

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: September 9, 2018

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It feels like ages since I've written a letter to you. Summer does that. But now we are all back, and school has started up again. I hope with all my heart that you had a good summer and are well rested.

I hope you're well rested because this is going to be a wild ride of a Fall, and you're invited!

Let me start by inviting you to take part in several activities (which will be more explicitly discussed below).

Let's start with ***Morning Prayer***, which meets every Wednesday at 10:00 AM. ***Bible Study***, which meets every Thursday at 11:00 AM. As I've said many times, I'm also happy to help start one at another day or time. These are ongoing functions - but you should know about them.

Choir, begins its season this Sunday, September 9. The choir is open to everyone who loves to sing, and we want YOU to be part of it. Please see Glenn May - and it doesn't matter if you're very good. You're probably better than you are willing to admit to yourself. So join! ***9/11 Ceremony***, the annual observance of 9/11 and our remembrance of fallen parishioner Paul Tegtmeier. Hackett Hill Park, at 6:30 PM. ***Sunday School*** begins on Sunday, September 16. ***Adult Between-Services*** Class also resumes on Sunday, September 16. ***Safe Church Training*** (very important - see below) takes place on September 22 at St. Paul's in Poughkeepsie at 8:00 AM.

A New York Lamentation, the play I wrote for the Year of Lamentation, will be performed on Sunday, September 23 at St. Phillip's Church in Harlem at 3:00 PM. I plan on attending and welcome anyone who wants to travel with me.

Regional Council, the annual meeting of our Mid-Hudson Region of the diocese is Saturday, September 29 beginning at 9:30 AM. This year, St. James' is hosting, so you know where to find it!

Looking ahead to October, there are, of course, the ***Graveyard Tours***. This year we focus on the hundredth anniversary of the end of World War I, so it will be special. And, for the Vestry, there is a ***Vestry Training*** on October 14 AND 21 at St. John's in Kingston. NOTE that we do not have a St. Francis Blessing of the Animals planned - just too many other things competing for attention.

These are *some* of the many activities going on here and around the diocese - not including Men's Breakfast, Women's Dinner, or Youth Group. While they are all good and beneficial events, I want to stress that the life of the church is NOT made up solely of busy-ness! We are meant to create a rhythm of rest and motion, of contemplation and activity. We are never meant to be solely

one thing or the other. I have always interpreted the old phrase, “No Rest for the Wicked” to mean that no rest makes us wicked - or at least wickedly grumpy and ineffective.

Jesus made his pattern one of intense activity - often confrontation - followed almost immediately by withdrawal for rest and reflection. He added a third element of education, especially for his disciples, and it seems to me that we also are called to take part in that aspect of Christian life.

So, activity, rest, and study - there’s a pretty good pattern for your life as a follower of Jesus. Try it out. Our Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael Curry challenged the church - all members individually as well as Christian communities such as congregations - to adopt a Rule of Life. That is your guiding principal for both your internal and external life. If that is a little too vague for you, then you might want to attend the Regional Council where this Rule of Life challenge will get some discussion time. Well worthwhile!

Read below what we’ve got going on. I truly want each and every member of St. James’ to feel invited to participate.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

Announcements

Graveyard Tours Coming:

We are getting ready for the Graveyard Tours! This year is the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I - and we are paying tribute to that commemoration with a focus on characters who served in that war. Every year, we need volunteers: Parking, Tour guides, set up and break down. If you would like to volunteer, please see Brian Rance who is the coordinator. Let’s make this the best year ever!

Women's Group

Please join us, no RSVP needed! We will be meeting at Antonella's at 6:30 pm (this is a change).

September 17th

October 22nd

November 19th

December 3rd (Christmas party)

Sunday School News

That time of year again! This year we will hold our open house and registration on the 16th. A flyer is attached for more information. The registration will be followed by a Sunday School Family Barbeque. We welcome all pre-k through High School children to become part of our Sunday School family here at St. James'. We will continue using our Curriculum, Weaving God's Promises. This year's theme will be Weaving God's Beloved Community. The lessons will cover the story of how we are called by God to live in loving Community with one another, to fulfill God's promises for us in the healing of all creation.

A registration form is attached and will be available in the Narthex starting this Sunday.

We are also looking for more teachers! If this might be something you are interested in, please contact me right away. The internet-based curriculum allows for easy lessons which require very little time to prepare for. This is an important ministry that is extremely rewarding.

For more information, feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

-Valerie Gaulin – vgaulin51@gmail.com – 845-849-0221.

