

# St. James' E-pistle

## November 6, 2015

### **Pulpit Notes**

Brothers and Sisters:

Allow me to deviate from our ongoing discussion of Stewardship for just a moment so I may mention my excitement at the installation of our new Presiding Bishop. Our outgoing Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, was exactly the right person at the right time for the Episcopal Church, her calming presence guiding us through turbulent times.

But the church is in a much healthier position today, and the election of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is evident that we are ready to share the gospel with the world in our own peculiar fashion, that we are ready to bring Christ's love to anyone and everyone, and that we are ready to grow!

Last Sunday, Bishop Curry was installed as the new Presiding Bishop, and if you have not had a chance to listen to his sermon of that day, I urge you to do so. All you have to do is go to the website of the National Cathedral (<http://www.cathedral.org>) and click on the video which is on the home page. Bishop Curry's sermon starts about 2 hours and 10 minutes into the service. Yes, it is the full Episcopal pageantry on display.

What I liked so much about his sermon - which quoted Bobby McFerrin's "Don't Worry, Be Happy" in the same paragraph as the Beatitudes - was the unshakable joy he has in being a follower of Christ and a child of God. His certainty that God has work for us to do is infectious, as is the peace he exhibits in knowing that as long as we concentrate on that mission - to love God and our neighbor as ourselves - all will be well enough.

Bishop has another brief video message for the entire church which you can find on the home page of the Episcopal Church's website, <http://www.episcopalchurch.org>. It is short but powerful, and you get the impression that we'll see more messages to the world like this.

I want you to listen to our presiding bishop. I want his joy and peace, his desire to share God with a world longing for what only God can provide, to rub off on all of us. Because what Bishop Curry is doing is nothing less than the purest form of stewardship (you knew I'd get back to that, didn't you?).

I'm serious.

He takes the joy that God fills his heart with and shares it with the world, compounding it into grace, peace, and love. As I have said countless times, taking what God gives us and using it for the Kingdom of God - that's stewardship. He is not merely a feel-good preacher, however.

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That joy drives him to seeking justice and care for creation. It is, in short, all encompassing - but always good.

That's the stewardship I want for St. James'. An awareness of how good God is and a desire to make that goodness tangible in the world, through the very peculiar ministry of this little congregation in the Hudson Valley. We can do all things God calls us to precisely because God calls us to it. And this, my brothers and sisters, is our joy.

So, I hope to see you Sunday at the Parish Breakfast! You will know joy and grace and really good pancakes!

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

## Breakfast is Served!

Join us on

**Sunday, November 8 at 9:00 AM**

for our



## Parish Stewardship Breakfast

### Enjoy

Great food from our Kitchen Crew  
Fellowship with your parish family  
A chance to dream and be inspired

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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:** 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. 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.

**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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### *Notes from the Garden*

#### *October 2015*

*The Hyde Park Community Garden completed our fourth season on Friday, October 23.*

*We are very happy to report that we have provided a wide assortment of fresh organic vegetables and fruits to 288 families for the Hyde Park Food Pantry from Mid May- end October. In addition, we dropped off left over produce from those Fridays to Hyde Park Meals on Wheels and Gail Webster Transitional Housing Shelter in Poughkeepsie.*

*Our community gardeners as well as work study students from the Culinary Institute of America played a key role in providing these weekly vegetable and flower donations. With the generous donations of peaches, apples, frozen corn, butternut squash, blueberries and strawberries from Meads Orchards in Tivoli, we projected that 2 tons of produce were donated to our needy neighbors this season.*

*Many thanks also go to our St. James parishioners who came out and supported our various fundraisers for the garden. Our Harvest Dinner was very well attended and received lots of "thumbs up" for a very good meal! The Wellness Fair spotlighted local businesses who provide services and products to promote a healthier lifestyle. The Thanksgiving Pie sale is a sell out and once again our Culinary Work Study bake students will be baking away creating 100 wonderful pies for your holiday tables.*

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*Thanks also go to the congregation for supplying us at the garden with a never ending supply of plastic bags so we can give them out to the Food Pantry for the consumers.*

*A personal heart felt thanks to the parishioners who volunteered their time on a Friday morning to help me set up and distribute the vegetables, fruits and flowers. God's work is being done there on a weekly basis, and I believe all of you felt that way as well.*

*Please keep us in your prayers for continuing this very needed ministry here in Hyde Park. We are pleased to say that members of both Regina Coeli and United Methodist Church are with us in this endeavor, but my vision is to bring more of the Hyde Park churches and civic organizations involved in this as well. We were pleased to see that the Garden and the Pine Plains Seed Library ( which was founded by Dyan Wapnick) were recognized recently as a partner in Sustainable Living by Omega Institute.*

*Our kick off meeting for season # 5 will be sometime in February. You can look back at our year on our Facebook page ( Hyde Park Community Garden).*

*Happy Fall/ Winter!*

*Sincerely,  
Deb Belding*

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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.diocesenyny.org> and click under "Beliefs and Practices."

- 8 St. Joseph's Church, The Bronx
- 9 St. Alban's Church, Staten Island
- 10 Trinity Church, Garnerville
- 11 St. Stephen's Church, Armonk
- 12 St. Barnabas's Church, Irvington-on-Hudson
- 13 Trinity-St. Paul's Church, New Rochelle
- 14 On the anniversary of the Consecration of Samuel Seabury we pray for all bishops in the Church, especially those who are newly consecrated.

