

St. James' E-pistle

June 14, 2013

Pulpit Notes

Dear Friends at St. James':

What a pleasure it was to celebrate with you, your rector, his family and your youngest members. After the ten o'clock service I watched a fine slide presentation of activities throughout the past year. It is very moving. Let the good times continue with VBS in July!

This coming Sunday marks the beginning of our summer program. As we change gears to a quieter mode of worship, let's enjoy the greater opportunities for prayer and contemplation, something our eight o'clock participants value so well. What I plan to consider with you this Sunday is this: Out of our deep experience of forgiveness comes much of our capacity to love; and out of our rest in God comes the energy to exercise that capacity.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity
interpreted by love!

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.

St. James' E-pistle

June 14, 2013

The News of the Diocese

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.

* * *

Recently I 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.

St. James' E-pistle

June 14, 2013

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

Deacon Gail

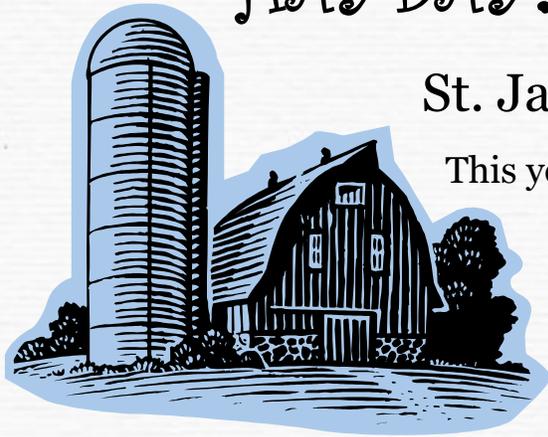
The News of the Church

Graveyard Tours: The next organizational meeting for the Graveyard Tours will be June 23, 11:30 in the hall. Please stop by and see the progress we are making. It is going to be a great year, with several members of the congregation as actors! Remember this is our major fundraiser and a big project, we can always use your help!

Thanks, Bev O'Halloran, 229-5555

Summer Hiatus for Coffee Hour: Please note that there will be no coffee hour during July and August

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.)

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 Keefe, 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

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June 14, 2013

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:

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:	Samantha O'Mara, Carol Bender and Anna Marie Pitcher
Acolytes:	June 16: Nick Granados-Kramer, Skye O'Halloran and Mike Minter June 23: Nancy Montero
Altar Guild:	June 16: Team Number III June 23: Team Number III
8 a.m. Readers:	June 16: Debbie Belding and Paul Littlefield June 23: Angela Henry and Grant Ferris
10 a.m. Readers:	June 16: Regina Ardini and Sophie Ciferri June 23: Wilma Tully and Bobbie Wells
Ushers:	June 16: Andrew and Tanya Hall June 23: Bobbie and Cliff Wells
Pledge Clerks:	June 16: Tanya Hall June 23: Paul Littlefield and Dean Caswell
Coffee Hour Hosts:	June 16: Deidre Micker and the Gausepohls June 23: Pat Keeffe and Audrey Horne (coffee: Kathy Graff)

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

St. James' E-pistle

June 14, 2013

This Week's Lectionary

2 Samuel 11:26-12:10,13-15

Psalm 32

Galatians 2:15-21

Luke 7:36-8:3