

St. James' E-pistle

January 29, 2016

Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

Thank you for your attendance last Sunday at the Annual Meeting. It is so important to keep up with what is going on in our collective ministry and what is needed to continue in faith.

And what is this faith in which we are continuing?

It is the faith that all things come from God who loves us like a father. It is the faith that God's love for us supersedes all else, all judgement, all punishment, all condemnation, all shame and at the same time all pride.

Our faith is that we are united by God's love, and that this unity is more powerful than all doctrine or party spirit. This is one reason the Hyde Park Association of Churches each year hosts its Service of Prayer for Christian Unity. So we can strengthen our resolve to recognize Christ in each other, to work together for justice and peace. So we can enjoy the love of God in its many colors and shapes.

The service is this Saturday at 5:00 PM at St. James' Chapel.

This morning at bible study, our conversation drifted to the story of elephant and the blind men. I'm sure you know it, but just in case: Six blind men were asked to touch an elephant (none had ever heard of an elephant before), then tell what an elephant was like.

The first touched the trunk and said, "Clearly, the elephant is like a thick, winding snake."

The second touched the tusk and said, "Ah, the elephant is like a big, sharp spear!"

The third touched an ear and said, "No! The elephant is like a giant leaf."

The fourth touched a leg and proclaimed that, "The elephant is like a tree trunk."

The fifth touched the elephant's side and said, "Is it not obvious that the elephant is like a wall?"

Finally, the sixth touched the tail and said, "You are all wrong. The elephant is like a strong rope."

Each of the blind men was right in what they described, but they only got part of the picture. Each one of them was missing crucial information. That's how we are in church a lot of the time. We know we only have part of the picture when it comes to God, but we insist that everyone else has it wrong. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity asks Christians recognize

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their own limited view - and the beauty of other traditions, all of which, put together, give us a much better realization of who God is.

So join us Saturday to celebrate our unity - but unity as expressed in wondrous diversity.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

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The News of the Church

Thanks, Men: Many thanks to the men of the parish who spent Saturday morning cleaning the kitchen. As they finished their work, they realized it would take another round of cleaning by the end of the Lenten Breakfasts. But they were up for it!

Lenten Meditations: Still looking for just a few more meditations! So if you haven't signed up for a meditation yet, please contact Fr. Chuck! I need to have them all in by Friday, February 5.

Lenten Breakfast Sign-Up: If you would like to be part of that fun and jolly crowd of cooks and cleaners for the Lenten Breakfasts, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Just put your name down for a date, and show up!

Service of Prayer for Christian Unity: Help us pray for unity within our faith. Join representatives from several different local churches as we pray together in an ecumenical service at St. James' Chapel. It's not a long service, but the impact can have a long, positive reach. The service is on Saturday, January 30, at 5:00 PM.

Death Class: Back by popular demand, "Remember That You Are Dust." A few years ago, we held a class on preparing for death. It touched on the spirituality of it, legal ramifications, practical considerations at the funeral home, and how to plan your own (or anyone's) funeral. The classes are set to be Wednesday nights, February 24, March 2, 9, and 16. At the moment, the March 9 class's presenter is still TBD, but everything else is sewed up, and progress is being made for the 9th! A sign-up sheet is available.

PLEASE PLEDGE! You received a pledge card back in November, and we thank you if you have filled out and returned your card already. However, many have not yet done so, and we need you! Whether you pledge a lot or a little, it is of vital importance that every household pledge. I would desperately love to see 100% of the parish pledging. Kids can pledge with a special children's pledge card - no amount is too small. The main thing is that each of us steps up and says, "I Want to Be Part of God's Life Here!"

Youth Group to Special Olympics: The Youth of St. James' will be volunteers on February 20 for the Special Olympics. Please cheer for them as they cheer on some very special athletes. If you have not signed up to be part of it but would like to, please contact Fr. Chuck as soon as possible.

Ash Wednesday Services: Ash Wednesday begins the holy season of Lent with the Imposition of Ashes, a reminder that we are all mortal. Imposition of Ashes will be offered at 6:30 AM, 10:00 AM, and 7:00 PM. Please make every effort to start your Lent well with this simply but powerful sign.

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Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast



A hearty fresh cooked breakfast!

Your choice of:

**Pancakes (Regular, chocolate chip or blueberry) Scrambled Eggs ~ Sausage or Bacon
Hash browns ~ Orange juice
Coffee or Tea**



Where: St. James Church

Rt. 9 Hyde Park

When: Saturday, February 13, 2016

Time: 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Cost: \$8.00 per adult ticket

\$6.00 per child ticket

**SCOUTS: Please return extra tickets and money the morning of the breakfast.
If you need extra tickets please contact Wendy Cooper @ wjcooper@gmail.com**

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 4, 2014
6:00 PM



St. James' Parish Hall

All are Welcome

Kids! Join in on Fr. Chuck's Pancake Decorating Extravaganza!

FREE To All - No Admission Fee!

