

Inside This Issue



Vestry Elections and Annual Meeting
A special pull-out section on the election, with the text of By-Laws amendment proposals and the candidates' statements

- For All the Saints Testimonials.....2
Lisa Smith and Anne Anthony talk about their gifts to St. James'
- Passport to Asia.....3
This year's Community Festival evening celebrates the customs and cuisines of Asia
- A Gospel-Eyed View of Holy Week....4
Craig Townsend describes the Scripture lessons to be heard at each of the services
- Making Joyful Noises.....4
Plan now to enroll your children in St. James' music programs in the fall
- This Month at St. James'.....5-7
Altar Flowers for Easter · Youth and Young Adult activities · New series of The Way at St. James' · The Moms' Luncheon · Family Friday Lego Night · Spring Party for Parents · A Quiet Day · Parish Bible Reading · The Stillman Lecture · April Adult Education Forums · Mission Projects During Lent
- St. James' History Book.....7
Praise for Frank Sypher's Bicentennial publication
- Parish Register for February.....7
- Race to Nowhere Screening.....8
A screening and discussion of Vicki Abeles' new documentary
- April Calendar.....8

Look Where You're Going

I take my inspiration where I can find it. For this piece it came through the juxtaposition of the Metropolitan Transit Authority and a Chinese philosopher. I was on the F train reading the subway ads, as I do when I'm bored, and saw one of those quotes the MTA shares with us from time to time. It was attributed to Lao Tze who, according to my internet search, had lots of pithy things to say, though my sources seem uncertain whether he said them in the fourth or the sixth century. The MTA chose this: "If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading." Congratulations to the MTA employee who chose that quote, which in its context on the subway is not only thought-provoking but wonderfully ironic. When most of what the MTA shares with us are announcements and posters about trains being re-routed or discontinued, or running on their regular schedule except between midnight and 5:00 a.m. when they don't run at all, most of us board the trains hoping (perhaps even praying) that we will actually get where we're headed. Perhaps the quote was chosen to make we weary travelers feel better if we do not. Ah, you see life is far richer when you don't end up where you thought or hoped you would. In any case, it made me smile. And think.

As Christians, we will spend most of this April in Lent. The readings are somber; Jesus is moving, inexorably, towards Jerusalem and the cross. The appointed readings show the forces of darkness and death gathering; the sun itself is blotted out when Jesus dies on the cross. Darkness seems to be most of the month's message. But not all. Easter erupts, this year on April 24, and darkness, and even death itself, is vanquished. If we have

spent much time as Christians, we know this is the story's conclusion. But even so, the readings and the liturgies of Lent, and especially those of Holy Week, may still touch us viscerally and remind us of just how near the darkness comes, how very close by death is. If the readings of the season don't bring that home, news reports will. As I write, Libya is in flames, with the government attacking its own citizens and many of those citizens seeking or hoping to overthrow the government that has been in place for decades. Many others, many more, find themselves caught in the crossfire with a sense of impending disaster. As I write, Japan struggles to assess the magnitude of the losses it has suffered and the numbers of people who have died in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake and a still-more-devastating tsunami, all while experiencing aftershocks and trying to evacuate citizens from areas anywhere near nuclear reactors whose cores appear to be melting. This in a country which has experienced more nuclear devastation than any other nation on earth.

Where exactly are we headed? Deep into Lent and with a scan of the news, hell (however you care to define it) seems like the obvious and inevitable answer. If we accept that as the outcome, I am pretty confident we can make it so. We can ride that train until we get there. Hopelessness, which feeds on a sense of dark inevitability, assures us that there is nothing we can do to change our destination, nothing we can do to point ourselves let alone anyone else in a new direction. Which is why, in times like these (all the time) we need to remember the end of Jesus' story, and look as well at what Jesus did in those dark days spent traveling towards Jerusalem and death. The end of the story is Easter: resurrection, new and eternal life. It would seem after Good Friday that nothing could have prepared us or Jesus' first disciples for that outcome. Yet there were signs. Even as Jesus traveled toward Jerusalem,

continued on p. 7

In times like these we need to remember the end of Jesus' story, and what Jesus did in those dark days spent traveling towards Jerusalem and death.



