

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: September 10, 2017

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Bible Verse

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
- Romans 13:8

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I would like to talk about two unrelated topics, both important (I believe) to who we are. The first is the crises of natural disasters going on in our hemisphere. In the course of two weeks, we have seen the devastation of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma (which is still going on, threatening many of our loved ones), and the huge earthquake with its numerous damaging aftershocks in Mexico City.

Many of us at St. James' have relatives and friends in the affected areas of all three disasters. You donated a LOT of money last week, and I will not come to you every week asking for more. However, we will continue to funnel money to Episcopal Relief and Development to aid in recovery efforts for as long as necessary. If you feel moved to donate, you can either give directly to Episcopal Relief and Development or write a check to St. James' with "ERD" in the memo.

If you are moved by the Holy Spirit to do more, the Red Cross has been training volunteers in "boot camps" around the state. I do not know if they need more or if they are saturated with volunteers, but it is always appropriate to ask, if that's where you are led.

Do not neglect, however, to keep those affected in your prayers. Prayer may seem like an easy, meaningless platitude. "I'll pray for you" is something you see on FaceBook so often it's easy to think it means little more than "Like." This is not true. Prayer holds people up to God. It holds them in God's arms. This may or may not result in physical salvation, but it always results in God hearing, knowing, loving that person or people. People prayed for regularly say they feel it. So pray.

The second thing I want to talk about is our experiment with shifting the location of the sermon. So far, I have gotten a mix of responses (as one might expect), from "Great!" to "No!" to "That's different. Let's give it a try & see what happens."

I would like to reiterate that nothing else will change in the service. It's possible that this will be a big flop, and if that's the case, I'm sure I'll know about it within a few weeks. But it might be a positive thing for St. James'. Again, I ask your open-mindedness and your patience.

While I announced that we would start this new system this Sunday, I have decided to put implementation off by two weeks primarily to help Sunday School in their preparations for the new

school year but also to give additional time for anyone who wants to express concerns (or excitement).

I do not make changes to the order of worship lightly and take your input seriously.

As we move forward, let us remember, as Paul reminded the Romans, that our primary debt is to love one another, and that if we do that, we fulfill the law of Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

Did you know?

...Why we wear vestments? There are many theories on how they developed - including the idea that they were just regular clothes, and when fashion changed for everyone else, the clergy just kept the old styles. However, vestments have been a part of worship in many religions well before Christianity. Our own vestment tradition evolved from Jewish vestments of the temple. We wear vestments for a couple of reasons. The first is to draw attention away from the individual wearing them and toward God. That's why they are fairly universal. Another reason is to draw attention toward the season or occasion. That explains the colors. Yet a third is to remind all of us, regardless of where we are sitting or standing, that this is a sacred and special time and place - this is not the usual daily business going on - this is time and space devoted solely to God.

Announcements

From our Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies on DACA

A statement was issued on September 5, 2017 by our Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael B. Curry and President of the House of Deputies the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings regarding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) . . .

The following are portions of that statement - the full statement can be found on the Episcopal Church's website.

“Today our hearts are with those known as the Dreamers - those young women and men who were brought to this country as children, who were raised here and whose primary cultural and country identity is American. We believe that these young people are children of God and deserve a chance to live full lives, free from her of deportation to countries that they may have never known and whose languages they may not speak. As people of faith, our obligation is first to the most vulnerable, especially to children. In this moment, we are called by God to protect Dreamers from being punished for something they had no agency in doing.

Since 2012 we advocate for their protection.

The Episcopal Church supports these undocumented youth as part of our decades-long commitment to walking with immigrants and refugees. Out of that commitment, we call on our nation to live up to its highest ideals and most deeply held values, and we call on Congress to take action to protect these young people and to formulate a comprehensive immigration policy that is moral and consistent and that allows immigrants who want to contribute to this country the chance to do so while keeping our borders secure from those whose business is in drugs, human trafficking or terror. We are committed to working actively towards both the passage of a bipartisan Dream Act by Congress and comprehensive immigration reform, and we will provide resources for Episcopalians who want to participate in this work.

