

St. James' E-pistle

November 4, 2016

Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

It's time to celebrate! No, not because my Cubbies finally won the World Series, as nice as that is. No, not because it happened to fall on the 108th birthday of our own Anna Mae Swenson - as poetic and remarkable as that is.

Rather, this Sunday we are celebrating the Feast of All Saints. Sure, that actually took place on November 1, but in the church's calendar, a major feast can be observed on the next Sunday. So, we will wear white and sing "For All the Saints" and renew our baptismal vows.

But most importantly, we will remind ourselves that we are part of the Saints. That all God's children are counted among the saints - and in our current climate of division and distrust, that's a hard thing to remember.

The Gospel for Sunday tells us that we are to love our enemies, turn the other cheek, give to the poor, feed the hungry (see our Garden news!), and bless those who curse us. Because that is the work of the saints.

You will notice that Jesus never assumes that our being kind, loving and forgiving will guarantee that others will see the error of their ways and become equally loving thanks to our good examples. He doesn't worry about that. His command to be loving and giving regardless of what others do, of how they treat you. To see them, in short, as God's saints, too.

Of course, whenever we get to this discussion, people object. They say, "What if I'm being abused?" Then yes, certainly seek help. Absolutely. You are a child of God, too, after all and deserve to be safe and healthy. But nevertheless, pray for those who abuse you.

Others object that if someone threatens their family, they will retaliate in order to protect their own. For what it's worth, I would also work my hardest to make sure my family is safe. But such arguments often sound like excuses to objectify the other - to make them less than human so that we can do to them what they're doing to us (or we think they might do to us). It misses the point Jesus is making - to be a saint means to love even those who harm us.

The point of All Saints is that we are called to live as saints. And the saints generally are not thought of as very practical people. The world considers them naive at best. That's always the challenge for one who wants to follow Christ - how do we live in the world without being of the world? In this election cycle, I have witnessed fellow Christians curse each other, dissolve friendships and even threaten each other. There have been acts of violence (as recently as yesterday, a church was burned).

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Let us renew our vows - as Saints of God - "to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself" and to "respect the dignity of every human being."

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

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The News of the Church

Notes from the Garden Season # 5 Recap

We had experienced both wonder and sadness at the Hyde Park Community Garden this season.

The wonderful news is that we had our permanent deer and woodchuck prevention fence installed in the middle of May. This has proven to be what was certainly needed to keep out those unwanted critters and provide our donation area, as well as the 21 leased plots, with the opportunity to grow and harvest their individual crops.

Through our dedicated group of volunteers, we donated over a ton of assorted vegetables, fruits and even flowers weekly in season (mid May-mid October) to the Hyde Park Food Pantry, Hyde Park Meals on Wheels and even some excess to Poughkeepsie at the Lunch Box. We set a record of 11 weeks of tomatoes for donations!

May also brought the installation of our first bee hive in the garden.

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They seemed to be very happy there because our gardeners noted, despite the drought this summer, there still was an abundance of flowers and plants in the garden. We are hoping to have some of their honey harvested so we can offer it for sale in December.

Our sad news was that on May 21, our beloved Allelu Kurten, who was our inspiration of starting this garden at St. James, passed away after a brief illness. Gardeners Joe Baldwin and Beverly Briggs commissioned a beautiful sign which is hanging right in the front of the garden. Allelu's spirit of giving will always be our beacon of light in the garden.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Belding
President

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Top: Sunday School visits the garden.

Bottom: On October 23, we blessed the work and workers of the garden as we put it to bed for the season. Rest well!

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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!

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!

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!

Diocesan Convention; Please pray for the Episcopal Diocese of New York and our delegates as we gather in convention on **November 4 and 5**. We will vote on Bishop Dietsche's "Strategic Plan" which was devised by three committees which focused on: a) Governance Church

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Structures, b) Financial Matters, and c) Congregations. Each of these affects our congregation, so it is important that we pray for wisdom and fortitude.

FDR High School's Fall Drama: Radium Girls, will be performed on **November 4 & 5** at 7PM. Directed by Margaret Hassett, Radium Girls is a stunning drama based on real life events during the 1920s following the story of Grace Fryer and other factory workers as they fight for their day in court after being mistreated by their employer.

Tickets are \$5. They can be purchased at the door, at The Shipping Place (near Stop N Shop in Hyde Park) or at Julian's Deli (on 9G near the high school), or online at <http://radiumgirlsfdr.weebly.com/>

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

On **November 5**, the Troop will hold a Penny Social at Reach Out Family Worship Center (our parish hall is too small for the crowd they expect). **Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and calling begins at 6:00p.m.**

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 Penny Social moved to Reach Out because they needed a larger space.

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

Christ Church 250th: Christ Church in Poughkeepsie is celebrating its 250th Anniversary! Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will preach at their Sunday worship and then be guest of honor at a special luncheon at the Grandview on **November 13**. They have invited neighboring parishes to send representation and process in their Sunday service with a parish banner. Indeed, St. Paul's, Poughkeepsie, is closing its doors altogether that day and worshipping with Christ Church. If anyone from St. James' would like to represent us, please let me know! We can use our own bicentennial banner. If you would like to attend the luncheon, tickets are \$60 each and can be obtained by calling Christ Church (845-452-8220). Reservations must be made by **November 4**.

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.

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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.

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'!

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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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
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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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 Vinall 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.)

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."

October

- 30 All Souls' Church, Manhattan
- 31 The Church of Saints John, Paul & Clement, Mount Vernon

November

- 1 (All Saints' Day), Regeneration Church, Pine Plains
- 2 Diocesan Convention Planning Committee
- 3 St. Andrew's Church, Bronx
- 4 Inspector of Elections of Diocesan Convention
- 5 Clergy and Lay Deputies to Diocesan Convention

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,

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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, 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, 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.

In particular, please pray for Carl Smith, who was badly injured in an automobile accident and is at Westchester Medical Center, and Doris Mack, who broke her wrist.

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):	Michael Fenwick, Sue Fenwick, Sophie Ciferri and Sue DeLorenzo
Birthdays (this coming week):	August ("Bud") Oetjen, Riley Hall and Gwendolyn Cookingham
Acolytes:	November 6: Team 3 November 13: Team 1
Altar Guild:	November 6: Team I November 13: Team II
8 a.m. Readers:	November 6: Lucille Ogden and Grant Ferris November 13: Debbie Belding and Sue DeLorenzo
10 a.m. Readers:	November 6: Patty Caswell and Nancy Montero November 13: Russell Urban-Mead and Andy Hall

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Ushers:	November 6: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher November 13: Andrew and Tanya Hall
Pledge Clerks:	November 6: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass November 13: Joanne Lown and Janet Bright
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	November 6: TBA November 13: TBA
Coffee Hour Hosts:	November 6: Audrey Horne, Charlessa Thatcher and Eric Zivadel November 13: Jodi Triola, Patty Glancey

This Week's Lectionary

Daniel 7:1-3,15-18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1:11-23

Luke 6:20-31

This Week's Hymns

Processional 287 For All the Saints

Sequence 293 I sing a song of the Saints of God

Offertory Anthem "Though I May Speak"

(Hal Hopson Harm. John Weaver 1990/Arr. Denise Bassen 2010)

Communion 181 Amazing Grace

Recessional "Oh when the saints go marching in"

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

Sermon Preached on
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
(October 30, 2016)

The Rev. Kevin Bean

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