About Families

One Sunday in Spring 2003 as I was pushing our daughter in a stroller up 72nd Street, clearly very pregnant with twin boys, I passed a friend of ours who after one glance said she knew the perfect place for our growing family on Sunday mornings: St. James' Church. She described it as a bright, happy place full of a mix of people of all ages and, by the way, plenty of strollers. Was she ever right! Until then, we had been searching for a place of worship to bring our family, but never did we fathom how central this community would become to our family and the life in Christ we wanted to share with our children. Nor did we ever realize that it would reach so far beyond just Sunday morning visits and into our daily lives.

Every member of our family has been touched by so many individuals at St. James'.

I am pleased to currently serve with Vicki Hall on the Children's and Family Ministries Committee as well as with Grace Beacham on the Parish Life Committee. The abilities of these two women and all the people who help support their efforts continually amazes me. In addition to the ongoing activities for children and families at St. James', seeing the delight on my sons' faces when talking about exploring the church on Thursdays with Ryan Fleenor, or the experience of the children's music program they enjoy under Christopher Jennings and Davis Wortman, is invaluable.

Now, as a member of the Stewardship Committee, I have been asked to write about annual giving. It's very simple to understand the need for the St. James' annual giving; it is how St. James' lives and continues to share its ministry and mission with the world around us. My husband Baker and I reevaluate our contribution levels annually and, although the financial struggle of life in New York can give us all pause, I don't think we have ever looked back or hesitated to continually increase our pledge to St. James' to levels that feel appropriate for our family. It is a ministry that we are proud to participate in and support.

For All the Saints is a campaign to restore our endowment and complete payment for our Bicentennial Organ. Parishioners are being asked to consider increased annual stewardship, along with a capital gift which may be paid over a five years, so that this parish's ministries may continue to flourish. Those who have already made a commitment have offered testimonies about their decision to do so; these are archived at www.stjames.org/capcam. If you want to know more how to participate in the campaign, contact Skip Schlafer at skipschlafer@jdklote.com or 212.774-4235.

To simplify giving as much as possible for all our hectic lives, St. James' has not only made it possible to donate online, but also to stretch our donation weekly or monthly over the year. It's all as basic as starting with a pledge, which is so vital to planning the annual budget.

As you pledge and give to St. James' this year, may you know the joy of giving and the satisfaction of knowing you are part of the important life of St. James' and its presence in the world and our community.

—Lisa Smith

About Ministry

My decision to make a pledge to the For All the Saints Campaign was instant, but what to pledge I knew would require prayerful consideration. For more than forty years my family and I have been the beneficiaries of the generosity of so many, and now I had the opportunity to ensure future generations would have the same benefits we have enjoyed. St. James' is not just Sundays for me. It is Wednesdays for Bible study and prayer, Thursdays for We Love to Sing with my grandchildren, an evening for a committee meeting, and on and on. St. James' is my other family, a family that embraces all who come through the door. This campaign is not about bricks and mortar, rather it is a campaign about ministry. It will give us the ability to enhance our present programs and create new ones. After praying, I handed in my pledge filled with joy and looking forward to the future with the knowledge that St. James' will continue to be a vital parish for years to come. The opportunities will truly be a gift to us all. The campaign will not diminish my annual stewardship commitment, rather it will enhance it.

—Anne Anthony

At left, a few more photos of parishioners enjoying the Winter Parish Celebration launching For All the Saints.





Passport to Asia Community Festival 2011

Wednesday, May 11

Your Passport to Asia awaits at the St. James' Community Festival 2011. The gala event promises to be an enchanting evening celebrating the customs and cuisines of Asia. Mark your calendars and don't miss this wonderful opportunity to support our beneficiaries, including:

- Getting Out & Staying Out, which serves 18-24 year old men who have been or are currently incarcerated at Rikers Island. Their goal is to reduce recidivism and ensure economic independence through purposeful education and directed employment;
- Jan Hus Neighborhood House and Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Program, which provides daily support for the neediest population from all five boroughs;
- Knox Gate Neighborhood Association, aka "The Cove," which addresses the needs of the youth in a demographically diverse and low-income neighborhood of the Bronx. They provide support and activities after school, designed to encourage self reliance and trusting relationships with both peers and adult role models;
- Broadway Community, Inc., which provides emergency food, clothing, and shelter very much needed for their neighborhood;
- The Dwelling Place, which offers transitional housing for homeless women;
- Episcopal Charities Summer Camp Program, which helps support alternative summer activities for at-risk youth.