For those of us who follow Jesus Christ, our Christian values are at stake. Humane and loving care for the stranger, the alien, and the foreigner is considered a sacred duty and moral value for those who would follow the way of God. In his parable of the last judgment, Jesus commended those who welcomed the stranger and condemned those who did not (Matthew 25:35 & 25:43). This teaching of Jesus was based on the law of Moses that tells the people of God: “The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the aliens as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” (Leviticus 19:33-35)

We stand with the Dreamers as people of faith and as citizens of the United States.”

What can you do: Please prayerfully consider contacting our New York State Senators and your House of Representative to let them know you support the Dream Act (S.1615/HR 3440). Please note that the Episcopal Church has an official policy supporting the Dreamers. For more

information on how you can support them, please check out the Episcopal Public Policy Network (eppn@episcopalchurch.org).

Peace, Deacon Gail

Sunday School Registration

Please see the flyer and registration form below for Sunday School Registration. Registration is THIS SUNDAY. Sunday School starts the following week - but it's never too late to jump in!

Welcome Juliette Butler, Diaconal Postulant

This Sunday, September 10, we welcome Juliette Butler to our parish family. Juliette joins us for her Field Placement assignment as a second year Postulant for the Diaconate. Christ Church, Poughkeepsie is her sponsoring parish.

A Postulant is someone who is well along on the path toward ordination - in Juliette's case, for the Diaconate. Individuals seeking to be ordained a Deacon of the Church in our Diocese are engaged in a three year discernment process. The second year includes monthly formation classes, Clinical Pastoral Training, continuation of one's studies with EFM (Education for Ministry - a four year program sponsored by the University of the South - School of Theology) and a Field Placement assignment.

This is in addition to working full time. Juliette currently works for Dutchess County's Department of Mental Hygiene as a Substance Abuse Assessor. She has extensive experience in cross cultural communication, vocational counseling, group facilitation, pre Re-entry programs and life skills training to name a few of the areas where she offers her gifts. In fact, Juliette developed the first women's Pre-Re-entry program at Daytop Village in Rhinebeck when she worked there in several different capacities. Over the years she has also been involved in Kairos (Prison Ministry) and numerous other community organizations.

As her mentor, I look forward to supporting Juliette during her discernment process as a second year Postulant for the Diaconate.

Peace, Deacon Gail

Harvest Dinner

Please see the flyer below for the Harvest Dinner, Friday, September 15 at 5:00 PM.

Harvey Aid: An Opportunity to Extend Christ's Love

One sometimes hears the phrase "A picture speaks 1000 words" so I will let the pictures we are seeing about the devastation from Hurricane Harvey speak for themselves. Our neighbors in Texas and beyond need our support and our prayers as they begin the long road to recovery. There are critical immediate needs and there are longer range needs.

Episcopal Relief and Development partners with affected Dioceses and parishes to provide the best support resources for our brothers and sisters in need. Most importantly, Episcopal Relief is there for the long haul. Not only is Episcopal Relief and Development present to meet critical needs during the Rescue Phase of a disaster but they are there through the ensuing phases of Relief and Recovery. As Rob Radtke, President of Episcopal Relief and Development, reminds us, responding to a disaster is a marathon and not a sprint.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to our special parish collection to support Episcopal Relief and Development's Hurricane Harvey Response Fund over the next two Sundays - September 3rd and September 10th. Checks should be made payable to St. James' Church, memo line: Hurricane Harvey. Thank you.

Peace, Deacon Gail

Youth Group

St. James' Youth (sometimes called "Episcopal-Pals") are making plans and going places. All middle and high school students are invited to join the group. Our first monthly activity is a challenge course (at Mariapolis Luminosa) on Sunday, September 24 at 3:00. We'll meet at the church and leave at 2:45 pm. Bring your friends!

Men's Breakfast

Men of St. James', breakfast this month is Saturday, September 16 at 8:00 AM. As usual, we're meeting at Cranberry's. These are great times, so join us!

Women's Dinner

Women of St. James', dinner this month is Monday, September 18 at 6:00 PM. The meeting will be at Antonella's. So come out and enjoy each other's company!

Oil Contract Offer:

St. James has just entered into this year's heating oil contract. Rainbow Oil is offering all members of St. James a personal contract to lock in a price of \$2.099 per gallon until March 31, 2018.

If you are interested just call Rainbow Oil and request a contract be mailed to you, sign and return it.

Rainbow Oil's number is 229-9418.

Become a Graveyard Tour Sponsor:

Do you own a business or are you in a position to influence decisions at your company? If so, why not become a Graveyard Tour Sponsor? Several local businesses have done so already. What does it take to support the Tours, and what's in it for you? Glad you asked.

