

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: October 28, 2018

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

NOTICE: This Sunday, worship will be in the Parish Hall. That is both services.

Why is that? Well, if you were in church last Sunday, you know. It's cold. And this weekend doesn't look like it's going to be any warmer. While some of you may not mind the cold, others found it too uncomfortable to concentrate. Trust me, as a person whose hands turn to ice in a cold church, I sympathize.

It is possible that we may have to have services there for a few weeks until the new heating system is installed in the church. As I mentioned last Sunday, that could be as late as November 15.

I would like to give you a sense of how difficult a decision this entire system has been for your fellow parishioners on the Vestry. It became evident several months ago that our AC/Heat system was collapsing. The condenser on the AC was going, and the boiler was in no better shape. We all remember freezing several Sundays last year. In addition, we discovered that the old system was pumping moisture into the church via damaged ductwork. It all had to be changed from the ground up. Over several months, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, in consultation with the Vestry, researched several systems, seeking the one that would serve the church the best over the long term.

While we found some systems that could work for a "little" as \$40,000, the most cost-efficient (in the long run) is what the Vestry approved because it will consume very little fuel when heating. This heat pump system will cost the church approximately \$58,000. To me, that is a staggering amount. We were forced to sell some stock to help pay for it. We did not like this option, but there was no other way that we could see. We do plan to look for grants, but at the moment, we felt we had to move forward with due haste.

This is just one of the many physical plant expenses we are encountering: there are many trees that must come down, the front steps and wheelchair ramp will need to be replaced, there are sink holes in the parking lot, and of course, we are in the middle of work on the parish house roof. Those are just a few things.

A few months ago, we began the process of forming a Capital Campaign committee to address these physical needs. We had to put its formation on hold for a variety of reasons, but we'll get back to getting it started soon.

But it's important to know what a Capital Campaign is, and what it is NOT. Next month, we will begin our Stewardship Campaign. Stewardship — our regular pledging in order to perform the ministries of the church and keep up with overhead — is not the same as a Capital Campaign. A

Capital Campaign raises funds for a specific purpose, usually related to improving the physical facility or building up an endowment. While we get money from many of the same sources, they are not the same thing, and we always want to make sure people don't reduce their stewardship in order to pledge for a capital campaign.

I confess, that has been one reason I've been hesitant to start a Capital Campaign. Nobody wants to impact Stewardship negatively. But it is necessary, and we will need to do it soon.

So, look for Stewardship information soon. And then look for Capital Campaign information. These are both essential parts of keeping St. James' ministry alive and fresh and vital. They may not be as exciting as Christian education, worship, choir, but they do have their quite important role.

As we consider what proportion of our net to offer in our pledges, let's also think what we can and must do to make our physical plant the tool of ministry that we require. If you want to know more about either Stewardship or Capital Campaign - like the spiritual aspects of them — just ask. I will be more than happy to help put it all in perspective.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

You are invited!

To a
Newcomers Reception

On Thursday
November 8, 2018

6:30 PM

At
St. James'

(The Wilks Room, first door on the left in the Parish House)

This is a time for newer parishioners who have been here for not a year or less to meet “more seasoned” parishioners, to learn what’s available to do, to discover ways to be involved or find resources you need. There’s even a facility tour if you want.

Please RSVP at 845-229-2820
or to stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org.
Got questions? Just ask!

Announcements

Inquirer's Classes/Evening Prayer:

We are starting a special Inquirers Class for a small group who want to be confirmed/received in June at the Cathedral. The classes are, of course, open to anyone. They start **Tuesday, November 6 at 7:00 PM** at the Chapel.

We are ALSO starting an Evening Prayer service at **6:30 on Tuesdays** (excepting certain times such as the third Tuesday of the month when the Vestry meets). This will also be at the Chapel. Join us! All are invited.

A Season of Prayer: For a Mid-term Election

Forward Movement, a ministry of the Episcopal Church, is encouraging us, as Episcopalians and as followers of Jesus Christ, to join in a “*Season of Prayer: For a Mid-term Election.*” “This is a two-week period in which we are encouraged to pray each day with a particular intention for this time in our national life and a collect from *The Book of Common Prayer*”.

This time of prayer begins this Sunday, October 21st and continues through Wednesday, November 7th. You will find copies of “A Season of Prayer: For an Election” in the narthex for the following weeks: October 21st - week 1; October 28th - week 2 and November 4th - week 3.

