

St. James' E-pistle

July 29, 2016

Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

In the past couple of weeks, we have been treated to the drama that is the nominating conventions of the two major political parties. Those of you who chose to watch them will have seen what you needed to see, and I am not interested in which extravaganza anyone here preferred.

I am interested in the idea of choice. This year in particular, there is such discontent on both sides of the political spectrum with the nominees that many - again on both sides - are talking about a "protest vote" or "voting one's conscience."

Be that as it may, and despite the many small party candidates who will attract some of the disaffected, it's a pretty sure thing that, come January 20, either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump will be the next president.

What interests me in this is that we as Christians often talk about shades of gray - and rightly so. Not everything is black or white, good or bad, evil or righteous. Most things, in fact, are less well defined.

But there are times, similar to an election, when you have to make a decision, when you have to choose between two options (even if neither is particularly appealing). Do I retaliate against that guy who cut me off or let him get away with it? Do I work overtime or lose the money? Do I run the light or be late for that job interview?

Think of the Good Samaritan who had to decide whether or not to help the Israelite who had been injured by robbers. Others had left the man lying there for their own reasons, and now it was the Samaritan's turn. He had to make a choice - help the man or ignore him. He chose to help.

Ethics is the discipline of deciding the right thing to do in any given circumstance. We are guided in our ethics by one principal - that we are called to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

So for us, the question isn't necessarily what precise action we need to take but rather, "Will I act lovingly or not?" We are faced with this decision daily, and it's a struggle to answer in the affirmative because, even if it's right, it often feels unsatisfying or even wrong.

There was a recent conversation among clergy about how or whether to give money to those who come to the office asking. Interestingly, almost none of the clergy - regardless of denomination - felt good about giving, but they had mixed thoughts on what was right. Some

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give, some offer only chits at local stores, some refer to social service agencies, others work in a network of churches to make sure people aren't making the rounds. Each person comes up with a solution (or keeps trying), but they always start from the decision to do what is loving. And that, by the way, is why I think it doesn't always feel good. Doing the loving thing quite often doesn't feel so good. It requires a decision to let go of other things - possibly equally good things - in order to do.

There was another clergy conversation in the wake of the murder of French priest Jacques Hamel led to similar musings of what is right. We talked about self-defense, the defense of others, and the martyrs who offered up their lives willingly without thought for their own safety. How do we as followers of Christ address terror when it is all around us? Is it with fear and anger or - even now - with God's love? What would that look like?

I don't suggest answers here because those answers take a lifetime to figure out. All I suggest is that we come together in the name of Christ week after week to explore these questions, to understand that our decisions and subsequent actions (or lack thereof) do matter. And to strengthen the bond with our core being - with God in Christ who is the anchor in rough seas, the light in darkness, the beauty in desolation.

Strengthened by that internal power, beauty and life, we can make choices based on God's love.

Whether it is the choice of flawed candidates in an election or the decision whether or not to run a red light, we make "either/or" decisions every day. Our question is, will Christ's love be at the center of those decisions?

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

Please remember to keep up your pledge this Summer!

And if you can increase it, we promise it will go to good and holy use.

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Wanted: Treasurer

Our current Treasurer, Jim Smyth has let the Vestry know he will need to step down from that position in the near future. He is kindly staying on until we can find a replacement, but he has also let us know that it won't last forever.

We need a new treasurer!

Are you the person for the job? Here is a job description taken from our By-laws and informed by the diocesan and national church canons. Take a look. If you might be interested but have questions, please feel free to contact one of our wardens. Just asking will not commit you to anything, but it might help you make an informed decision.

Thanks! We appreciate everyone's help in making St. James' a place of vibrant worship, gracious outreach to those in need, and fiscal responsibility.

Treasurer Duties:

"The treasurer shall:

1. Keep full and accurate accounts of all funds and moneys.
2. Keep records of all disbursements in a computer at the Parish House that shall be the property of the vestry.
3. Collect or receive all moneys payable to the church corporation and receipt in its name for all subscriptions, gifts, legacies and other payments to the corporation.
4. Be adequately bonded, as provided in Title I, Canon 7. All funds and moneys shall be subject to the order and direction of the vestry and shall be kept by the treasure in a manner to be identified and preserved as the property of St James' Church at Hyde Park, New York.
5. At all times comply with the provisions of Title I, Canon 7 with respect to the care of funds and the keeping of the treasurer and such other person or persons as shall be designated by the vestry.
6. Make written reports for the meetings of the vestry as requested by the vestry.
7. Keep the corporation's buildings and contents insured against fire and other customary hazards and shall take out public liability insurance on the corporation's premises and on its mother vehicles, if any, and shall secure and maintain such other kinds of insurance as from time to time may be reasonably required, all pursuant to the direction of, and in amounts fixed by the vestry.

