

St. James' E-pistle

May 15, 2015

Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

One of the worst jobs I ever had in my entire life was as a door-to-door salesman. This was back when I was in college looking for a summer job. A friend of mine was doing the door-to-door job, so I figured I'd give it a try.

We were supposed to be selling china and cutlery, targeting especially young women who were about to be married. We trawled the newspapers for engagement announcements and then either called them up or went directly to their homes. I hated every second of it, especially calling people cold - or worse, knocking on their door - and giving them a song and dance.

And as it turns out, I am a horrible salesman. One reason for my failure is because I just couldn't bring myself to believe that these people really needed the china and cutlery I was hocking. As a result, my career as a salesman was brief, and I swore I'd never try to sell anything again.

As it turns out, I haven't exactly been able to keep my vow. Often in my priestly role, I feel like I'm selling something or other. Programs, classes, stewardship.... Convincing people to "buy" what I have has not gotten any easier. More often than I'd like to admit, my thoughts go back to those bad old days knocking on doors.

The only thing that makes it manageable is that, while I didn't believe in cutlery, I really do believe in what I'm doing here.

That's why I have been beating the drum so relentlessly about the Rail Trail Pilgrimage. I believe it is a means through which people can focus on God at a depth they rarely get in daily life. I believe it is a chance to get away for a couple of days without having to go away.

And that's why I'm writing once again to encourage you to register - this week - for our Spring Rail Trail Pilgrimage on May 30-31. If you would like to register, just e-mail me at revckramer@gmail.com. If money is an issue, let me know, and we'll work it out.

I wish I didn't feel like a salesman in pushing the pilgrimage. Unlike china or knives, I believe pilgrimage truly is beneficial, even necessary for the soul.

So, if you were not considering the Rail Trail Pilgrimage, please do so. If you have been considering it, I urge you to not delay. Get your registration in today. I believe in it and believe you will benefit.

In Christ,

Chuck+

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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."

- 17 St. Andrew's Church, Walden
- 18 Trinity-Pawling School, Pawling
- 19 Grace Church School, Manhattan
- 20 The Sisters of St. Margaret
- 21 The Diocesan Christian Formation Committee
- 22 Work and ministries at Amsterdam House, Manhattan
- 23 The Episcopal Schools of the Diocese

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

Rural and Migrant Ministry: “The mission of Rural and Migrant Ministry is to address the needs of the rural poor, including migrant farmworkers and their families, with a primary focus on developing leadership skills and opportunities for youth. RMM’s Mission Statement lays out its focus clearly and succinctly: RMM works for the creation of a just, rural New York State through nurturing leadership, standing with the disenfranchised, especially farmworkers and rural workers and changing unjust systems and structures.”

Please prayerfully consider supporting Rural and Migrant Ministry through its Farmworker Albany Day or their annual Walk-a-ton Deacon Gail

RURAL AND MIGRANT MINISTRY: Farmworker Albany Day

Are you able to join us as we stand alongside our farmworkers in Albany this Tuesday, May 19th? There is a bus that will be leaving Kingston at 8:45 am. For reservations, please call the RMM office at 845-485-8627.

If you are not able to join us as we march to the Capitol, hold our “Justice for Farmworkers” Rally and make legislative visits, there is another way in which to become involved and stand alongside our farmworkers. Please consider writing a letter to Governor Cuomo and letters to your State Senator and your State Assembly person asking them to pass The Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act. (S. 1291 / A. 4762).

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When you eat an apple or bite into an ear of corn, do you think about the working conditions under which our farmworker neighbors labor? Some farmers do provide excellent working conditions; however, many do not.

Here are portions taken from the 2015 "Justice for Farmworkers" campaign that, I hope, will aid each of us here at St. James' to consider standing with our farmworkers in New York:

"Farmworkers have been excluded from almost all labor rights enjoyed by most workers. Farm laborers plant, pick and process the very food that nourishes us, yet they are not entitled to even a day of rest each week. Yes, they can legally be fired for going to church on a weekend. The list of exclusions is long. They date back to the 1930's when, in order to gain sufficient votes to win the labor rights most of us now take for granted - such as overtime pay and collective bargaining protections - farmworkers were excluded. New York continues to deny farmworkers basic human rights.

