

St. James' E-pistle

May 5, 2017

Pulpit Notes

"Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." -- Acts 2:42

Brothers and Sisters:

I was so pleased with the turnout at last Sunday's Easter Forum. Join us this Sunday - there's always room for more!

But the most important thing about the Forum is that it is an expression of our community of faith and of our purpose. To be a Christian, to be one of the baptized, means to devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship (as well as the breaking of bread and prayers, of course). Another way of putting it is, an essential part of being a Christian is coming together and learning.

We don't have the luxury of being solo Christians - fellowship is part and parcel with baptism.

But so is learning. That's why we have Sunday School and Inquirers and classes such as the Easter Forum. In the end, it is my hope that we will have these adult forums nearly every week, not only exploring the Bible - though that could be enough to keep us going for many years - but also theology, history, and social issues that are affected by our faith.

Of course, what makes the learning together more fun and meaningful is when we're actually studying things that interest us. So, if you have any area of the Christian life that baffles you or simply that you'd like to know more about, let me know! I may not know much more about it than you do, but I don't mind digging down to learn. In fact, that's part of what makes our collective faith so wonderful.

What has you curious? What troubles you? What strikes your fancy?

But the word of the Apostles in Acts is not limited to study and fellowship. The breaking of bread and the prayers are also an essential part of the Christian life. Worshiping together is not an optional part of our faith, it's central to it. To stay away - or to allow yourself to be kept away - is detrimental to our faith and to the community. I don't want to guilt-trip anyone, that's just the way relationships work.

And remember, our faith is nothing if not a relationship. And relationships always bring joy best when they are in person.

4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park NY 12538 T 845-229-2820 F 845-229-5293

W www.stjameshydepark.org E stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org

f at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/22692330307>

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So, get together, study together, worship together, pray together. That's the story of Acts, which the church was trying to figure out what the crucifixion and resurrection meant to them. Their conclusion: we have these things to which God is calling us, and doing them together always brings us closer to God.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

Did You Know?

Every part of the church has a name. Of course, being church, the names don't make sense anywhere else. For example, what most people call a foyer, we call a *narthex*. What most people call a basement, we call an *undercroft*. And the main part of the church where everyone sits? The *Nave* (it often looks like an upside down ship's hull, so...). Where the altar stands (behind the altar rail) is called the *Sanctuary*, though here you could also call it the *chancel*. Lastly, the room we get dressed is called the *sacristy*.

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The News of the Church

Check Out Our Welcome Video: Have you checked out our new Welcome Video? It's important to explore new ways to reach out to people, and video is one of those ways. Go to www.stjameshydepark.org and click on the "Welcome" tab on the left. What other videos would you recommend for St. James' to make a better impact?

Episcopal Charities Sunday

Sunday, May 14th

Episcopal Charities Sunday, as well as Mothers' Day, is May 14. Are you aware that 9.7% of our neighbors here in Dutchess County are facing food insecurity and that 16% of Dutchess County children struggle with hunger issues? And the statistics regarding food insecurity are similar for our neighboring counties here in the Mid-Hudson Region - Orange, Sullivan and Ulster. Women, children, seniors, people with disabilities and the working poor are our most affected population in regard to food insecurity.

On Sunday, May 14th (Mother's Day) we will join with the other parishes in our Diocese to highlight the work of Episcopal Charities and to give thanks for their work and ministry.

Incorporated in December 1996, Episcopal Charities, the mission arm of our Diocese, currently partners with forty-nine feeding programs located throughout the Diocese. In addition to the actual grant, Episcopal Charities provides strategic training, operational support, networking opportunities to parish programs through workshops and one-on-one consultations.

Episcopal Charities' grant program enables us, through our donations, to extend Christ's love to grass-roots, parish-based programs that reflect the needs of that parish-based program's local area. Please note that because the Diocese provides for the overhead expenses, 100% of your donation is designated specifically for programming.

As faithful followers of Christ, please prayerfully consider donating to Episcopal Charities. There will be envelopes available in the pews for you to make your donation. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to St. James' Church, memo line: Episcopal Charities.