Forward Movement states in their encouragement to participate in this special Season of Prayer: “At a time when nearly everyone agrees that we are being consumed by fear and division, this is a prayerful, intentional opportunity to change the conversation. While we will certainly differ in our politics, we can surely join together in prayer. We hope you will join in this season of prayer.”

Please prayerfully consider participating in this Season of Prayer.

Peace,

Deacon Gail

Stewardship Committee Wants You:

Stewardship Season (it's always the Fall, don't ask me why) is upon us. But this year, we want you to be part of the planning. Senior Warden Wilma Tully and Fr. Chuck are looking for a couple of creative, excited folks who want to help us tell the story of God acting through St. James'. We want to use multiple methods of telling that story, and we want it to come from within. Got an idea? Got a story to tell? Join our little committee. And if you can't join the committee, we ask for your prayers. This is, we believe, the work of the Lord.

Join the Reformulated Graveyard Committee:

"In many ways, a graveyard is like an encyclopedia of community history. A cemetery contains birth and death records, genealogies, and historical anecdotes. The stones reflect the times and tenor of the people, their moral and religious beliefs, and their customs. The size and elaborateness of tombstones tell of the wealth of those buried under them, and collectively these monuments reflect the economy of a town through various periods in its history. Changing tastes in art and architecture are found in graveyards, just as in the houses of the town" — Jack Sanders.

The Vestry voted at their October meeting to rejuvenate the Graveyard/Columbarium Committee. There's an important reason for this: The observation or study of graveyard epitaphs and art have become increasingly popular pastimes, especially in the Hudson Valley. St. James' Graveyard has no shortage of interesting gravestones. The Annual Graveyard Tours share our history with the community, but the grounds need some tender care and maintenance and mapping to continue this as a self-guided tour throughout the year. **If you would like to learn more or volunteer email Vestry member Dan Raugalis at raugalis@gmail.com**

SAFE CHURCH Training:

The Diocese of New York requires SAFE CHURCH training for all clergy and employees of any congregation. It is also **required** for all Lay Eucharistic Visitors. Bishop Dietsche *expects* it of ALL Vestry members, Sunday School teachers, or any volunteers who work with children in any capacity. Bishop Dietsche **encourages** it for all parish volunteers and any parishioner who wants to be further educated. There are two ways to take this training. One is in person: There is a SAFE CHURCH training session on **Friday, November 2** at the Cathedral from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM - I (Fr. Chuck), am attending this to keep my certification up to date. If you want to join me, please let me know as soon as possible. There is a \$30 fee, but I will cover the cost if you choose to go there.

The second way to take the training is online. See me to register, as I am the administrator for it. There are several 15-20-minute classes that you must take and pass a test for it to register. After you have completed all the courses, you will receive a printout certificate.

LECTOR Training November 17:

If you are a current Lector or would like to become one - and we would love for EVERYONE to join this ministry - the rescheduled Lector Training Session is set for **Saturday, November 17** at 10:00 AM. Please see me (Fr. Chuck) if you would like to attend the training. All current lectors are encouraged to attend since “tune ups” are always helpful.

| November 2018 | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 All Hallows' Eve 10 AM Morning Prayer | 1 All Saints Day 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 - Reading Adventures | 2 Safe Church Training (Cathedral) | 3 |
| 4 Unction | 5 Office Closed | 6 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers | 7 10 AM Morning Prayer | 8 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 - Reading Adventures 6:30 Newcomers Reception | 9 Diocesan Convention | 10 Diocesan Convention |
| 11 | 12 Office Closed | 13 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers | 14 10 AM Morning Prayer 2 PM Hyde Park Assisted Living | 15 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 - Reading Adventures | 16 FREE PRAYER FRIDAY | 17 8 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Lector Training |
| 18 | 19 Office Closed | 20 6:30 Community Thanksgiving Service 7 PM Vestry | 21 10 AM Morning Prayer 2:00 PM. Hyde Park Assisted Living Eucharist | 22 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed | 23 FREE PRAYER FRIDAY | 24 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 25 | 26 Office Closed | 27 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers | 28 10 AM Morning Prayer | 29 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 - Reading Adventures | 30 FREE PRAYER FRIDAY | |
| <p>Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite I is at 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II (with music) is at 10:00 AM. Sunday School and nursery are available at 10:00 AM. Between Service Classes on Sundays are from 9:15 to 9:45 in the Wilks Room.</p> | | | | | | |

