

# St. James' E-pistle

## November 11, 2016

### **Pulpit Notes**

*"Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them."*

Brothers and Sisters:

The election has come and gone. For many - for half the nation in fact - it did not go as hoped. For others, it was what they hoped for. And for others still, they don't know what to make of it. None of us knows how it will all play out in the end, but for Christians, it's important to remember that this is not our end game. It is important to take part in the councils of the nation, of course. I consider it a sacred duty to vote, to contribute to the community.

At the same time, my research into the history of this nation especially for the Graveyard Tours, the Fireside Chats and other speaking engagements I've taken part in this year, have shown me one thing. We have never been a unified country. From our inception, we have been - to a greater or lesser degree - just on this side of total breakup. The Civil War was an extreme moment when it all boiled over, but the divisions have never gone away.

That means that, whether Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton had won, there would still be division. No one person has ever changed that. No one person has the power to destroy or build up, and we must not fool ourselves into thinking either. Jesus hints at this in this Sunday's gospel when he tells his followers, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them."

In those days, there were many who claimed they would free Israel from Roman rule or knew the secret to divine knowledge or holiness. They were often charlatans. Others proclaimed doom, gloom and resignation. Either way, they distracted from what mattered.

And what mattered to Jesus? Same as always. Proclaiming the good news of God's love for all. Caring (and advocating) for the marginalized. Hospitality. Healing. This was what he called them to - despite persecution, fear, and temptations to chase after false messiahs.

Perhaps that's our challenge in these days following the election. Whether you cheered or wept, it's important to remember who our one true leader is: Jesus Christ. It's important for us to remember our one true mission: reconciliation of the world with God. We can't do that by putting our trust - or all our hopes - in any one person. In turmoil or calm, we know our mission: To worship God and to reach out to our neighbors in love. Yes, that means those who have different political views, but it especially means those who have no voice.

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As an example of that, this past week there has been considerable controversy over Church World Services bringing Syrian refugees into Dutchess County (on a very small basis). Many oppose it because they are a different religion, different culture, potentially dangerous. This is truly a long-suffering, beaten down population. Our work is to care for them, our brothers and sisters in need.

So let us put our hope in Christ, not in any person. Let us follow Christ, not the world. Let us not fear, but speak and act with grace and wisdom which comes from the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

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

**Outreach Meeting:** There will be an Outreach Committee meeting on **Wednesday, November 16** at 6:30 PM.

**Pageant Sign Up Sheet:** Believe it or not, we are already making plans for the 2017 Epiphany Pageant. The Pageant will be held on **Friday, January 6** at 7:00 PM. But we need actors! So look for a signup sheet in the Narthex starting this Sunday. We have speaking roles, non-speaking roles, and stage crew positions. All ages are welcome and encouraged!

**Stewardship Gatherings for All:** If you have not yet received your invitation to one of three Stewardship Gatherings, you will soon. The Vestry is hosting a series of three meetings where we will share what we have learned about our ministry here at St. James' - especially through a process called the Mutual Ministry Review - and present some plans born out of that meeting. We will also get your input into what's working for you at St. James', what needs work, and what your ministry-related dreams are for this parish.

Because life is busy, our plan is to keep these meetings to a one-hour limit. Each meeting will start at **7:00 PM at the Chapel**. The evenings for these gatherings are **Friday, November 11, Saturday, November 19, and Friday, December 9**.

The Vestry is holding these meetings because it feels it's important for us all to work together as we move forward in our collective ministry. After these meetings, the Vestry will gather the information and make a presentation (with recommendations) at the Annual Meeting in January.

**When you get your invitation, please RSVP as soon as possible, and please make every effort to attend. It's that important.**

**DONATE YOUR iPad!** Please consider donating your old iPad - or any old tablet that can read a PDF file - to St. James'. We would like to have three or four tablets so we can download the digital bulletin onto them and let guests (or parishioners, of course) use them. This is especially helpful to those who are unfamiliar with the liturgy and all the books we use. You should erase everything on it, of course - all we need is a PDF reader and a browser (to download the information). Thanks!