On behalf of all our neighbors throughout our Diocese who struggle with food insecurity and who will benefit from your donation - THANK YOU!!

Peace, Deacon Gail

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Volunteer Drivers Needed! The Hyde Park Association of Churches (HyPAC) needs drivers! The local pastors have been in contact with Vanderbilt Hotel and discovered that a pressing need for residents is transportation, especially to the food pantries and grocery store. Would you consider becoming a volunteer driver to give these rides?

Robin Friesheim of St. Timothy's Lutheran is the coordinator for this ride-giving ministry and is seeking volunteer drivers. For now, this is just rides to the Hyde Park Food Pantry (Fridays 9:30-11:30 AM) and Reach Out Food Pantry (Fridays 2-5 PM) with each trip lasting about 15 minutes. In the future, they may tackle rides to the grocery store.

If you can serve as a volunteer driver or would simply like more information, please contact Robin at rfriesheim@gmail.com. Of course, you can also ask Fr. Chuck if you have questions.

Women of St. James' Invited to Grace: Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook, NY is inviting the women of our church and others in the Dutchess County area to a special gathering and meal on **Wednesday, May 10, beginning at 6 p.m.** The speaker, Pam Mott, Canon to the Ordinary, from the Western Massachusetts diocese, will speak about "The Challenges Facing the Episcopal Church Today" and the role of women of faith in meeting those challenges. This event will give us an opportunity to meet other Episcopal Church women, learn about the issues in which we all are engaged and discuss and share ideas together.

Continuing Women of Grace's tradition of pot luck dinners, they will provide the entry and, once they have an idea of the numbers attending, will ask for your contribution of appetizers, salads, desserts or beverages.

If you have not done so yet, please respond to Patty Glancey at pglancey@ymail.com as soon as possible, so we can call Grace Church with the total number of women attending from our church. Grace Church's Parish House, the site of this event, is located at 3328 Franklin Avenue, Millbrook, NY.

Men's Breakfast: Men of St. James', our next Men's Breakfast is **Saturday, May 20 at 8:00 AM.** As usual, we will meet at Cranberry's.

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Easter Forum

"What's in that Book?"

Want more out of Easter?

Miss that Lenten Breakfast togetherness?

Come to the EASTER FORUM!

Four **brief, between-service** sessions on what's in the bible. These quick (30-minute) little gatherings between services will give quick little looks into what the bible contains. You don't have to sign up - just pop in between services that day! Here's what we'll look at:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 30 | Old Testament - What's the Torah?
(& Other writings?) |
| May 7 | Old Testament - What are the Prophets? |
| May 21 | New Testament - What's a Gospel? (and Acts) |
| May 28 | New Testament - What are Epistles |

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St. James' Episcopal Church

Presents

A Mother's Day
Tea Party



4-Course Luncheon

&

Light Entertainment

with "suffragette Margaret Lewis Norrie" at 2:15

May 13, 2017

Two Seatings

12:00 pm and 3:00 pm

\$25 per person

Reservations Required, Limited Seating

Gift Items available for purchase

Celebrate with your mother, sister, daughter, or best friend
in a special way at a special place

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ROOTS & BRANCHES
PROGRAMS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

presents

Agents of Peace in a Time of Fear

A Retreat
June 9th and 10th, 2017



Discover Your Inner Peacemaker & Reconciler

on this retreat designed to turn back our present tide of divisiveness, conflict and inflammatory speech. Participants will reconnect with the peacemaking example of Christ and be empowered with practical methods to become agents of peace and reconciliation in their own communities.

Co-led by the Revs. Masud Ibn Syedullah and Garrett Mettler at Taconic Retreat Center in Milan, NY.

Accommodations at the retreat center and all meals are included in the \$300 registration cost. To find out more and to register call 845-758-8764.

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Explore the Choir! "If you have any interest at all in singing and/or playing an instrument - no matter how much experience you have - do consider participating in the St. James music ministry! You can contact St. James' Music Director Sarah Rodeo (sarodeo@vassar.edu) at any time!"

