

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: June 17, 2018

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Announcements

Between Service Classes:

This month, on **June 10, 17, 24**, we have a series on African Christians who made a difference.

On the **Sundays of July** we have a series on the 7 Deadly Sins.

Starting in **September**, we look at church music - What it is in its various forms. What's different about it from other music? How do we make best use of it?

Youth Group:

No Youth Group this month. We'll meet again in July, and we'll have some real theological work to do (along with some fun)!

Continuing Inquirers:

The Continuing Inquirers class has had a hard time getting together - mostly because of me (Fr. Chuck). But we are bound and determined to get back together. So, look for a date in July. The next topic: The Creeds.



St. James' Sunday School

LUAU FUNDRAISER

Saturday, June 30th 5pm-

Join us for a Buffet dinner
and live music as things
“Heat-up” in the Hall to
help “Heat-up” our
church!

\$15.00/ adult

\$10.00/child (under 10 yrs. Old)

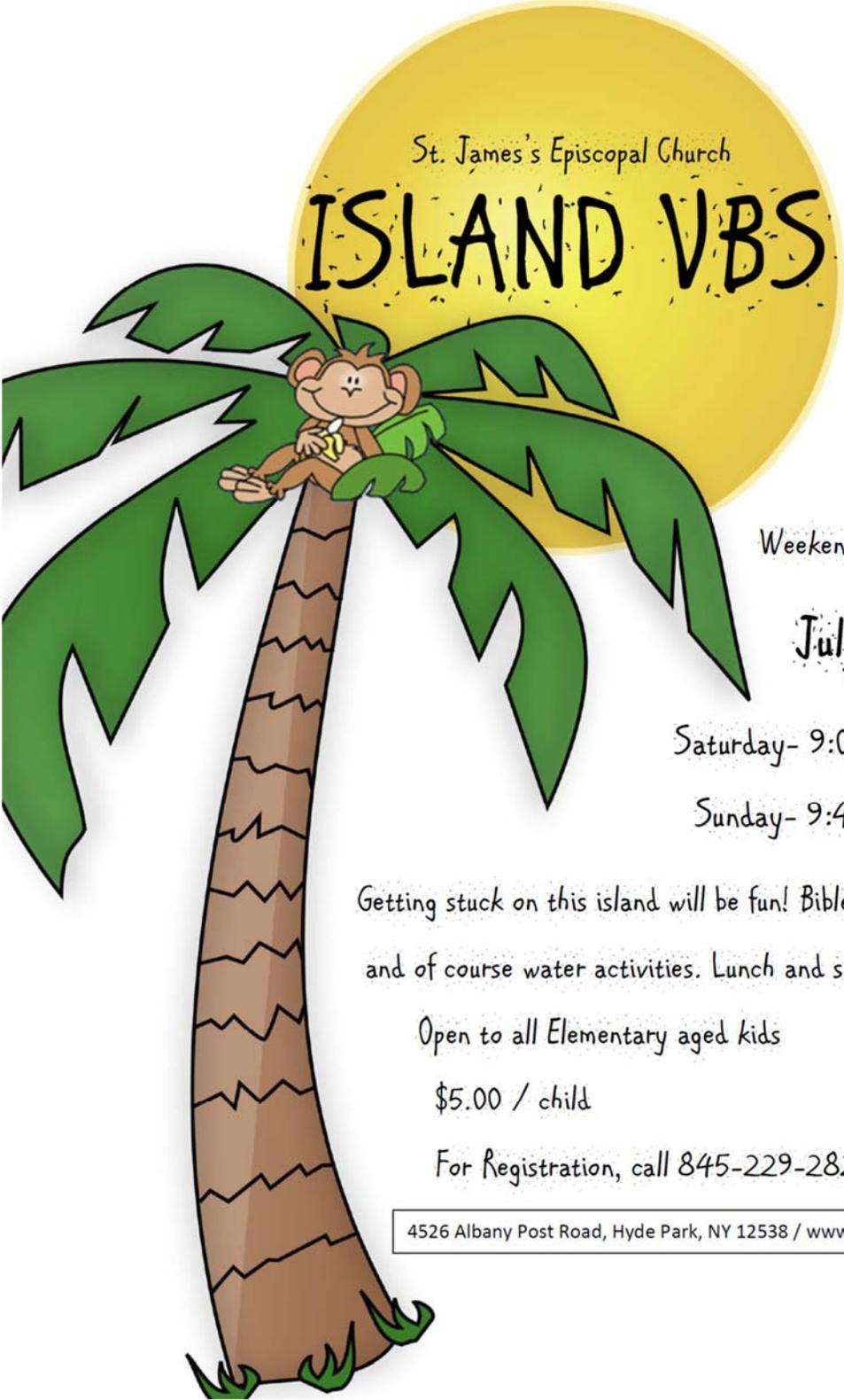
Under 5- free

(All proceeds will go towards the purchase of a new furnace for the church.)



