

# St. James' E-pistle

## August 12, 2016

### Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

I want to start with a thank you. For years now, Jim Smyth has served as our treasurer. He has now stepped down, and we are thankful for the devoted service he has given us as a parish!

His departure left us in a search for a new treasurer, not an easy position to fill.

However, I am happy to report that this week, the Vestry formally approved Jack Kinne as the new treasurer of St. James! Jack has served this parish in many capacities - vestry, head of buildings and grounds, ace trumpeter.... This position will of course present new challenges, but we are confident that he will guide our financial ship true.

We are still in the search for an Assistant Treasurer since our bylaws require one, and frankly, no single person should bear the burden alone. So if you have some expertise - or even are good at math and can organize things - consider stepping in to be part of the "team."

Once again ... Thanks, Jim! And Welcome Aboard, Jack!

\* \* \*

Now ... I have one more transition to make you aware of. This past year, we formed a superb Stewardship Committee composed of Patty Glancey, Janice Syedullah, and Charlotte DeGroff. They made this year's Stewardship campaign one of the best in years, and they have continued the ongoing conversation about stewardship in little ways - just look at your bulletin this Sunday.

Last Sunday, Patty announced that she is stepping down from the Stewardship Committee. It's for a great reason, mind you - she will become our newest Sunday School teacher, focusing on 6th grade! Her departure leaves an opening for the Stewardship Committee.

So... I invite you to consider becoming part of this team. One of the things I've loved about watching this committee work is that they are so spirit based. They do this not because we need money but because God's Spirit guides us to examine our priorities and to place our primary focus on one thing - serving the Gospel.

If you love God, if you love the life-giving witness of Jesus Christ, if you feel God has touched you through the ministries of St. James', then maybe you are called to be part of our Stewardship Committee.

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If someone from the committee taps you on the shoulder and says, "Have you considered this?" why not say "yes"? If you are moved in your heart to come forward and offer your services, why not say yes to your heart? You can see me or one of the Stewardship Committee members.

We do all the things we do in order to make God's love known to a hard world. Here's your chance to make it a little better.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

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### The News of the Church

**UPDATE: Cathedral Field Trip.** OUR tour of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, **Saturday, August 20** is getting great interest! The consensus is that people want to go on the vertical tour. Information on it below.

This Sunday, August 14, we will have an organizational meeting to finalize, organize rides (we will probably carpool - **so if you can drive, we'll love you for it!**).

The costs for this trip include \$20 per ticket (\$18 for students/seniors); gas money to help our drivers, parking money (divided by number of people in each car), and lunch/snack/souvenir money.

#### 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:** Sign up now! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to be part of our parish picnic. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, August 28**. More details to come, but start practicing your grilling! We provide the burgers and dogs - everyone brings a side dish to share.

**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

**Harvest Roast Pork Dinner:** A Fundraiser for the Community Garden. **September 23<sup>rd</sup>** from 5-7:30 p.m.. Adults are \$15, Children 10+ are \$10, Under 10 is Free. Call the Parish Office for reservations.

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**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

### 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

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- 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

**Notes from the Garden July 2016** We had a very bountiful month at the garden this month.



Food Pantry. Right after the picking, I am in the Parish House kitchen to wash the vegetables and put them outside in the cooler.

Things have just exploded right in front of our eyes!

We were very thankful for the rain that finally came. The tomatoes, peppers and squash I think appreciated that very much.

I was surprised by a wonderful gift from Joe Baldwin and his lovely lady Bev. They commissioned a local artist to make a sign for the entrance of the garden. "Allelu's Memory Garden" was installed a few weeks ago and it is such a special way to always remember the guiding force who wanted this garden at St. James, our beloved Allelu Kurten.

We have given out hundreds of pounds of assorted vegetables this month to close to 60 families who use the Hyde Park Food Pantry to supplement their food budgets.

Also, one of our talented community gardeners, Lisa, has cut and donated several dozen vases filled with her cosmos and zinnias. The bees keep on pollinating, and we have an abundance of beautiful flowers, thanks to them.

As we start the busy late summer and early fall season, we welcome any help we can get! Every Thursday night from 6-7 we are in the garden to harvest for the following morning at the

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On Friday morning, we meet up at the Food Pantry, in back of Regina Coeli Church at 9:00 AM to set up our "Farmers Market" for the Food Pantry patrons.

Let me know if you would like to lend a hand!

Happy August! Deb

**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

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- Episcopal Cafe (a favorite)
- The Slate Project (not affiliated with Slate magazine)
- Virtual Abbey
- 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."

#### August

- 14 Episcopal Church Foundation
- 15 Mutual Ministry Review Consultants of the Diocese
- 16 Jack & Jill School at St. George's Church, Manhattan
- 17 Diocesan Mission Partnership with the Diocese of Matlosane
- 18 The Parish Mission Partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf in support of refugees fleeing ISIL
- 19 St. Paul's Church, Staten Island 20 Episcopal Service Corps
- 20 Episcopal Service Corps

### **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,

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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