St. James' Sunday School Open House & BBQ

September 16, 2018



Come and see
your classroom,
meet your
teacher and
register for the
school year.

**Immediately following the
10:00 service.**

**Then join us outside for a
Sunday School family BBQ.**

**It's a chance to meet all your Sunday
School classmates and teachers.**

Enjoy Hot dogs, ice cream and games!

St. James' Episcopal Church
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Web Site: www.stjameshydepark.org Email: stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org

2018 - 2019 SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Child's Full Name _____

Name Child Prefers to be called _____

Date of Birth _____ Grade Entering _____

Mother's Name _____

Father's Name _____

Full Address _____
(If parents live apart, please give address at which the child lives most of the time and indicate which parent is at that address.)

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail address: _____ May we send e-mail notices to you? Yes / No

Has your child attended St. James Sunday School before? Yes / No

Are you members of the church? Yes / No Has your child been baptized? Yes / No

Will you be attending church while your child is in Sunday School? Yes / No

If not, emergency contact info:

At what phone can we reach you in case of emergency? _____

Additional emergency contact name _____

phone number _____

relationship to child _____

Are there any restrictions/conditions your child has, or is there any information the teacher should know in order to make Sunday School a more positive experience for your child? Yes / No
If yes, please explain.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, problems, suggestions you or your child might have regarding Sunday School.

Date _____ Parent's Signature _____

We Need Defibrillator Donations!

So far, we have collected about \$140 toward our defibrillator. It's a start, but only about 10% there. If you think this is important, please consider, say, a \$20 donation. Just 60 of those ought to get us where we need to be. Or, if 24 people gave \$50 each, we'd have it. We'll continue to keep the envelope out every Sunday until we have enough. Total cost for the defibrillator is between \$1,200 and \$1,500. Some parishioners have been trained on use of the defibrillator, and after we get one, we'll arrange for more instruction.

Bible Study Is BACK!

The Thursday morning Bible Study has started back up. If you can make it, we would love to see you at 11:00 AM every Thursday. If you need a different time, let me know, and we'll get to work making one

Between Service Classes:

The Between-Service Classes take a break in August but resume in September with a look at Church music. The first class of the new session is

September 16 - "Why Do We Have Music?"

September 23 - "Navigating The Hymnal 1982."

September 30 - "Greatest Hits of the Hymnal."

October 7 - "Other Hymnals: LEVAS and more."

October 14 - "Rock Stars of Church Music."

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 Saturday, September 22 at St. Paul's in Poughkeepsie (8:00 AM - 1:00 PM). There is a \$30 fee, but I (Fr. Chuck) 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 RESCHEDULED:

Due to a diocesan function I have to attend, I will have to reschedule the Lector Training session. No more than an hour is recommended - encouraged - for all lectors. As soon as I have a date, I'll pass it along.

REGIONAL COUNCIL AND POSSIBILITIES:

Below, you will find a flyer and registration form for Regional Council. We are encouraging ALL parishioners to attend if possible - and other churches have also encouraged their parishioners to come. Want it to be an event for all Episcopalians in the Hudson Valley. But hurry! The deadline is September 21. St. James' is hosting this year, so you know how to find it!

The Regional Council is an annual meeting of the Hudson Valley churches - especially Dutchess and Ulster County. Each parish has two delegates, but all Episcopalians in the region are encouraged to attend. See below for registration information.

ALSO: Clergy from the region this week discussed the idea of a smaller groups - Inter Parish Councils - meeting six months after the Regional Council. This would be a way for parishioners to discuss additional topics of interest and to keep relationships strong.

Save the Date!

Mid-Hudson Regional Council Meeting
Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018
9:30am-3pm at St. James Hyde Park



After our business meeting, we will engage with the topic
of **CLIMATE CHANGE**
and our role in caring for God's creation.

*Featuring keynote speaker, **the Rev. Jeff Golliver** and
Hudson River Playback Theatre, a group that fosters
change through storytelling, music and interactive
performance.*

***The Rt. Rev. Andrew Dietsche** will preach and preside
at Holy Eucharist. More information and registration
materials will follow soon.*

The Mid-Hudson Regional Council
Saturday, September 29, 2018 - 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CLIMATE CHANGE:
Our role in caring for God's Creation

St. James', Hyde Park

~ Registration Form ~

Parish: _____

City/Town: _____

Clergy Attending:

Voting Delegate(s):

Other Attendees:

Please complete this form and send it to:

The Episcopal Diocese of New York
The Mid-Hudson Regional Office
30 Pine Grove Avenue
Kingston, New York 12401

Please note that each parish, regardless of size, is entitled to two (2) voting delegates. All clergy are voting members. We welcome and encourage other members of your parish to attend **Deadline for registration is Friday, September 21st**. Cost is \$10.00 per participant – checks made payable to Diocese of New York

I WANT MY CHURCH TO GROW:

In April, the diocese hosted a workshop called “I Want My Church To Grow.” It was so popular that they have decided to host another one in our region.

