

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: February 18, 2018

First Sunday in Lent

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On the day we began Lent, there was yet another mass shooting at a school. It was the second mass shooting this week. According to the Gun Violence Archive, which tracks mass shootings, there have been 30 mass shooting incidents in 2018 (counting Florida). There have been 17 shooting incidents in schools.

Of wealthy countries, we are alone in this sort of statistic.

If this were the only thing to ponder during Lent, our season of deep honest reflection and repentance, that would be difficult enough. But there are so many serious issues for us to examine - with trust that nothing we find cannot be forgiven by the grace of God, but with equal assurance that we will be held accountable for that which we try to hide.

Consider the #MeToo movement - the almost unfathomable number of women throughout our country (and now throughout the world) speaking up about how they were abused by men with power over them.

Consider our diocesan Year of Lamentation, where we are called to examine especially our church which held most of the financial and political power in the 18th and 19th centuries. We are looking, of course, at our culpability in slavery. But we are also looking at how the slavery of the past has evolved today into a system that still harms people of color and people not in power.

Consider our past treatment of Native Americans - treatment that continues with such events as the Dakota Pipeline.

Consider our own clothing shed - about which I spoke in last week's sermon. Are those clothes doing more harm than good? Are we afraid to look too closely because it's a good source of money?

Consider our environment and climate. With increasing numbers of increasingly violent storms, with entire island countries being submerged, with extreme drought in other parts of the world, with the earth's overall temperature increasing (and this is just the tip of the environmental ice berg), we have a lot to ponder and repent of.

These are just a few things in our country - things that affect us either directly or indirectly, things that we can impact either directly or indirectly - which require our prayerful attention. They may require our action, too. Because prayer, if it does not lead to change of some sort, is empty.

We began this year by calling it a Year of Attendance. I hope you will use this season of Lent as a catalyst for getting back to church, for using this place as a safe space for looking deep inside. It may be unpleasant looking at our darker corners and asking questions of ourselves, but it is possible. It is the job of the church to provide a place where we can, secure in the knowledge that honest self-examination is always pleasing to God.

Any one of those issues I listed is enough to keep me awake at night with a troubled heart. But embracing the cross, following Christ wherever Christ leads - that brings me hope and strength.

This Lent, I invite you to look at your world around you, and in your own heart, to see what is righteous and what is amiss. And then to use the grace of God as a help on your way to renewed life.

On Sunday, February 25, The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool will confirm Jeffrey Fishwick and Jillian Foster at the 10:00 AM service. She will also hear the reaffirmation of faith of Eric and Tammy Zavadil. Following the 10:00 AM service, we will have a luncheon honoring the bishop and the candidates. Please join us to support our fellow parishioners and to welcome Bishop Glasspool. It will be a Lenten moment of joy!

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

A Word About Heat in The Church:

As many of you know, last Sunday we lost heat in the church - again. Upon inspection, the boiler repair person told us the boiler was cracked, was unrepairable, and would have to be replaced.

Our Buildings and Grounds leaders have been working non-stop to get it fixed. The picture became more complex when two different contractors (here to give estimates on a new boiler) told Buildings and Grounds that the crack was not as big as originally thought, and that the boiler can still be used temporarily - and immediately. This buys us a little time to research the best boiler for our church.

We will continue to monitor the boiler (and the heat in the church) several times a day, but ***for the moment, it appears we can worship in the church*** this Sunday. If it turns out that we have another breakdown, church this Sunday will take place in the Parish Hall.

The boiler will have to be replaced before long, but as of right now, it should see us through the weekend.

My deepest and sincerest thanks go out to the Buildings and Grounds committee and especially their chairperson, Michael Glancey.

Please fill out the
**ATTENDANCE
QUESTIONNAIRE!**

ATTENDANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20

You are a member of St. James', and we are blessed to have you. Your presence is crucial to the life of this parish. When parishioners come together, everyone's life is made more joyful, fuller and in general better.

In our ongoing effort to increase attendance by current members, we would like to ask you a few questions. Please take this seriously and answer as honestly as you wish. You may include your name or not - that is up to you. If you do, your answers will be held in strictest confidentiality, though the general information will be collated for parish consideration.

No matter how often you attend, we want to hear what keeps you away or keeps you coming back.

Thank you in advance for your help understanding what is needed to advance the work of the gospel.

- 1 How long have you attended St. James'? _____
- 2 On average, how regularly did you attend over the past 12 months?
___ Weekly ___ Biweekly ___ Monthly ___ Bimonthly ___ Less often
- 3 Was this more than, less than, or about the same as the previous year?