Watch for weekly email and website announcements about online auction offerings and bidding updates through April. Visit www.stjames.org/festival for detailed information about how to participate.

The St. James' Community Festival has had a long history. In the 1930s, the Rev. Horace Donegan moved the annual spring festival and bazaar, traditionally held in the undercroft of the church, to the grand ballroom of the Plaza Hotel. The Rev. Arthur Kinsolving returned the Festival to a more homespun event at St. James' in the 50s. For a time the event lasted for three days and included a fashion show and outdoor playland activities for children. The current Community Festival umbrella includes four events spread out over the year: the Second Time Around thrift sales in the spring and fall, the Christmas Boutique, and the festival gala in early May. No matter what the array of events, the Festival has always had the same goal: to raise money for St. James' mission programs that serve neighbors in need.

The Festival Schedule

Tuesday, May 10
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Antiques & Treasures Preview Party

Wednesday, May 11
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
6:30-9:30 p.m.

St. James' Spring Boutique
including Antiques & Treasures
6:30-9:30 p.m.
Festival Gala

Thursday, May 12
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Antiques & Treasures

Antiques & Treasures Preview Party

Tuesday, May 10, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Bring your friends and help support Community Festival 2011 beneficiaries by attending our Antiques & Treasures Preview Party. Be the first to buy from this year's collection of beautiful, unique donations. Refreshments will be served. Admission is \$20; reserve online at www.stjames.org/festival or by check by May 9.



A Gospel-Eyed View of Holy Week

Each of the worship services of Holy Week includes specific passages of Scripture appointed to help tell the story of Jesus' last days as on earth and his death and resurrection as the Savior of humankind.

Palm Sunday

April 17, 7:30 (note time change), 9:10, 11:15 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.

Two gospel stories are combined for these services: Jesus triumphantly entering Jerusalem on a donkey, to adoring crowds, is the source story for the blessing of the palms; then the Passion, the story of the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus, brings us to the reenactment of his death and resurrection in the liturgy of Holy Communion.

Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

April 18, 19, 20 at 8:00 a.m.

The readings for these services are all events from the story of the Last Supper as told in the Gospel of John: the woman who washes Jesus' feet, Jesus praying, and the betrayal of Judas.

Tenebrae / Holy Wednesday

April 20, 7:30 p.m.

At this service, lights are gradually dimmed and darkness descends as four

events from the Passion are read, interspersed with musical responses to, and interpretations of, the story.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April 21, 7:30 p.m.

Two elements from the Last Supper are the focus of this evening service: Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, and Jesus instructing them on how to worship him in Holy Communion.

Preceding the service, at 6:30, join us for the Agape Supper, a simple dinner of lamb with couscous, salad and fruit. Register online at www.stjames.org/community/agape.html and pay what you wish; the estimated cost of the meal is \$15/person. For more information, contact Grace Beacham, Associate for Parish Life, at 212.774-4231 or gbeacham@stjames.org.

Good Friday

April 22, 8:00 a.m., Noon to 3:00 p.m.

While the morning service is brief, the noon service marks the three hours that Jesus hung on the cross. Both services center on his death, but the noon service features a series of meditations on Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion and their context for our faith and life.

Good Friday for Children

April 22, 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

The events of the Passion—the praying in Gethsemane, the arrest, the appearance before Pilate, and the crucifixion and death—are narrated and acted out by staff and parishioners so that children might develop their own grasp of the power of this story. The two services are identical.

Easter Vigil

April 23, 7:30 p.m.

A series of readings from the Old Testament that illuminate aspects of God's plan for salvation are read in darkness during the first part of the service, then Matthew's account of the resurrection provides our first celebration of Easter. The women who go to Jesus' tomb are told, "He is not here; for he has been raised."