In case of the absence or disability of the treasurer, the presiding officer may appoint a treasurer pro tem.

The fiscal year shall begin January 1. All accounts of the parish shall be audited annually by an independent certified public accountant.

NOTE: If you would like a copy of Title I, Canon 7 of the Episcopal Church's Constitution and Canons, we have copies on file in the office, and are happy to get you one.

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The News of the Church

St. James' Episcopal Church invites you to our
Weekend Vacation Bible School

Cave Adventures

July 30th & 31st

Saturday 10:00-4:00

Sunday 9:30-11:30



Ages 4-11 welcome. \$5.00ea. or donation.

Call 845-229-2820 to register.

4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538

Cathedral Field Trip: You are invited to a tour of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, **Saturday, August 20**. Everyone needs to know their cathedral, and this

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magnificent building is ours. See the cathedral as few do. We are opening this trip up to **everyone** - especially children and youth of the parish (and their friends).

There are two tour options: the VERTICAL TOUR and the HIGHLIGHT TOUR. Here are descriptions from the cathedral website of each tour:

Highlights Tour

Explore the many highlights of the Cathedral's history, architecture, and artwork, from the Great Bronze Doors to the seven Chapels of the Tongues. Learn about the daily services, events, and programs that welcome and inspire visitors from around the world. This hour-long tour is offered Mondays, 11 am and 2 pm; Tuesdays-Saturdays, **11 am and 1 pm**; and select Sundays, 1 pm. Tickets are \$12 per person; \$10 per student/senior. It is not necessary to make advance reservations for this tour.

Vertical Tour

On this adventurous, "behind-the-scenes" tour, climb more than 124 feet through spiral staircases to the top of the world's largest cathedral. Learn stories through stained glass windows and sculpture and study the grand architecture of the Cathedral while standing on a buttress. The tour culminates on the roof with a sweeping view of Manhattan. This hour-long tour is offered Wednesdays at 12 pm; Fridays at 12 pm; and Saturdays at **12 pm and 2 pm**. Tickets are \$20 per person; \$18 per student/senior.

To make reservations, please click [here](#), or call (866) 811-4111.

Parish Picnic: It's been a long time since we've had a good old fashioned Parish Picnic, but one is in the works now! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, August 28**. More details to come, but start practicing your grilling!

Sunday School! It's time to start thinking "Back to School" already. And to put you in the mood, here are two important Sunday School dates.

September 11- Open House/Registration

September 18- First Day of classes

Acolyte Festival: Save the date - **Saturday, October 22** - for the Diocesan Youth Acolyte Festival! It's a full day of mostly meeting other youth, learning a few tricks of the trade, and in general having a great time. We're looking for all youth and a few adults to make the trip

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Rural and Migrant Ministry

NEEDS YOUR HELP!

This summer, Rural and Migrant Ministry is celebrating 27 years of providing a week of fun and opportunities for you ages 8-17 at RMM's Overnight Camp. In addition to all the various activities being offered at the camp site, the campers will be guests of the National Park Service. They will be given a special tour of the Roosevelt Estate and have lunch on the grounds. At the end of camp week, each camper is given a basic school supply kit. Please consider making a donation of a school supply kit. The list of needed items is set forth below and also can be found on the table in the narthex. You may also consider a cash donation towards the purchase of these school supplies. Checks should be made payable to St. James' Church; memo line - Rural and Migrant Ministry. Donations will be collected through **Sunday, August 14th**. On behalf of our Outreach Committee and more importantly, on behalf of the campers -THANK YOU!

School Kits for Elementary School Students

- 4 composition notebooks (NO spiral notebooks)
- 4 sturdy 2 pocket folders
- 1 package of notebook paper
- 1 box of primary colored Crayola washable markers
- 1 24-count box of Crayola crayons
- 1 soft pencil envelope/case that includes:
 - 1 package (12) #2 pencils (preferably Ticonderoga brand)
 - 1 eraser
 - 1 pencil sharpener
 - 1 non-flexible plain ruler
 - 3 - 6 quality ball point pens
 - 2 glue sticks
 - 1 pair of school scissors (reversible, if possible, for lefties)
- Added bonus - 1 small package of construction paper would be welcome

Alternative Kits for 7th - 12th Grade Students

- 6 spiral notebooks
- 6 - 8 sturdy 2 pocket folders
- 2 packages of notebook paper
- 1 soft pencil envelope/case
- 1 large package (12/24) of #2 pencils (preferably Ticonderoga brand)
- 1 eraser
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 package (12) good quality ball point pens
- 2 yellow highlighters
- 1 ruler

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Remember Your Pledge this Summer: Each summer we send out a reminder to keep the church in your sights during those long hot days. This is true not only for attendance and prayers but for pledging. Thanks!