Churchyard Committee: Our churchyard committee wants you. The committee oversees one of the most historic graveyards in the region, and is responsible for making sure it is kept up. It handles the sale and digging of graves as well. If you value our churchyard and want it to continue to be a source of comfort whose loved ones rest here as well as historical interest to those who visit, please join our committee. If you're interested, you can contact Carol Vinall at vinehall3@aol.com.

Spiritual / Educational Online Resources to deepen your faith:

- Acts 8 Movement
 - GrowChristians
 - Episcopal Cafe (a favorite)
 - The Slate Project (not affiliated with Slate magazine)
 - Virtual Abbey
 - Second Life Church (gives you a virtual church experience if you're into that sort of thing. Fun to look at maybe).
 - Inward/Outward (daily meditations sent to your e-mail)
 - "Edge of Enclosure" (weekly lectionary-based blog post)
 - The Celtic Christian Tradition (via Facebook)
 - Anne Lamott (via Facebook)
 - Fr. Richard Rohr's blog <https://cac.org/richard-rohr/richard-rohr-ofm/>
 - Jan Richardson - <http://paintedprayerbook.com>
- Especially good for those grieving or interested in women's spirituality.

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

May

- 7 Christ's Church, Rye
- 8 Calvary-St. George's, Manhattan
- 9 Church of the Crucifixion, Manhattan

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- 10 Grace Church, Nyack
- 11 Guild of St. Ives
- 12 St. Andrew's Church, South Fallsburg, Delaware Catskill Episcopal Ministry
- 13 Postulants and Candidates for the Vocational Diaconate

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

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

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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, Helen Braun, Susie Buhalis, Mariel Carter, Dee, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Cath Holywell (priest in the Church of England and Indaba partner who worshiped with St. James' - undergoing heart surgery), Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Charles Pardee, Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), John Ross, Richard Secor, Sharon Secor (recovering from heart surgery), James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Patricia, (sister of Barbara Slegel), Carl Smith, Marguerite Spratt, Janice Syedullah, Tracy, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, Cliff Wells and Shawn Wheeler.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Charles Pardee, husband of Sally Pardee, who departed this life on Wednesday. Please keep Sally in your prayers. May God grant her comfort in her loss.

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): Kathryn Clark

Birthdays
(this coming week): Erika Seagren and Rebecca Gausepohl

Acolytes:
May 7: Team 2
May 14: Team 3

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Altar Guild:	May 7: Team I May 14: Team I
8 a.m. Readers:	May 7: Lucille Ogden and Grant Ferris May 14: Debbie Belding and Sue DeLorenzo
10 a.m. Readers:	May 7: Russell Urban-Mead/Andy Hall May 14: Wilma Tully/Deirdre Mae Micker
Ushers:	May 7: Andrew and Tonya Hall May 14: Judy Douglass, Vince Asher
Pledge Clerks:	May 7: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass May 14: Joanne Lown and Janet Bright
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	May 7: Brian and Scarlett O'Leary, Brian O'Leary, Jr., Tara O'Leary, Sally Pardee May 14: Anna Marie Pitcher, Clifford Plass and Christy Plass, Linda Plass
Coffee Hour Hosts:	May 7: Audrey Horne, Eric Zavadil May 14: Jodi Triola, Ross and Connie Eames

This Week's Lectionary

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 708

Sequence: 199

Offertory: Anthem

Communion: 663

Recessional: 645

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

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Sermon Preached on
Third Sunday of Easter
(April 30, 2017)

"Setting the Record Straight"

One of my favorite stories has always been the Road to Emmaus. Jesus with the two disciples letting them know just whom it was they were talking to - and why. Just imagine walking and talking with someone, getting more and more excited about what he's saying - and then, as you break bread together, he disappears. And at that moment, it becomes clear to you who this was! Wouldn't that be cool to experience?