Easter Sunday

April 24, 8:00, 9:10, 11:15 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.

Every Sunday is an Easter celebration: every Sunday celebrates the resurrection. Easter Day thus expresses the center of our faith. Jesus appears, risen from the dead, and the joy and wonder of his followers is matched by the joy and wonder of our worship.



Top: St. James' decorated for Easter; *Middle/bottom:* Students in Music for Children & Youth choirs at St. James' sang in last year's Bicentennial Festive Eucharist with Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu as the guest preacher.

Making Joyful Noises!

The Boys' & Girls' Choir (grades 3-12) invites you to join in making joyful noises. They get the chance to sing over 500 years worth of music in several languages. They help lead the service on Sunday, sing concerts, and also take trips and sing with other choirs. All the while they are making new friends and gaining first-class musical training. No previous experience is necessary. For our younger singers there are unique opportunities for core fundamental musical development in a fun and nurturing environment. Cherubs (ages 4-6) sing once a month in church and spend 25 minutes on Tuesday afternoons singing favorite Bible songs. The St. Cecilia choristers (grades 1-2) spend their afternoons learning to train their musical ear and sing what they see on the page.

For more information, contact Christopher Jennings, Associate Organist-Chor-master and Music Associate for Children & Youth, at 212.774-4204 or cjennings@stjames.org.



Easter Flowers

The flowers and decorations that grace the church during the Easter season are traditionally given in memory of and in thanksgiving for beloved relatives and friends. You may donate and list the names you wish to so honor at the parish house, or online at www.stjames.org/worship/altar.html. Names will be listed in the Easter bulletins for donations received by Thursday, April 7.

Youth and Young Adults in April

Hosts for the Dinner Program

Youth: Friday, April 8, 5:30-9:00 p.m.
20s/30s: Friday, April 29, 5:30-9:00 p.m.

Volunteers cook, wait tables and wash dishes at a seated dinner for ninety homeless guests. Friends and newcomers are welcome! RSVP to Kate Salisbury at 212.774-4239 or ksalisbury@stjames.org.

20s/30s Monthly Brunch

Sunday April 17, 12:30 p.m.

The St. Jamesians gather after the 11:15 a.m. service for a no-host brunch in the neighborhood. A great way to meet, or catch up with, other young adults at St. James' Church.



The Way II begins April 3

The Way II is a six-week small-group experience designed to prepare adults for confirmation or reception in the Episcopal Church. It is open to all, regardless of participation in The Way I. The new series will meet on Sundays from April 3 to May 22 following the 11:15 a.m. service, excluding Palm Sunday and Easter. You may register online at www.stjames.org/theway.

The next series of The Way I, designed especially, but not exclusively, for newcomers, begins May 1.

For more information, visit the website or contact the Rev. Will Peyton at 212.774-4255 or wpeyton@stjames.org.

Moms' Luncheon

Susan Shapiro Barash to speak on raising daughters in a life of faith

Wednesday, April 13
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Children's & Family Ministries Committee is pleased to invite you to the 2011 Moms' Luncheon, featuring guest-speaker Susan Shapiro Barash, author of *You're Grounded Forever ... But First Let's Go Shopping*, about the challenges mothers face with their daughters. Jeffrey Zaslow, co-author of *The Last Lecture*, said: "As the father of three daughters, I found so many things in this eye-opening, well-researched book that resonated with me deeply."

Copies of the book will be available for sale, with book signing at 11:30. The luncheon and talk begin at noon. The cost is \$25/person. A limited amount of childcare is available for \$5.00/child. You can register online at www.stjames.org/families. For more information, contact Vicki Hall at 212.774-4232 or vhall@stjames.org.



Family Fridays Lego Night

Friday, April 8, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Bring your family, your friends and your Legos and let's see what we can build! Pizza and drinks will be provided. The cost is \$5/person with a maximum of \$15/family. You can register online at www.stjames.org/families or pay at the door.

Spring Party for Parents

Thursday, April 28, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

A great time to catch up with St. James' friends and meet new ones. Childcare will be provided. For more information, contact Vicki Hall at 212.774-4232 or vhall@stjames.org.





