



# Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

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November 2017

FROM THE



RECTOR

Yesterday, I had the privilege of hearing Rabbi Mendel Teldon of the Chabad of Mid-Suffolk speak at the Smithtown Supervisor's Annual Prayer Breakfast. He spoke about the Torah portion for this week, the story of the call of Abraham to leave his life in Mesopotamia - along with his wife Sarah and their household - and journey across the desert to the promised land. It's the same story that I told our children in Godly Play a couple of weeks ago, a way of helping them understand my new call.

But Rabbi Teldon reminded us that this story of Abraham's call has wisdom for all of us, not just those who hear a particular call of God to journey to a new place. The whole story of Scripture is grounded in the notion of call - of people called by God to live in a particular way in the particular places that they inhabit. We are always being called by God to grow and change more and more like the God in whose image we were created. And in that sense, each and every one of us is on a journey of faith.

One of the things that Abraham did on his journey to the promised land was to build altars at places where he encountered God.

These were tangible reminders of the presence of God with him, and over time, became places of worship and thanksgiving. I imagine there were times when Abraham was tempted to abandon the whole journey and go back to the last place that he had seen God - surely that would be a good enough place to settle! But God kept calling him on, through uncertainty and even danger, until finally he reached a place of safety where eventually his beloved son was born. And Abraham and his wife laughed, and named their son Isaac, which means laughter. That was the beginning of a wonderful new story of the people of God that Abraham could never have imagined back in Mesopotamia, a story captured in laughter.

A number of people have spoken with me about how hard this time of transition is. We are all on a journey of faith, and that journey has taken on particular immediacy as we prepare for my leaving and the calling of a new Rector. It is a time of great uncertainty, but also a time of great promise.



There are things that feel familiar and safe that we will have to let go of, and new things that we will have to adapt to, but I trust that God has a future of great blessing prepared for all of us, and yes, maybe even great laughter!

Now for some practical details on the transition. Once again, I'd be delighted to have coffee, lunch, or dinner with you before I leave. Just sign up at the back of the church. My final Sunday will be December 3. We will only have one service that day, at 9.30am, followed by a lunch. There will be no Godly Play, so our children can fully participate. I look forward to seeing you there. Please feel free to invite others who have been blessed by our work together these last eleven years.

On the following Sunday, December 10, our new Diocesan Canon for Ministry Support, The Rev. Canon Claire Woodley, will be here at St James to preach and celebrate at both services, and to meet with the vestry after coffee hour. She will be guiding the parish through the transition period. The Rev. David Gable will be here from December 17 until an interim or new priest is called.

Blessings  
Raewynne+

## THE WARDENS' COLUMN

### Alexander's Ragtime Band

Come one, come all! December 3 is Raewynne's last celebration of the Eucharist as our Rector of St. James Episcopal Church. The Vestry has decided to host a farewell luncheon and send off following the service. Vestry will be providing the food and our sweat equity. We ask that you not only attend with bells on, but think back to others Raewynne has helped and supported throughout these eleven years of service; the knitting group, Protestant Campus Ministry, the Seamen's Institute, Habitat for Humanity, Eve's organic garden, and so forth. Let's extend a warm and welcoming invitation to all to our open hospitality as a parish.

This occasion is not a roast (perhaps with the exception of past water gun fights) it is a celebration and thanksgiving for the many achievements and gifts Raewynne has brought forth over eleven years. We will be contributing to a farewell gift to help our priest's move forward to her new calling as a disciple of God. It is a moment of challenge and excitement and renewal. We hope that all of you will share with us in this exceptional moment in our history.

*O God, by your Holy Spirit you give to some the word of wisdom, to others the word or knowledge, and to others the word of faith; We praise your name for the gifts of grace manifested in your servant, Raewynne.*  
(BCP, p. 248).

*Alex and Jennifer*

## ADULT EDUCATION

### A Humble Voice

The preface to “The Book of Common Prayer” concludes as follows:

“And now, this important work being brought to a conclusion, it is hoped the whole will be received and examined by every true member of our Church, and every sincere Christian, with a meek, candid, and charitable frame of mind; without prejudice or prepossessions; seriously considering what Christianity is, and what the truths of the Gospel are; and earnestly beseeching Almighty God to accompany with his blessing every endeavour for promulgating them to mankind in the clearest, plainest, most affecting and majestic manner, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour.”

If you have attended any Church meeting you will know we begin with either an abridged version of the Morning or Evening Prayer service. These services include the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer as a group. Earlier this year during an evening Bible Study, and after reciting the Lord’s Prayer a member with a “meek, candid, and charitable frame of mind” took exception to what we had just prayed for. She said “God doesn’t lead us into temptation.” It was the start to a very meaningful dialogue about the traditional and contemporary versions of the Lord’s Prayer. The group concluded that both in our heart and in scripture there is no evidence that God will lead us into temptation. As a result, the Bible Study group has taken to using the contemporary version of the Lord’s Prayer. It was a revelation of sorts that put us right with God and had us all leaving the meeting feeling good.