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 <https://www.diocesenyn.org/administration/for-clergy/liturgical-and-sacramental/diocesan-calendar-of-intercession/>

October

- 28 Grace Church, La Gracia, White Plains
- 29 Church of St. Luke in the Fields, Manhattan
- 30 Church of Saints John, Paul & Clement, Mount Vernon
- 31 Afterschool and Summer Camp Programs of the Diocese

November

1 All Saints' Day

- Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Manhattan
- 2 All Saints' Church, Briarcliff Manor
- 3 Diocesan Budget and Finance Committee

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ashley, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Darlene Calgagni, Mariel Carter, Joanne Clark, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Brian Ganter (deployed to Afghanistan), Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), Gloria Golden, Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Tedi Kramer, Hope Jennings, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Jim Lynn (Carol Bender's brother - facing surgery), Doris Mack, Margaret, Andrew Mendelson, Beth and Ginero Milano, Lillian Peralta, Mary Bowers Peters (stroke), Grace

Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), John Ross, Hank Schroeder, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Carl Smith, Marguerite Spratt, Janice Syedullah, Tracy, Georgia Verven, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, 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 all right.

Birthdays
(this past week): Grant Ferris, Rebecca Foote and Andrew V. Hall

Birthdays
(this coming week): Michael Fenwick, Sue Fenwick and Sophie Ciferri

Acolytes:
October 28: Bill Fenwick, Jack Canez and Mattie Canez
November 4: Russell Urban-Mead and Braeden Hall

Altar Guild:
October 28: Team II
November 4: Team III

8 a.m. Readers:
October 28: Deb Belding and Sue DeLorenzo
November 4: Lucille Ogden and Jim Smyth

10 a.m. Readers:
October 28: Wilma Tully and Lillian Peralta
November 4: Jim Oppenheimer-Crawford and Andy Hall

Ushers:
October 28: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher
November 4: Andrew and Tanya Hall

Pledge Clerks:
October 28: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell
November 4: Joanne Lown and Sue DeLorenzo

Parish Cycle of Prayer:
October 28: Ann Dingee, Sue Dingee, Chris, Sue and Sara Dingee
November 4: Judy Douglass, Patti Drake, Sylvia Erlandson; Mike, Lori and Bill Fenwick

Coffee Hour Hosts:
October 28: Brian Rance, Saira Shahani
November 4: Audrey Horne, Eric Zavadil

This Week's Lectionary

Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 460 - Alleluia, Sing to Jesus
Sequence: 414 - God, My King, Thy Might Confessing
Offertory: Open My Eyes Lord
Communion: Taizé: Live In Charity
Recessional: 707 - Take My Life And Let It Be

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

"Your Moment Has Come"

Two big things happened this week.

First, I did NOT win the Mega Millions, so my pledge will not go up this year quite as much as I had hoped. C'est la vie.

Second, last night we completed another wonderful season of our Historic Graveyard Tours. And while I don't normally do this during a sermon, I do want to acknowledge the remarkable work of two people. One is our coordinator Brian Rance who oversaw the entire project managed all the details that nobody else even saw. The other is Wendy Urban-Mead who not only oversaw casting but also was the director, AND was one of those actors herself. In both cases, this was their rookie season, and they were amazing.

At the cast party last night, one young actor was talking about how he had been attracted to the tours but felt he could never act in them, and that it was all Wendy's work getting him on the cast - and then patiently coaching him - that did it. His girlfriend said she could never be an actor when Joe (who played Les Entrup in the tours) came up and said, "Nobody's an actor ... until you are."

Isn't that often the way? You don't feel up to the task of acting - or preaching - or anything we do of significance. And nevertheless, you do it.

That's not always the case, I know. Sometimes, folks rush in with absolute certainty that they know everything and ought to be in charge. Look at James and John in the gospel. They wanted to sit at Jesus' right and left in his glory. Try to imagine, if you will, the face Jesus made when he heard that.

But good teacher that he was, he said, “You don’t know what you’re asking. Are you really able to go through what I’m about to?”

And full of self-confidence, they both say, “You bet!”

