

St. James' E-pistle

August 1, 2014

Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

With so much bad stuff going on around the world, it's easy to become numb or to simply shut it all out. I completely understand.

And yet, shutting yourself up in a dark closet and pretending the world isn't out there is not a very effective way of dealing with the feeling of being overwhelmed. It just makes you afraid to go outside.

One of the best remedies for that kind of anxiety is to step away from the onslaught of bad news and do something. I don't mean running away or immersing yourself in some reality show or hobby.

The something I mean is the kind that addresses one of the world's problems. Not all the problems, mind you. You don't have to take on all of them. In reality, you can't take on all of them, but you can tackle one.

That's what we are doing this Sunday. Seven youths and I are going to the Bridge Builders Camp where we will spend a week mostly doing what the camp calls "Hammer and Nails" ministry. We don't know the specific jobs we'll be working on, but some of us are familiar with the type of work. Two of our kids have gone to Bridge Builders before and loved it. Two others are alumni of Towel Camp down in North Carolina.

One of the fun things about such ministry is that it fosters togetherness, a sort of bonding of fellow workers. And, of course, at youth camps there's a lot of singing, playing, goofing around.... But mostly, it's getting up and doing something that the world needs to have done.

If you are thinking to yourself, "Wow, I sure would love to do something like that, but I'm not a kid anymore," FEAR NOT! There is something for you!

Next week, August 8 to be exact, the local Habitat for Humanity build will begin. Our church is part of this effort, not only in raising money but in raising labor. So adults, you can jump in here. It's a lot like camp in that there's work, camaraderie, fun, some praying.

So whether you're a teenager or an adult, there's no need to shut yourself off from the world and all its bad news. You can be part of the Good News while at the same time shedding all that anxiety that the world loves to dump on us.

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I'll be in church on Sunday, but while I'm away at camp, Fr. Allan Ford has agreed to be available for pastoral emergencies. Please call the parish office first.

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

August

- 3 The Church of the Intercession, Manhattan
- 4 St. James' Church, Manhattan
- 5 St. David's Church, The Bronx
- 6 On The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that we may be open to ongoing conversion by the Holy Spirit.
- 7 All Saints' Church, Staten Island
- 8 St. Philip's Church in the Highlands, Garrison
- 9 The Church of St. John the Divine, Tomkins Cove

Still Praying: Though some of the Nigerian girls kidnapped by Boko Haram have escaped, most are still in bondage. Please consider this prayer in your daily devotions.

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 kidnapers
and of all who choose violence against women and girls.
Cast down the mighty from their seat,

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and lift up the humble and meek,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Also Still Praying For Israel and Gaza: 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

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
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

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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

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The News of the Church

DEADLINE for Fall Rail Trail Pilgrimage Registration: The **deadline of August 10** is approaching to register for the Rail Trail Pilgrimage (September 13-14). We start in Hopewell Junction and end at in the Town of Lloyd, spending the night at St. Andrew's Church in Poughkeepsie. Last Spring it was a spiritual powerhouse. There is a non-refundable \$15 deposit required to hold your spot (refundable only if we have to cancel). Because of the difficulty in finding supply clergy, this deadline cannot be changed.

You're invited to a
"Rail Trail Pilgrimage."

Ever Want to go on a
Pilgrimage and
think.....

It's too expensive..

It's too much time...

It's too far away..

I can't

I can't

I can't.....



Yes you can!

On **September 13-14**, we take to the Dutchess and Hudson Valley Rail Trails, across the Walkway Over the Hudson in a spiritual walking pilgrimage.

Registration Deadline: August 10

For more information/brochure, call 229-2820 or go to www.stjameshydepark.org

Many Thanks to Sue! Many Thanks to Sue DeLorenzo for single-handedly removing the carpet of weeds that covered the path from the parking lot to the Meditation Garden. It was quite a job!

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Rural and Migrant Ministries Plea: School Kits Needed: Each year when children leave our summer programs, we provide them (and often siblings) with basic school supply kits. This outreach effort is appreciated by the children and youth and even more by their parents as they prepare for a new school year.

School supply sales will soon begin...since these are not needed until mid-August, we urge you to watch for the sales. Kits should include:

SCHOOL KITS for ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

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

In addition, a small package of construction paper would be welcome.

