

St. James' E-pistle

July 17, 2015

Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

It's good to be back home after a couple of weeks away. I went to my hometown for a family reunion then went to Albany for a few days for a scooter rally.

The family reunion was the first time all six of us kids (the youngest is 52, yet we're still all "the kids") have been together in nine years. Now, with my parents showing their age, and our own kids growing up and leaving the nest (or indeed having their own children), it seemed like a good time to gather together from all parts of the country.

It might be the same in every family, but I can certainly say it is the case in my family that we get together and immediately fall into our old roles as if we had never gone off into the big world to start our own lives. There was the organizer, the pessimist, the jock, the tinkerer and so on. I bet you have similar role assignments in your families.

And yet, there was a difference. Perhaps because we get together so seldomly, it was easier to see. We became more supportive of each other, more understanding and less judgmental of how each leads their lives. We were definitely more relaxed around each other. And let me tell you, in a family where we grew up hearing, "Kramers get along beautifully at 500 miles distance," this is no small thing.

We really did hate leaving each other.

So why bother telling you this? Because it reminds me that we are always changing. Even as we relate with the same old people we've known all our lives, we are never static. There is no moment that defines us permanently - at least not in God's eyes. One of my favorite illustrations of this is the story of a prison inmate sentenced to life for murder. The inmate never disputed that he was guilty.

But one day, he met the Episcopal chaplain and began a relationship that was different from the common prison "I get out of my cell and maybe a few snacks" church relationship. The priest spoke to him. Christ spoke to him. After years of an ongoing relationship, the inmate hinted that he felt a call to the priesthood. The chaplain discussed it with his bishop and with a skeptical warden, but in the end was given permission to let the inmate test his vocation and "read" for orders under the chaplain's guidance.

When the day came for the inmate to be ordained, the warden told him not to expect any special treatment or think he might get his sentence shortened because of this prison

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conversion. He was still convinced it was all a ploy. But the inmate said (and I paraphrase): "I don't want to go anywhere - this is my mission field. This is where God put me to minister in a way I am uniquely suited to serve. Why would I want to leave?"

Whether or not he changed the warden's mind, I don't know. But he was changed. And God did it through the offices of a devoted chaplain who saw the work of the Holy Spirit in the unlikeliest of places.

So, we are changed. We are never bound to the pictures of ourselves that others have, and we are never bound to our past moments. As long as we keep our eyes on Christ, we are always growing into something new, something more wonderful than even before. I find this uniquely hopeful.

May your changes be in hope.

In Christ,

Chuck+

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The News of the Diocese

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

- 19 The Jacob Perlow Chaplaincy, Manhattan
- 20 On the feast day for Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Jenks Bloomer, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Ross Tubman we pray for those who work for the rights of all people.
- 21 Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of New York
- 22 On the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene we pray for eyes to recognize the risen Lord in our midst.
- 23 The Jack and Jill School, Manhattan
- 24 The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church
- 25 On the feast of Saint James the Apostle we pray for those who are passionate in their faith.

Praying For Peace Everywhere:

Let us continue to light a candle for peace in the Holy Land - and everywhere. Prayer is our most potent antidote to hatred.

1. **Candle for Peace**

Please also light a candle on Fridays - holy to both faiths - for Peace

Let us Light Candles for Peace

Two mothers, one plea:

Now, more than ever, during these days of so much crying,
on the day that is sacred to both our religions, Friday, Sabbath Eve

Let us light a candle in every home - for peace:

A candle to illuminate our future, face to face,

A candle across borders, beyond fear.

From our family homes and houses of worship

Let us light each other up,

Let these candles be a lighthouse to our spirit

Until we all arrive at the sanctuary of peace.

2. **The Mothers Prayer:**

God of Life:

You who heals the broken hearted, binding up our wounds.

Please hear this prayer of mothers.

You did not create us to kill each other

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Nor to live in fear or rage or hatred in your world. You created us so that we allow each other to sustain Your Name in this world:

Your name is Life, your name is Peace.

For these I weep, my eye sheds water:

For our children crying in the night,

For parents holding infants, despair and darkness in their hearts.

For a gate that is closing – who will rise to open it before the day is gone?

With my tears and with my constant prayers, With the tears of all women deeply pained at these harsh times

I raise my hands to you in supplication: Please God have mercy on us.

Hear our voice that we not despair That we will witness life with each other, That we have mercy one for another, That we share sorrow one with the other, That we hope, together, one for another.

Inscribe our lives in the book of Life

For Your sake, our God of Life Let us choose Life.

For You are Peace, Your world is Peace and all that is Yours is Peace,

May this be your will

And let us say Amen.

*Sheikha Ibtisam Mahameed and Rabba Tamar Elad-Appelbaum
English Translation Amichai Lau-Lavie*

The News of the Church

GARDEN: The Community Garden needs some more plastic bags for the Food Pantry handouts, so if it is possible to include a request to bring them in on Sunday, I would appreciate it. I will have a bin for that in the narthex. Much thanks, as always. Deb

Opportunities to Extend our Mission Hands: Over the next several months, we are being given the opportunity to extend our mission hands out into our community and beyond. Please prayerfully consider these donation opportunities.

