

St. James' E-pistle

September 20, 2013

Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

As you know, I spent a lot of my sabbatical studying the history and characteristics of Christian pilgrimage. Admittedly, I went into it backwards. That is, I wasn't thinking of learning about pilgrimage, I just wanted to do one. That fact that I knew so little about it was irrelevant.

But then, someone asked me what a pilgrimage was, and why anybody would want to do one, and how long one had to be - all sorts of questions, each of which drove me back to books and blogs and websites (as well as the trails themselves) to learn more.

I didn't study pilgrimage and then think, "Now, let's put what I've learned into practice." That might have made sense, but instead, I decided I wanted to do the pilgrimage and then learned bit by bit what I needed to do it. By the way, there's a whole heap I'm still going to have to learn in order to make even a small pilgrimage.

That's how a life of faith is more than we might want to think. Most of us fumble through life picking up bits of knowledge and even wisdom along the way.

What we have at the end of our lives isn't so much a seamless garment of spiritual growth but a patchwork quilt with lots of loose threads and patterns that don't quite seem to match.

In faith, most of us don't take in the Gospel, make it ours, and then live accordingly. A lot of the time, Jesus' commands don't even make sense to us. Only bit by bit, mistake by mistake, confusing encounter by confusing encounter do we decide to learn more what it means to belong to Christ.

In the end, however, we come through life knowing maybe just enough to see how our lives fit into the Kingdom of Heaven. Better yet, God can work with our piecemeal approach. Better still, through it all, God promises to be with us - even when we don't know what we're looking for.

I mention this because despite the haphazard quality of my research, I believe something good will come of it. My plan is to have a walking pilgrimage right here in Dutchess County in the Spring for Lent. Doubtless, there's a lot more I'll have to learn along the way - but isn't that what the journey of faith is all about?

And isn't it good to know that God is there to make the journey and the discoveries right alongside you?

In Christ,

Chuck+

St. James' E-pistle

September 20, 2013

The News of the Diocese

The Election of a Bishop Suffragan: On Saturday, December 7th, our Diocese will elect its next Bishop Suffragan.

Please keep all who are involved in the process in your prayers:

“Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of all who shall choose a Bishop Suffragan for our Diocese, and all who offer themselves as candidates, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

The News of the Church

Graveyard Tours. Tickets for this great event are available on the website at <http://stjameshistoricgraveyardtours.com>. If you're on Facebook, check out our new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/StJamesHistoricGraveyardTours>.

The 2013 season of the Graveyard Tours will start very soon and we are still in need of Tour Guides! Being a guide is a fun and easy way to help with this major fundraiser. Please sign-up in the narthex.

2013 Fall Concert Series. Join us for our 2013 Fall Concert Series, select Sundays this Fall at 3:00 p.m. at the Chapel. Our 2nd concert, on October 6, will feature three friends, but individual musicians, who will bring their Greenwich Village open mic repertoire to Hyde Park. The headliner of this trio is Randy Burns, who has been part of the New York City music scene since the 1960s and has opened for the likes of Tom Paxton, Phil Ochs and many others. On October 20 we welcome “The Cupcakes”, a trio of folk musicians from the Hudson Valley. Finally, we will wrap up the series on November 17 with the folksy sounds of local favorites, “Betty and the Baby Boomers”.

Tickets sold at the door: \$12 ADULTS, \$10 SENIORS, FREE children 12 & under.
Complimentary Refreshments. Call the Parish Office at 845-229-2820.

St. James' E-pistle

September 20, 2013

Annual Harvest Dinner. At long last....another one of our very popular roast pork dinner will be held on Friday, November 1st at the Parish House at St. James' Episcopal Church, Hyde Park.

This dinner will be a fundraiser for the Hyde Park Community Garden. The Community Garden, now in its second full season, is on the grounds of St. James' Church. We have grown and donated thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables for the Hyde Park Food Pantry and Hillcrest House in Poughkeepsie.

In addition, the garden has expanded this year and leased out plots to 21 local residents for their own personal use and many have donated their bounty to the Pantry as well.

There still are a number of things we still need for the garden, so please mark it on your calendars to come by and have a delicious roast pork meal with potatoes and other vegetables bought from our local farmers, assorted fruit cobblers for dessert, salad, rolls and beverages all served family style.

Call the church office at (845) 229-2820 for reservations. Hope to see you there!

P.S. We are finished with the corn for the season in the garden, and invite anyone to cut down the stalks for their own personal decorations or for the Graveyard Tours.

Spirit of Unity. "Spirit of Unity" is holding a workshop on Saturday, September 21st at the Chapel. Contact the church office for details. They are also scheduled to join the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, September 29th.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Janet Arms, Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Kurt Burkhardt, George Buso, Michael Day, Jane Gagliardoto, Jack Gordy, Harold Hall, Jolanda Heijenbrok, Brooke Helton, Rev. Don Hoger, Barbara Knakal, Rosemary Leuken, Andrew Mendelson, Rev. Tim Millard, Joan Oetjen, Clifford Plass, Gerald Plass, Deborah Porach, Don Renten, John Robinson, Marty Schroeder, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Debbie Stone, Gloria Veach, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way and Cliff Wells.

St. James' E-pistle

September 20, 2013

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:	Fred Champion, Edith Kline, Kathy Graff, Stephen Gaulin and Marcia Valdatta
Acolytes:	September 22: Team IV September 29: Team I
Altar Guild:	September 22: Team Number I September 29: Team Number I
8 a.m. Readers:	September 22: Angela Henry and Sue DeLorenzo September 29: Debbie Belding and Gary Glancey
10 a.m. Readers:	September 22: Regina Ardini/Sophie Ciferri September 29: Wilma Tully/Deirdre Mae Micker
Ushers:	September 22: Bill and Regina Ardini September 29: Saira Shahani and Pat Keefe
Pledge Clerks:	September 22: Paul Littlefield and Dean Caswell September 29: Paul Littlefield
Coffee Hour Hosts:	September 22: Audrey Horne September 29: Choir and Barbara Slegel

This Week's Lectionary

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13