

# St. James' E-pistle

## October 2, 2015

### Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

I spent Tuesday night with actors, guides, parking personnel and organizers of the Graveyard Tours, trying to figure out how to do our supposed dress rehearsal in the rain. Weather reports were for heavy rain both nights of our opening weekend. It was chaotic, and when I went to sleep, it was with a sense of dread.

Why are we doing this? I asked myself. There are easier ways to make money.

Indeed, there are. But then, there are easier ways to make more money than being a priest - or a teacher as one of my sons wants to be. Or being any number of things that bring joy and fulfillment if not padded bank accounts.

And the reason we do the Graveyard Tours is not solely for money (though we DO want that, too). We do them because they allow us to not only explore our history but to use it to bring the Good News of Christ - if ever so subtle. We do it because it allows us our creative expression and because it gives our parish a profile in the community. It tells not only our story but the story of God at work in the world.

So, while money is an undeniable element to the tours, it is not our first priority.

On the other hand, when we hold meetings to plan the tours, we necessarily have a different set of priorities - spending priorities. We have to decide how much money we're willing to spend - and on what? How much do we pay the actors? Do we rent a golf cart for the mobility challenged? What do we spend on costumes to make them authentic?

And somewhere in the mix, those two sets of priorities come together. What we want the community to get out of the tours (why we do them) and how we get there financially must work hand in hand, or the tours simply fail.

In the church, we know our general priorities. In a sense, they have never changed. We are here to know Christ and to make him known to the world. We are here to heal and grow our own souls so that we can not only bask in the loving embrace of God in this life and the next but also share that love.

But to get there, we have to know what our spending priorities are. What are we legally required to spend? How much do we spend on keeping the buildings upright? How much do we pay clergy? Do we really want to pay to send youth on a mission trip? Should we get that new Sunday School curriculum? How much do we devote to care for the poor?

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Just like in everything else, our overall priorities and our spending priorities have to meet somewhere in the middle if we are going to accomplish anything.

So... What ARE our spending priorities at St. James'? Better yet, what do you think our spending priorities ought to be? Each year, we hand out a copy of the annual budget. This reflects the priorities we've set for that year. It's kind of mind-boggling to look at if you're not a numbers person, but if you wade through it, you can see what we have found to be important.

Take a look at it some time. And then think about what your priorities for this parish are. This is, after all, your church - our church - the Body of Christ in Hyde Park entrusted to our stewardship. Think about what we ought to be spending our precious resources on.

I know that when I do this, I come up with a list a mile long - far more ambitious than we could ever do in ten years, let alone one. I think up things that would cost more than the biggest churches could pay for or find volunteers for. But I do it anyway. Because it helps me remember that there is much to do in the world - it never ends.

Then I come back to reality. I try to figure out what is necessary, desirable and possible for us right here, right now.

So I say again, look around your church. What is the mission you want to fulfill? What is the work (liturgical, educational, outreach, spiritual) that you want to invest in? In other words, what are your priorities?

Nobody's promising that we can spend the money on anything you want. But if you haven't let me know where you think God is leading us, how can I or the Vestry know?

So drop me a line with your priorities. Even if it's not possible now, it might guide us in the future. Either way, the old saying of putting your money where your mouth is holds true. We put our money where our heart is. And it is your heart that this church wants to engage.

In Christ,

Chuck+



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### **The News of the Church**

**GRAVEYARD TOUR TICKETS ARE ON SALE:** Three tours have already sold out! Be sure to purchase your Graveyard Tour tickets by visiting our website: [www.stjameshydepark.org](http://www.stjameshydepark.org). Encourage your friends, colleagues and families to get their tickets, too! We hope that sending people directly to the church's website will make the purchasing process easier.

**Wellness Fair THIS SUNDAY:** Being held on **Saturday, October 4th** from 12-6 p.m. at the Hyde Park Farmers' Market. Please see attached flier.

**New Acolyte Alert:** Last Sunday, Bill Fenwick served at the altar for the first time! This Sunday, Breaden Hall will have that honor! Congratulations, boys!

**Bless Your Pets—THIS SUNDAY:** This year, the Feast of St. Francis - **October 4** - falls on a Sunday. We don't want to interfere with regular worship, but we also don't want to ignore the patron saint of animals and the environment, so at **3:00 p.m.** on Sunday, we will hold a simple service to thank God for our pets and all the animals of the world. Bring your pets, bring your friends, bring yourselves!

**Pledge Clerk Desperately NEEDED!** We really need a Pledge Clerk to work with one of our experienced clerks. We'll show you the ropes. You would serve about once a month. Please consider stepping up to the pledge clerk plate!

**Reading Program Gets Go-Ahead:** It looks like we have a tentative start date of **October 15th** for our revived Reading Adventures at North Park Elementary School. The plan is to start with the kids at 3:30 pm and finish by 4:30. Would you like to be a Reading Adventures volunteer? Please see Anna Marie Pitcher or Fr. Chuck. Please be aware that the Diocese of New York now requires an online training on sexual abuse prevention for volunteers who work with children. Please see Fr. Chuck about that.

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**Bible Study Reading-1 Kings:** We've had our second session in the book 1 Kings, so if you don't know anything about it, now's your chance! It meets every Thursday at 11:00 AM. Open to everyone.