Join the Churchyard Committee! Our churchyard committee wants you. The committee oversees one of the most historic graveyards in the region, and is responsible for making sure it is kept up. It handles the sale and digging of graves as well. If you value our churchyard and want it to continue to be a source of comfort whose loved ones rest here as well as historical interest to those who visit, please join our committee. If you're interested, you can contact Carol Vinall at vinehall3@aol.com.

Episcopal Election Toolkit Available: It is the official position of the Episcopal Church to encourage all eligible members to vote in every election. We see it not only as part of our civic duty but as part of our collective life of faith. If we are not engaged in the community, then we are withdrawn - which is not the example our Lord showed.

To encourage enthusiastic and informed participation in the election process, the Episcopal Church has published an Election "Toolkit" with information such as what representatives are up for election, who your officials are, and what the issues of the day are. It includes the Episcopal Church's official position on several issues, which may be helpful in your deliberations.

The most important thing in the church's eyes, however, is that we all go out and vote! Here's a link to the "Toolkit":

<http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal/EpiscopaliansVote>

Spiritual / educational websites to deepen your faith:

- Acts 8 Movement
- GrowChristians
- Episcopal Cafe (a favorite)
- The Slate Project (not affiliated with Slate magazine)
- Virtual Abbey

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- Second Life Church (gives you a virtual church experience if you're into that sort of thing. Fun to look at maybe).
- Inward/Outward (daily meditations sent to your e-mail)

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

July

31 Diocese of New York Episcopal Asian Ministry

August

- 1 Episcopal Chaplaincy at Vassar College
- 2 Eliza Corwin Frost Child Center, Bronxville
- 3 St. Andrew's Church, Manhattan
- 4 Roots and Branches: Programs for Spiritual Growth, Hyde Park
- 5 Spiritual Directors of the Diocese
- 6 Diocesan Convention Committee for the Incorporation and Admission of Parishes

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.

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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

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*

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Susie Buhalis, Mariel Carter, Joann Clark, Michael Day, Dee, Dottie Drake, Ross Eames, Jr., Linkin Ewalt, Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Jack Gordy, Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Rosemary Leuken, Paul Littlefield, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Rev. Tim Millard, Fred Montero, Charles Pardee (husband of Sally), Clifford Plass, Grace Plass, Linda Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson (brother of Mary Gabel), John Ross, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Ann Smith, Marguerite Spratt, Janice Syedullah, Tracy, 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 (this past week):	Barbara Hobens, Georgianna S. Pardee, Patricia Glancey, Barbara Soden, James Matranga, Clarence W. Clark, Nick Granados-Kramer, Clifford Wells, David Wardell and Patricia Drake
Birthdays (this coming week):	Patricia Holland, Jeffrey Thatcher, Mary Gabel, Gordon Mackenzie, Jim Matranga and Suzann Kinne
Acolytes:	July 31: Amelia McNamara August 7: Jasmine Thatcher
Altar Guild:	July 31: Team Number III August 7: Team Number I
8 a.m. Readers:	July 31: Lucille Ogden and Sue DeLorenzo August 7: Debbie Belding and Jim Smyth
10 a.m. Readers:	July 31: Russell Urban-Mead and Nancy Montero August 7: Wilma Tully and Andy Hall
Ushers:	July 31: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher August 7: Andrew and Tanya Hall
Pledge Clerks:	July 31: Andy Hall and Charlessa Thatcher August 7: Joanne Lown and Janet Bright
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	July 31: Chris and Dave Wardell, Linda Way August 7: Pat Weber, Cliff and Bobbie Wells
Coffee Hour Hosts:	July 31: No Coffee Hour August 7: No Coffee Hour

This Week's Lectionary

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-11

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

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

Sermon Preached on Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (July 24, 2016)

"What You Pray For"

Next week, we're going to have our VBS. Yea! But when something big is coming up, it's good to pray, don't you think?

So let's just pray about that right now, shall we?

Okay, here goes.... (Silence)

Um... Are you praying? How do I know? You're just sitting there. You could be thinking about going swimming or Pokemon or the fact that school starts back up in just over a month.

So maybe, if we want to pray all together, we should use the same words. there's one prayer that we all know - the Prayer Jesus taught us, right? And we'll ALL say it. Ready?

