

# St. James' E-pistle

## September 12, 2014

### Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

At our weekly staff meeting this Thursday, we were discussing the activity in our church. Our secretary noted that the calendar is becoming difficult to coordinate because so many groups - mostly church groups - have things going on.

Let's just take a peek at what is happening this month alone:

This weekend is the Rail Trail Pilgrimage. I ask you to continue praying for us as we walk and pray. A pilgrimage is all about making space for God, for coming closer to God, and that can only happen with the support and prayer of those around you. So if you're a pilgrim, pray. If not, please pray, too!

*The Art and Music Benefit for the Community Garden.*

*The Quarterly Chapel Service*

*The re-start of Bible Study*

*Rehearsals and planning sessions for the Graveyard Tours*

*The re-start of Inquirers Classes*

*The choir is starting back up*

*The start of Sunday School*

*The first monthly Youth Group Overnight*

October looks even fuller.

In addition, I have been participating in a clergy Indaba with priests from Manhattan and Region II (Putnam /Westchester Counties).

Furthermore, there is the possibility that we may collaborate with another organization to revive our reading program, Reading Adventures (it may carry a new name). We are still in preliminary discussions, so it is far from a sure thing. Still, I wanted you to be aware, and if you are interested in helping, please let me know so I can start a list of potential volunteers.

What I like about this activity is that it covers the broad range of Christian life. There is worship and education, spiritual reflection and service to the community. There is fun and fellowship.

The fall is always busier than the summer, but this year we are stretching ourselves further. Yes, it's a bit of a hassle, what with scheduling conflicts and organizing groups - but it is a sign that we are not just alive... We are ALIVE! We are reaching inward and outward. We are

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seeking a balance of the tried and true and the experimental. These are signs of a healthy church - a church devoted to God while reaching out to each other and our neighbors in love.

So let me ask you on behalf of the church to please pray. Pray for our ministries, for our parishioners. Pray that we may know and love God in Christ, and be filled with the Holy Spirit's joy and wonder. Pray that we, as St. James' Church, may make Christ's light shine in all its facets throughout Hyde Park and in all the world.

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

#### September

- 14 On Holy Cross Day we pray for the faith to take up our cross daily
- 15 The Church of St. James the Less, Scarsdale
- 16 St. Mark's Church, Yonkers
- 17 Grace Church, Millbrook
- 18 St. Margaret's Church, Staatsburg
- 19 St. John's Church, Monticello
- 20 Holy Innocents' Church, Highland Falls

#### **Donate to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem:**

There is an ongoing appeal for donations to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and its Al Ahib Hospital in Gaza. Even after a month, even after the ceasefires, the situation in Gaza is desperate, and the hospital continues to see more patients than it can handle. The hospital is still very low on supplies and fuel to keep the lights on (and medical devices running).

If you would like to support the good and holy work of the Diocese of Jerusalem and its hospital, please send donations to:

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem  
25 Old King's Highway No., Suite 13, Darien, CT 06820

Or online at [www.afedj.org](http://www.afedj.org)

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

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### **STILL PRAYING:**

Most of the Nigerian girls kidnapped by the terrorist group Boko Haram 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 kidnappers  
and of all who choose violence against women and girls.  
Cast down the mighty from their seat,  
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

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

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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*

## **The News of the Church**

**Art & Music at St. James' Church:** Saturday, September 13, from 11 am - 4 pm, a FREE Outdoor Art Show. Please see flyer attached at the end of this E-pistle.

**September Music Information:** The choir is scheduled to return on September 14th, Sunday School resumes September 21<sup>st</sup>, and Spirit of Unity joins us on September 28th.

**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

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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).

**A Brief Reflection on 9/11:** I write this E-pistle on September 11. Though I wanted to focus on looking ahead to the work God gives us, it is appropriate to look back for a moment, not only to remember those, such as our own Paul Tegtmeier, who perished in the attack, but also those who rose in the midst of horror to serve the greater good. I think of the firefighters, police, EMTs and yes, chaplains who continued to serve at the site even as they lost so many colleagues. I think of the iron workers who had to dismantle the wreckage while looking for remains of victims. I think of the volunteer social workers and therapists who sat with countless traumatized victims, not only they just make it through the day but also helping them navigate the unimaginable labyrinth of paperwork that faced survivors. I think of regular folks who went down to the City night after night to prepare meals for the recovery workers.