If agriculture is to be sustainable in New York, they we must include the just treatment of the men, women and children who plant and harvest our food."

Please consider writing a letter/post card to Governor Cuomo and your legislative leaders. This injustice can be corrected either through Executive Order or through the leadership of our legislative leaders.

There will be a list of talking points that can be included in your letter/postcard in the narthex of the church.

On behalf of the farmworkers, thank you for standing by us as we seek to pass The Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act.

RURAL AND MIGRANT MINISTRY: Kick-off Event - Annual Walk-a-thon for Camp

The 26th Summer Overnight Camp Walk-a-thon will be held on Saturday, June 6 beginning at 10:00 am here at St. James' Church. Join us as we walk the three mile Vanderbilt loop and raise funds for RMM's Summer Leadership Camp Programs.

There will be Walker registration forms that includes space for you to get individual donors to support you in your walk. Registration fee is \$20.00/person; \$40/family which includes a BBQ lunch. Registration forms can be found in the narthex of the church.

The summer camp programs are part of the Youth Empowerment Program, a key component of the Rural and Migrant Ministry programming. What great opportunities and learning experiences these camp programs provide for rural and migrant children.

Please consider joining us on Saturday, June 6 either as a walker or as a sponsor.

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The News of the Church

Men's Breakfast: Men, don't forget this Saturday is our Men's Breakfast - Cranberry's at 8:00 AM. See you there.

Journey to Adulthood Ceremony:

We will celebrate **The Journey to Adulthood Ceremony** with our 8th grade students and families during the 10:00 service on Sunday.

J2A 8th Graders
Amelia McNamara
Travyn Triola

Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers today and join us during coffee hour for a simple reception in their honor.

Youth Group Cook Out: Friday, May 29, the Youth Group will gather in the backyard of the rectory for a cookout. This will replace the month's overnight. Youth Group families are invited, too. The youth will have some time apart for some discussion - but we're pretty sure the adults can entertain themselves!

Invitation to a Parish Celebration: Brian Rance and Melinda Harris cordially invite you to attend a second annual parish celebration of faith and friendship at their home at 9 Marshall Road (corner of Netherwood) from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 20th. Dinner and refreshments will be served. Parents should feel free to bring children. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to brian.rance@freshfields.com or by phone to 212-360-1854. Please indicate the number attending.

Recognition Sunday: Please be sure to come to church on Sunday, June 14 for RECOGNITION SUNDAY and Ice Cream Social. Not only do we recognize our students and acolytes, but we say thank you to our hardworking and dedicated Sunday School teachers. And we give our graduating seniors a blessing and a joyful send-off into the world!

If you have a graduating High School or College student (Associates, Bachelors, Masters or Doctoral), please let me (Fr. Chuck) know so we can properly acknowledge them.

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Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Susie Buhalis, Jim And Sharyn Burke, Joann Clark, Michael Day, Dottie Drake, Ross Eames, Jr., Linkin Ewalt, Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Jane Gagliardoto, Gloria Golden, 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, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Debbie Stone, Tracy, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, Diane Webb, Cliff Wells and Shawn Wheeler.

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):	Erika Seagren, Rebecca Gausepohl, Isabelle Vogeler and Walter Koch
Birthdays (next week):	David Webb, Robin Bohlmann, Brian Kinne and Morgan Kinne
Acolytes:	May 17: Russell Urban-Mead, John Beyer and Anna Clark May 24: Bryanna Burkhardt, Chris Granados-Kramer and Amelia McNamara
Altar Guild:	May 17: Team Number III May 24: Team Number I
8 a.m. Readers:	May 17: Debbie Belding and Sue DeLorenzo May 24: Angela Henry and Jim Smyth
10 a.m. Readers:	May 17: Donna Beyer/Deirdre Mae Micker May 24: Patty Caswell/Sophie Ciferri
Ushers:	May 17: Donna and John Beyer

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	May 24: Dean Caswell and Austin Horne
Pledge Clerks:	May 17: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
	May 24: Paul Littlefield and Dean Caswell
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	May 17: Jim and Jan Smyth and Randy and Barbara Soden
	May 24: "Sprit of Unity" and Marguerite Spratt
Coffee Hour Hosts:	May 17: Deirdre Mae Micker and Patty Drake
	May 24: Saira Shahani

This Week's Lectionary

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

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

Sermon Preached on
Sixth Sunday of Easter
(May 10, 2015)

"Abide With Thee..."