ALTERNATIVE KITS FOR 7TH - 12TH GRADERS

- * 6 composition notebooks (NO spiral notebooks)
- * 6-8 sturdy 2 pocket folders
- * 2 packages of notebook paper
- * A soft pencil envelope/case
- * A large package (12/24) of #2 pencils (preferably Ticonderoga brand)
- * A pencil sharpener and eraser
- * A package (12) good quality ball point pens
- * 2 yellow highlighters
- * A non-flexible plain ruler
- * 2 glue sticks

Also needed: large bath/beach towels, single fitted bed sheets - these need not be new, but please be sure they have been laundered; fleece throws for cool nights.

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SCHOOL KITS and needed extras should be delivered to the RMM Office by Tuesday, August 12th. Questions??? Call us at the office 845-485-862 845-485-8627 or 845-297-586 Jane 297-5864845-297-845

NOTE: If you are interested in supporting this project, the Outreach Committee decided to place a box in the narthex for your donations. You will not need to get it to the RMM office yourself, a member of the Outreach Committee will make the journey. The last date to receive your donations will be Sunday, August 10th. Thank you!

ALSO: Please see the RMM announcement attached at the end of this E-pistle.

Appeal for Donations to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem: Last week we had an appeal for donations to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and its Al Ahib Hospital in Gaza. The situation in Gaza continues to degenerate, and the hospital is seeing more patients than it can handle. On the plus side, it has sustained less damage than feared, but it is still very low on supplies and fuel to keep the lights on (and medical devices running).

In last week's appeal, we gave you an address in Jerusalem for donations. While that will work, if you want to send a donation to a US address, here it is:

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem
25 Old King's Highway North
Suite 13
Darien, CT 06820

Or online at www.afedj.org

Also, Episcopal Relief and Development is gathering funds for the hospital. Donate online at: www.episcopalrelief.org or mail to Episcopal Relief and Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058 (memo line: Middle East Fund).

A Day of Art & Music To Benefit the Hyde Park Community Garden: On Saturday, Sept. 13th, an art show featuring artists from the Hyde Park Artist Collective will be held outdoors from 11 am until 4 pm. Admission is free! The event will include (1) a silent auction table on display including a painting of St. James' Church and (2) a concert featuring Vito Petrocitto, Jeff Belding & Friends in the Parish House. The concert is from 6:30 to 8:30 and admission is \$12. Desserts will be offered for sale by CIA students. For more information, or reservations call 229-2820.

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Habitat For Humanity Faith Build Starting! The Habitat for Humanity Faith Build which St. James' is participating in is finally underway. We have a Build Captain and a technical team; they are currently preparing the site for the build. So mark your calendars for the blessing of the build and plan on joining us at 125 Garden Street, City of Poughkeepsie on **Friday, August 8th at 4pm.**

Hudson Valley Home Matters: Hudson Valley Home Matters is seeking both volunteers and members. It is an organization devoted to providing simple services to adults over 50 through volunteers. There is an annual fee for membership. If you are interested in volunteering or seeking the services of Hudson Valley Home Matters, you can get more information from their website at <http://www.hvhomematters.org> or by calling at 845-452-4846. If you know Herb and Barbara Sweet, they are volunteers. You can contact them as well.

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. (plus \$1.05 tax). Checks should be made out to "The Hudson Valley News." Come on over to coffee hour and meet the author! He will be happy to autograph it if you wish.

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).

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.

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Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Susie Buhalis, Jim and Sharyn Burke, Ashley Coyne, Kathleen Craft, Michael Day, Jane Gagliardoto, Kasey Gaulin, John Golden, Jack Gordy, Robert Guariglia, Andy Hall, Harold Hall, Liz Handman, 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 Sheekey, Naomi Sleight, Debbie Stone, Gloria Veach, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, Bobbie Wells, 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 (week ending August 3):	Cliff Wells, David Wardell, Patty Drake and Christian Schroeder
Birthdays (next week):	Josh Bohlmann, Pat Holland, Deborah Gibson, Jeff Thatcher and Mary Gabel
Acolytes:	August 3: Chris Granados-Kramer August 10: Eden Ciferri
Altar Guild:	August 3: Team III August 10: Team III
8 a.m. Readers:	August 3: Debbie Belding and Sue DeLorenzo August 10: Angela Henry and Jim Smyth
10 a.m. Readers:	August 3: Donna Beyer/ Deirdre Mae Micker August 10: Russell Urban-Mead/Sophie Ciferri
Ushers:	August 3: Kathie Champion and Mary Gabel August 10: Andrew and Tonya Hall
Pledge Clerks:	August 3: Deb and Doug Belding August 10: Janet Bright and Joanne Lown

