

St. James' E-pistle

June 20, 2014

Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

The last day of spring yields its vernal delights to the heat of summer. Frankly, the vernal delights weren't all that delightful this spring - lots of rain and up and down temperatures. May summer be warm and gentle!

With summer, we have our traditional lull.

I'm all for it.

Not that I want you to miss church! Of all the things that can help you be refreshed and renewed, church is actually one of the most important. Summer days are often filled with running around frantically trying to cram in more fun. So often we run from a game to the beach to a camp to a cookout to another game.

More than once, I've heard people say, "I need a vacation from vacation!"

Church, on the other hand, is always there, always constant, always ready to both sooth and inspire you.

Why?

Because the church - the Body of Christ - has something that none of the other summer delights has. Jesus.

We bear witness to the intensity of God's love, to the power of something far bigger than ourselves yet unbelievably humble. You can't get that anywhere else.

That's why I want to encourage, urge, exhort you to attend church every Sunday this summer. Even when you are away, you can find a church nearby. But be with us here when you are at home.

The past two months, I have noticed a dip in attendance which generally corresponds with the busy-ness of this time of year. I know my family has been running around a lot.

But now that school is coming to an end and your activities become more discretionary, make your church family a priority. Believe it or not, your presence makes a difference. We are not the same without you.

Oh, let me put out one other reminder. It would help us tremendously if you kept up your pledge during the summer. It's easy to forget, but your consistency helps us reach out to others with the love of Christ both spiritually and physically.

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So help us - and help yourself - be the vessels of Christ's Love in the world. Come worship together. You are needed. More importantly, you are wanted.

In Christ,

Chuck+

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The News of the Diocese

Prayers for Nigerian Terror Victims: Please consider using this prayer in your daily devotions as you remember the more than 200 girls kidnapped in Nigeria by the terrorist group Boko Haram. While it is true that there are millions in equally desperate situations and facing equally unjust treatment, focusing on one specific case of injustice and evil may help us remember all who suffer similarly. (This prayer comes by way of the Rev. Steve Holton for the Episcopal Muslim Relations Committee).

Prayer for the kidnapped Nigerian girls May 2014

O God, we cry out to you
for the lives and the freedom
of the 276 kidnapped girls in Nigeria.
In their time of danger and fear,
pour out your strong Spirit for them.
Make a way home for them in safety.
Make a way back for them
to the education that will lift them up.
Hold them in the knowledge
that they are not captive slaves,
they are not purchased brides,
but they are your beloved daughters ,
and precious in your sight.
Change the hearts and minds of their kidnappers
and of all who choose violence against women and girls.
Cast down the mighty from their seat,
and lift up the humble and meek,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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."

22 The Chaplaincy at Hunter College

23 The Society of St. Francis

24 On The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, we give thanks for those who proclaim the Good News of the Gospel.

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- 25 Episcopal Relief and Development
- 26 Harlem Episcopal School, Manhattan
- 27 The Recovery Ministries Committee of the Diocese
- 28 The HealthCare Chaplaincy, Inc.

Children's Community Chorus: St. Margaret's Church in Staatsburg is inviting all children between the ages of 8 and 13 to join their free, non-denominational Children's Community Chorus. St. Margaret's received a grant to form this group which is not only a singing group but a class intent on teaching all children how to read music. The idea is for the chorus to sing at various community concerts as well as once a month during St. Margaret's worship. If you would like more information, please call Fr. Allan Ford at 914-299-3148 or leave a message at 845-889-4181.

The News of the Church



Book Now On Sale: Fr. Chuck's book, "God, Life, and Everything" is now available for purchase! It will be in the parish hall after church at a cost of \$12.95. (plus \$1.05 tax). Checks should be made out to "The Hudson Valley News." Come on over to coffee hour and meet the author! He will be happy to autograph it if you wish. ;-)

Join the Fall Pilgrimage: Last March, five of us went on a Lenten "Rail Trail" Pilgrimage. It was successful enough that folks wanted to try it again! The Vestry has authorized a Fall Rail Trail Pilgrimage for September 13-14 - **but only** if we can get 15 people to register (to justify the expense of a supply priest). So, this Sunday there will be registration forms. If you are interested, please take one! But note that there will be a non-refundable \$15 deposit required to hold your spot (refundable only if we do not get the required 15 people). The deadline for registration is August 10. Because of the difficulty in finding supply clergy, this deadline cannot be changed.

Wanted: New Acolytes: As the school year draws to an end, we will say goodbye to our graduating acolytes (and wish them luck in college!). This opens up a couple of spots on the acolyte list, and we want you! New acolytes need to be at least 9 years old and willing to be trained. Please see me (Fr. Chuck).

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Girl Scouts Fundraiser: Girl Scouts Troop 10114 is having a pancake breakfast fundraiser at Applebees on June 28 from 8-10 a.m. Tickets are \$6. The troop is also selling gas card raffle tickets, with drawing that morning at Applebees (but you need not be present to win). Amelia McNamara and Taylor & Travyn Triola are all members of Troop 10114. Contact Maggie McNamara (773-9108) or Jodi Triola (489-4216) for tickets.

Outreach Committee: The Outreach Committee will have our next meeting on Wednesday, July 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Wilks Room.

Plastic Bags Needed: The Community Garden is starting to harvest our early crops. We need more plastic bags to transport and distribute the vegetables at the Food Pantry. Please put them in the bin in the narthex during the growing season. Thank you.

Gluten Free Communion: Remember, if you have gluten allergies/intolerance, we have gluten free communion hosts. Please let Fr. Chuck know if you would like that option.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Kathleen Craft, Michael Day, Jane Gagliardoto, Kasey Gaulin, John Golden, Jack Gordy, Robert Guariglia, Andy Hall, Harold Hall, Liz Handman, Brooke Helton, Rev. Don Hoger, Dalton K., Barbara Knakal, Ashley Koyne, Rosemary Leuken, Doris Mack, Andrew Mendelson, Rev. Tim Millard, Clifford Plass, Gerald Plass, Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Pat Rooney, John Schroeder, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Debbie Stone, The Right Reverend E. Don Taylor, Gloria Veach, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, Bobbie Wells, Cliff Wells and Shawn Wheeler.

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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 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 (week ending June 22):	Anna Marie Pitcher
Birthdays (next week):	Suzanne Schroeder and David Triola
Acolytes:	June 22: Mike Minter, Nancy Montero and Skye O'Halloran June 29: Eden Ciferri, Rebecca Gausepohl and Chris Santos
Altar Guild:	June 22: Team III June 29: Team III
8 a.m. Readers:	June 22: Angela Henry and Grant Ferris June 29: Debbie Belding and Lucille Ogden
10 a.m. Readers:	June 22: Patty Caswell/Nancy Montero June 29: Donna Beyer/Judy Douglass
Ushers:	June 22: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher June 29: Donna and John Beyer
Pledge Clerks:	June 22: Paul Littlefield and Dean Caswell June 29: Paul Littlefield
Coffee Hour Hosts:	June 22: Burkhardt family and Angela Henry June 29: The Choir

This Week's Lectionary

Genesis 21:8-21

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

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
First Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)
(June 15, 2014)

Preached by Deacon Gail Ganter-Toback