Right now, the *proposed* date for the event is November 3.

This is a workshop for everyone who loves God and their parish.

Topics for this include:

- Episcopalians Evangelize? Using Community Organizing Tools for Church Growth
- You Start with what You Have: Asset Based Congregational Development
- We Need More Money: Best Practices for Your Stewardship Campaign
- Everything Keeps Changing! Vestry 101 for the 21st Century

September 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 8 AM at Chapel	10 Office Closed Nursery School Opens	11 6:30 PM 9/11 Ceremony	12 10 AM Morning Prayer	13 11 AM Bible Study	14	15
16	17 Office Closed	18 7 PM Vestry	19 10 AM Morning Prayer 2 PM Hyde Park Assisted Living	20 11 AM Bible Study	21	22
23 NY Lamentation Play	24 Office Closed	35	26 10 AM Morning Prayer	27 11 AM Bible Study	28	29 Regional Council Graveyard Tours Dress Rehearsal

30	1 Office Closed	2	3 10 AM Morning Prayer	4	5	6
<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-intercession/>

- 9 St. Andrew's Church, Hartsdale
- 10 Holy Cross Church, Iglesia de la Santa Cruz, Kingston
- 11 St. Ann's Church for the Deaf, Manhattan
- 12 Canterbury Downtown Chaplaincy, Manhattan
- 13 St. John's Church, Staten Island
- 14 Order of the Holy Cross
- 15 Postulants and Candidates for the Priesthood

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, Carl Levine, 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):	Michael Glancey, Laura Seagren, Annabeth Gausepohl and Patricia Caswell
Birthdays (this coming week):	Laura Kinne and Pat Keeffe
Acolytes:	September 9: TBA September 16: TBA
Altar Guild:	September 9: Team II September 16: Team II
8 a.m. Readers:	September 9: Lucille Ogden and Lynne Koch September 16: Deb Belding and Lucille Ogden
10 a.m. Readers:	September 9: Russell Urban-Mead and Bobbie Wells September 16: Wendy Urban-Mead and Maggie McNamara
Ushers:	September 9: Patty Drake and Bobbie Wells September 16: Maggie and Tom McNamara
Pledge Clerks:	September 9: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass September 16: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	September 9: Eric and Tammy Zavadi, Bill, Regina and Laurel Ardini, Vince Asher September 16: Joe Baldwin and Beverly Briggs, Doug and Deb Belding; David and Carol Bender; St. James' Nursery School
Coffee Hour Hosts:	September 9: Audrey Horne, Eric Zavadil September 16: Jodi Triola and Mike Fenwick

This Week's Lectionary

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125

James 2:1-10, [11-13], 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 564 - He who would valiant be
Sequence: LEVAS 203 - There is a Balm in Gilead
Offertory: Prayer of St. Francis
Communion: Taizé: "Live In Charity"
Recessional: LEVAS 158 - Make Me A Blessing

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Clean Dirt"

In honor of Labor Day, I thought I'd tell a story about me and a factory. The summer between graduating college and beginning grad school, I got a job at a cinder block factory. Wasn't exactly in line with my degree in German literature, but it was a job. And Dad said nothing wrong with good clean dirt.

That's not how Mom saw it. That's because, at the end of every day, I - as the summer plebe - had to climb inside a cement mixer about the size of my old smart car and clean it out, starting with a jack hammer. Even though I wore goggles, a face mask and ear protection, by the end of it, I was completely and totally covered in cement dust.

My car was covered in sheets to protect it. When I got to my parents' home, my mother made me go to the back porch and change. I had to hose the work clothes off outside before I could bring them in to wash. And I had cement dust everywhere - in my hair (no comments), my ears, my nose.

I looked a mess. On the plus side, I *did* look like one of the guys, and that helped me fit in, and in a factory town, that's not nothing. Besides, all that lugging cinderblocks around all day beefed me up to a size I never was before and have never been since. I was ripped.

