

St. James' E-pistle

June 28, 2013

Pulpit Notes

Dear Friends at St. James':

You are privileged to have deacons in this parish. They can connect you with the mission of our diocese and national church. Without mission we flounder.

Think of Christ's Church as a life- saving station.* We can stay near the coast where the shipwrecks happen or move inland, build a club house and hang from the ceiling a symbolic model of a lifeboat. Our Bishop wants us to move back toward the coast. Your deacons are here to help you find the way.

Michael

P.S. Thank you, Gail for telling us about your trip to Williamsburg and the deacons' conference. M.

**The illustration is from Clinebell's book on Pastoral Theology. I read it in seminary during the '60s. Some of you may remember our response to the social turbulence of the '60's: The General Convention Special Program. What, in retrospect, do you make of it?*

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

Our Neighbors on Staten Island Need Assistance: In order for the goal of restoring forty houses by the end of 2013 can be accomplished, volunteers are needed - 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. We are working on putting together a workshop to aid in building up individual skill levels.

If you are interested in volunteering, please speak with me. Maybe some of your friends would like to join you in forming a work party.

Thank you for considering becoming a Hurricane Sandy Recovery Volunteer. Please keep all of our brothers and sisters who are recovering from Sandy and other natural disasters in your prayers.

Deacon Gail

The Episcopal Diocese of New York has called for the election of a Bishop Suffragan for our Diocese. The resolution to call for this special election was set in motion at our November - 2012 Diocesan Convention. The Committee that oversees the process began accepting applications on May 6th. The timeline for announcing the names of the nominees is October 7th. There will be walkabouts the week of November 18th with a Special Convention to elect our next Bishop Suffragan on Saturday, December 7th at the Cathedral.

Please keep all who are involved in the process in your prayers. "Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of all who shall choose a Bishop Suffragan for our Diocese, and all who offer themselves as candidates, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

2013 Training for Eucharistic Visitors & Eucharistic Ministers: Two training sessions have been scheduled for lay people chosen to serve as Eucharistic Visitors and Eucharistic Ministers. Both one day sessions will be given on a Saturday from 9:45 am to 2:30 pm, with lunch included. The fee for each participant is \$15.00, and scholarships will be available.

Training will be hosted on September 21, 2013 at Zion, Wappingers Falls and at Christ Church of Ramapo, Suffern on October 5, 2013. If you wish to register, or have any questions about the training, please contact Arlene Bullard at abullard@dioceseny.org.

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The News of the Church

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

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.

St. James' VBS in Fourth of July Parade: **St. James' will be part of the 4th of July Parade in Hyde Park, with a float promoting the weekend Vacation Bible School ("VBS") scheduled for the weekend of July 19th through the 21st. Be certain to look for some familiar faces in the parade!**

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, 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

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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:	Suzanne Schroeder and David Triola
Acolytes:	June 30: Gage Minter July 7: Tess Manning
Altar Guild:	June 30: Team Number I July 7: Team Number I
8 a.m. Readers:	June 30: Debbie Belding and Lynne Koch July 7: Debbie Belding and Sue DeLorenzo
10 a.m. Readers:	June 30: Patty Caswell and Judy Douglass July 7: Donna Beyer/Deidre Mae Micker
Ushers:	June 30: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher July 7: Donna and John Beyer
Pledge Clerks:	June 30: Paul Littlefield July 7: Deb and Doug Belding
Coffee Hour Hosts:	June 30: Choir and Barbara Slegel July 7: No Coffee Hour until September

This Week's Lectionary

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

Galatians 5:1,13-25

Luke 9:51-62