But think about what was really happening - because it was even bigger. Jesus was saying that they shouldn't have been surprised that the messiah had to go through everything - through incarnation, through life as a human, through earthly frustrations, through the teaching and the adulation but ultimately through the rejection, crucifixion and resurrection. This was all millennia in the making. If only they had understood what God had been making clear in the Torah, in the prophets, and in the other writings and sages, they would not have doubted for a minute that Jesus was indeed raised from the dead.

If only they had connected the dots, Jesus says, but they didn't - until now.

This isn't all that different from Peter addressing the crowd, letting them know just who Jesus is. But he also lets them know who was responsible for Jesus' death: "whom you crucified." Ouch. They might claim they had nothing to do with the crucifixion. Maybe they weren't even in town! But Peter is saying something deeper here than perhaps even he understands. Because when he says, "whom you crucified," he's talking to everyone, not just the Jews of Jerusalem. That's why, on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, we take the parts of the people in the Passion Gospel and cry out, "Crucify him!" We understand that the crucifixion was because of us all, even us who were born centuries later. We all had a hand in it - and to a degree still do when we live as if Jesus is not our Lord, is not risen.

We may not have been around at the time of the crucifixion, but unless we learn the story, know our history and learn the lessons, we are no different. We may not be responsible for what happened back then, but we are responsible for knowing it. And we are responsible for how we live today in light of that knowledge.

We don't like that.

Remember last year when we had those explorations of the church's role in slavery in New York? Some people said to me, "But come on, Chuck, that was more than 150 years ago. We are responsible for that. No, but we are responsible for setting the record straight - acknowledging that our own diocese was not only complicit in slavery but an enthusiastic supporter of it. And we are responsible for understanding the connections between slavery and the current ongoing

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racial disparities that are directly related (like the Jim Crow, segregation, and more recently mass incarceration)

Or like with the climate. You know that yesterday I went to Washington to be part of the Climate March. Why do it when marches are such a waste of time? Mostly to publicly state - and I wore my clerical collar to act as a representative of the church - that climate change is real - this is the official stance of the church. To state that we are called by God to be stewards of the earth and even if we didn't cause it. To assert that we are responsible for what is happening right now.

But also to acknowledge that the environmental movement has gotten it wrong in the past as well, and that we need to have our eyesight readjusted. For example, it took environmentalists decades to figure out that climate and justice are connected since the most vulnerable are hit the hardest every time. And that sometimes the environmental movement was actually seeking solutions that were harming the very weakest among us. A bitter pill to swallow but a necessary antidote to arrogance.

And so, it's a whole reshaping of things. It's a way of looking at ourselves and saying, "I have not been on the right path, and it is time to set it straight." But the first part of that, of course, is acknowledging that anything was wrong in the first place, and that's where we have the hardest problem as human beings. We still say - or at least some of us say - "nothing we did has caused any of this." We deny things.

With the climate, we acknowledge that when you throw things into the environment, it has an impact. And we are responsible - maybe not for creating it but for moving ahead. Those are the responsibilities we have, but it requires first and foremost acknowledging, recognizing what is before us.

This is just a small example of what I mean. It's the same thing that Jesus was saying to those disciples. It's the same thing that Peter was saying to that crowd of people. And that is, you are not responsible for the world that you were born into. You're not responsible, Jesus said to Cleopas and the other unnamed disciple, for what happened up until you got onto the scene. But you are responsible for knowing. You are responsible for paying attention to the prophets. God gave you prophets for a reason. You are responsible for knowing the Torah. God gave you the Torah for a reason. And by the way, our Forum in between services was all about the Torah today.

You are responsible for knowing, and once you have learned, then you are responsible for acting, which is why it is so heartening that those disciples - once they recognized that it was Jesus in the breaking of the bread - didn't just sit around the fire and say, "Oh, that was cool." They got up and they moved, and they went back, and they said, "We have seen the risen Christ, Alleluia!" And everyone else say, "Yeah! We know! Alleluia!"

We are all in need of being set straight from time to time, and we are all called to be open enough to recognize when we have been blind. It might be uncomfortable or lead us to hard work. But, when we open our eyes, we may see it was Christ with us all along - who is now made known to us in something as simple as the breaking of the bread.

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