

ST. JAMES' E-PISTLE

May 10, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Less than a week into my sabbatical, and already I feel like I'm falling behind! This is a self-imposed feeling, mind you, but it's real nonetheless.

For the past few days I've been researching and writing the graveyard tour scripts, and they're going well. But there's this constant nagging feeling that I should be doing something else, that I'm not getting enough done. Perhaps you've felt this yourself on occasion.

Well, I'm telling myself to stop it!

The sabbatical has goals, of course, but they are goals to be accomplished in a spirit of peace, not anxiety. This is not a contest or a business trip. Sabbaticals, like the sabbath itself, are designed to step out of the real-world rush and into a place apart, a different way of being.

This is to be a place of prayer and reflection, not of deadlines. Next week, I'll start spending time at the monastery, and that should help with the feeling of "the other."

Anxiety also has to do with the Spanish class I'll start today (Thursday). That anxiety, however, is of a more enjoyable nature. I don't know how well I'll do, but languages are fun and important. I'm anxious to be able to hold at least a simple conversation by the end of classes. I also like to be able to celebrate the Eucharist in Spanish such that native speakers will essentially understand what I'm saying.

Goal number one for me this week, however, is to let go of anxiety.

If you want to be part of that, go to church this week. Church, like sabbatical and sabbath, is designed to be a place apart where the world's pressures don't apply. They call this a foretaste of heaven. That sounds pretty good to me. May it be good for you.

In Christ,
Fr. Chuck

For pastoral concerns while Fr. Chuck is on sabbatical, please contact Deacon David or Deacon Gail.

This week, we warmly welcome Fr. Masud Ibn Syedullah.

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Episcopal Charities: A gentle reminder for each of us to prayerfully consider a donation to Episcopal Charities this Sunday, May 12th.

Episcopal Charities, the outreach arm of our Diocese, provides funding and support to parish-based programs through their grant and workshop programs. Because the Diocese provides for the overhead expenses, 100% of your donation is designated specifically for programming.

There will be envelopes available for you to make your donation or you may drop a check, payable to Episcopal Charities, in the offering plate.

On behalf of all our neighbors in our Diocese who will benefit from your donation - **THANK YOU!**

Deacon Gail

Farmworker Albany Day - Monday, May 13th: Many of us will be joining our fellow farmworkers in Albany this coming Monday, May 13th as they seek, once again, passage of the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act. The focus on Monday will be on the Assembly; the hope is that the Assembly will vote on the Bill providing our farmworkers with a day of rest, overtime pay, collective bargaining protections, disability insurance, child labor protections and health and safety protections.

We will be gathering at 10:00 am for registration at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 262 State Street in Albany. There will be legislative team meetings before marching to the Capitol for a rally, legislative visits, prayer vigil and street theater. Lunch will be provided.

Please consider standing alongside our farmworkers and lending your support. There is a bus leaving the Cathedral with stops in Newburgh and Kingston. If you wish to ride the bus (no charge), please contact Michael Phillips at 845-797-8752 for the Kingston stop.

For all of you who signed the postcards or contacted Terry Gipson through a telephone call or by letter - **THANK YOU!** Please keep our farmworkers and their families in your prayers.

Peace, Deacon Gail

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Andrew Mendelson, Naomi Sleight, 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, Rev. Don Hoger, Jolanda Heijenbrok, Joan Oetjen, Ken Briggs, Deborah Porach, Jack Gordy, Gloria Veach, Candace Vincent, Gerald Plass, John Robinson and the Rev. Tim Millard.

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The News of the Church

Graveyard Tours Planning NOW: Our next organizational meeting for the Graveyard Tours will be May 19 at 11:30 in the Wilkes Room. Thank you everyone for your enthusiasm and support thus far! It should be an exciting year with wonderfully interesting "residents" of our churchyard telling us about their lives. This is a big project and major fundraiser. We can always use your help! Contact Bev O'Halloran with any questions.

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.

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. Spirit of Unity will join us at the 10:00 a.m. service on May 19th (Pentecost). In addition, as described in greater detail in a flyer attached to the end of this E-pistle, Spirit of Unity will perform in the Chapel on Friday, May 31st at 7 p.m. This will be their first official performance as our new Artists in Residence. The concert will be free of charge and will feature refreshments.

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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:	Diane Webb and Erika Seagren
Acolytes:	May 12: Nick Granados-Kramer, Skye O'Halloran and Mike Minter May 19: Nancy Montero, Gage Minter and Tess Manning
Altar Guild:	May 12: Team Number III May 19: Team Number I
8 a.m. Readers:	May 12: Angela Henry and Lynne Koch May 19: Debbie Belding and Sue DeLorenzo
10 a.m. Readers:	May 12: Patty Caswell and Sophie Ciferri May 19: Wilma Tully and Deirdre Mae Micker
Ushers:	May 12: Dean Caswell and Austin Horn May 19: Saira Shahani and Pat Keeffe
Pledge Clerks:	May 12: Deb and Doug Belding May 19: Tanya Hall
Coffee Hour Hosts:	May 12: Jodi Triola, The Eames and Annette Minter May 19: Deidre Micker and the Gausepohls

BIRTHDAY LIST UPDATE: The birthday list is out of date. To ensure that you are accurately included in the list, please send an e-mail to stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org with your name (and the names of family members), together with birth dates. Please include "Birthday Update" in the subject line of the e-mail.

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

This Week's Lectionary

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21
John 17:20-26

*Hudson Valley Gospel Singers & Musicians
Presents
Spirit of Unity*

*Meet the St. James Episcopal Church's
Artists in Residence*

Hear Them Sing & Play

Friday, May 31, 2013 – 7:00 PM

**St. James Chapel
10 East Market Street
Hyde Park, NY
Admission Free ~ Refreshments Served ~
Come as you are....**

**For more information call (845)454-1561 or
Email, spiritofunity@mindspring.com**