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Coffee Hour Hosts: August 3: Summer Schedule
August 10: Summer Schedule

This Week's Lectionary

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 17:1-7,16

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

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

Sermon Preached on
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
(July 27, 2014)

"Yeast, Seed, Candle"

You know the story of Jacob. He ran away from home to avoid getting killed. He came to a strange country he'd never been to but was fortunate enough to find the relatives his mother had sent him to find. They take him in. Jacob even finds love with Rachel, his cousin. But it turns abusive and unjust before long.

Jacob works for seven years to earn the right to marry Rachel - only to be duped by being given Leah instead.

He has to work another seven years for Rachel. It is an unjust and abusive situation. Yet he plugs ahead, because he trusts that God is with him, and he will do his part in it despite the system he's in which seems set up to defeat him.

We too live in a corrupt and unjust world. And whether it is fair or not, we are called, like Jacob, to see God at work in all things and to trust God to work in the situation and to work through us.

Often we would like to forget about the God working through us part. There's too much wrong with the world, too many crises far and wide. Too many horrors. The air disasters, the shootings across our country, war in Ukraine, war in Syria, war in the Holy Land.

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It seems like our part is to watch the news and be depressed. We can't affect anything anyway.

But Jesus would beg to differ. He's talking to the crowds who have come to hear him and maybe be healed by him. They likely feel powerless themselves, living in a small, weak land occupied by a powerful and ruthless army that controls what they can do and where they can go.

Jesus tells them that they and their faith are like mustard seeds or like yeast. They seem so small it is irrelevant. But they can have a powerful effect. In time. With some work and determination.

Not that Jesus is saying "work hard and you can pull yourself up by your bootstraps." Rather, he is saying that they - and we - are to recognize God at work in every little thing, that we are to trust God to work in the situation and in us. Just as we trust a seed to grow even though we can't see it at work, just as we trust yeast to leaven the dough even though it takes time, so we trust God to work. Whether the situation is fair or just or seemingly hopeless, we are to trust God to work in it and through us.

Our faith is not passive. We don't just stand by and watch. Yeast has to be worked in. Seeds have to be planted and tended. We are the seeds, the yeast even in the worst times.

The situation in Israel & Gaza is one of those situations where there is no fairness, no reason, and little hope that the animosity will go away any time soon. There are so many places of danger, injustice and fear around the world, that it seems silly to focus on just one. Yet Israel and the Palestinian territory, make up the Holy Land where our Lord walked, where our three great faiths have their roots. It is truly holy land. But today, it is a broken land filled with unholy acts by people on both sides of the conflict.

Despite that, we do not stop trusting. Now more than ever, we pray. And we reach out where we may be afraid to reach out. As an example, just yesterday, I read about an Orthodox church in Gaza that has opened its doors to its Muslim neighbors for worship because their mosque was destroyed by Israeli missiles.

Or remember how I wrote to you in the E-pistle about two mothers who, in the midst of the carnage there, have reached out to each other to pray. One, Ibtisam Mahameed is Muslim. The other, Tamar Elad-Appelbaum is Jewish.

It would be so easy to blame each other, to justifiably blame each side. Instead, they have asked people around the world to light a candle every Friday for as long as there is a state of hostility. Friday - because it is the Muslim holy day as well as the start of the Jewish Sabbath. This may not be Friday, but today is our sabbath, so I would like to light a candle - and invite you to do the same.

