

ST. JAMES' E-PISTLE

APRIL 26, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You may be aware that on Monday, May 6, I will go on sabbatical. I will be away until Sunday, September 1.

I know it's a busy time in the church, but what time isn't? You may remember that my last sabbatical in 2004 started in the summer and ended with the first Sunday of Advent. What a mistake! I missed the whole Fall with everything beginning. It felt like I was playing catch-up for the rest of the year.

At the same time, I felt it was important to be here for Christmas and Easter - and that pretty much leaves late Spring and Summer.

Actually, it's not a bad problem to have. Having no convenient time to go on sabbatical means that we have much going on.

Furthermore, continuing all that work while the rector is away shows that the work of the church is not dependent upon any one person. We are the Body of Christ together.

So, I'm pleased that Brian Rance has agreed to take on the E-pistle in my absence. And that our deacons are taking on pastoral care visit. I am so pleased that Sunday School will progress through the school year and that Vacation Bible School is on target thanks to the leadership of Valerie Gaulin and Bev O'Halloran.

I'm excited that the Thursday bible study will continue to meet and that the community garden is growing. It warms my heart to see that several of our youth will participate in Bridge Builders work camp. And I am truly grateful that Deacon Gail is working to find a date for a group of St. James' volunteers to go down to Staten Island where they will work in the rebuilding efforts from Superstorm Sandy damage.

Regarding worship, I leave completely comfortable that you will love the clergy covering for me. On my first Sunday away, Fr. Masud Syedullah will celebrate. You may have met him in his many visits to St. James' since moving to Hyde Park in February. After that, Fr. Michael Shafer will be here for the rest of the sabbatical. You'll love him and his fascinating experiences - a man who has loved a full and varied ministry. His wife, Johanna, has a complete ministry in her own right, serving the diocese as liaison for India ministries. She led the delegation from New York in the Indaba project in 2011/2012 of which I was a part.

While I am away, I will be praying daily for each of you and for the mission of St. James'. I will read as much as I can, and I will study Spanish as best as I can. There are a few smaller projects I'll be involved in as well.

We still have a couple of Sundays before this begins, and before you know it, the time will have passed, and I'll be back. But during that time apart, we all have much to be thankful for.

In Christ,
Fr. Chuck

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The News of the Church

Graveyard Tours Planning NOW.

Leaders Needed! St. James' has now had Lantern light graveyard tours for three years. Last year was our biggest and most exciting venture yet. Now we are planning for another big year - but we need you!

On Sunday, the Graveyard Tour Committee will meet to start the ball rolling. Bev O'Halloran will continue in her role of coordinating and supporting the various tasks, as well as staffing and onsite oversight. This year, we have separated into four tasks the work done by one person last year.

Please take a look and think about whether you fit one of these roles:

1. Business Manager: Responsible for setting up petty cash, income and outflow (payroll)
2. Website Manager: Responsible for maintaining website and making sure that payments made through the website are coordinated with the Business Manager.
3. Artistic Director: Responsible for auditioning and rehearsing actors as well as blocking the flow of the tour.
4. Advertising Manager: Responsible for getting word out about the tours in a variety of media.

Also responsible for any public relations programming we may require.

The Graveyard Tours have proven to be a tremendous fundraising vehicle for us, but they also are a wonderful way for us to have fun together and get the word out about how God has worked through this parish to these many years.

St. James' Prayer Group - Ready to Help You Start:

For the past several months, a dedicated and faithful group of eight have been meeting bi-weekly to pray. Led by Pat Keeffe, they have prayed for each other, for the congregation and for larger needs. Prayer is our link with God, and to pray together makes the community stronger. The prayer group wants to let you know that it is a beautiful and life-giving experience. They have found that eight is as large as the group ought to be - any bigger lessens the intimacy - but they are willing to share their encouragement with any who might be interested in starting a new prayer group.

Please contact Pat Keeffe if you would like to learn more about what a prayer group does or how you can start your own.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Andrew Mendelson, Naomi Sleight, Ed Leuken, Rosemary Leuken, Brooke Helton, Ruth Blanding, Debbie Stone, Harold Hall, Michael Day, Clifford Plass, Don Renten, Barbara Knakal, Kurt Burkhardt, Cliff Wells, Janet Arms, Ryan Mackin, James Sheeky, Elmer Van Wagner, Cassidy Way, Joe DiMarco, Rev. Don Hoger, Jolanda Heijenbrok, Joan Oetjen, Ken Briggs, Deborah Porach, Jack Gordy, Gloria Veach, Candace Vincent, Gerald Plass.

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VBS Time: It's time to start thinking about Vacation Bible School. We have a program picked out already, and it looks exciting with a totally new format. If interested, please contact Valerie Gaulin, or Bev O'Halloran.

Want to Sing with Spirit of Unity? Some parishioners have asked if they might occasionally practice with our artists in residence. Ray Watkins has asked any who want to rehearse with them to contact him: raywatkins@mindspring.com.



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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. 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's okay.

Birthdays:	Barbara Wells and Jeet Shahani
Acolytes:	April 28: Rebecca Gausepohl, Chris Santos and Chris Granados-Kramer May 5: Eden Ciferri, Bryanna Burkhardt and Travyn Triola
Altar Guild:	April 28: Team Number II May 5: Team Number III
8 a.m. Readers:	April 28: Angela Henry, Lynne Koch May 5: Debbie Belding, Grant Ferris
10 a.m. Readers:	April 28: Patty Caswell and Judy Douglass May 5: Donna Beyer and Justin Bohlmann
Ushers:	April 28: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher May 5: Donna and John Beyer
Pledge Clerks:	April 28: Paul Littlefield and Dean Caswell May 5: Janet Bright and Joanne Lown
Coffee Hour Hosts:	April 28: Pat Keefe, Audrey Horne and Kathy Graff May 5: Saira Shahani and Pat Keefe

Please see Pat Keefe if you would like to host a coffee hour!

This Week's Lectionary

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35