More Less About the same

4 If you attended **less** this year, to what do you attribute this? *Check as many as apply and use as much space as you need to elaborate on any point:*

Work Sports Travel Health Family complexities
 Anger at the rector Anger at other parish leadership Anger at
the Episcopal Church Music quality Sermon quality Sunday
School size Loss of Faith Other

5 If you attend **more**, to what do you attribute that? *Check as many as apply and use as much space as you need to elaborate on any point:*

Health Family Seeking Closer Relationship with God Good
Fellowship Music quality Sermon quality Sunday School size
 Other

6 Answering as honestly as you can, what would make you attend more? We will leave this open for you to answer as you choose, but it can range from “Nothing” to small changes like “Need a ride,” to significant things like “Change in leadership.”

7 If there is anything you feel needs to be said that is not addressed here but needs to be said, please let us know.

Name (optional) _____

Announcements

A PLEDGE PLEA:

If you have not pledged yet, please do so. Letters will go out next week from the Vestry to remind you about your pledge. Please help!

Men's Breakfast:

This month, we will have the Men's Breakfast as usual at **8:00 AM** at Cranberry's on **Saturday, February 17.**

A NOTE ABOUT CPR TRAINING: Because of regulation changes at the firehouse, this course will have to be postponed for the time being. As soon as the picture is clearer, we will schedule the training.

Outreach:

There is an Outreach meeting being held on **Wednesday, Feb 21 at 6:30 pm** in the Parish Hall. We welcome new members!

Women's Dinner:

St. James Women's Group will meet Monday, February 19th at 6:00pm at Coppola's in Hyde Park. Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 7th to Regina Ardini (rdawordgarden@gmail.com) or Patty Glancey (pglancey@ymail.com). We look forward to seeing new and familiar faces in 2018!

Lenten Meditation Booklet Is Available!

Hot off the press, we got the Lenten Meditation booklet out to those who attended the 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday service. Now, you can pick up *your* Lenten Meditation book this Sunday. As always, I also send out each day's meditation via email. If you are not receiving it and would like to, please contact me. Thanks!

Inquirers Class This Week:

Our last Inquirers Class before Bishop Glasspool's visitation is **Wednesday, February 21**. We will examine the **Book of Common Prayer**.

Youth Group Next Sunday

The Youth Group of St. James' will meet next Sunday, February 18, at 3:00 PM. Among other things, we will discuss a field trip on March 4, to see "A New York Lamentation." Youth Group is open to anyone in middle or high school. We welcome your friends, too!

Are You Getting the Episcopal New Yorker?

If you're not receiving the *Episcopal New Yorker*, the quarterly magazine of our Diocese, email Andrew Gary at agary@diocesenyc.org with your name, mailing address, and the name of the congregation where you are a member. You'll receive the newspaper four times per year. It's that simple to keep up on news of the Diocese and read Engaging yet challenging articles about our faith.

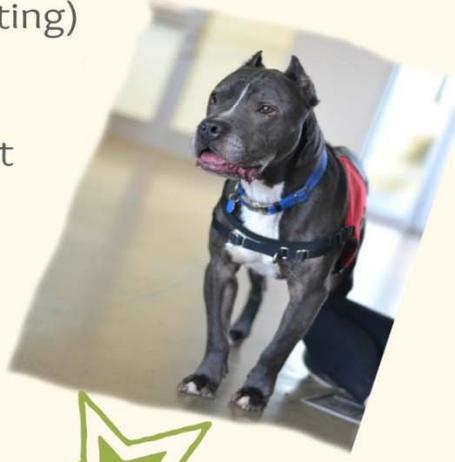
Become An Acolyte:

Whatever your age, if you want to become an acolyte, we will make a place for you. If you attend Sunday School, we will work to make sure you don't miss too much!