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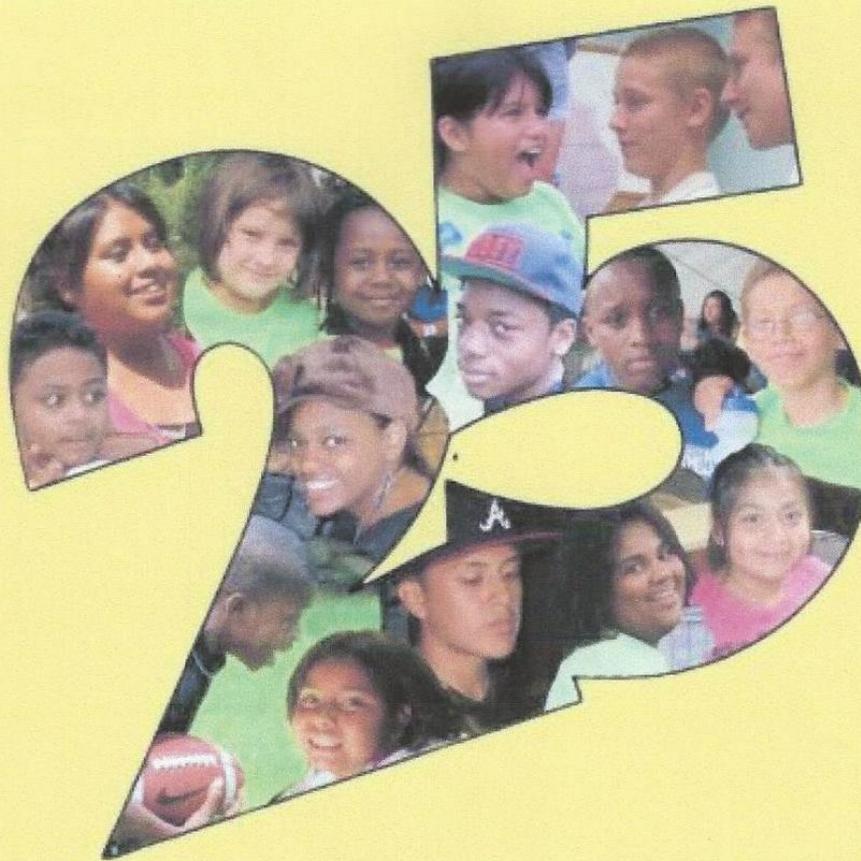
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The mothers gave us these words to say as we light the candle.

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.

It is only a candle, and cynics would say it is a useless feel-good gesture. But no small act, when performed as part of a bigger, intentional plan, is powerless. From a mustard seed grows great plants. From tiny grains of yeast, bread rises. From one candle, multiplied by millions of homes, can come light which may yet lead the holy land to a more just peace. From one prayer, the Spirit can be moved, and as Paul says, "that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." And when we have God listening to our prayers, it may change things if we give it a chance. At the least, it will help us know that nothing, not even such ingrained abuse and hatred, can separate us from the love of God.

If you have not been praying for a just peace in the Holy Land, let me remind you that such prayer is part of our mission. It may not seem like much, but with that seed of prayer, with the leaven of the Spirit's sighs, with our single candle burning, we tell the world that God is here, that God will never abandon those who long for justice and peace - and neither will we. Amen.



RURAL & MIGRANT MINISTRY IS CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF OVERNIGHT CAMP!!!!

PLEASE JOIN THE CELEBRATION AT

10AM ON SAT, AUG 23, 2014

AT CAMP HOLMES

THE PRESBYTERIAN CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

60 DENTON LAKE RD, HOLMES, NY 12531

- CAMPER TALENT SHOW
- BBQ LUNCH BY THE LAKE
- FIESTA : GAMES, SWIMMING, BOATING, HIKING & FAMILY FUN
- 4 PM : CAMP 2014 CLOSSES WITH HAPPY MEMORIES

ADMISSION \$5.00 FAMILIES: \$20 CAMPERS: FREE

Directions to Holmes Camp

From the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge: East on I-84 to Exit 17 (Ludingtonville Road). Go north on Ludingtonville Rd ¼ mile. Turn left onto Mooney Hill Rd at the Presbyterian Camp sign. Go about ¼ mile, then take the left fork onto Denton Lake Rd (See a Presbyterian Camp sign here).

The camp office will be about ¼ mile on the right.