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The News of the Diocese

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Please pray for these diocesan ministries this week. If you want to check out the entire year's calendar for intercession, it's simple to find - go to <http://www.diocesenyn.org> and click under "Beliefs and Practices."

January

31 The Church of the Transfiguration, Manhattan
In gratitude for the ministry of the Rt. Rev. Andrew St. John upon his retirement

February

1 St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery, Manhattan
2 In gratitude for the ministry of the Rt. Rev. Andrew M. L. Dietsche on the anniversary
of his installation as the 16th Bishop of New York 3 Union Theological Seminary
3 Union Theological Seminary
4 Calvary-St. George's, Manhattan
5 Christ Church, Sparkill
6 The Bishop's Staff

Praying For Peace Everywhere:

Let us continue to light a candle for peace in the Holy Land - and everywhere. Prayer is our most potent antidote to hatred.

1. Candle for Peace

Please also light a candle on Fridays - holy to both faiths - for Peace

Let us Light Candles for Peace

Two mothers, one plea:

Now, more than ever, during these days of so much crying,
on the day that is sacred to both our religions, Friday, Sabbath Eve

Let us light a candle in every home - for peace:

A candle to illuminate our future, face to face,

A candle across borders, beyond fear.

From our family homes and houses of worship

Let us light each other up,

Let these candles be a lighthouse to our spirit

Until we all arrive at the sanctuary of peace.

2. The Mothers Prayer:

God of Life:

You who heals the broken hearted, binding up our wounds.

Please hear this prayer of mothers.

You did not create us to kill each other

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Nor to live in fear or rage or hatred in your world. You created us so that we allow each other to sustain Your Name in this world:

Your name is Life, your name is Peace.

For these I weep, my eye sheds water:

For our children crying in the night,

For parents holding infants, despair and darkness in their hearts.

For a gate that is closing – who will rise to open it before the day is gone?

With my tears and with my constant prayers, With the tears of all women deeply pained at these harsh times

I raise my hands to you in supplication: Please God have mercy on us.

Hear our voice that we not despair That we will witness life with each other, That we have mercy one for another, That we share sorrow one with the other, That we hope, together, one for another.

Inscribe our lives in the book of Life

For Your sake, our God of Life Let us choose Life.

For You are Peace, Your world is Peace and all that is Yours is Peace,

May this be your will

And let us say Amen.

*Sheikha Ibtisam Mahameed and Rabba Tamar Elad-Appelbaum
English Translation Amichai Lau-Lavie*

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Susie Buhalis, Mariel Carter, Joann Clark, Michael Day, Dottie Drake, Ross Eames, Jr., Linkin Ewalt, Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Jack Gordy, Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Barbara Knakal, Ashley Konyn, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Rev. Tim Millard, Charles Pardee (husband of Sally), Clifford Plass, Gerald Plass, Grace Plass, Linda Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, John Ross, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Marguerite Spratt, Janice Syedullah, Tracy, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, Cliff Wells and Shawn Wheeler.

Schedules

A Note about Schedules: The names you see below are those listed on their respective schedules. There are often times when, due to sickness or travel, substitutes are asked to fill in or trade positions. This will probably NOT be reflected in the lists below—so, if there is an inconsistency between what you see here and what you see on Sunday, that is alright.

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Birthdays (this past week):	Deirdre Mae Micker; Tanya S. Hall; Dalton M. Slegel; Suzanne Glancey; John Seagren, Jr.; Kasey Gaulin
Birthdays (next week):	David Wardell, Jr.; Andrew Gausepohl
Acolytes:	January 31: Nancy, Kirstin and Deirdre Mae February 7: Russell, John Beyer and Anna
Altar Guild:	January 31: Team Number III February 7: Team Number III
8 a.m. Readers:	January 31: Angela Henry and Sue DeLorenzo February 7: Debbie Belding and Jim Smyth
10 a.m. Readers:	January 31: Regina Ardini and Justin Bohlmann February 7: Donna Beyer and Deirdre Mae Micker
Ushers:	January 31: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher February 7: Donna and John Beyer
Pledge Clerks:	January 31: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher February 7: Joanne Lown and Dean Caswell
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	January 31: Kirstin Horn; Austen and Audrey Horne; Kim Illuminate February 7: Jada and Hope Jennings; Pat Keeffe; Jack and Suzann and Brian and Faith,
Coffee Hour Hosts:	January 31: Boy Scouts Troop 80 February 7: Audrey Horne

This Week's Lectionary

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

NOTE: Audio recordings of some sermons are now available on St. James' website, www.stjameshydepark.org Look under "Worship"

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Sermon Preached on
Third Sunday after the Epiphany
(January 24, 2016)

"Annual Report"

The Sermon last week was replaced with the Rector's Annual Report. Copies of it were made available at the meeting. Because of its length, it is not reprinted here. However, if you would like a copy e-mailed to you directly, Fr. Chuck will be happy to do so - simply e-mail him at revckramer@gmail.com, and he will send it to you right away.