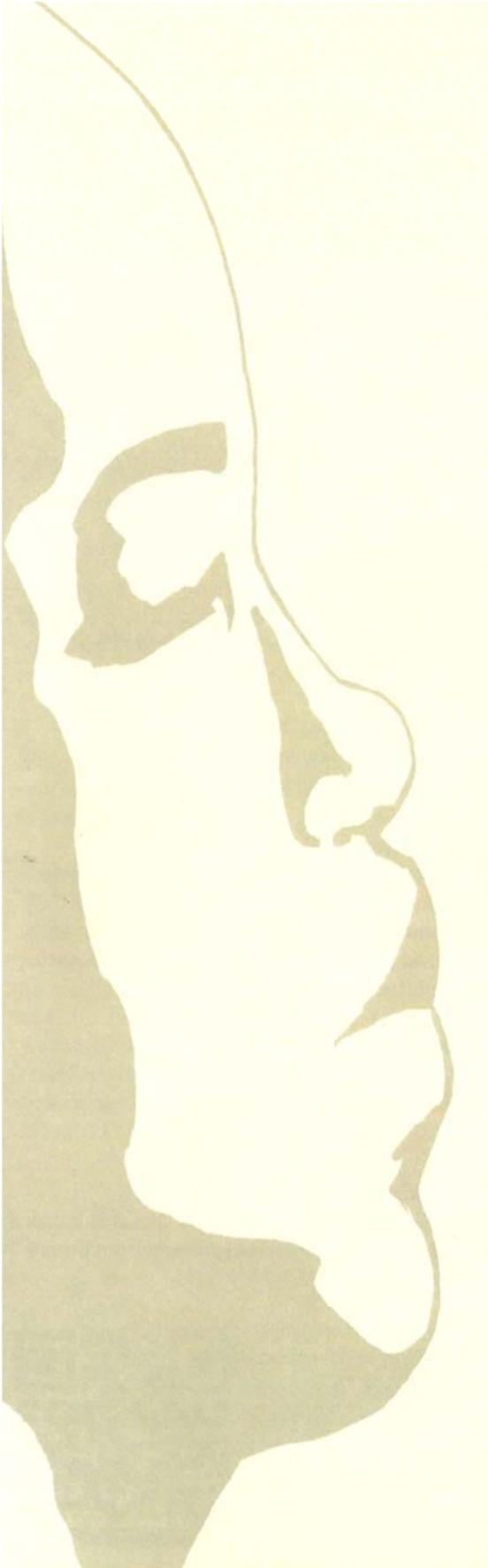
We are collecting the following items for the Dutchess County SPCA:

- Purina Dog Chow *Natural*
- Purina Cat Chow
- Dog Treats (any kind, just super yummy)
- Cat Treats (any kind of yummy treats)
- Canned Cat and Dog Food (any kind)
- Dog Toys
- Cat Toys
- Dog Collars with Metal Buckles (all sizes)
- Bleach (basic disinfecting)
- Paper Towels
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent



636 Violet Avenue
Hyde Park, NY 12538
845-452-7722
www.dcsPCA.org





A
New York
Lamentation

A Play About Slavery in New York

Presented by

The Episcopal Diocese of New York
As it observes a *Year Of Lamentation* for
the Church's culpability in the
enslavement of God's children

Performances

January 21, Christ Church, Staten Island

March 4, Christ Church, Poughkeepsie

September 23, St. Philip's, Harlem

October 14, St. Bartholemew's, White Plains

All performances begin at 3:00 PM

February 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12 Office Closed 7:30 PM Choir Practice	13 6PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 AM - Ashes 7:30 Ashes To Go (@ Cranberry's) 10 AM - Ashes 7 PM - Ashes	15 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Reading Adventures	16 11 AM Free Prayer Friday @ Cranberry's	17 8 AM Men's Breakfast
18 3 pm Youth Group	19 Office Closed 6 PM Women's Group @ Coppola's	20 7 PM Vestry	21 10 AM Morning Prayer 2 PM Eucharist at HP Assisted Living 7:00 PM Inquirers	22 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Reading Adventures	23 11 AM Free Prayer Friday @ Cranberry's	24
25 Episcopal Visitation with Confirmations	26 7:30 PM Choir Practice	27	28 10 AM Morning Prayer			
<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.diocesen.org/administration/for-clergy/liturgical-and-sacramental/diocesan-calendar-of-inercession/>

- 18 St. Alban's Church, Staten Island
- 19 St. Martin's & St. Luke's Church, Manhattan
- 20 Zion Church, Wappingers Falls
- 21 Trinity-Pawling School, Pawling
- 22 St. John's Episcopal Church, Cornwall
- 23 The Episcopal Church Foundation
- 24 Diocesan Commission on Ministry

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Mariel Carter, Joann Clark (recovery from surgery), Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Tedi Kramer, Hope Jennings, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Beth and Ginero Milano, Mary Bowers Peters (stroke), Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), Pat Rooney, John Ross, 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):	Andrew Gausepohl, Cathi Tegtmeier, Doris Mack, Paul O'Halloran and William Fenwick
Birthdays (this coming week):	Deborah Belding, Elizabeth Gabel, Meg Connolly-Burkhardt, Tadgh O'Halloran and Stephanie Barkoe
Acolytes:	February 18: Russell Urban-Mead and Braeden Hall February 25: Kirstin Horn and Amelia McNamara
Altar Guild:	February 18: Team III February 25: Team I
8 a.m. Readers:	February 18: Lucille Ogden and Grant Ferris February 25: Debbie Belding and Sue DeLorenzo
10 a.m. Readers:	February 18: Patty Caswell and Barbara Slegel