Purchase your tickets fast- we have limited seating! Ticket Sales will be every Sunday- or as last resort, see Dyan in the office during the week.

(If going through Dyan, Cash must be exact amount, or check- no credit cards please.)



St. James's Episcopal Church

ISLAND VBS

Weekend VBS program

July 7 & 8th

Saturday- 9:00 am – 3pm

Sunday- 9:45 am – noon

Getting stuck on this island will be fun! Bible stories, crafts and of course water activities. Lunch and snacks provided.

Open to all Elementary aged kids

\$5.00 / child

For Registration, call 845-229-2820

4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538 / www.stjameshydepark.org



Episcopal Diocese of New York Reparations Committee

Lamentations Pilgrimage Upstate New York

Monday-Thursday • 23 - 26 July 2018

Join us on a four-day pilgrimage as we visit historic sites to broaden our knowledge and understanding of African American history in New York State.



• **PACKAGE INCLUDES** round-trip luxury motor coach, 3 nights hotel accommodations, 3 continental breakfast buffets, 1 buffet-style lunch, 2 dinners (one with Finger Lakes wines), guided historic house and church tour sites, programs, side trip to an affiliate Youth Center, and interactive lectures and discussions, taxes and tips.

Historic Sites Include

- The Stephen Myers Home, Albany
- The Gerritt Smith Estate National Historic Landmark
- National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum, Peterboro
- The Harriet Tubman Home National Historical Park
- The William Seward House Museum, Auburn

Side Trips

- Historic District Tours
- Youth Economic Group of Rural Migrant Ministries

Total Cost: \$590 per person

Please make checks payable to: The Episcopal Diocese of New York | Send by 1 July

1047 Amsterdam Avenue • NY • NY • 10025 | Memo: Reparations Committee Pilgrimage 2018

ITINERARY

ALBANY

▪ **Monday 23 July**

- Leave NYC at 9am departing from the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 112th and Amsterdam Avenue, NYC; Travel along Thruway and stop in Westchester and Woodbury/Monroe
- Arrive in **Albany** in the afternoon for Albany program/visit.
 - Tour the home of Underground Railroad Conductors, Stephen and Harriet Myers and other related sites in the historic district and state capitol
 - Group Dinner at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant
 - Retire to Red Lion Hotel

PETERBORO

▪ **Tuesday 24 July**

- Continental Breakfast at Red Lion Hotel, Albany
- Travel to **Peterboro**
 - Tour Gerritt Smith Estate, notable New York Abolitionist
 - Lunch at the United Methodist Church
 - Engage in program and tours at the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum
 - Dinner (own expense)
- Travel to **Auburn** – and **spend two nights** at the Inn at the Finger Lakes, Auburn

AUBURN – Inn at the Finger Lakes

▪ **Wednesday 25 July**

- Continental Breakfast
- Harriet Tubman programs/tour
- Reflections
- Group dinner at the Oak and Vine Inn at Springside/West Lake Road
- Stay again in **Auburn** area

▪ **Thursday 26 July**

- Continental Breakfast
- William Seward House tour
- Travel back to Hudson Valley/New York City
- Stop for lunch at Youth Economic Group of RMM for presentation about youth efforts around the legacy of enslavement

Arrive back in New York City in the early evening, The Cathedral of St. John Divine, 112th and Amsterdam, NY

For additional information email: diocesanrepcommittee@gmail.com

**Episcopal Diocese of New York Reparations Sponsored
Upstate New York Lamentations Pilgrimage
Monday-Thursday, 23-26 July 2018**

**Please complete and mail in with your payment of \$590.00 by
JULY 1st**

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

Emergency Contact:

Please make checks payable to: The Episcopal Diocese of New York, c/o Finance Office, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY, 10025. Please note in the memo, Reparations Committee Pilgrimage 2018

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 Ginerio Milano, Lillian Peralta, Mary Bowers Peters (stroke), Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), Pat Rooney, 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):	Anna Marie Pitcher
Birthdays (this coming week):	Chris Mackenzie
Acolytes:	June 17: TBA June 24: TBA
Altar Guild:	June 17: Team II June 24: Team II
8 a.m. Readers:	June 17: Julett Butler and Jim Smyth June 24: Lucille Ogden and Thomas Finnigan
10 a.m. Readers:	June 17: Patty Caswell and Charlotte DeGross June 24: Wendy Urban-Mead and Nancy Montero
Ushers:	June 17: Dean Caswell and Audrey Horne June 24: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher
Pledge Clerks:	June 17: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher

June 24: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell
Parish Cycle of Prayer: June 17: Suzanne Schryver, Phil, Kathy and Ross Schutz
June 24: Rohit, Saira, Sanjana and Jett Shahani, Carl Smith
Coffee Hour Hosts: June 17: Deirdre Mae Micker, Wendy and Russell Urban-Mead
June 24: Brian Rance, Saira Shahani

This Week's Lectionary

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5:6-10,[11-13],14-17

Mark 4:26-34

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Third Sunday after Pentecost (June 10, 2018)

Preached by Ms. Julett Butler

Faith Friends Family

Prayer: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

You may have used or heard this statement 'the church is a family.' These words seem like a good introduction for a mission statement. Every one of us collectively makes the church a family.

I know I have used the word family for different groups of people I am connected to. It takes some of us (especially me) a while to get settled in that space to feel like we are a part of 'A' family outside my own biological family. We need to feel like we belong; that the congregation knows and acknowledges us by name when they see us inside and outside the church building; that the smiles are genuine and that the people care enough to ask after us when we are absent. For me, the icing on the cake is when I am invited to actively participate in the community. I feel warm and fluffy inside and I begin to open up.

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus looks beyond blood relations, social standing, points of view, and education; to identify those who share on a deeper level that include his faith in God as Lord of all. Jesus says. "Here are my mother, and my brother [sister]! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." Wow! Can you imagine the joy in the hearts of those in the crowd who were feeling like they are on the margins! Here is someone who truly cares about us! He cares about me!

This is GOOD NEWS for those who have been hurt by their families. This declaration is a new definition of family; one that is without limits. . . just Grace filled and the unadulterated love of God. According to one definition of Merriam-Webster Dictionary – ‘family is a group of people united by a conviction or a common affiliation or fellowship.’

We are charged to seek out the Will of God for our own lives and to share this with others. The human family is expected to share and support each other. So, the Christian family system that applies the Will of God must emulate the words of Jesus in John 13, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you love one another.” As people under Grace we are to study the Word of God daily, apply what we learn, and act in love every day, as we seek to be more like Jesus. The people of the church should be that family to each other and to those who have no family. Some ways we can live out the Will of God is by making sure the children are nurtured in the Christian teachings of the church in Sunday school; becoming a Sunday school teacher; supporting the Sunday school; and taking an active part in the liturgy.

I was christened Anglican and confirmed Methodist. Despite the change in community, my mother made sure I never missed Sunday school and I loved going. It was in Sunday school that I learned about Jesus by listening to Bible stories, acting in plays and memorizing Bible verses. During the summer, I would go to summer camp far away from home and this gave me a chance to build another community with other Christian youth. As a teenager, I got involved in the liturgy through reading scriptures, serving at the altar, and doing community service as part of a Christian fellowship. All these activities were significant to my faith journey and to where I am today. I had a good, strong, nurturing and spiritual foundation.

Let’s look at the context in which Jesus is speaking to us in the Gospel reading. It certainly appears that He is having a disagreement with his family. They are concerned about him taking care of himself. Jesus however, is focused on his missionary work. News is spreading that he is talking crazy; and his siblings, and especially his mother is concerned about his mental health. His family needs to rally around him in before things get worse. Jesus’ family want to talk with him to probably prevent further embarrassment. So, they send a message to him to come outside to speak with them. Jesus is busy teaching and does not respond to their request. Instead, he says “Who is my mother and my brothers?” Wow! Is Jesus being disrespectful? We all know that a family can be both a joy and irritation. Did he forget the scripture (Exodus 20:12) that says children are to honor their parents? What’s going on here? According to Bishop Tutu, “you didn’t choose your family. They are God’s gift to you as you are to them.”

Jesus’ relationship with his birth family has now changed. He is no longer the child to be cared for, but the God-Man focused on his mission. Jesus is creating the new and true family of God – and is drawing to himself those who share his faith in study, leaning and ultimately - service.

All the children in this church are ours to care for, and we need to support their faith journeys as they develop and allow Christ to secure a place in their hearts and lives.

St. James IS and God willing can continue to be a Christian family. Look around and there are pictures that show the work that’s going on here. AND we are the people who are charged to continue growing this family of God. Today we recognize the Sunday school teachers, students, and acolytes and I know you will continue to stand with them in faith and service. What a joy and a blessing to have such a loving Christian foundation! As we put our hands to the plough, let us not

forget our goal is always to do the will of God wherever we go and in our daily lives through study, learning and service in faith.

With God's help 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.