Barbara Cawthorne Crafton; Walter Brueggemann

Adult Ed Highlights for April

Lenten Quiet Day with the Rev. Barbara Crafton

Saturday, April 16
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Adult Education Committee is excited to offer a Quiet Day on the last day of Lent. This a wonderful opportunity to finish the season of penitence and contemplation and prepare for the devotions of Holy Week and the joy of Easter. We will gather in the church for a series of meditations and periods of silent prayer and reading. Our leader will be the renowned author and Episcopal priest, the Rev. Barbara Cawthorne Crafton, who is head of The Geranium Farm, an institute for the promotion of spiritual growth. Barbara served at three parishes here in Manhattan—Trinity Church, Wall Street, St. John's-in-the-Village, and St. Clement's in the Theater District—developing a well-deserved reputation for preaching and writing. She publishes the Almost-Daily eMo, an irregular series of emails with her thoughts about faith that is sent out to tens of thousands of readers who have signed up at www.geraniumfarm.org.

The cost is \$25/person, and a light lunch is included. You may register online at www.stjames.org/adult.ed or contact the Rev. Craig Townsend at 212.774-4254.

Reading the Bible as a Parish

An Education Initiative for Next Fall and Beyond

Have you ever promised yourself you would read more of the Bible? Have you ever tried to read it all, from beginning to end? Have you failed to keep these promises because it was just too hard, too weird, to do on your own? You start with Genesis, it's pretty tough going, then the Moses stories in Exodus are worth the work, but all those commandments in the second half of Exodus slow you down, and then Leviticus just does you in ... we've all been there! So here's your chance: beginning in the fall of 2011, and continuing for two years, we will read the Bible together as a parish. That's the only way to do it: be part of a group that is doing it together, that is doing it slowly and steadily together with ample opportunities for discussion and for scholars and religious leaders to offer their insights along the way.

Starting in the fall of 2011, we'll read the Old Testament over the course of the academic year, and then work our way carefully through the New Testament in 2012-13. A schedule of reading will keep us all on track together; reading a few pages each day, or about twenty-five per week, we'll get through it all and we'll help each other out with encouragement, learning, and other ways to make sense of it as we go along. Sunday forums will feature speakers offering either close analysis of key passages or looks at larger themes that unfold over several books.

So get excited and get a Bible, preferably the New Revised Standard Version, the translation we use in church. (You could even go so far as to get the Oxford Annotated Bible edition, with great introductory essays and good footnotes for each book.) And get a children's Bible for your kids to do this with you (ask Vicki Hall, who has lots of recommendations for these) and we'll be off and running in September. If you want to do some introductory reading, we recommend *The Bible Makes Sense* by Walter Brueggemann, a 125-page book that gives a fabulous perspective on reading the Bible by one of the great Bible scholars of our time (see the article at right). You can do it, because we can do it together.

—The Rev. Craig D. Townsend

Walter Brueggemann to Speak at Stillman Lecture

Monday, May 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

To launch the exciting Bible-reading project in the right direction, we look forward to welcoming Dr. Walter Brueggemann as the speaker for the second annual Eugenia Stillman Lecture in Religion and Culture. His topic will be "All that Jazz: Surprised by Scripture," focusing on the ways in which God continues to provoke and inspire us through our reading of Scripture together. Dr. Brueggemann is professor emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, and his nearly sixty books have made him one of the preeminent Bible scholars of our time. He is also a widely sought-after preacher and lecturer, who has often spoken courageously and with a prophetic voice, calling the Church to examine the culture in which we live and to strive always for the peace and justice of God's kingdom. Dr. Brueggemann will also be the guest preacher at both the 9:10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services on Sunday, May 8.

The Stillman Lecture series is given in memory of Eugenia Stillman by her family. "Eugie" and her husband Gordon became active parishioners at St. James' as Gordon retired from his vocation as an educator. Eugenia was his full partner in that work, and brought to her own activities at St. James' her passion for education and her strong faith. Anyone who knew her well soon learned of her abiding belief that faith must be lived, and the seriousness with which she took the baptismal vow to respect the dignity of every human being. Never one to shy away from controversial subjects, she was a consistent advocate for the full inclusion of all God's children in the life of the church and a clear voice for human rights for all in our society.