	February 25: Wilma Tully and Bobbie Wells
Ushers:	February 18: Bill and Regina Ardini
	February 25: Bill and Regina Ardini
Pledge Clerks:	February 18: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
	February 25: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	February 18: Ashley Konym, Joanne Lown and Doris Mack
	February 25: Gordon and Virginia MacKenzie
Coffee Hour Hosts:	February 18: Lenten Breakfast
	February 25: Lenten Breakfast

This Week's Lectionary

Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalm 25:1-9
 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 143 - "The Glory of these Forty Days"
 Sequence: 139 - "When Jesus went to Jerusalem"
 Offertory: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
 Communion: 324 - "Let all Mortal Flesh"
 Recessional: 693 - "Just As I Am"

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany (February 11, 2018)

"Light For The Journey"

I'm not sure I've ever quoted from the Lenten Meditations before they were published, but when I read Patty Caswell's, I thought, "There's my sermon!" So I asked her if I could use it, and she graciously gave me permission.

Patty wrote about a time about a decade ago when her mother was in the nursing home, living with Alzheimer's. Because her mom had declined, it was often hard to visit, so she tried to visit when she was in a good frame of mind. One day when Patty was feeling depressed and anything but her best, yet a day she still needed to visit, she was driving up the steep hill toward the nursing home. As she

drove up the steep hill, the radio playing her favorite classical piece, the car reached the peak of the hill just as the violins came to a grand crescendo - and with the car seeming to point straight up, all she saw was glorious deep blue sky and clouds. The beauty of the moment filled her with joy, and she approached the nursing home smiling. After that, climbing that hill to see her mother always brought a smile to her. The hard journey ahead was made a little easier. She was sustained.

I hope you can see why this struck me in light of today's gospel. Because the same thing was going on. The Transfiguration was a moment when the disciples - well, some of them - were shown this moment of grace, of light, that would sustain them for the long, hard journey ahead. A journey, Jesus knew, would end with the cross. But *that* moment - it sustained them.

We have a lot of hard journeys (for scouts... a) "wretched woods" and then b) Eagle Scout days.)

We are about to enter onto our own hard journey known as Lent. At least it *can* be a hard journey if we take it seriously.

That's why we have this gospel. It's why we have the Pancake supper, too. Levity and lightness before the hard journey.

But what's so hard about Lent? (After all, we have Lenten Breakfasts!) Well, Lent is a journey of being honest with ourselves. It's a journey of looking at practices we take for granted as being okay - only to discover they may not be.

You know how for the past year or so I've been involved with studying slavery in our region. A lot of people who owned enslaved people took it for granted that what they were doing was good and moral. But many of them had what I'll call Lenten moments when they began to examine the slavery they were involved in - began the unpleasant task of questioning whether they were doing good — or evil. Even when they questioned it, however, they had a hard time wrapping the heads and hearts around the idea that they were doing wrong. Many simply stopped thinking about it. Others became convinced it was wrong and that they should free any people in their bondage - but they were afraid of the economic costs. More than a few wills stated that they wanted to free the people they owned but were afraid of the economic consequences, especially for their children or spouses left behind. Doing right would require a sacrifice which many found painful.

When you wrestle with yourself like that - as Lent calls us to - that requires light for the journey.

And lest you think that issue was so long ago, it doesn't have anything to do with us, let me lay out something similar that affects us right here at St. James'.

We have a beautiful clothing shed - you know it right out there in the parking lot. When we put it up, we figured, recycling clothing, not letting anything be wasted, helping folks who can't afford clothes - it's all good. And the fact that it makes us a lot of money never hurt, either. So much money, in fact, that it's part of our budget, and we depend on it to survive.

But recently, we learned that clothing from these types of sheds often gets dumped in other countries that don't actually need or want them - and the clothes we think are helping end up causing harm.

Which means this Lent, we as a parish may have to do the hard work of looking at where those clothes go and consider if we are doing harm or good. It might be painful, and we might need that light of God's grace, love and warmth to get us through this self-examination.

And yet, painful as it might be, it is better to question ourselves, to look at ourselves honestly individually and collectively than to be blinded by the light of this world.

Paul warned in the epistle today that "...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ..." (2 Corinthians). Greed, fear, self-centeredness, lack of concern for others - these are the light of this world, and they can blind us from the light of Christ.

The light of Christ, in case you weren't sure, is the love that God has for each of, not because you're especially good or have done anything special - just because you're you. The light of Christ is the love that God calls you to have for yourself - to respect yourself and know that you are good enough because God says so. The light of Christ is the love that God calls you to share with everyone, even if it means sacrificing on your part.

That love, that light, is enough to get you through the hard journey ahead. So let me suggest, when you get in your cars today, find a hill to drive up and look for the light. Amen..

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