**New Parish Directory:** We have delayed distribution of the new parish directory until next Sunday (October 11<sup>th</sup>) to accommodate some last minute requests for changes. The final version will be printed next week based on information that we have as of Wednesday evening. A draft of the directory (based on information on hand at the time of preparation of this E-pistle) will be available for your review in the Narthex.

Please direct any final changes by e-mail to Brian Rance at [brian.rance@freshfields.com](mailto:brian.rance@freshfields.com). After printing, we will periodically update the underlying database to ensure that future editions will have accurate information.

**Tables for you:** If you would like to have one or more of our old tables, you can have them! We recommend a donation of \$10 per table, but if that's too much, give what you want and take what you want. There are 16 tables in all.

**WEEDERS WANTED:** Thank you to everyone who volunteered to take a garden or path assignment for weeding in an effort to "put our best foot forward." We still need 3 or 4 more volunteers. You will choose a garden or path to adopt and be responsible for its weeding and upkeep throughout the year. You will be able to work on it on your own schedule (There will be no designated work days, just whenever it fits in with you.) It probably should only need your attention three or four times a year (if that). Bring a friend. If you can help fill that schedule, please call Sue DeLorenzo at 266-3196 or Carol Vinehall at 849-1914. We'd really appreciate your help. Thanks again.

**Get Your Coffee Hour On!** Would you like to clear out your cupboard of cookies? Feel like baking a cake or a sheet of brownies? Find a good 'buy one, get one free' deal on baked goods at stop n shop? If you can donate some goodies and place them on the table in the parish hall before church, you too can be a coffee hour volunteer-- that's all it takes! So please, fill up all those empty slots thru December on the clipboard in the narthex & we'll handle the rest. P.S. Of course, if you feel called to get more involved, just ask Saira or any other coffee team member how you can help!



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**Looking Ahead to Thanksgiving Dinner:** Even though we still have much to do in October, plans are being made for Thanksgiving. The Community of Hyde Park - including churches, chamber of commerce, schools and other organizations are teaming up to host a community-wide Thanksgiving Dinner at the New York State Park Headquarters in Staatsburg. The dinner will be on Sunday, **November 22 at 5:30 PM**. There will be a ticket price, though there will also be many tickets available for those who cannot afford it.

St. James' has been asked to bake between 20 and 30 apple pies for the dinner. I'm still waiting to hear how the supplies will be provided, but our main concern right now is getting a few bakers who are willing to bake - we can do it either at homes or all together at the church. Let Fr. Chuck know!

**Thanksgiving Service:** Notice is also given that on **Tuesday, November 24**, the community churches will hold their annual Community Thanksgiving Service. This year, it will be at St. James' Chapel, which hosts three other churches along with our own occasional services. If you would like to participate in the service, please let Fr. Chuck know.

**Take Some Business Cards:** Share your church with your friends and neighbors with a St. James' Business Card. You never know when you have the opportunity to help someone find their way to God.

## **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.diocesenyc.org> and click under "Beliefs and Practices."

- 4 On the feast day for Francis of Assisi we pray for all who work on behalf of the poor.
- 5 The Church of St. Luke in the Fields, Manhattan
- 6 Christ Church, Riverdale, The Bronx
- 7 The Spirituality Committee of the Diocese
- 8 Christ Church, New Brighton, Staten Island
- 9 The Church of St. Barnabas, Ardsley
- 10 Christ Church, Patterson

### **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**

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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

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*



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**Please keep the following people in your prayers:**

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Susie Buhalis, Sharyn Burke, 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.*

Birthdays (this past week):	Joe Cotton, John Beyer, Austin Horne, Bryanna Burkhardt, Daniel Ogden, Aaron Burkhardt, Justin Bohlmann and Ann Dingee
Birthdays (next week):	Jada Jennings and John Bohlmann and Betsy Wardell
Acolytes:	October 4: Jasmine Thatcher, Jaylen Thatcher and Bill Fenwick October 11: Nancy Montero, Kirstin Horn and Deirdre Mae Micker
Altar Guild:	October 4: Team Number I October 11: Team Number II
8 a.m. Readers:	October 4: Deb Belding and Paul Littlefield October 11: Angela Henry and Grant Ferris
10 a.m. Readers:	October 4: Russell Urban-Mead and Maggie McNamara October 11: Donna Beyer and Bobbie Wells
Ushers:	October 4: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher October 11: Donna and John Beyer
Pledge Clerks:	October 4: Janet Bright and Joanne Lown

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October 11: Paul Littlefield

Parish Cycle of Prayer: October 4: Donna Coffman- Tracy, Gwen Cookingham and Kristin Cotton  
October 11: Kathleen Craft, Charlotte DeGroff and Sue DeLorenzo

Coffee Hour Hosts: October 4: Audrey Horne and Brian Rance  
October 11: Jodi Triola, Ross & Connie Eames and Pat Rooney

### **This Week's Lectionary**

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalm 26

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

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

Sermon Preached on  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
(September 27, 2015)

Preached by The Rev. Canon K. Jeanne Person

(No recording or transcript is available)



# Hyde Park Wellness Fair



**To benefit the Hyde Park Community Garden**

**Sunday, October 4 from 12-6 pm  
Rain or Shine**

**At the Hyde Park Food Festival**

**(on Rte. 9 in Hyde Park where the Farmer's Market is -  
the parking lot where Hyde Park Motors used to be)**

**Free Admission!**

**Vendors! Food! Music!**

**~ Vendor space \$20/table ~**

**For further information  
call 229-2820 or 229-0153**