Languages of Grace

Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

This four-part Lenten forum series concludes April 3 and 10 with "Languages of Grace: Poetry in the Anglican Tradition" by parishioner and English teacher Brad Whitehurst and the Rev. Craig D. Townsend, Vicar.

St. James' History Mission Projects Praise for the bicentennial publication During Lent

St. James' Church in the City of New York, 1810-2010 by Francis J. Sypher, Jr. is an informative and enlightening book about our parish and our city. Commissioned for the parish Bicentennial in 2010, the volume will be an enduring record of St. James' place in the history of the city and the development of its neighborhood.

Parishioner Rob Walker forwarded these enthusiastic remarks after reading the book: "Although my own connection to St. James' goes back to my baptism by Horace Donegan, who also married my parents, I really hadn't known much about the history of our church until, after living in other places for most of my life, I returned to New York and joined the parish six years ago. Even then, there were many gaps in my understanding of the institution, and misperceptions, too. When I finally bought Francis Sypher's bicentennial history of St James', the clear, graceful narrative immediately captivated me. The story itself of the founding, early missions, inspired leadership of many distinguished rectors, and continuing commitment to serve others in the city and beyond is most compelling. I recommend this wonderfully informative history to every parishioner for a clearer understanding of our journey from the past and our ambitious stated path to the future."

The Rev. Frederick Quinn (father of parishioner Alison Quinn) reviewed the book for the December 2010 issue of *Anglican & Episcopal History*. Here is an excerpt: "Sypher's book ... is equally valuable as a parish history and as a commentary on economic and urban conditions in New York in various epochs. It is a book full of surprises. Not only did St. James' respond to needs around it, its clergy and lay membership were frequently proactive in launching carefully conceived programs to combat homelessness, provide food, education and health care to those in need. Sypher shows the Episcopal church at its best, when women and men of compassion, talent, and means turn the energies and skills that lead banks, businesses, and law firms toward responding to human problems ... Time and again, parish members proved not to be the heartless characters of an Upton Sinclair novel but more the compassionate figures Edith Wharton might have sketched."

Copies of the new parish history are \$35.00 and may be ordered online at www.stjames.org/publications or purchased the reception desk on weekdays.

During Lent, consider donating travel-sized toiletries to St. James' for our meal program guests. Good hygiene is essential for health and human dignity, and these small gifts make a big difference to people who live in shelters or on the streets. We need new, unused travel-sized soap, shower gel, body lotion, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. All donations may be dropped off at the parish house reception desk. We will package the items and distribute them to guests at our Easter Lunch and Dinner Programs.

On Sunday, April 3, and the first Sunday of each month, families are encouraged to bring food donations to the altar at Communion to benefit the Yorkville Common Pantry. Especially needed in April are shelf-stable milk (Parmalat), sugar free cold cereal, pancake mix, and maple syrup. You can also combat world poverty and support sustainable agriculture by purchasing Fair Trade tea, coffee, cocoa and chocolate between the 9:10 and 11:15 a.m. services on the 3rd.

Look Where You're Going

continued from p. 1

knowing that suffering and death awaited him there, he continued to do what he had been doing all through his ministry. He preached about the coming reign of God. He healed those who were ill. He forgave sinners (even when he hung from a cross). He stood and spoke against the powers of death even when they were arrayed in the robes of government or religion. If the road brought him ever closer to death, his words and actions pointed in another, far better direction. They pointed towards life. His choices proved far more powerful than the highway to hell or the predictions of the bystanders. Life is where he ended up.

What of us? We can follow the flow of traffic or we can change direction, doing and saying those things that lead to life. Will it keep us safe from all the terrible things that can happen in this world? No. But walking with Jesus and doing the works of healing and forgiveness along the way can bring us and our world glimpses of the life to come even now. Such choices point us toward Easter and the life that came for Jesus. The life that God intends for us all at journey's end.

