

St. James' E-pistle

May 31, 2013

Pulpit Notes

Dear Friends at St. James':

For those of you who were away on a cold, rainy (or snowy) holiday weekend, our hope is that it was a good one nevertheless.

Here we remembered brave men and women who have died in service to our country as we celebrated the intellectual heritage of our faith as summarized on Trinity Sunday. We are encouraged in this way to consider what we can know about God. I enjoyed doing theology with you.

There are people who distrust this kind of thinking. Let's not join them. We Episcopalians know that along with the Biblical witness we have been given a long interpretive tradition, together with our own native ability to discern God's Self-revelation in our own time. Today's world needs desperately to hear a credible Gospel message.

But how will this message be heard? As the song says, "They will know we are Christians by our love," God's own love shed abroad through us. Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of God can be compared to a woman who places a small lump of yeast in a large mound of dough. The yeast makes it all rise, and you know how good it tastes. So it is with the joy of God's Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. It shows. Pray for this wonderful gift, and pray that we can become this gift to others.

Michael

For pastoral concerns while Fr. Chuck is on sabbatical, please contact Deacon David or Deacon Gail. This week, and until Fr. Chuck returns on September 1st, we warmly welcome Fr. Michael Shafer.

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The News of the Diocese

Rural and Migrant Ministry's Summer Camp. Will you prayerfully consider supporting the Rural and Migrant Ministry's summer camp program for our rural and migrant children?

Are you aware that the mission of Rural and Migrant Ministry (RMM) 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."

For the past twenty-three summers, RMM has been offering a free summer camp experience for our rural and migrant children. Summer day camps are held in three communities in five rural counties. In addition, there is a one-week overnight camp that focuses "on skill-building and leadership development activities." Each camping experience also includes a special trip.

Because the camp is free to the children and youth who attend, RMM looks to donations, foundations and special fundraising events like the Walk-a-thon to fund the camps. This year's Walk-a-thon will be held on Saturday, June 8th with St. James once again as the host.

Please consider joining us on June 8th. Activities begin at 10:00 a.m. with registration (\$20.00/adults and \$10.00/children - includes a BBQ lunch). For all who are able, there is a three mile walk around the Vanderbilt Loop. Lunch is being prepared by the Culinary Christian Fellowship of the Culinary Institute.

If you are a walker - there are sponsor sheets in the narthex of the church. If you are unable to walk, please prayerfully consider making a donation to the Rural and Migrant Ministry - summer camp program.

On behalf of all the campers who will benefit from your generosity, **THANK YOU!**

Our Neighbors on Staten Island Need Assistance. Meet Mike - He has lived on Staten Island all of his life. Mike's home is a small one room cottage in the Midland Beach section of Staten Island. When Hurricane Sandy roared up the eastern coastline last fall, Sandy engulfed most of Mike's neighborhood with eight to ten feet of water. When the water receded, what was left was uninhabitable homes.

When Vonnie, another Deacon from the Mid-Hudson Region, and I met Mike in mid-April, he was still living in a hotel. We were introduced to him by our hosts, two Staten Island Deacons, at his home. He was there with Daryll, the Staten Island Relief Coordinator, looking at the progress that had been made in bringing his home back to a livable condition. We presented him with some of the gift cards that had been donated at Christmas. These cards would enable him to purchase a stove and some other necessities.

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Last Saturday, I again visited Staten Island as part of an Episcopal Relief and Development Network Meeting that highlighted Episcopal Relief's work on Disaster Preparedness and Recovery. During our visit, I had the opportunity to see the progress that had been made on Mike's home. The bathroom was complete, kitchen cabinets had been installed and the room had been painted. Mike is hoping to move in soon. Living in a hotel has been and continues to be challenging for Mike and his neighbors.

In speaking with Daryll, the goal is to restore forty houses by the end of 2013. However, in order to accomplish this, Daryll and our neighbors on Staten Island need your assistance - they need volunteers - for a day, or two or for a week.

Volunteers need to be skilled or semi-skilled in the areas of putting up dry wall, taping, installing insulation and painting. There is currently a conversation being held among the churches in Dutchess County regarding offering some local workshops. Because of the New York City licensing requirements, other needs such as plumbing and electricity, will be handled by local contractors.

Although the news media has moved on from Hurricane Sandy and is now focusing our attention on the tornados in Texas and Oklahoma, the need remains. The average time for recovery from a disaster is up to three years and can last as long as ten years.

Please keep all of our brothers and sisters who are recovering from natural disasters around the world in your prayers. The challenges that each person faces during recovering can be overwhelming at times.

If you are interested in volunteering, please speak with me. Thank you for considering becoming a Hurricane Sandy Recovery Volunteer.

Deacon Gail

The News of the Church

St. James' Sunday School Scribe

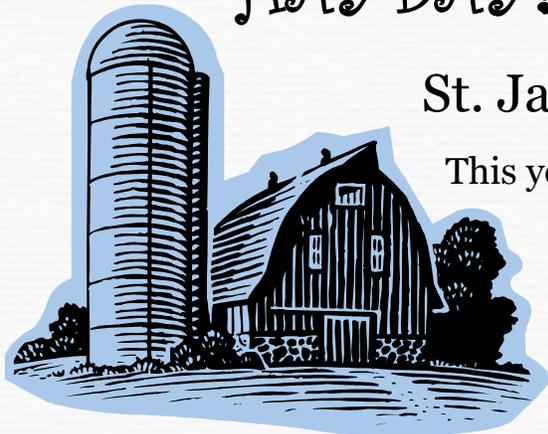
Important Dates: -June 2nd- last day of classes

-June 9 – Recognition Sunday and Ice Cream Social

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HAYDAY!



St. James' VBS 2013

This year's VBS will be over the weekend of July 19th-July 21st.

We are looking for volunteers and helpers for this "Growing in Friendship with Jesus" experience. Please sign up if you are interested, and we will get in touch

with you. (Clipboard will be left in the church vestibule.)

Allelu's Garden: Allelu Kurten will be visiting St. James' this Sunday, and immediately after the 8:00 a.m. service, she will be viewing the progress of the Community Garden that was dedicated to her last year.

Please try to join some of the local gardeners who will also be there showing Allelu their individual plots. We will also show her the expansion of "Allelu's Garden", which is growing more vegetables this year for the Hyde Park Food Pantry and Hillcrest House

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.

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Please keep the following people in your prayers:

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

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:	Marge Gibson-O'Mara, Alexandra Burkhardt, Barabara Slegel, Thomas Gabel, Thomas Ruder and Christina Wardell
Acolytes:	June 2: Rebecca Gausepohl, Chris Santos and Eden Ciferri June 9: Chris Granados-Kramer, Bryanna Burkhardt and Travyn Triola
Altar Guild:	June 2: Team Number II June 9: Team Number II
8 a.m. Readers:	June 2: Debbie Belding and Jim Smyth June 9: Angela Henry and Lucille Ogden
10 a.m. Readers:	June 2: Russell Urban-Mead and Nancy Montero June 9: Donna Beyer and Justin Bohlmann
Ushers:	June 2: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher June 9: Kathie Champion and Mary Gabel
Pledge Clerks:	June 2: Janet Bright and Joanne Lown June 9: Deb and Doug Belding
Coffee Hour Hosts:	June 2: Saira Shahani and Pat Keeffe June 9: Jodi Triola, The Eames and Annette Minter

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

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This Week's Lectionary

1 Kings 18:20-21, (22-29), 30-39

Psalm 96

Galatians 1:1-12

Luke 7:1-10