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**Looking for More Bible Verses (Thanks - and want More!):** Many thanks to all of you who have offered your favorite bible verses! We are looking for more for couple of scripturally based projects. Send them in!

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**Troop 80 Fundraisers:** Join Boy Scout Troop 80, which St. James' sponsors, for a series of fundraisers.

On **November 12 and December 3**, the Troop will hold Pancake Breakfasts at the St. James' Parish Hall. **Times are 8:00 to 11:00** - \$8 at the door.

The Pancake Breakfasts are to help raise funds for the scouts that are going to Sea Base High Adventure Scout Camp this July.

**Graveyard Tour Wrap-Up Meeting:** On **Friday, November 18**, at 7:00 PM the Graveyard Committee will hold its wrap-up meeting at which it will debrief this past, successful, season and start making plans for next year.

**Nursery School Holiday Craft Fair:** Come support our Nursery School and do your Christmas Shopping on **November 19**. You can find all sorts of gifts and goodies from vendors of our region.

**Hyde Park Thanksgiving Dinner:** The second annual "Hyde Park Thanksgiving Dinner - A Community Shares Appreciation" is **November 20**.

The Hyde Park Thanksgiving Dinner is a community event made possible by joint efforts of local volunteers and donors (local church leaders and parishioners, residents, organizations and businesses) contributing their time, resources and money.

Tickets are already sold out! But the Dinner is still looking for more volunteers. You can learn more, and you can sign up to volunteer at [www.comservhp.com](http://www.comservhp.com).

**Community Thanksgiving Service:** The Annual Community Thanksgiving Service will take place this year on **Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 PM**. The location is Regina Coeli, and the preacher is Rev. Jay Cookingham of the Bridge Builders Community Church. We hope to have a large representation from St. James'!

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**Newcomers Reception:** Been at St. James' for a year or less? If so, you're invited to a Newcomers Reception on **Friday, December 2 at 7:00 pm**. This reception gives you a chance to meet more established parishioners, ask questions, and have a chance to learn what opportunities are available to get involved. Ask Fr. Chuck or a Vestry member for more information.

**The Bishop is Coming!** Mark your calendars. On **Sunday, December 4**, Bishop Allen Shin will come to St. James' to confirm, receive, reaffirm faith and preach. Please be on hand to welcome our Suffragan Bishop and show him real St. James' hospitality!

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## HELP WANTED

### URGENT NEED for BAKERS & CANDY MAKERS

*Pull out your best holiday recipes and fire up your oven. We are asking you to contribute 10 dozen (2-3 batches) of your favorite holiday cookies or your tastiest candy treat for the Holiday Cookie and Candy Sale on Dec. 10.*

*Proceeds will be used to provide a holiday dinner and gifts to 23 less fortunate Hyde Park families.*

*Please sign the clipboard in the narthex indicating what you are willing to contribute. If you have any questions, please call Sue at 266-3196. Thanking you in advance for your help.*



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### **Committees That Can Use Your Help**

**Stewardship:** The Stewardship Committee is a group that helps coordinate our fall pledge drive as well as keep the concept of Christian Stewardship in our consciousness throughout the year. Never a large committee, the group of typically three members has been quite helpful. However, this year two of the three members have had to leave the group; one to become a Sunday School teacher, and the other because she has to leave the parish for the next few years.

So listen to your heart. Is God calling you to this ministry? Though it is not a heavy burden, the impact of the committee is huge on the ministry of St. James'.

**Churchyard Committee:** Our churchyard committee wants you. The committee oversees one of the most historic graveyards in the region, and is responsible for making sure it is kept up. It handles the sale and digging of graves as well. If you value our churchyard and want it to continue to be a source of comfort whose loved ones rest here as well as historical interest to those who visit, please join our committee. If you're interested, you can contact Carol Vinal at vinehall3@aol.com.

**Episcopal Election Toolkit Available:** It is the official position of the Episcopal Church to encourage all eligible members to vote in every election. We see it not only as part of our civic duty but as part of our collective life of faith. If we are not engaged in the community, then we are withdrawn - which is not the example our Lord showed.

To encourage enthusiastic and informed participation in the election process, the Episcopal Church has published an Election "Toolkit" with information such as what representatives are up for election, who your officials are, and what the issues of the day are. It includes the Episcopal Church's official position on several issues, which may be helpful in your deliberations.

The most important thing in the church's eyes, however, is that we all go out and vote! Here's a link to the "Toolkit":

<http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal/EpiscopaliansVote>

### **Spiritual / educational websites to deepen your faith:**

- Acts 8 Movement
- GrowChristians
- Episcopal Cafe (a favorite)

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- The Slate Project (not affiliated with Slate magazine)
- Virtual Abbey
- Second Life Church (gives you a virtual church experience if you're into that sort of thing. Fun to look at maybe).
- Inward/Outward (daily meditations sent to your e-mail)
- "Edge of Enclosure" (weekly lectionary-based blog post)
- The Celtic Christian Tradition (via Facebook)
- Anne Lamott (via Facebook)
- Jan Richardson - <http://paintedprayerbook.com> (Especially good for those grieving or interested in women's spirituality.)



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November 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Diocesan Convention	5 Diocesan Convention
6 FALL BACK! (Daylight Savings ends)  All Saints Observation	7	8 Election Day  Buildings & Grounds meeting	9	10	11 Veterans Day  7 PM Stewardship Gathering	12 Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast
13	14	15 7PM Vestry	16	17	18 6:45 PM Graveyard Tour Wrap-up Meeting	19 8AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Altar Guild 7PM Stewardship Gathering Nursery School Craft Fair
20 Thanksgiving Basket distribution  Community Thanksgiving Dinner	21	22 7 PM Community Thanksgiving Service (@ Regina Coeli)	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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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."

- 13 Christ Church, Poughkeepsie
- 14 St. Philip's Church in the Highlands, Garrison
- 15 All Saints' Church, Valley Cottage
- 16 Sisters of St. Margaret
- 17 St. Margaret's Church, Staatsburg
- 18 Lay Readers of the Diocese
- 19 Diocesan Committee for Campus Ministry

### **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

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:

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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, Helen Braun, Susie Buhalis, Mariel Carter, Joann Clark, Michael Day, Dee, Dottie Drake, Ross Eames, Jr., Linkin Ewalt, Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Jack Gordy, Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Rev. Tim Millard, Skye O'Halloran, Charles Pardee, Clifford Plass, Grace Plass, Linda Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), John Ross, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Carl Smith, 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): August ("Bud") Oetjen, Riley Hall and Gwendolyn Cookingham

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Birthdays (this coming week):	Margaret McNamara, Katherine Urban-Mead, Richard Ciferri and Ross Eames
Acolytes:	November 13: Team 1 November 20: Team 2 (John)
Altar Guild:	November 13: Team II November 20: Team II
8 a.m. Readers:	November 13: Debbie Belding and Sue DeLorenzo November 20: Lucille Ogden and Jim Smyth
10 a.m. Readers:	November 13: Russell Urban-Mead and Andy Hall November 20: Donna Beyer and Judy Douglass
Ushers:	November 13: Andrew and Tanya Hall November 20: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher
Pledge Clerks:	November 13: Joanne Lown and Janet Bright November 20: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	November 13: Patty Drake, Ross and Connie Eames November 20: Sylvia Erlandson
Coffee Hour Hosts:	November 13: Jodi Triola, Patty Glancey November 20: Deirdre Mae Micker, The Urban-Meads

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

Malachi 4:1-2a

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

### **This Week's Hymns**

Processional Hymn: 688 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Sequence Hymn: 562 Onward Christian Soldiers

Offertory Anthem: Bread of the World in Mercy Broken;  
Reginald Heber 1827 / John Hodges 1869/arr. Bassen 2016

Communion Hymn: 119 LEVAS Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Recessional Hymn: 344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

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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  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (All Saints' Sunday)  
(November 6, 2016)

The Rev. Michael Shafer

Because we had a guest preacher, we do not have the text of his sermon.