Our group invites you to consider the good

news to be found in the contemporary version of the Lord’s Prayer. We also invite you to join us on Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the Webster room as we read the Book of Acts. Just as in the case above, we never really know where the Holy Spirit will lead us when we gather in His name, but it is always good!

Peace,  
*The Bible Study Bunch*

### ALL SAINTS’ DAY POTLUCK SUPPER

Do you have a favorite saint? On Wednesday, November 1, in celebration of All Saints Day, we will assemble in Mills Hall to enjoy fellowship and a pot luck supper. Come dressed as your favorite saint, and/or share bits of history about him or her. We have learned about many “lesser known” saints in the past. Now is your chance to have some fun while finding out about those paragons of faith. Bring a dish to share. The party starts at 6 p.m.!

### STEWARDSHIP

#### Journey to Generosity

At one time or another we have all been in the presence of someone who is genuinely generous. Not necessarily with their money, but with their time and spirit. They are people we love to be around. They make you feel special, important.

Psalms 112 speaks eloquently about the theme of “Living Generously”. It defines generous living as being gracious, merciful, and righteous. To live in such a way, we are to conduct our lives with justice.

This year's stewardship theme of "Journey to Generosity" is a strong call to action to each of us as followers of Jesus. Jesus showed us the way to live generously by welcoming the outcast, by overturning the tables of the money changers in the temple, by dining with the poor and healing the sick, by teaching, by forgiving, and by ultimately giving his life so that all might have life abundant.

Over the course of the next few weeks, we will journey together in exploring how the practice of intentional generosity deepens our walk with Christ and supports life-giving ministries to our community and beyond. We will continue to hear personal reflections from fellow parishioners about their journeys in generosity and stewardship. We invite you to join us on Sunday for worship and to be a part of that communion.

Henri J.M. Nouwen said, "life is a God-given opportunity to become who we are, to affirm our own true spiritual nature, claim our truth, appropriate and integrate the reality of our being..." So, the question is, who are you? Or since we are truly on a journey, who do you want to be?

Our fall pledge campaign will formally end on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Until then, we ask you please return your pledge cards by then, so that we may collectively offer them up to God in Thanksgiving during the 9:30 service. It is also our hope that during this fall's "Journey to Generosity" each of us will come to better understand our journey as Disciples of Christ and our role as His light in the world.

Yours in Christ,  
*Amy Jeffrey and Chris Mauro*  
The Stewardship Committee

## **DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

On November 10 and 11, Margo Goodman (delegate), Peter Cahill (alternate), and the Rector will attend our annual Diocesan Convention at the Marriott Hotel in Melville. Although a significant part of this time is spent in dealing with legislation, it is also a wonderful opportunity to connect with other members of our diocese, and to hear how God is working in so many different ways on Long Island. Please keep them in your prayers.

## **CHILDREN'S TOY DRIVE**

Episcopal Health Services is organizing their annual outreach program, and has asked each church in the diocese to donate ten new unwrapped toys for children ages 1 to 16. If you would like to participate, please place your donation on the pew in the hallway of the Christian Ed. building (near the Food Pantry cart), by Wednesday, November 8.

## **CRAFT GROUP**

The new St. James Craft group is a loosely organized bunch of creative people who have been meeting at various times to make items to sell at our upcoming Christmas Fair. We will be working on our own projects, or on group projects during the month of November. Meetings are scheduled during morning, afternoon or evening hours to accommodate all schedules. All parishioners are welcome! It is a good way to develop relationships with others in the parish. Watch the Sunday bulletin for notice of the meeting schedule, or email me at [stjamesc@optonline.net](mailto:stjamesc@optonline.net) to be added to the craft group emails.

- Laurie Mannix

## **FOOD PANTRY THANKSGIVING**

We need donations of canned yams, turkey Stovetop stuffing, turkey gravy through November 17. We will also need donations of turkeys (10 - 14 lbs.), turkey breasts, and pies, which can be brought to church on Sunday, November 19, or to the Food Pantry on Monday, November 20.

Volunteers are needed at the Pantry on November 18, 20, 21 and 22. Please speak to me about helping us care for our neighbors at this special holiday.

*- Pat Westlake*

## **THANKSGIVING SERVICES**

As you prepare your feasts for friends and family or map out your trip to visit relatives, we encourage you to make time to give thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed upon you and your loved ones.

The Smithtown Clergy Association is once again organizing a community-wide Thanksgiving worship service on Sunday, November 19, 7 p.m. at St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church on Brooksite Drive in Smithtown. Our Rector will be the preacher. All members of St. James are encouraged to come and worship with our sisters and brothers and give thanks and praise to God for our many blessings.

On Thanksgiving Day we join with other local Episcopal Congregations: services will be held at 10 a.m. at All Soul's Church on Main St. in Stony Brook and at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church on Brooksite Drive in Smithtown.

Gather your friends and join us!

## **ADVENT**

Close on the heels of Thanksgiving, i Advent begins on Sunday, December 3. We will have reflection booklets available from November 26. A reminder that if you have signed up for a meditation, please send it to the Rector by November 5.

## **CHRISTMAS GRAVE BLANKETS**

Once again, we are offering the opportunity for our parishioners to purchase a grave blanket for their loved ones buried in other cemeteries. The blankets are approximately 3' x 4', made of evergreens decorated with pine cones, white birch twigs, and red bows. The cost is \$30. You may place your order with the office before November 20. The Cemetery Committee will be decorating the blankets on Wednesday, November 29, and they will be available for pick up after that.

The Committee is also in need of larger pine cones to decorate the blankets, and people to wire the pine cone in bunches. If you can help, please let Ken LeCluse know.

## **NEW PARISH DIRECTORY!**

An updated parish directory will be available in December. Once again, it will not only be available in print, but online and as an app for your cell phones. What is great about our new directory is that we can include photos, and the online and app versions update automatically when changes are made. Security is ensured by using individual passwords linked to your personal email address as listed in the directory. We will also eventually be able to send urgent announcements (e.g., cancellation of Sunday services because of snow) out to all members with emails or cell phone numbers listed.

The printed directory includes photos of parishioners along with their contact details. We invite you to email an updated photo of your household to the office, as well as any changes in your contact information, including cell numbers.

To view the directory online go to <http://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>. You will be asked to create a login using your email address. Only those whose email is recorded in the directory will be able to access the online directory. To download the app, search for “Instant Church Directory” and download. Again, you will be asked to create a login using your email address. Only those whose email is recorded in the directory will be able to access the directory in the app.

- *Raewynne*

### LOOKING AHEAD

December is a busy month at St. James! Here are a few of the events which will be happening in the early part of the month:

**\* Raewynne’s last Sunday, December 3**

There will be a special reception following the 9:30 a.m. service.

**\* Christmas Fair, December 9**

Featuring new handmade crafts, a baked goods table, many lightly used Christmas decorations, Dickens’ Village houses and accessories. Books ‘N’ Things will be open for shopping.

**\* Pick-a-Star gift program** for homebound parishioners, our developmentally disabled neighbors, and those in local nursing homes.

**\* Adopt-a-Family gift program** for families selected by St. John’s Episcopal Hospital outreach program.

**\* Bake-a-Batch for the Food Pantry** outreach program encourages donations of home baked cookies for the Smithtown Emergency Food Panty during the month of December.

Be sure to read the Sunday bulletins for more information on these events and programs at the end of November.

### NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

**Kennedy Noel Beirne** will be Baptized on Sunday, November 5 at the 9:30 a.m. service. She lives with her parents, Tim and Laura, and big sister, Madison, in Stony Brook.

**Lucas Roseto**, son of Leah and Matt Roseto, and grandson of Colette Tarantino, will be Baptized on Sunday, November 19 at the 9:30 a.m. service.

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Knitters’ group 11:30 a.m.  
All Saints’ Day Potluck Supper 6 p.m.
- 2 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.  
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Asian Painting class 10:00 a.m.
- 5 **All Saints’ Sunday**  
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with Baptism  
Godly Play class
- 6 Protestant Campus Ministry 7:00 p.m.  
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

- 8 Knitter's group 11:30 a.m.
- 9 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.
- 10 Diocesan Convention  
Asian painting class 10:00 a.m.
- 11 Diocesan Convention
- 12 **Pentecost 23**  
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.  
Godly Play class
- 13 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.  
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.  
Special Connections group 6:00 p.m.
- 16 Yoga class 3:30 p.m.  
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Asian painting class 10:00 a.m.
- 19 **Pentecost 24**  
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m. with  
Baptism  
Godly Play class  
Community Thanksgiving service at  
St. Thomas' 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
- 22 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 23 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 24 Office closed
- 26 **Last Pentecost**  
Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.  
Godly Play class
- 27 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
- 29 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.  
Grave blanket decorating 4:00 p.m.
- 30 Grave blanket distribution 10:00 a.m.  
Yoga class 3:30 p.m.  
Bible study 7:30 p.m.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Donna Austin  
 Andrew Prentiss  
 Jack Harrington, Jr.  
 Edna Rousseau  
 Jennifer Lawrence  
 Jack Euler  
 Ira Lippke  
 Pat Westlake  
 Sarah Rios  
 Tony Bastin  
 Kristina Euler  
 June Davies  
 Michael Neyssen  
 Jack Harrington, Sr.

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Chris & Anita Sequino  
 Bob & Marty Scott  
 Jeremy & Kristen Dean