But inside I was still that German major wondering what Goethe would have to say about all this.

The point being, what I was inside and outside were not necessarily the same.

And that's the point Jesus is making in our gospel reading today.

What's on the outside and what's on the inside are not necessarily the same. What goes in from the outside doesn't corrupt, but what's inside. Jesus is concerned with what comes from the heart - and if the heart is corrupt, you'll know by the words coming from the mouth. That's why James was so

concerned about people bridling their tongues. He believed controlling what we say would help form our hearts.

Now, the situation in the gospel today started when the disciples began eating without washing their hands.

Yes, you and I know that's gross. Always wash your hands because of germs, right? But nobody cared about germs back then. They didn't even know they existed. What the Pharisees cared about was that the proper rituals be observed - and the disciples were not observing the rituals. It would almost be like if you entered your pew today without crossing yourself and genuflecting toward the altar. (Which you... would never...do)...

These outward observances are constantly a theme in the gospels. We have to eat the right food. We have to wash a certain way. We have to wear certain clothes. We have to be richer (yes, many believed having money was a sign of God's pleasure). We have to be healthier.

You could go on with the various standards society has placed on us over the years: We have to have lighter skin, we have to be more beautiful, we have to be thinner, we have to be stronger, we have to have more power.

These things aren't the same, of course, but ALL of them are external aspects. What we eat, what we wear, what we do to our bodies, what we have - all external.

Jesus is not interested in any of the externals EXCEPT to the degree that they reflect what's going on inside us. And it's what's going on on the inside that matters to him. The things that defile - as well as the things that bless - come from the heart.

And as Jesus tells us over and over again throughout the gospels, the one thing coming from the heart that truly matters is LOVE.

God's love, of course. And this is far more than a human understanding. God's love is filled with deep abiding intensity, the kind we see in the Song of Solomon (today's OT reading) - that love of two lovers running away. THAT'S how deeply God loves us. That's what God draws from us toward each other.

No, you don't have to run away together. But Jesus does say we are called to see each other differently - as family. As part of who we are. In his eulogy of John McCain, former Vice President Joe Biden said that the two of them - polar opposites politically - were true brothers. Brothers who had a lot of family fights, but brothers who loved each other deeply.

Not only do we see each other as family, as part of who we are, but as part of God. I read a meditation recently from Catholic priest and writer Richard Rohr who said we are each of us waves in the Ocean of God.

We are called to see ourselves and each other as this - part of God, because that is the essence of our lives. When instead, we worry about the externals - like the size of a wave - we miss that we are all made from the same stuff, from God, and that each wave is a marvel in and of itself.

Another Christian writer, Diana Butler Bass, says that in its early period, Christianity wasn't so much about doctrine or ritual practices - it was about being in union with God. It was about living in a chaotic world yet having your life transformed right here, and right now.

Christianity forgot about that and started to adopt external expectations: say the creed right, use the proper mass, wear the right vestments, make sure the music is organ, make sure you have pews instead of chairs... You name it.

But that's not who Christ calls us to be. Christ calls us to be transformed, to look inside, to find union with God.

Which sounds fine. And terrifying. And impossible. Because most of us are still worried about those unwashed hands. We're still sold on the idea that externals matter. And we're worried that our insides - our hearts - aren't good enough.

I mean, what if I'm not healthy in our souls. What if I don't know God and God's love or feel unity with God?

What if instead of seeing my neighbor as family, I view them with fear or mistrust? What if what comes out of me is worse than what's outside. Am I doomed because my insides are dirty?

Depends.

Ask yourself this: Do I *want* God? Do I want to love God, to know God, to follow God's Son? If so, there's hope. And a way.

And that way? Practice. Because just like any skill, you get better with practice.

What kind of practice? Sing. Choir starts up next week.

Read. We have a library in the Wilks room (plus my office with too many books). We have bible study and are happy to start more.

Pray. The BCP has personal meditations not to mention the psalms. And there are other forms of prayer. And there are other forms we can learn: centering prayer, the labyrinth, lectio divina to name just a few.

Study. We have between service classes starting in two weeks.

Check your tongue.

Ask God to help you grow on the inside, in your heart.

On my last day of work at that cinder block factory, after I climbed out of the cement mixer for one final time, I drove home, went to the back porch, took off those dirty clothes - and threw them away. The outside was just a temporary part of me - the outside was not who I was.

Because what defines you is in here - and here, we are always beloved children of God. 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?