For as little as \$50, your business will be listed on the Graveyard Tour website all year. This site get a lot of traffic especially during the tour season. You also get your company listed on the tour programs. AND, depending on the amount of your support, your company receives at least one complimentary ticket for opening night (those who donate more than 350 receive three tickets for any night).

BUT the best part is that you will be helping your church reach and inspire the world with God's love. And that's a pretty good deal. See Fr. Chuck if you want to become a sponsor.

Reading Adventures News

Once again, Reading Adventures, our after-school reading program for children at North Park Elementary School, will help kids with improving reading. The reading program meets once a week after school. In it, volunteers read one-on-one with children who have been recommended as likely to benefit from a little extra reading. North Park has a new principal this year, Ms. Lynnette Williams who is enthusiastic and welcoming. She had committed to encouraging as much participation as possible and smoothing our way however she can.

For this first semester, we will meet on Thursdays, starting at the end of the school day and reading for one hour. The program year will begin on Thursday, October 19. If you would like to volunteer as a reader, please contact Fr. Chuck or Anna Marie Pitcher.

St. James' Sunday School Open House & Registration

September 10, 2017



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

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

4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, N.Y. 12538

Phone: 845-229-2820 Fax: 845-229-5293

Web Site: www.stjameshydepark.org Email: stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org

2017 - 2018 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 _____

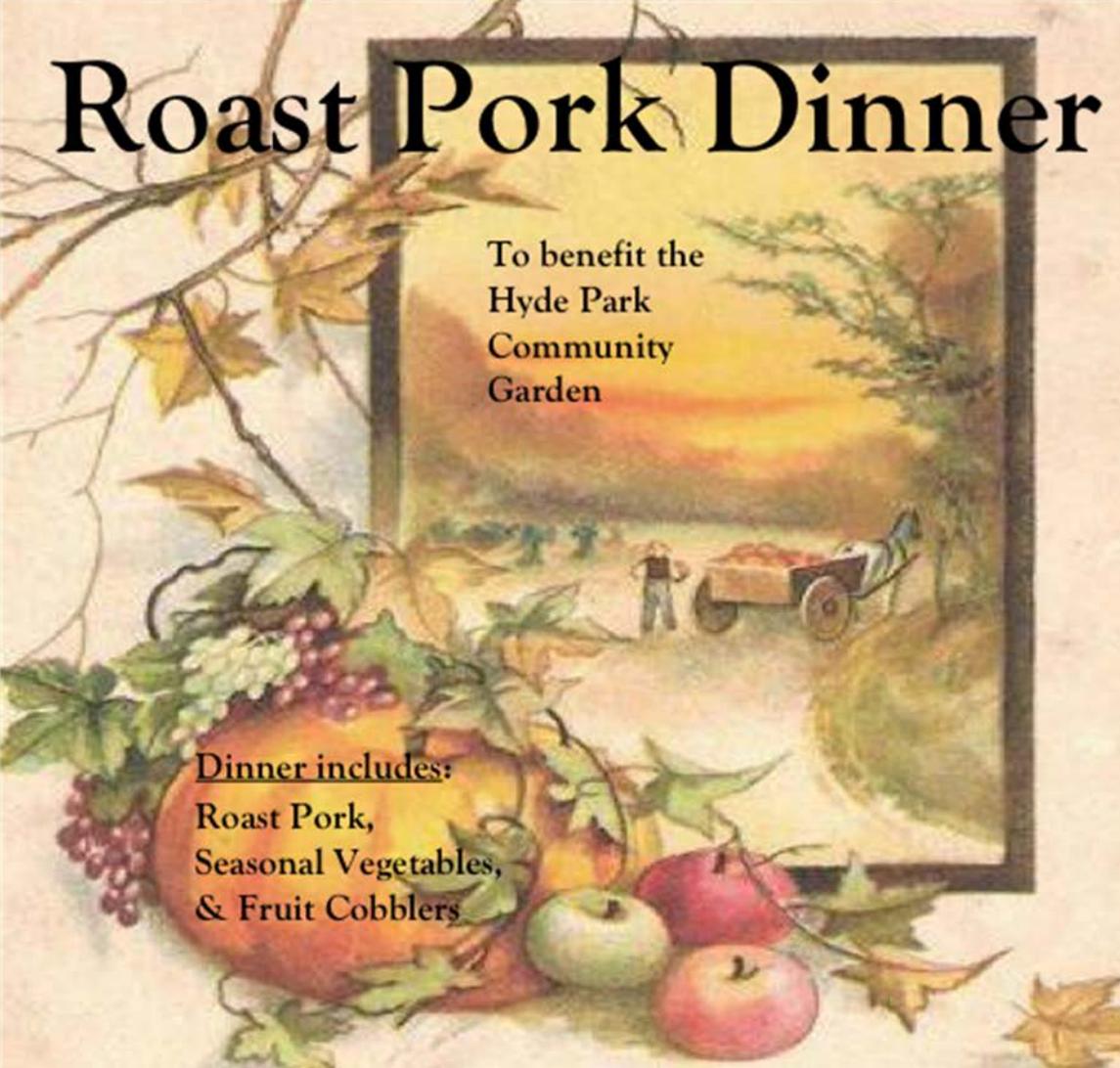
Are there any restrictions/conditions your child has, or is there any information the teacher should know in order to make Sunday School a more positive experience for your child? Yes / No

