

St. James' E-pistle

June 6, 2014

Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

In case you missed it, I was not in church last Sunday. Many of you may - perhaps most - know that I was away at one of the growing number of "challenge courses," taking place around the country and across the globe.

This particular challenge course was called "Tough Mudder," and it involved running, jogging, trudging up and down Mount Snow in Vermont. Yes, it was a real mountain, and yes, we went all the way up. If that were all there was, it would be enough. However, the point of these courses is to reach a series of "obstacles" and overcome them.

An additional but constant obstacle was the mud itself - from whence comes the event's name. Pits knee-deep mud roughly 50 yards long appeared regularly, both on the way up and on the way down the mountain.

The obstacles themselves ranged from the simple and easy to the terrifying (for some of us with phobias). Those I found most difficult involved water (diving through ice-cold water and jumping off a 15-foot tower into a pool), then there were those that required jumping higher than I can jump - a 12-foot wall, for example, with no handholds.

On the other hand, what is wonderful about this course is that it is designed specifically to require everyone to both get help from and give help to others. I felt no shame in shouting, "Can I get a leg up?" And it felt good to reach down and help haul someone up a ramp that might as well have been a greased slide.

Though my aching body tells me otherwise, the value of interdependence, of "all being on the same team," rather than competing against each other, appeals to me. Not sure if it appeals to me enough to do another, but at least when the boys talk about "next time," it doesn't seem outside of the realm of sanity.

What does any of this have to do with God or you?

The first thing is that I am ever so thankful for your prayers. I was anxious about doing this thing, and when I asked you to pray, many of you e-mailed back and said, "I'm praying for you!" That felt very good. When we pray for and with each other, we are not only stronger but more grace-filled.

Another thing is that these events force us to face our fears, to take a leap into the unknown. You have to be willing to do it, but it can be transformative. As we approach the Feast of Pentecost this Sunday, when the Holy Spirit filled the apostles and promised to fill us, we do

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well to remember that the Spirit is always leading us into the unknown, often into places or situations we fear. Like taking advantage of an opportunity to express your faith when it presents itself.

I'm really not much of a thrill seeker, but on occasion experiences pop up that require some response. Perhaps today, the Holy Spirit is calling you to one today. If so, let me know about it, and I will pray for you. I promise.

In Christ,

Chuck+

PS. With Pentecost come several important events in the life of the church. Please read on to learn more about them.

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

8 St. Andrew's Church, Brewster

9 On this day we give thanks for The First Book of Common Prayer, 1549.

10 The Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Stony Point

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11 On the feast day for Saint Barnabas the Apostle, we give thanks for all who live quiet lives of faithfulness.

12 St. Luke's Church, Eastchester

13 The Church of the Ascension, Mount Vernon

14 St. Peter's Church, Port Chester

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

RMM Walkathon: Have you signed up to walk the Rural and Migrant Ministry Walkathon? I know there are a lot of things going on this weekend, but if you can make it, please do! I'm walking and still accepting sponsorships (thanks!). Just e-mail me at revckramer@gmail.com.

Boy Scouts: Want breakfast before taking part in the Walkathon? Boy Scout Troop 80 is having a pancake breakfast fundraiser at Applebee's on June 7 from 8-10 a.m. Tickets are \$5. Raffle. Contact Barbara Slegel at 889-4041 or any member of Troop 80 for tickets.

WEAR RED ON PENTECOST:

Wear red shoes! Wear red shirts!

Wear red pants or dresses or skirts!

Wear red anything, including red hats!

But can my red vestments top all of that?

This Sunday is the Feast of Pentecost. It is Tradition to wear RED that day to commemorate the Holy Spirit coming down upon the apostles (and us) with the appearance of fire. Let the fire burn in your heart and soul!

Chapel Service Reminder: Just a reminder that the 8:00 AM service this Sunday, June 8 will be at the Chapel. **Wear your red!**

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Recognition Sunday: This Sunday is also Recognition Sunday. All acolytes and Sunday School students should be present. All Sunday School students will go straight to Church and sit up in the front with their classes until the recognition ceremony is complete. Then everyone can join us after church for our annual ice cream social.

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. Checks should be made out to "The Hudson Valley News." Come on over to coffee hour and meet the author! ;-)

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).

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.

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, Andy Hall, Harold Hall, Brooke Helton, Rev. Don Hoger, Dalton K., Barbara Knakal, 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, 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:	Christina Wardell, Lynne Koch, Jackie Schroeder, Stephen Weaver, Wilma Tully and Mary Grosskopf
Acolytes:	June 8: Bryanna Burkhardt, Chris Granados-Kramer and Monica Rizzo June 15: Gage Minter, Jasmine Thatcher and Charlie Urban-Mead
Altar Guild:	June 8: Team II June 15: Team II
8 a.m. Readers:	June 8: Angela Henry and Lynne Koch June 15: Debbie Belding and Paul Littlefield
10 a.m. Readers:	June 8: Regina Ardini/Sophie Ciferri June 15: Wilma Tully/Bobbie Wells
Ushers:	June 8: Andrew and Tonya Hall June 15: Bobbie and Cliff Wells
Pledge Clerks:	June 8: Deb and Doug Belding June 15: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Coffee Hour Hosts:	June 8: Ross and Connie Eames, Jodi Triola and Pat Rooney June 15: The Gausepohls, Deirdre Mae Micker and Leslie Quick

This Week's Lectionary

Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23

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

Sermon Preached on
Seventh Sunday of Easter
(June 1, 2014)

Because we had a guest preacher last Sunday, there is no copy of the sermon.