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, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Rev. Tim Millard, 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, 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):	Patricia Holland, Jeffrey Thatcher, Mary Gabel, Gordon Mackenzie, Jim Matranga and Suzann Kinne
Birthdays (this coming week):	Liz Granados, Scott Pitcher, Jeffrey E. Pardee and Christopher Santos
Acolytes:	August 14: Braeden Hall August 21: Deirdre Mae Micker
Altar Guild:	August 14: Team Number I August 21: Team Number II
8 a.m. Readers:	August 14: Lucille Ogden and Thomas Finnigan August 21: Debbie Belding and Lynne Koch
10 a.m. Readers:	August 14: Russell Urban-Mead and Judy Douglass August 21: Donna Beyer and Maggie McNamara
Ushers:	August 14: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher August 21: Donna and John Beyer
Pledge Clerks:	August 14: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass August 21: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	August 14: Diane and Scott Wyant; Bruce, Breet, Arthur and Grace Parent August 21: Bill, Regina and Laurel Ardini, Vince Archer
Coffee Hour Hosts:	August 14: No Coffee Hour August 21: No Coffee Hour

### This Week's Lectionary

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm 82

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Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

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

Sermon Preached on  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
(August 7, 2016)

### "Flying Blind"

Twenty some years ago, I got it in my head that I'd like to learn how to fly. It was really fun - and expensive, but this was before kids, so... Anyway, at some point, you have to practice night flying. For me, that was both beautiful and terrifying. There are lights on the runway, of course, to guide you, but once you're up in the air, everything looks different in the dark, and once we got away from the airport, I was lost.

The term "flying blind" took on a whole new meaning for me. Not only did nothing look familiar, but even up and down were not so clear - perception is very unreliable without visual cues, and more than one pilot flying blind like that has crashed with realizing they were even near the ground. Had it not been for my instructor, whom I trusted with my life, I could easily have panicked and ended up a statistic.

Now, there are instruments to guide you in this kind of flying, but of course you have to trust them even when it doesn't feel right. It's not as easy as you'd think.

But then, trust is not easy. And the less readily apparent the goal, the harder it is to trust. The less you know what you're doing, the harder it is to go along. This is nothing new - it is the story of our faith from earliest days. We don't know what we're doing, we don't know where we're going, and all we have is a voice whispering through the ages, "I will bring you home."

It's no coincidence that the Old Testament reading and the reading from Hebrews go to the earliest stories of our faith - the promise by God that Abraham would have children. That was almost the entire basis upon which Abraham chose to follow this previously unknown God out of his homeland into a completely unknown place. With little in the way of navigational devices and limited knowledge of what was out there, he dragged his family into a hostile environment to follow a voice.

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The biggest problem for Abraham was that, after several years of this, he still had no children - the one promise made to him had not been kept. He was now an old man - and Sarah, who had never been able to have children in the first place - was well beyond child bearing age. Why should Abraham still believe this voice, let alone obey it?

At this point, the voice tells Abraham to trust - and sure enough, shortly after this, Sarah gives her slave Hagar to Abraham and says, "Have a child with her for me." Thus, Ishmael is born, and the promise is technically fulfilled. The letter to the Hebrews points out that Sarah herself would later give birth to Isaac, but the main point here is that the promise was kept - eventually - near the end of their lives.

Hebrews goes further to point out that other promises went UNfulfilled in the lifetimes of those who received them. They could see them, but from afar - sort of like Moses who led the people throughout the last decades of his life toward the promised land but never got to enter it himself.

And it brings to mind the words of Jesus in today's gospel. It's your father's pleasure to give you the kingdom - so sell your possessions and give alms - make treasure in heaven, not earth - be like the servant who waits for the master even though they have no idea when he'll return.

In other words, you will get no reassurance that anything I tell you is going to happen other than that you trust me.

That's very reassuring. We are following but don't know where we are going. We don't know if the promise of the Kingdom of God will come true - and we can't know until we die. It's like we are flying at night and all we have to guide us are a couple of instruments that tell us we're still headed the right direction.

All along the way, we're never really sure if we're doing the right thing. I can't sell everything because I have a family to feed. I can't pick up and leave because I have obligations. Or do I? It gets very confusing, this life we live.

We don't know what we're doing. We don't know if the promises will come true in this life - or even in the next. And yet, we keep flying, we keep moving forward. We live as if we are headed for the Kingdom. We keep trusting even when we're unsure why.

We keep praying to hear that voice better. We keep serving the poor and disenfranchised, we keep loving those who hate us even when we don't know why. At best, we sense that life is better this way.

But we DO know that our hearts and experience, as well as the experiences of countless others... they point to something. And that something calls to us. Sometimes it's inaudible. Sometimes it's like a dream on the verge of being forgotten. But it never quite goes away.

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And we DO know that when we allow that dream to be and work in us, we are ultimately happier - not in the happy, happy, joy, joy sense, though that can happen - but in the deep hope, deep peace sense.

Sometimes, it can be frustrating to be a person of faith. Wandering in the desert, flying without any visual references... That may be why so many people find it easier to give up on the entire proposition.

Except that the little voice inside - if you listen - never stops saying "Follow me, trust me."

And in the end, you realize, you don't have to know where you're going. You trust that by following, God will bring you home in the end. And nobody else has promised that.

# Rural and Migrant Ministry

**Summer Youth Programs**

**make a HUGE DIFFERENCE**

**by**

**CREATING OPPORTUNITIES**

“For a child to take a break from a difficult world,  
and just be a child.

And at the same time, provide them with experiences  
that enable them to face that difficult world with  
creativity and hope.”

DAY CAMPS  
A LEADERSHIP ACADEMY  
RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS  
OVERNIGHT LEADERSHIP CAMP  
HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIPS AND JOBS  
COLLEGE INTERNSHIPS

**PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING**

**RURAL AND MIGRANT MINISTRY’S  
SCHOOL SUPPLY KIT PROJECT**

**Donations accepted through Sunday, August 14, 2016**