—The Rev. Brenda G. Husson, Rector



Top: Parishioner Pam Stebbins explores a jaguar's skull with her grandson at Jumpin' Jaguars in February. Children enjoyed their time with Andrea Heydlauff (bottom), Managing Director of Panthera, which sponsored a documentary screening of "My Pantanal" and a discussion of wildcat conservation.

Parish Register

February 2011

Baptisms

Olivia Disston Tilghman
daughter of Deborah and
Richard Tilghman

Funerals / Memorials

Stephen Baker Finch



THE EPISTLE
St. James' Church

865 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10021-4195
tel 212.288-4100
fax 212.650-0304
www.stjames.org

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
NEW YORK NY
PERMIT #3324

April Calendar

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00, 9:10, 11:15 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.

Weekday Worship Schedule

Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m.

For the schedule of worship services during Holy Week and Easter, see p. 4.

More information on the pages in parentheses

- 2 SAT 20s/30s Trivia Night
- 3 SUN Languages of Grace (6)
The Way II (5)
- 7 THU Easter Flowers deadline (5)
- 8 FRI Youth Host the
Dinner Program (5)
Lego Night (5)
- 10 SUN Languages of Grace (6)
- 13 WED Moms' Luncheon (5)
- 16 SAT Quiet Day (6)
- 17 SUN 20s/30s Monthly Brunch (5)
- 26 TUE Race To Nowhere screening (8)
- 28 THU Spring Party for Parents (5)
- 29 FRI St. Jamesians Host
Dinner Program (5)

...and save these dates

- 1 MAY The Way I (5)
- 9 MAY Stillman Lecture (6)
- 10 MAY Antiques & Treasures
Preview Party (3)
- 11 MAY Community Festival (3)
- 15 MAY Annual Meeting (i-iv)

The Epistle is published ten times a year by
St. James' Church
Madison Avenue at 71st Street
New York City
Editor: The Rev. Brenda G. Husson, Rector
Design and production: Christine Hoffman
Director of Communications
epistle@stjames.org

St. James' Church is a community that actively shares the love of Jesus Christ with each other, our city and the world.

Race To Nowhere

St. James' hosts screening of film
by Vicki Abeles

Tuesday, April 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.



St. James' is hosting a screening and discussion of the documentary "Race to Nowhere: The Dark Side of America's Achievement Culture." The film features the heartbreaking stories of young people across the country.

It isn't often that a third of a movie audience sticks around to discuss its message, but that is the effect of "Race to Nowhere," a look at the downside of childhoods spent on résumé-building. With no advertising and little news media attention, "Race to Nowhere" has become a must-see movie in communities where the kindergarten-to-Harvard steeplechase is most competitive.

Vicki Abeles, the middle-aged mother and first-time filmmaker who made "Race to Nowhere," picked up a camera when a doctor said that her then-12-year-old daughter's stomachaches were being caused by stress from school. "I was determined to find out how we had gotten to a place where our family had so little time together," she explains in the film, which has an unslick, home-video quality, "where our kids were physically sick because of the pressures they were under."

Those who have seen it recommend it as a "must" for all those concerned about our children and youth. The cost of the screening is \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Tickets are available from the link at www.stjames.org/families. For more information, contact Vicki Hall at 212.774-4232 or vhall@stjames.org.

Vestry Election and Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 15, 10:15 a.m.

This year's Annual Meeting will take place in the church between the 9:10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. The agenda will include the following:

- A vote whether to eliminate runoff ballots at this year's election
 - Completing the Annual Parish Election, by electing one Warden and four Vestry members
 - A vote on the proposed amendment of the By-Laws described below to change how term limits are calculated for future parish elections
 - Brief reports from the parish leadership
- We hope to see you there.

How to Vote in the Parish Election

Who Can Vote

Under the parish by-laws, you can vote if you are baptized; are at least 18 years of age; and, during at least twelve months prior to the election, have been in regular attendance at worship services at St. James' and are a contributor of record. Rules of eligibility will be enforced.

Voting In Person

Any person eligible to vote may vote in person at the Church, 865 Madison Avenue, during the hours published at right.