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 _____

Roast Pork Dinner



To benefit the
Hyde Park
Community
Garden

Dinner includes:
Roast Pork,
Seasonal Vegetables,
& Fruit Cobblers

Where: St. James' Episcopal Church, 4526 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, NY

When: Friday, September 15, 2017 - One Seating: 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: Adults \$15, Children 10 & over \$10, Children under 10 free.

Call the Parish Office for Reservations: 845-229-2820.

September 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10	11 Office Closed Nursery School 6:30 PM 9/11 service	12	13 10 AM Morning Prayer	14 11 AM Bible Study	15 Harvest Dinner	16 8 AM Men's Breakfast
17	18 Office Closed	19 7:00 PM Vestry	20 10 AM Morning Prayer	21 11 AM Bible Study	22	23
24 3:00 PM Youth Group	25 Office Closed	26	27 10 AM Morning Prayer	28 11 AM Bible Study	29	30 Regional Council Tour Dress Rehearse
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.						

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/>

- 11 Grace Church, Port Jervis, Delaware Catskill Episcopal Ministry
- 12 St. Clement's Church, Manhattan
- 13 Holy Cross Church, Iglesia de la Santa Cruz, Kingston
- 14 Order of the Holy Cross
- 15 Holy Cross Church, Yonkers
- 16 St. John's Church (Fountain Square), Larchmont

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Mariel Carter, Dee, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Cath Holywell (priest in the Church of England and Indaba partner who worshiped with St. James' - undergoing heart surgery), Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyon, Barbara Kubiak (Mother of Donna Tracy-Coffman), Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), Pat Rooney, John Ross, Richard Secor, Sharon Secor (recovering from heart surgery), Karen Shan, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Patricia (sister of Barbara Slegel), Carl Smith, Marguerite Spratt, Janice Syedullah, Tracy, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, Cliff Wells and Shawn Wheeler.

Please pray for all those affected by Hurricane Irma, those still suffering from the effects of Hurricane Harvey, and those affected by the earthquake in Mexico City.

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): Laura Seagren, Annabeth Gausepohl and Patricia Caswell

Birthdays (this coming week): Laura Kinne, Pat Keeffe and Fred Champion

Acolytes: September 10: Team 2
September 17: Team 3

Altar Guild: September 10: Team I
September 17: Team I

8 a.m. Readers: September 10: Lucille Ogden and Jim Smyth

	September 17: Debbie Belding and Thomas Finnigan
10 a.m. Readers:	September 10: Wilma Tully and Mike Fenwick September 17: Patty Caswell and Nancy Montero
Ushers:	September 10: Patty Drake and Bobbie Wells September 17: Nancy Montero, Anna Marie Pitcher
Pledge Clerks:	September 10: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass September 17: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	September 10: Scott and Diane Wyant and Grace Parent and St. James' Nursery School September 17: Brian, Joanna, Julianna and Matthew Zocchi, Eric and Tammy Zavadi and St. James' Church School
Coffee Hour Hosts:	September 10: Jodi Triola, Ross and Connie Eames September 17: Deirdre Mae Micker, Wendy and Russell Urban-Mead

This Week's Lectionary

Exodus 12:1-14
 Psalm 149
 Romans 13:8-14
 Matthew 18:15-20

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 674 - Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive
 Sequence: 379 - God Is Love
 Offertory: "If I Have Wounded Any Soul Today"
 Communion: 593 - Lord Make Us Servants of Your Peace
 Recessional: 581 - Where Charity and Love Prevail

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (September 3, 2017)

"The Reluctant Volunteer"

There's an old joke in business - but it works in church, too: Don't miss any (Vestry) meetings or you'll find you've volunteered to head up three new committees.

