

St. James' E-pistle

September 5, 2014

Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

It feels like it's been so long since I've seen most of you! Vacation, however, is important to all of us, even if we don't really go anywhere.

August was a full month which included a week at Bridge Builders Camp with seven parish youth (and about a hundred other kids from around the region). They spent the day working at various projects and the night worshipping, playing and doing what teens do!

After that, we spent the rest of our month either preparing for the arrival of Alexandre Verneuil, an exchange student from France, or showing him a bit of our Mid Hudson Valley. We tried to give time for him to settle in and breathe, but we kept up the pace.

In the two weeks since his arrival (after dealing with a lost suitcase), we got him his first American hamburger, registered him for school, went to the County Fair, went to an exchange student orientation, toured the FDR Presidential Library, walked the Vanderbilt-FDR trail, and walked the Walkway Over the Hudson.

Some of you met Alex at church two Sundays ago (though I was worshipping elsewhere). Then there was a cookout for Alex to meet some kids from school. Then there was a cookout for him to meet some of the youth group members and their families! Then there was the Renegades baseball game (his first ever). Then there was the Drive-In Movie (his first ever) Last Sunday, we went to New York City to visit the 9/11 Museum. That is worth a story in itself, but suffice it to say it was moving.

Oh, and did I mention ping pong? Lots of ping pong.

Now, school has begun. With two whole days under his belt, Alex is learning his way around like any other new student. I am delighted to be a part of his time here in the US, especially since I believe strongly that international exchanges go a long way to reducing misunderstanding in the world. Given the upcoming remembrance of September 11 and the ongoing chaos, nay, evil around the world, it seems to me that our call as Christians is to seek even greater understanding.

Ours is a faith, after all, that does not strike back when attacked. Ours is a faith that says, "I will answer your hate with love, your violence with acts of kindness." It is not naive, nor does it ignore evil, and in fact does require that we speak out when evil rears its ugly head. But Christ also requires us to see that each person - those who do good and those who do evil - is God's.

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Student exchanges and other means of understanding different cultural contexts are not magic pills that suddenly make the world all better. But they are a step in the right direction of a very long journey - and they are a step our Lord himself took, reaching out to Samaritans and Romans long before it was cool. Let us follow him.

And you can start by saying "Welcome" to Alex this Sunday!

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."

September

- 7 The Church of the Ascension, Staten Island
- 8 The Church of the Holy Communion, Mahopac
- 9 All Saints' Church, Valley Cottage
- 10 On the feast day for Alexander Crummell we pray for those who work to break down barriers among the races.
- 11 Victims of the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001 and for the Chaplains for Disaster Relief
- 12 On the feast day for John Henry Hobar we pray for new life in the Episcopal Church.
- 13 St. John's Church, Wilmot, New Rochelle

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

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)

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.

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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

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*

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The News of the Church

Rail Trail Pilgrimage: Thanks to a generous donation, two additional spots have been made available for the Rail Trail Pilgrimage at no cost. If you had considered the Pilgrimage but weren't sure, this may be your divine nudge.

Please pray for the Pilgrimage which takes place next weekend. A pilgrim- age 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!

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

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: We return to sung liturgy this Sunday, with S280 (Gloria), S129 (Sanctus) and S164 (Lamb of God). The choir is scheduled to return on September 14th, Sunday School resumes September 21st, 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 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).

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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.

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.

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.

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 7):

Tess Manning and Laura Seagren

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Birthdays (next week):	Annabeth Gausepohl, Patty Caswell, Kristin Cotton, Christopher Dingee, Sara Dingee, Laura Kinne and Remo Valdatta
Altar Guild:	September 7: Team II September 14: Team III
8 a.m. Readers:	September 7: Angela Henry and Grant Ferris September 14: Angela Henry and Lucille Ogden
10 a.m. Readers:	September 7: Patty Caswell/Deirdre Mae Micker September 14: Wilma Tully/Bobbie Wells
Ushers:	September 7: Dean Caswell and Austin Horne September 14: Saira Shahani and Pat Keefe
Pledge Clerks:	September 7: Janet Bright and Joanne Lown September 14: Deb and Doug Belding
Coffee Hour Hosts:	September 7: Audrey Horne and Saira Shahani September 14: Jodi Triola, The Eames and Pat Rooney

This Week's Lectionary

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20



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