He assures James and John that their moment *will* come but then uses this moment to teach about humility, about being servants rather than self-serving, egotists.

The two go hand in hand, he says — knowing that you are not God and yet that God will use you if you allow.

This goes all the way back to Job. After all those chapters of suffering and complaining to God about that suffering, Job finally gets a trial. And God, who is both accused AND judge says, “Look, I’m God, and you’re not. I made everything including you, so ease up on the whole, ‘You have no right to do this to me’ thing.”

Job humbles himself before God, realizing that as good and important as he has been, he is still just one person. It’s when he acknowledges this that God restores his health and wealth — and says, “Now that we have *that* cleared up, I have even better, more important things for you to do.”

Humility did not take away Job’s ability to do great things — it opened the door to greater things, not only for him but for the world.

James and John learned that by humbling themselves, they would indeed do to the work Christ gave them. It might not be as glamorous or comfortable as they imagined — let’s remember that they suffered and died for Christ — but it was remarkable and holy work.

That may be one of the most important lessons we can take from the scriptures today — and for our lives. None of us is really all THAT great, but we CAN be called to do what is great.

The author of Hebrews suggests this when talking about the priests of the temple. Even the high priest doesn’t presume to TAKE the honor - but is called by God. Ideally, the high priest has no interest in the honor at all - only in answering the call of God.

That’s us. We are humble enough — I hope — to recognize that WE aren’t evangelists, or pastors, or theologians — until, as Joe says, we ARE. Or to put it more accurately, until we are called.

And you ARE called. Whenever we baptize someone, we as the church together greet them with the following words: “We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.”

Share with us in his eternal priesthood. That’s you and me.

Yet, so often in our lives, we think we’re being humble when we say, “I could never do that. I’m no good at it. I’m no actor, no preacher, no teacher, no care giver.”

But the thing is, God might just hear you and say, “You are *now*.”

Because you might just be the very person who's needed in that moment. You hear someone spouting hatred and quoting scripture to justify it. You think, "I don't know the Bible well enough to argue with this." But the voice of God says, "Act." And the words you need to say come.

You see someone struggling with feeling like God can't love them. You think to yourself, "Boy, I wish a priest were here to tell them how much God does love them." And there is the little voice of God saying, "Act."

You're never an actor until you are.

Whether it's feeding the hungry — as our community garden has done so faithfully (even as we bless its rest for the winter today), teaching children to read, — as we begin again this week with Reading Adventures, or fighting for justice or simply sharing a story about how God has touched your life — your moment will come.

All it takes is the humility to remember it's God who acts through us. And listening. And watching. If you do that, your moment WILL come.

Who knows, your moment might be now. Amen.

A WORD ABOUT RECORDED SERMONS:

Most weeks, I upload a recorded copy of the sermon onto my Facebook page as well as St. James' YouTube channel. I have not yet figured out how to upload them to the St. James' Facebook page but am working on it.

You can also listen to sermons by going to YouTube (www.youtube.com) and searching for "St. James Episcopal Church, Hyde Park, NY". There, you will not only find sermons, but also videos of the Fireside Chats and other videos of interest. You can subscribe to that page, and then when new content is uploaded, you will receive a notification.

SERMON VALUATION FORM

It is not necessary to take notes during the sermon. Rather, you can take some time afterwards to recollect the sermon and its effect on you. Give yourself a few minutes for each of the questions. If you choose to share this with the preacher, it can be a powerful aid to better preaching - but this is not a form to be handed to the preacher and forgotten. It is an aid for you, so you can speak directly with the preacher and answer follow-up questions.

1. WHAT ARE YOU STILL HEARING?

That is, without evaluating it, what are the words or phrases from the sermon that are still echoing in your ears? Are there any "ear worms"?

2. WHERE MIGHT THIS BE LEADING?

As a listener, where does this sermon lead you? What does it invite you to? What are the next steps in your faith that might arise from this sermon?

3. HOW DOES THIS SERMON "PLAY"?

That is, how is it organized or ordered? What steps has the preacher taken you through? What structure did you notice in this sermon? What has it asked you to do?

4. HOW MIGHT THIS SERMON "GROW"?

That is, what suggestions would you have to hone the message of this sermon, to make it more engaging, inspiring, logical, fleshed out... No sermon is ever entirely done; its themes will be revisited over time. What would help the next time be more compelling?