What I think of is the fact that when others - regardless of who - act in hatred, the most powerful response is still the one our Lord commanded us to give: to love. I remember those sleepless nights at the bakery when many of our parishioners prepared meals - that was love. Sitting there listening to someone cry over a friend they lost - that was love. It hurts, it takes a beating, but it is and will always remain the best, holiest response to the violence and hatred of our world. These days, it may seem naive or simply unrealistic. But if Christ commands it of us, I have to trust that He knows better than I do

**Quarterly 8:00 Chapel Service Postponed:** Ordinarily, this Sunday, September 14, would be the Quarterly 8:00 Eucharist at the Chapel. However, because Fr. Chuck is away on the Rail Trail Pilgrimage, we will postpone the service until the following Sunday, September 21.

**Outreach Meeting:** Our next Outreach meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 24 in the Parish Hall at 7:00.

We need cooks to make the Hillcrest House meal on October 11, November 8 and December 13. We strongly suggest teams of 3 to make these meals, which needs to figure on feeding 60 people in total. Meals consist of a hot entrée, salad, condiment, bread and desserts ( usually cookies).

Outreach does help offset the cost of buying the food with a monthly stipend of \$50.

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Please email Deb at Deborah.belding@yahoo.com or call me at (845)240-3194 for more information or to volunteer!

Also, we still need plastic bags for the Hyde Park Food Pantry when we are there with our vegetables. The bin is in the Narthex. Our last donation for the season to the Food Pantry with the vegetables will be Friday, October 24.

**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.

**Youth Group Overnight:** On Saturday, September 27, the St. James' Youth Group will gather in the Parish Hall for the first of what we hope will be monthly overnights. The idea is to have enough time together to goof around but also do some worship and more serious conversation as well as plan some trips and service projects together. We get together at 5:00 and will eat dinner together. For this first meeting, pizza's on me. Bring your friends! The more the merrier (though I would like to get a rough count so I know how much pizza to get).

**Tea Room Coming:** The world famous St. James' Tea Room is coming in just a few weeks! The Tea Room is on Saturday, October 18 and will draw hungry folks from all over the area. As we do every year, we are looking for help with baking and serving. There is a set menu of proven goodies, so you don't have to wonder what to bake - just contact Deirdre Mae Micker or look for the Tea Room clip board and sign up. Servers are of all ages, so go ahead, sign up! If you can't bake or serve, you can always come and eat! Whichever way you choose, we look forward to seeing you there.

**Watch the Roosevelts:** Ken Burns' new documentary, The Roosevelts: An Intimate History will start airing this Sunday, September 14 at 8:00 PM on PBS. The documentary may be of special interest to us here at St. James' not only because FDR and Eleanor were parishioners, but because some of the filming was done here at the church. It'll probably just be a two second shot, but how many other churches do you know will be in it? It's a long show - several episodes over several days, so be prepared!

**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

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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.

**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.

***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 Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Debbie Stone, Gloria Veach, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, Bobbie Wells, Cliff Wells and Shawn Wheeler.

***In addition:***

*Pray in thanksgiving for the upcoming marriage of  
Joe Cotton to Lee Fehlig*

*Pray in thanksgiving for the upcoming baptism of Milena Lanette Jewel*

### **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  
September 14):

Annabeth Gausepohl, Patty Caswell, Kristin Cotton, Christopher Dinglee, Sara Dinglee, Laura Kinne and Remo Valdatta

Birthdays  
(next week):

Pat Keeffe, Fred Champion and Edith Kline

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Acolytes:	September 14: Bryanna Burkhardt, Chris Granados-Kramer and Monica Rizzo September 21: Jasmine Thatcher, Charlie Urban-Mead and Jaylen Thatcher
Altar Guild:	September 14: Team III September 21: Team III
8 a.m. Readers:	September 14: Angela Henry and Lucille Ogden September 21: Debbie Belding and Lucille Ogden
10 a.m. Readers:	September 14: Wilma Tully/Bobbie Wells September 21: Russell Urban-Mead/Nancy Montero
Ushers:	September 14: Saira Shahani and Pat Keefe September 21: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher
Pledge Clerks:	September 14: Deb and Doug Belding September 21: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Coffee Hour Hosts:	September 14: Jodi Triola, The Eames and Pat Rooney September 21: Deirdre Mae Micker, Leslie Quick and Susan Gausepohl

### **This Week's Lectionary**

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm 114

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

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  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
(September 7, 2014)

Is it Love, or Is it Memory?