Rural and Migrant Ministry is looking for donations of school kits to be given to the children and youth that attend their summer camp programs. A list of what is needed will be in the narthex beginning this Sunday, July 19th. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, August 9th.

Rebuild the Churches Fund: Bishop Dietsche has asked each parish of our Diocese to join him in contributing to the rebuilding of the seven African-American churches that burned recently. We will hold this special collection on Sunday, August 30th.

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Then in September the work of Episcopal Relief and Development will be highlighted with a special collection honoring their 75th Anniversary celebration being held on Sunday, September 27th.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Lown or Deacon Gail. Thank you!

ACTORS WANTED! The Graveyard Tours are Coming, and we need actors! We are looking within the parish first because we have the best actors! And this year, you want to be involved because it will be powerful.

For 2015, we have seven characters:

- 1 Dr. Samuel Bard - a middle-aged, stately man. Primary founder of the parish.
- 2 Rev. John McVickar - a younger man (mid-20s, early 30s would be ideal but can go older). First rector of St. James'.
- 3 John Germond - a 40-50ish man. Ideally can play organ. Organist/choir director for 35 years.
- 4 Ellen Roosevelt - athletic woman early 20s. Winner of 3rd US Open.
- 5 Richard Jenkins - between 40-70 man. Former slave, first sexton of St. James'.
- 6 Catherine Carl - almost any age can work (20s - 90s. She lived a long time). Richard's daughter.
- 7 Emma Victoria Pitkin Marshal - 50-70ish woman. Poetess of Hyde Park.

We are also looking for tour guides - it will be a little different this year, and will have special training with Fr. Chuck. Please see Fr. Chuck if you would like to act.

Summer Youth Conference: I strongly encourage any young people (rising 6th graders to rising college Freshmen) to attend the Summer Youth Conference at Incarnation Camp Center this summer. The dates are August 16-22. More information is on a flier below. I have financial aid for anyone interested. Again, I strongly urge this!

Take Some Business Cards: We have created some Business Cards for St. James' Church, and we want you to take them. These cards have our service times and contact information for the church office, but no personal names. Carry them around with you because you never know when you might have a conversation that leads you to talk about Christ and your church. If you have a card with you, you can simply give it to them and let them know it has all the

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information they might want to get started exploring St. James'. When we run out, we can always get more, so please take a handful this Sunday!

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Susie Buhalis, Jim And Sharyn Burke, Joann Clark, Michael Day, Dottie Drake, Ross Eames, Jr., Linkin Ewalt, Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Jane Gagliardoto, Jack Gordy, Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Barbara Knakal, Ashley Konyn, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Rev. Tim Millard, Charles Pardee (husband of Sally), Clifford Plass, Gerald Plass, Grace Plass, Linda Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Tracy, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, Cliff Wells and Shawn Wheeler.

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 (this past week):	Taylor Triola, Rick Schroeder and Chris Ruder
Birthdays (next week):	David Bender, Bill Ardini, Sally Pardee and Barbara Soden
Acolytes:	July 19: Chris Granados-Kramer July 26: Kirstin Horn
Altar Guild:	July 19: Team Number II July 26: Team Number II
8 a.m. Readers:	July 19: Angela Henry and Grant Ferris July 26: Deb Belding and Sue DeLorenzo
10 a.m. Readers:	July 19: July 26:
Ushers:	July 19: Bill and Regina Ardini

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Pledge Clerks: July 26: Saira Shahani and Pat Keefe
July 19: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
July 26: Doug Belding and Dean Caswell

Parish Cycle of Prayer: July 19: Dick Dick Wager, Corey Whalen and Dyan Wapnick
July 26: Chris and Dave Wardell and Linda Way

Coffee Hour Hosts: July 19: No Coffee Hour
July 26: No Coffee Hour

This Week's Lectionary

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

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

Join us for the 2014

SUMMER YOUTH CONFERENCE



Open to youth entering grades six through first year of college. For more information, email us at: NYYouthConference@yahoo.com

Summer Youth Conference is a spiritual retreat for teens in a summer camp setting. We come together for a week to worship, play, and sing. Our days consist of a theme-related morning program with discussion groups, daily services, swimming, boating, and sports.

Our evenings are full of activities like a dance, talent show, and campfire. At the end, we return home a little different than when we arrived; stronger for the love and friendship we've added to our lives. Please join us for the week, and make friendships that can last a lifetime!



at **INCARNATION CENTER**
Ivoryton, CT

Incarnation Center provides over 700 acres of wooded trails and a mile-long private lake for over 15,000 visitors per year. Founded by Church of the Incarnation, Manhattan, and assisted by churches in the Diocese of New York and Connecticut, Incarnation hosts over 200 church groups and thousands of campers every year.

To find out more, visit:

www.incarnationcenter.org

