

St. James' E-pistle

June 7, 2013

Pulpit Notes

Dear Friends at St. James',

This past Sunday I was invited to walk with you in your garden. What a grand project it is, and what an enduring hope it represents. May God bless it richly this growing season.

This coming Sunday, we will celebrate the end of another kind of growing season, one filled with an even greater hope: Your children are finishing a year in your church school! What a joy they are when they are with us in church. Let's honor them. And what a difference your acolytes make through their devoted presence in your sanctuary! Let's honor them!

This past Sunday's sermon was about our God's constant fishing expedition. Love has drawn us into Love's net, and we can be so grateful to be caught. God brings us together and uses us to catch others; or, as Jesus' parable describes it: "The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad." (Matthew 13:47-48) The answer to last week's sermon title is "Yes, we do indeed have fish!" God has us and we have each other. And we have with us our beautiful young Christians. And we have all those neighbors we seek to hold in Love's embrace. If from time to time we throw ourselves out of God's net for a while, never fear. God is supremely confident of God's ability to catch us again.

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.

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The News of the Diocese

Rural and Migrant Ministry's Summer Camp. Will you prayerfully consider supporting the Rural and Migrant Ministry's summer camp program for our rural and migrant children?

Are you aware that the mission of Rural and Migrant Ministry (RMM) is "to address the needs of the rural poor, including migrant farmworkers and their families, with a primary focus on developing leadership skills and opportunities for youth."

For the past twenty-three summers, RMM has been offering a free summer camp experience for our rural and migrant children. Summer day camps are held in three communities in five rural counties. In addition, there is a one-week overnight camp that focuses "on skill-building and leadership development activities." Each camping experience also includes a special trip.

Because the camp is free to the children and youth who attend, RMM looks to donations, foundations and special fundraising events like the Walk-a-thon to fund the camps. This year's Walk-a-thon will be held on Saturday, June 8th with St. James once again as the host.

Please consider joining us on June 8th. Activities begin at 10:00 a.m. with registration (\$20.00/adults and \$10.00/children - includes a BBQ lunch). For all who are able, there is a three mile walk around the Vanderbilt Loop. Lunch is being prepared by the Culinary Christian Fellowship of the Culinary Institute.

If you are a walker - there are sponsor sheets in the narthex of the church. If you are unable to walk, please prayerfully consider making a donation to the Rural and Migrant Ministry - summer camp program.

On behalf of all the campers who will benefit from your generosity, **THANK YOU!**

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.

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Last Saturday, I again 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.

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



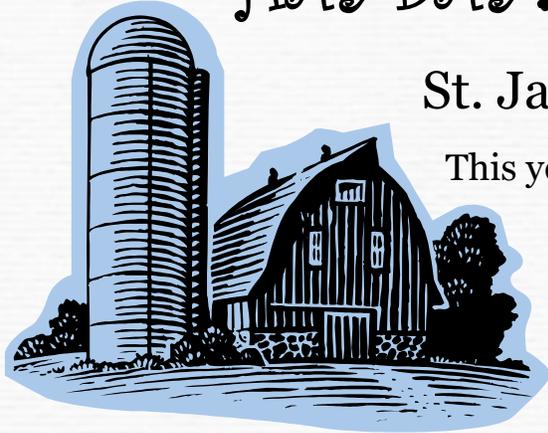
St. James' Sunday School Scribe

Important Dates: -June 9 – Recognition Sunday and Ice Cream Social

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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 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.

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.

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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:	Lynne Koch, Jackie Schroeder, Stephen Weaver, Wilma Tully and Mary Grosskopf
Acolytes:	June 9: Chris Granados-Kramer, Bryanna Burkhardt and Travyn Triola June 16: Nick Granados-Kramer, Skye O'Halloran and Mike Minter
Altar Guild:	June 9: Team Number II June 16: Team Number III
8 a.m. Readers:	June 9: Angela Henry and Lucille Ogden June 16: Debbie Belding and Paul Littlefield
10 a.m. Readers:	June 9: Donna Beyer and Justin Bohlmann June 16: Regina Ardini and Sophie Ciferri
Ushers:	June 9: Kathie Champion and Mary Gabel June 16: Andrew and Tanya Hall
Pledge Clerks:	June 9: Deb and Doug Belding June 16: Tanya Hall
Coffee Hour Hosts:	June 9: Jodi Triola, The Eames and Annette Minter June 16: Deidre Micker and the Gausepohls

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

This Week's Lectionary

1 Kings 17:8-24

Psalm 146

Galatians 1:11-24

Luke 7:11-17