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Do you remember that old commercial for Memorex cassette tapes? Ella Fitzgerald sang a note that broke a glass. Then they played a recording of Ella, and it broke the glass, too. "Is it live or is it Memorex?" The point was that the recording was just as good as the real thing.

But is that necessarily true? I'm all for recordings, but live is distinctly different. Like singing together, like our choir. Live is still better...

And of course, recordings degrade over time (see if can find old not so good tape). Even digital recordings can become corrupted. Not only that, but if we are all only into listening to what others sang, we forget to sing ourselves, forget what wonder and joy that brings. And that would be tragic.

Our scriptures - which we must acknowledge are recordings themselves - look at two other things that are also often confused - love and memory.

The reading from Exodus records the memory of God's great victory over Egypt in the passover, and Israel's release from captivity. It became the defining moment for God's people.

The problem with Memory is that it's not perfect, and in time, we corrupt the story. That was one problem before Jesus - for many, faith was based on remembering a victory and the fierceness of God. That's who God was - that one moment of fierceness back in time. And God remained fierce for them forever.

Not that remembering is bad. We do it every week in the eucharist when we remember what Christ did for us. But, when we are all about looking back at what God did long ago, we forget what God is calling us to do today. Worse yet, we lose the actual relationship with God.

But love - the essence of God - is to love God and others right now, as Paul suggested in his epistle. It's the difference between knowing about something God did and knowing God. God is love.

Love is alive and real and dangerous and scary. It forces us to look at each other right now. It forces us to not be content with saying, "I went to church, so I'm good," but to get out there and seek the best for each one of God's children. And it forces us to pray. Now, as Jesus says, when two or three are gathered in his name, he is with us, so praying together is good. But to truly know and love God requires that you also pray alone, just you and God, not a little bit here and there but regularly and giving it significant time.

I'm speaking in vague generalities, I know. That's because what it means to love your neighbor will be different for each of you. What it means to be alone with God in prayer will look different for each of you.

But... If we choose to be content with remembering - as important as that may be - we will miss the real thing. For my part, just as sure as I prefer live music to recorded, I prefer real love to remembered. Amen.



# Art & Music

At St. James Church

**Saturday - September 13**

11 am - 4 pm

**FREE Outdoor Art Show**

**Featuring Artists from**

**The Artists' Collective of Hyde Park**

**Concert in the Parish Hall Featuring  
Vito Petrocitto, Jeff Belding & Friends**

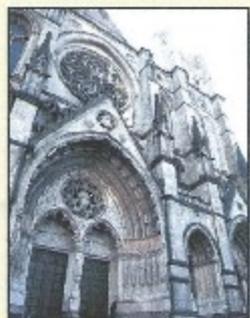
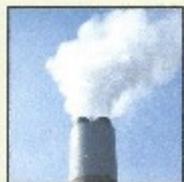
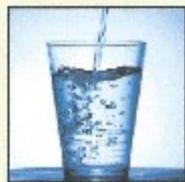
**6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Tickets - \$12**

To benefit the Hyde Park Community Garden

**For more information please call: 845.229.2820**

# FINDING COURAGE. FINDING HOPE.



**Exploring the meaning of environmental stewardship in your church & community**

**Saturday, October 11, 2014 • 9am - 3:30pm**

**Trinity Church • 7 South Highland Avenue • Ossining, NY 10562**

**Parking at church • Short distance from train**



**Keynote speaker: Paul Gallay, President, Riverkeeper**

Riverkeeper is the premier environmental watchdog organization that patrols the Hudson River to protect it from polluters and is based in Ossining, NY.

**Panel Discussion on Food, Water & Energy : Taking action on your beliefs**

Moderated by Rev. Jeff Gollhofer with Sr. Catherine Grace, George Potanovic, Jr. and Steve Knight.

**Advance registration: \$10 by October 6th • \$15 on day of event**

**All Episcopalians from the Diocese of New York are welcome!**

**Lunch is included with vegetarian options available.**



**Register online at: <http://episcopaldioceseny.org/events/430>**

**or contact Rev. Jeff Gollhofer, Committee Chair for more information**

**phone: 845-532-4904 • e-mail: [jmgollhofer1@earthlink.net](mailto:jmgollhofer1@earthlink.net)**

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