### **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.

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

## **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):	Anna Mae Swenson, Sue DeLorenzo, Bud Oetjen and Riley Hall
Birthdays (next week):	Gwendolyn Cookingham and Margaret McNamara
Acolytes:	November 8: Nancy Montero, Kirstin Horn and Deirdre Mae Micker November 15: Russell Urban-Mead, John Beyer and Anna Clark
Altar Guild:	November 8: Team Number I November 15: Team Number I
8 a.m. Readers:	November 8: Angela Henry and Lucille Ogden November 15: Deb Belding and Paul Littlefield
10 a.m. Readers:	November 8: Patty Caswell and Nancy Montero November 15: Russell Urban-Mead and Andy Hall
Ushers:	November 8: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher November 15: Andrew and Tonya Hall
Pledge Clerks:	November 8: Paul Littlefield November 15: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	November 8: Patty Drake and Ross and Connie Eames November 15: Sylvia Erlandson and Ann and Ray Farrell
Coffee Hour Hosts:	November 8: Jodi Triola, Ross & Connie Eames and Pat Rooney November 15: Deirdre Mae Micker, Brian Rance and the Urban-Meads

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

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Psalm 127

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

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

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Sermon Preached on  
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost (All Saints Sunday)  
(November 1, 2015)

"ALL the Saints"

Happy All Saints Day - whoop-dee-do.

All Saints is possibly the most invisible of the high holy days in the church. Why is that?

It's all because of the evening vigil that once prepared us for the day.

In old England, it was known as All Hallows' Eve but has morphed into Halloween. It has become the main holiday, at least for Americans.

Now, I don't want to complain about the kids going door to door. That's been a cherished part of our culture for far too long.

Besides, the Church hasn't exactly helped. For most people, All Saints is pretty vague even though its purpose is right in the name. We're commemorating All the Saints. Right? But then, more than a thousand years ago, we started observing All Souls Day, too. Today, it's officially called All Faithful Departed, but it still confuses things.

All Saints? All Souls? What's the difference?

To put it too simply: All Saints is the day we remember all those whose lives are true examples of Christian living for the rest of us. All Souls is the rest of us. Well, those of us who have already gone ahead into the Kingdom of God.

I have a certain Protestant leaning here in that I believe we are ALL saints, and that one Feast Day to remember our dead is sufficient, whether extraordinarily holy or just merely, well, normal. Mind you, I value the examples of those who live as closely to the example Christ gave us as possible, and I can only hope to emulate them.

But in all those little distinctions, I don't want to lose the one large point that both of these holy days makes:

God is not only love - God is life.

Our God is the God of the living, not the dead, and those who leave this earth live.

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We do not believe that we simply cease to exist. We do not believe that we are reincarnated (though, as far as we know, there is no inherent reason why God could not choose to do so). And no, we do not believe we become angels in heaven. Angels are something entirely different.

Rather, we believe that when we leave this earth, we remain ourselves.

How, I don't know. What it will look like, I don't know. But this is our trust because this is what God has said to us. This is what God has shown us through Jesus Christ.

But this Holy Day reminds us that those who have gone before us not only live but form part of the community of faith that is ongoing. And because we are part of the same community - those who look for, and by grace experience the presence of God - we are connected. We are in communion with each other even if we can't see each other.

That's why I have included a piece of paper in each bulletin - paper for you to write down the names of any loved ones who have died and who are in your heart. Write them down, and then we'll pass a basket for you to put that paper in - and we'll place the basket on the altar and lift them up in prayer. For we are all connected - you, me, and them, and today is the day we celebrate that communion.

Mind you, I have no idea if that means we will see each other after we ourselves die. I would like to think so, because there are a few folks I've got a lot of questions for. But I DO trust that we will join with those who have gone before in what is essentially an eternal love song between God and God's children.

This is one reason why all of the lessons we read today are also read at funerals. They are stories of God's life in us, life that never dies.

Look for just a moment at Lazarus - one of only three stories in which Jesus raises someone from the dead (the other two are when Jesus raises the Widow of Nain's son in Luke, and when Jesus raises Jabirus's daughter in Matthew, Mark and Luke). Lazarus is a little different because he's been dead for several days. He's already begun to stink.

And this, Jesus says, is to show God's glory?

Yes, because it shows that there is no such thing as too late for God. Life is always there, always possible, always part of us. Lazarus is, in a way, a stand-in for all of us. Our life, as Jesus says, is God's glory. Our deaths are simply another step on the journey.

Let me add one quick thought about Lazarus - and Jairus's daughter and the widow of Nain's son while we're at it. Their being raised from the dead on earth are not signs that life on earth should last forever. They all eventually died again. We all die. Their resurrections were signs

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for the rest of us to trust that God is life. It is a reminder that none of us lives or dies away from the presence of God who longs for our joy and our peace.

We remember the dead - both the regular saints and the regular Joes - because we love them and because they have something to teach us. We remember them because we hope to join them someday and because we hope, while we are still on this earth, to follow their examples of loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

So, use those pieces of paper to remember your loved ones. Let us pray for them as we believe they pray for us. And let us be thankful. Amen.