianity? Or does Scripture give us a different picture? After studying numerous biblical passages and reviewing the key points of our faith as expressed in the Catechism (see Book of Common Prayer, 845-862), we drafted the following five tenets that present a biblical framework for daily life and thought. Contrast these with the popular statements that can be referred to as Moralistic Therapeutic Deism, found at the end of this entry.

Statements about Biblical Christianity

(from the Summer Bible Study participants)

1. The Triune God created the universe, and in him all things are held together. God has revealed himself to us through creation, the prophets, and through his son Jesus.

2. God calls us to follow Jesus, whose life and teachings are recorded in the Bible and who guides us through the Holy Spirit to help bring about and live into his kingdom on earth.

3. The central goal of life is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

4. God wants to be intimately involved in our lives and desires that we will live in harmony with him, with each other, with ourselves, and with creation. He gives us the freedom to make this choice.

5. Only God is good. By acknowledging our own sinfulness and choosing to follow Christ, we die to ourselves, are reborn, and have the assurance that nothing will separate us from the love of God, in death or in life.

Contrasted with statements within Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (Popular Belief)

1. A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.

2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.

3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.

4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.

5. Good people go to heaven when they die.

- Kathy Sides

OUTREACH

Thank you for staffing the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry in July! Many people from St. James Church worked tirelessly all month to help keep our neighbors fed. Pat Westlake said the Pantry helped about 45 families each week this summer. Thanks especially to Pat and Claudette Plaschka for their leadership. At this time the pantry especially needs juice, fruit, tuna fish, and pork and beans. 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.

Thank you for donating backpacks and school supplies for Habitat kids! They have new homes and, thanks to you, they are going off to their new school year very well prepared.

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

Episcopal Relief and Development continues to help heal a hurting world. With hurricane season entering its peak period, the needs will continue in this country as well as around the world. If you are up-to-date with your pledge to St. James and you want to put your faith into further action, you may send a check, payable to "Episcopal Relief and Development", to P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield VA 22116-7058.

- Sue Krall

COMMUNITY 9/11 OBSERVANCE

The St. James Fire Department is holding a 9/11 Memorial at the fire house south of Edgewood Avenue in St. James at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11. All are invited to attend.

LIFE LINE HEALTH SCREENING

St. James Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on October 1. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heartbeat, which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package, which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60 - 90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441, or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

LUNCH BUNCH

On Tuesday, September 24, at 12:30 p.m., the Lunch Bunch will gather at Sun Dried Tomato Restaurant on Smithtown Blvd. in Nesconset (across from the library). All parishioners are invited to enjoy the food and fellowship. Contact Fjeril Deal at 724-3720 to make your reservation.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Thomas LaMano has transferred to University of North Carolina in Wilmington this fall to attend their Pharmacy program.

Lauren Tarantino has transferred to SUNY Stony Brook to continue her studies in secondary Math education.

Leah Tarantino has begun her studies towards a Master's Degree at SUNY Stony Brook this fall.

We wish them, as well as Kristina Euler, Alexandra Orlich and Lindsay Petschauer, who are starting their freshman year university studies, and all our other students much success and happiness as they embark on this year's school term.

Rebekah Sides is grateful for our prayers and support this summer during the two months she was at Casa Benabé Orphanage in Guatamala City. As she begins her senior year at Wheaton College (IL), she writes:

“The transition back to the States has been bizarre and more difficult than I expected. I often find *lo siento* or *perdón* popping out of my mouth when I bump into people in the airport, cafeteria, or shopping mall...

In retrospect, I realize that although I learned treasured lessons this summer, I return to

America with more questions than answers. I have seen the emotional and psychological effects of poverty. I have experienced the global church (well, another part of it, at least), I have furthered my awareness of just how BIG our God is, and I have discovered the discomfort and wonderment of other-culture-immersion. I come back to America with different eyes, and yet it is hard to identify what exactly has changed. I have unexpectedly grown to love our country more, but I simultaneously grapple with the reality of having so much, we complain far too often...

Ironically though, my experience in Guatemala has prepared me for the difficulties of returning home. The Lord consistently taught me the importance of leaning on Him above my understanding. He tangibly showed me that faith is being certain of what we **do not see**. God didn't promise me understanding. He didn't promise me sight, at least on earth. But he asks me to have faith and trust in him, even when things don't make sense. I have learned to 'just go with it' in ways I never seemed able before; so as I walk into my senior year at Wheaton, although some things are dreadfully unclear, I know I can trust my trustworthy Dad, Savior, Lord and King."

For Rebekah's full reflections, see <http://rebekahsides.blogspot.com/>

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 2 **Labor Day** - office closed
- 3 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.

- 5 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Kick-Off Sunday with Ministry Fair following 9:30 a.m. service
- 9 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 12 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Confirmation 11 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, Massapequa
- 15 Holy Eucharist I 8:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation Classes
- 16 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 19 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 **Parish Barbeque**
- 22 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 23 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Knitters' group 10:30 a.m.
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 26 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 30 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jack Schultheis
Ernie Harders
Bob Wagner
Louise Harders
Nancy Petschauer
Lil Moleti
Doug Dahlgard
Art Strassle
Maggie Dineen
Rhiannon Jeffrey
Linda Misa
Lisa Scott
Lani Wille
Charlie Kreussling

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Steven & Kathy Sides
Ernie & Louise Harders
Tony & Joan Mercep
Art & Joan Strassle
Chris & Kathy Mauro
Kevin & Danielle Dineen
Peter & Alexis Cahill