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.

Wait, wait... You're saying it differently!

Why?

The real reason is because it's in the bible differently a couple of times. And why is that?

Either it's because the people writing the gospels remembered it differently or because Jesus taught it to them differently at different times.

Either way, that means that the exact words aren't so important as what we are praying for.

And that's the whole reason for this sermon - to think about what we pray for.

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Did you know that you can pray for lots of different things?

Usually, when we think about prayer, we think about asking for stuff. Dear God, I need to pass this test. Please! Dear God, how about a good parking space? Dear God, please make Grandma better.

But there are so many more kinds. In church, every Sunday, we say to God, "I'm sorry," in the confession. It's our way of making up when we forget about God or how God asks us to love each other.

And every Sunday, we say "Thank You" to God for life and all the good things and people we get and for loving us so much and especially for the gift of Jesus. People really do love to hear "Thank You" - so why wouldn't God?

And then there are times you just want to say, "Gee, God, I love you." ORRRR, you might feel like saying, "Gee God, why did you let that happen?"

All those thoughts and feelings are kind of wrapped up in that little prayer Jesus taught the disciples. But then Jesus adds something else.

He says, People ask for all sorts of things, and sometimes they get them. I mean, if you ask your parents for a drone, they probably won't give it to you, but if you say you're hungry, they will feed you...eventually.

And Jesus says God is like that. You can ask for all sorts of things. You won't always get what you want, but you'll get what you need. And Jesus says, the one thing we need, the one thing God will always give - if you ask - is the Holy Spirit.

You might think, great, what good is that? I need a new bike. But the real lesson is that prayer is not primarily about things (not even about making sure a certain candidate is - or is not - elected). It is about being transformed. And Jesus says, "Pray to God to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Pray all the time - don't give up - and God will fill you with the spirit."

That may not make others do what you want or get you that parking space or anything else that you want. But those things really aren't as necessary as we think.

What's important is being with God and God with us. And that prayer - Jesus promises - will always be answered. Amen.

Cave Adventure

St. James' Episcopal Church

Vacation Bible School Weekend!

4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538
845-229-2820 E-mail: stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org

Name of Participant _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Date of Birth _____

Gender M F

Grade just completed Preschool K 1 2 3 4 5

Parent Name(s) _____

Parent Numbers (s) _____

Allergies/Medical Concerns _____

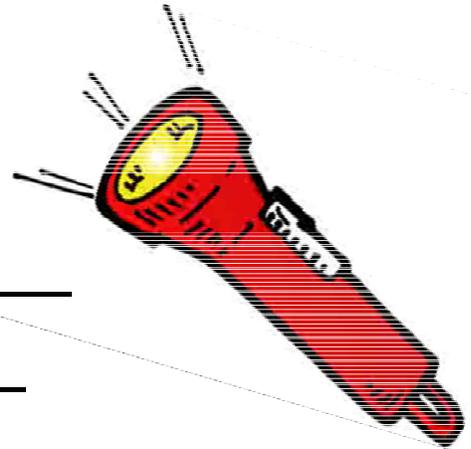
Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Contact Number(s) _____

Cave Adventures is a two-day
Program running Saturday, July 30 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and
Sunday, July 31 from 9:30am to 11:30 am.

Cost is \$5 per child. Please make checks payable to
St. James' Church. Memo: VBS

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILDREN ARE DRESSED IN
COMFORTABLE CLOTHES THAT THEY CAN MOVE AROUND IN
AND YOU DON'T MIND GETTING DIRTY - and **VERY WET!**



PERMISSION FORM

I hereby give my child, _____, permission to fully participate in the planned programs of St. James' Episcopal Church (the "Church") Vacation Bible School ("VBS").

Specifically, I understand such permission includes:

- Permission to use all playground equipment and participate in all games under reasonable supervision.
- Permission to be photographed.
- Permission for the Church Staff and VBS Directors to take whatever steps necessary to protect the health and safety of the children under their care, including obtaining emergency medical care in life threatening situations. Any expenses incurred will be borne by the child's family.
- The Church has permission to administer first aid to minor injuries as it is judged necessary by the Church Staff.

In return, I expect that the Church will do all in its power to protect the physical and emotional well-being of my child. I also expect the Church to notify me at the emergency numbers listed if something occurs.

Parent/ Guardian _____
Signature

Parent/Guardian _____ **Date** _____, 2015
Print Name

Office Use Only:

Date received: ____/____/2015

Amount Paid: \$ _____ (Circle: Cash or Check)

Copy made: Y or N

Group: