

# St. James' E-pistle

## November 13, 2015

### **Pulpit Notes**

Brothers and Sisters:

Thank you so much to those who attended our parish breakfast! It was a wonderful time, and from what I could hear, there were lively conversations centering on the theme - roughly speaking - of who we are as the Body of Christ. I found the event encouraging because not only were we sharing each other's company but we were actual dreaming about the path we get to walk together!

There was a good, positive feeling to it all, and for that, I am thankful.

Special thanks to Patty Glancey, Janice Syedullah and Charlotte DeGroff for heading it up. And - as always! – many, many thanks to our kitchen aficionados (If I miss anyone, I truly apologize!): Doug Belding, Deb Belding, Dean Caswell, Mike Fenwick, Jim Smyth, Mike Glancey, Bruce McIlravy.

If you did not attend the breakfast, well, your loss. But it's never too late to be part of the conversation. If you haven't gotten yours already, you will soon get a stewardship brochure with information about what it means to pledge and an attached pledge card.

You can also be part of it through the suggestion cards that were on the tables at the breakfast. We want to hear from everyone in the parish on ideas to help us worship God better, serve Christ better and live in the Holy Spirit better. We want your help in making our ministry a glory to God. That means thoughts on how we spend our time and our resources (see the budget below).

In addition to the brochure and suggestions, we have parishioners who each Sunday address the congregation to share a bit of their faith journey and St. James' role in it. It's a reminder that we are all part of each other's lives and spiritual journeys. You have to be encouraged by that!

Not to be lost in all this is why we pledge. Like a diamond, it is multifaceted. We pledge to thank God for our many blessings. We pledge so we can actively participate in God's Kingdom on earth - so we can be actors and not mere spectators. We pledge so we can remember that nothing really belongs to us - it is all God's.

And we pledge because we live in a material world with material needs; we work in an environment that requires funding - we can't do much of our work without it. The first draft, pro forma budget for next year anticipates expenses exceeding revenues by more than

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\$16,000. Those are realities of the world, and we can approach them by whittling away at expenses - usually by shrinking our ministries - or we can look to God and say, "If this is what you want us to do, we will trust you to help us find a way. And we will do our part."

These are all things we know, but life often becomes hectic, and many things scream for our attention and emotional energy, and we need reminding. Part of the gift of the church is to give us a safe place to rest from the cares of the world even as we are empowered to take them on. The peace here reminds us that even in the hustle of the world, we are called seek and serve God in every person and in every way.

As we not only forge ahead in our stewardship season but also approach that national holiday known as Thanksgiving, I would like to encourage you to review your brochure, look around you not only at the activity we so gladly engage in here but the reason - the love and presence of God in your life, in my life - and in our life together.

In Christ,

Chuck+

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### The News of the Church



**Family Movie Night:** You are invited to attend a **FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**.

We are screening the 1985 classic starring Michael J. Fox, “**Back to the Future**”. Join us, as Dr. Emmett Brown sends a teenager 30 years back into the past in a time-travelling DeLorean automobile.

**When:** **THIS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH**

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Where:** St. James' Parish Hall.



Please bring your family, friends, grandkids, cousins, etc. Parish membership is not required. Movie night is sponsored by the St. James' Sunday School. Popcorn and soft drinks are included! Bring blankets for the kids if you wish. Hope to see you there!

**Youth Group:** On Sunday afternoon, November 15<sup>th</sup>, youth members of St. James's will go to nearby Mariapolis Luminosa for a ropes/team-building course. The exact time will be announced later, but it will be early afternoon. Invite your friends - the more the merrier! We are planning other events, too, including working at the Lunch Box and a trip to the Cathedral. Stay tuned.

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**Guest Preacher:** At the request of the search committee of St. John's Church, Kingston, we will play host to the Rev. Michelle Meech, who is a candidate for rector of St. John's. She will preach so that members of their search committee can observe her in a "neutral" space.

**High School Drama:** The F. D. Roosevelt High School President's Players present this year's fall drama: MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940.

This is a mad-cap farce, with lots of laughs!

Friday Nov 13th & Saturday Nov 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the FDR Auditorium.

Tickets: \$5.00 -- at Julian's Deli, Rte 9G; or at The Shipping Place, Rte 9, Hyde Park; or at the door.

Featuring the talents of our own St. James youths - the Graveyard Tour veterans Kirstin Horn and Colleen Kornish.

**Operation Christmas Child:** The Journey to Adulthood class will be collecting items for Operation Christmas Child boxes through November 15<sup>th</sup>. You will find our collection box in the narthex. Please help us by donating small toys, school supplies and hygiene items. We will do the packing but remember, all items must be able to fit in a shoebox. Thanks for your support!

**Thanksgiving Service:** Notice is also given that on Tuesday, November 24, the community churches will hold their annual Community Thanksgiving Service at 7:00 PM. 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.

Please see the attached flier.

**Bible Study Reading 1 Kings:** We're glad to have some new members of our Thursday Bible Study - Welcome! And we want more. So join us every Thursday at 11:00 AM in the Wilks Room. We are reading I Kings.

**Convention:** On Saturday, November 14, the Diocese of New York will have its annual convention. Please pray for the clergy and lay delegates - our lay delegate is Andy Hall.

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**Come Hear Bishop Dietsche:** Bishop Dietsche will be preaching at an Ecumenical Service at St. Martin de Porres Roman Catholic Church, 118 Cedar Valley Road, Poughkeepsie on Monday evening, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Fr. Tom D'Albro has prepared a service incorporating the Pope's declaration of a year of Mercy beginning on December 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be Tiaze music and lectors from the First Evangelical Lutheran Church and from Christ Church. You are heartily invited to be part of this ecumenical event and especially to support of Bishop Dietsche's efforts in that regard.