Once again, Happy Mother's Day. Moms, today you're the center of attention, and I hope it's a beautiful day for you. One of the ironies of this holiday is that we so often celebrate what you do for us instead of simply the love we have for you. As an example, a card I looked at recently began, "Mom, in appreciation for all the loving things you've always done for me...." Rest assured, we really do love you.

If it's true for Mom, it's even more true with God. We often - far too often - celebrate what God does for us instead of simply celebrating our love for God.

You know the old hymn, Abide With Me (hymn 662). Don't worry, I won't sing it - but let me recite just the first verse, and you'll see what I mean.

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Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

It's what God does for us. Come here, God, and help. Come here, God and abide with us. That is not a bad plea, by the way. We do need God's help, and it's important to acknowledge that without God's endless love for us, we'd be lost. Moreover, like any parent, God offers us all the help he can ... even if we don't recognize it or want it.

And yet, what if instead of saying "Abide with me," we say, "Lord, I abide with thee." (You can say "abide with you" but it doesn't rhyme, so...").

What do I mean? Simply that when we say "Abide with me," we may think we're focusing on God, but we're really focusing on us. What if we focus our attention and desire on God? Just loving God and knowing God intimately. Not for anything God does, but just for God. In John's gospel today, Jesus is telling his disciples to keep his commandments just as he kept the Father's commandments, chief among them being to abide in God's love.

Abiding with God, dwelling with, focusing on, making & spending time with God our Holy parent - is our first goal and command. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. Everything else will follow. As today's collect says, "Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire..."

Get to know God, and the rest will not only follow but will make sense.

And by the rest, I mean the help God gives us, and the help we give each other. I mention this because just as surely as we too often look at God for what God can do for us - we also often only look at ourselves - the church - for what we can do for others.

Again, this is not to say serving others is not an important part of the church's mission. Loving our neighbors tangibly - feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, comforting the despairing, healing the sick, seeking justice - they are all part of the stewardship of creation God has given us.

BUT, if they don't start with knowing and loving God, then they are empty & meaningless & a path to depression & despair. Without the foundational love and focus on God, there is no point to what we do. When we take our focus off our holy parent, we shrivel up inside. (People worry about the church dying. It can only truly die when the center of our being is no longer God).

On the other hand, when we abide with God - when we intentionally spend time with God - we are given not only purpose but the power and strength and resolve to fulfill it with joy. That's why we have the Eucharist week after week. That's why we have bible study week after week. And choir week after week. That's why we have things like the Rail Trail Pilgrimage - to abide with God.

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Love of our parents is our starting point in life. You learn trust from them, and at least initially you embrace their values. Mother's Day, of course, is a reminder of the importance of parents whom you can love, trust, learn from, & obey with confidence. That's what we celebrate today (& again next month with Father's Day).

If this is true for our earthly parents, how much more so is it true for God, the parent of us all? It's good to think of what God does for us. It's good to think of what God calls us to do. But it's better to think of God - no, not only think of God but to dwell with God. And so my prayer is, "Lord, may I abide with thee." Amen.

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Join the

Rail Trail Pilgrimage

May 30-31

This is St. James' Church's
THIRD Pilgrimage!

Everyone Welcome!

Registration Deadline is May 15

NOTE: There is a \$50 registration fee
with a \$15 nonrefundable deposit



The **Rail Trail Pilgrimage** is a two-day spiritual walk from the Hopewell Junction Trailhead of the Dutchess Rail Trail to Tony Williams Park in the Town of Lloyd. We spend the night at a local church. The pilgrimage follows nearly 20 miles of rail trail including the Walkway Over the Hudson. We make periodic stops for scripture and prayer.



For more information/brochure, call
St. James' Episcopal Church, Hyde Park
229-2820 or go to www.stjameshydepark.org



Hyde Park Wellness Fair

to support

The Hyde Park Community Garden

St. James' Episcopal Church

Saturday, June 13, 2015

10 am - 4 pm

Outdoor Event

Rain or Shine

6'x6' vendor space \$20

(vendor brings own tent, table, and chairs)

To register call 229-2820

AROMATHERAPY



FENG SHUI



YOGA

NUTRITION



GARDENING



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