The military has its own version - they tell volunteers to step forward. The volunteer, however, ends up being the guy who stands still while everyone else steps backward.

Which is a long way of saying that getting volunteers has never been easy. Why?

First of all, it's not entirely true. When I was a kid & my parents asked for "volunteers" to go to Dairy Queen, we had our hands in the air faster than you can say, "Peanut Buster Parfait."

But often, the jobs volunteered for are hard, inconvenient, long-term commitments that can disrupt and even endanger your life.

So we resist. We make excuses. We argue.

If you're starting to feel guilty about now, don't worry (much). I'm talking about Moses. And the disciples.

I mean, Moses was the poster child for reluctant volunteering.

When God got his attention with the burning bush - and even today, you have to admit that you'd notice something like that - he asked Moses to do pretty much the worst job he could imagine. And Moses argued. Now, you only get a little of that conversation in today's reading, so you may want to go home and read the rest of the story, but Moses finds all sorts of excuses for not going to Egypt.

After all, this is a big thing. Think about what God is asking. A) Moses has to leave his quiet pastoral life. B) He has to leave behind at least part of his family (scripture sort of glosses over how he deals with his wife and children). C) He has to go back to a land where he is a wanted man - remember, Pharaoh tried to kill him. D) He has the impossible task of freeing thousands of slaves, who E) don't have any reason to trust him, and F) After all that, he has to lead them to a new country that is already occupied by people who don't want to give up their homes.

Kind of puts heading up a Committee into perspective.

On the other hand, when God calls, it's hard to ignore. And God makes a couple of things clear. First, there are thousands of lives at stake, thousands who have been suffering for hundreds of years. People are depending on him. Second, God will be with him, encouraging, giving strength where needed.

When Jesus tells the disciples that his own sacrificial mission is at hand, Peter speaks for all of the disciples by saying, "God forbid it!" To which Jesus might have replied, "Who do you think is sending me?"

Jesus, however, goes even sharper. He says, "Get behind me Satan." Satan, as we know, is the one who seeks to separate us from God. So stopping Jesus from that mission to the cross wouldn't just interfere with God's will, it would separate them from the will of God.

Jesus goes on to explain that saving one's own life is not the most important thing in the world. If we are working to save others, then disruption and danger are as nothing. Besides, God is always with him - and us. Jesus calls each of us to pick up our cross and follow. IF, that is, we actually want to follow Christ.

The trick, in both the case of Moses and Jesus, is to keep attention on God. To follow Christ. To listen to the call.

But here's the thing. God does not force the volunteers. Neither Moses, nor Jesus - nor the disciples in their time - are forced to go where God calls. That's important: nobody can - or would want to - force you to volunteer. Certainly not here. Ultimately, you have to choose to go, even if reluctantly.

So...when you're asked to volunteer for a job at the church - and you will be.... Repeatedly - consider if it is godly work, important for the mission of God's church.

When you're asked to volunteer for choir or altar guild, or Graveyard Tours, or Reading Adventures, or Vestry, or coffee hour, or Acolytes, or Buildings & Grounds. Or when you are encouraged to volunteer for Hurricane Harvey relief or work to alleviate racism or injustice..... Consider how the inconvenience and endless nature of some of these tasks stacks up against our mission of bringing God's love to a hurting world (even if only in a small way).

Nobody knows more than I how complicated and cram-packed people's lives are. Nobody hates asking for volunteers more than I do.

Fortunately for us, at least at the moment, none of us is being asked to leave our homes forever to face a hostile ruler and lead a quarrelsome nation. But we are being asked by God to offer ourselves to the mission somehow.

All I can do is ask you to consider how you will respond when you, like Moses, are asked to volunteer. And assure you that if it is of God, Christ will lead the way, and God will be with you - all the way. Amen.

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