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

- 15 The work of the Diocesan Convention
- 16 St. Thomas' Church, Armenia Union
- 17 St. Nicholas on the Hudson, New Hamburg
- 18 St. Thomas' Church, New Windsor
- 19 St. John's Memorial Church, Ellenville
- 20 Grace Church, Middleton
- 21 The Church of the Good Shepherd, Manhattan

### **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.

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### 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*

### **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.

*Pray for Sue DeLorenzo, recovering from a broken leg*

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### **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):	Gwendolyn Cookingham and Margaret McNamara
Birthdays (next week):	Katherine Urban-Mead, Richard Ciferri, Ross Eames, Audrey Horne, Dean Caswell, Janet Bright and Kathie Champion
Acolytes:	November 15: Russell Urban-Mead, John Beyer and Anna Clark November 22: Bryanna Burkhardt, Amelia McNamara and Braeden Hall
Altar Guild:	November 15: Team Number I November 22: Team Number II
8 a.m. Readers:	November 15: Deb Belding and Paul Littlefield November 22: Angela Henry and Grant Ferris
10 a.m. Readers:	November 15: Russell Urban-Mead and Andy Hall November 22: Wilma Tully and Judy Douglass
Ushers:	November 15: Andrew and Tonya Hall November 22: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher
Pledge Clerks:	November 15: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher November 22: Doug Belding and Dean Caswell
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	November 15: Sylvia Erlandson and Ann and Ray Farrell November 22: Mike, Lori and Bill Fenwick and Grant and Shirley Ferris
Coffee Hour Hosts:	November 15: Deirdre Mae Micker, Brian Rance and the Urban-Meads November 22: Saira Shahani

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

1 Samuel 1:4-20

1 Samuel 2:1-10

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Hebrews 10:11-14 15-18 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

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-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
(November 8, 2015)

### "My 2 Cents"

You know how you sometimes pick up phrases from your parents? One day you say something and realize, "I've become my father." One of those phrases for me is, "My 2 cents." As in, "Here's my two cents on that topic..." It means it's just my opinion which may be of little value - but you never know...

Little things may have great value after all - a lesson I was taught from an early age. It reminds me of two stories that I also heard a lot in my childhood:

The first was "Horton Hears a Who": You know, the story of the elephant who - because of his giant ears - was the only animal who could hear the tiny Who's who lived on a dust speck. All the other animals of the forest thought Horton had gone crazy talking to a dust speck, so they decided to get rid of it. But in that moment of peril for the Who's, just when the big animals were going to boil that dust speck, the tiniest Who of all made a yap, and that broke through to the big animals who finally heard.

The moral? Even the smallest person can make a huge difference - in fact, all the difference in the end.

The second story I heard a lot was the story of the Starfish. A man walked along a beach that was littered with stranded starfish. As he walked, he threw some of the starfish back into the sea. A passerby mocked him saying, "Why bother doing that? You can't even get close to throwing them all back in, so you're making no difference whatsoever." The man picked up a starfish, threw it into the sea and said, "Made a difference to that one."

The moral, of course, is, your action may not be a huge thing, but it does matter, even if it's just to one person.

Both of these stories show that small can still have a big impact. The littlest thing can change the world. And even if you only impact one person, that tiny impact is important.

Which brings us to today's gospel. You know, everyone's putting their sacrifices in the treasury box - their pledges, basically. And she puts in two copper coins - 2 cents essentially.

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But her story is different from Horton or the starfish, isn't it? Because her two cents didn't make a difference. They didn't change anything at the temple, did they? It was such a small amount that it made absolutely no difference to the treasury.

And you couldn't really say that her offering changed even one person's life because, aside from Jesus and the disciples who just happened to be there, nobody even knew about it.

And yet...maybe her 2 cents did have an impact after all.

Jesus says that it certainly affected HER life because giving so much of herself - in fact, ALL of herself - made her free to be closer to God. She understood better than most that what is entrusted to her does not belong to her - it is from God and belongs to God.

Her offering was her way of saying, God isn't just a social obligation to me. God is my life.

That tiny offering was powerful to her if nobody else.

At the same time, her little gift DID make a lasting impact on others. That's because Jesus used her offering as a lesson for the disciples, which they took to heart. And they, in turn, taught their followers on down through the centuries - it is a lesson that we are still learning to this day.

And what is the lesson?

That we do what we can, and it is enough if it comes from our love.

Ruth was an example of that in our Old Testament reading. Ruth loved her mother-in-law Naomi so much that even though Ruth was not Jewish, she left her home to accompany her mother-in-law back to Israel. She went to a foreign land - a land that did not take kindly to immigrants, and worked the fields as a foreign beggar - out of love.

Yet despite her lowly and distrusted status, she became the great-grandmother of King David.

In this holy season of Stewardship, when we think about how much we give, let's think about that widow and her 2 cents. What we give - the amount - is irrelevant if it comes from deep, abiding love for God and God's people.

Whether it's 2 cents, or a Who, or a starfish, it may not be much, but if it's offered, or yapped, or rescued in a spirit of love, it is enough. Amen.

# COMMUNITY

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE



**The Hyde Park Association of Churches**  
invites you to

**A Community Service of Thanksgiving**  
**Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 PM**

St. James' Chapel  
10 East Market Street  
Hyde Park, NY 12538

**EVERYONE IS INVITED AND WELCOME!**