Voting by Absentee Ballot

Any person eligible to vote may request an absentee ballot by writing to or telephoning Rosa Gentile, Administrative Assistant to the Rector, at 212.774-4251 or by applying to her in person. Absentee voting will be structured to reveal the name of the voter; however, the ballot itself will be unsigned. Absentee ballots must be received no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, May 11, so that the eligibility of the voter may be confirmed. Parishioners who wish to vote in this manner must allow for the vagaries of the mails. It will not be possible to send or receive absentee ballots by fax.

Eliminating Runoff Ballots in This Year's Vestry Election

The Vestry recommends that eligible voters adopt a resolution calling for the 2011 Vestry election to be decided by plurality vote. If the resolution is adopted this year, since there will be four vacancies on the Vestry, the four candidates receiving the highest number of votes would be elected. If the resolution is not adopted, each successful candidate would need to

receive the vote of a majority of the qualified voters who cast valid ballots (the vote of more than half of the voters) and, if four candidates are not elected on the first ballot, a runoff would be held while the Annual Meeting continues. The number of runoff candidates would be twice the number of remaining unfilled vacancies, except that at least one name (with the lowest number of votes) is dropped. Runoff ballots are cast only by parishioners who attend the Annual Meeting in person. The Vestry believes that eliminating runoff ballots allows all eligible voters to have their votes counted in the election of all Vestry members. Adoption of this year's annual resolution requires the favorable vote of a majority of the votes cast on this resolution.

Amendment of Vestry Term Limits

At St. James' for more than 40 years, Vestry members have been limited to two consecutive three-year terms. Your Vestry recommends amending the St. James' By-Laws to change how the term limits are calculated for Vestry members and Wardens who have served out an unexpired term resulting from a vacancy. The amendment of the By-Laws would not affect this year's election.

If a vacancy occurs on the Vestry, the unexpired term can be filled in two ways. First, it may be filled between annual parish elections by vote of the Vestry, by appointing a new Vestry member to serve until the next annual parish election. (This method is uncommon. Where a vacancy has arisen between parish elections, the Vestry has not always filled it. More often the vacancy is filled at the annual parish election, because a Vestry member has resigned effective at the next annual parish election or an incumbent Vestry member is elected warden leaving a vacancy among the Vestry members.) Second, at an annual parish election, if a portion of a Vestry term is unexpired, it may be filled by vote of parishioners at the annual parish election. The successful candidate who receives the fewest votes is elected to fill the unexpired term.

Under the current By-Laws, for purposes of the term limits, service for two years of an unexpired term counts as a full term, while service for one year of an unexpired term does not count. Your Vestry recommends amending the By-Laws so that serving the balance of an unexpired term after election at an annual parish election, whether for one or two years,

Vestry Voting Hours

- SUNDAY, MAY 1
8:30-9:10 a.m. (Parish House Reception Balcony)
10:15-11:15 a.m. (Parish House Reception Balcony and Donegan Hallway)
12:15-1:00 p.m. (Parish House Reception Balcony)
- TUESDAY, MAY 3
5:30-6:30 p.m.
(Parish House Reception)
- SUNDAY, MAY 8
8:30-9:10 a.m. (Parish House Reception Balcony)
10:15-11:15 a.m. (Parish House Reception Balcony and Donegan Hallway)
12:15-1:00 p.m. (Parish House Reception Balcony)
5:30-5:55 p.m.; 6:45-7:10 p.m.
(Narthex)
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 11
6:00-7:00 p.m. (Sunderland Hall)
- THURSDAY, MAY 12
9:00-10:00 a.m.; 5:45-6:30 p.m.
(Parish House Reception)
- SUNDAY, MAY 15
8:30-9:10 a.m.
(Parish House Reception Balcony)

Nominees for Warden and Vestry Member

The Vestry consists of the Rector, two Wardens and twelve Vestry members. At the 2011 Annual Parish Election, the parish will elect one Warden for a two-year term and four of the twelve Vestry members, each for a three-year term.

Warden Bill Hoar is eligible for reelection. The terms of four Vestry members will expire after this year's election. Three Vestry members will have served their maximum terms and will be retiring: Sam Hutcheson, Charles McGill and Madeline Schroth. Patricia Ranson is eligible for reelection to a second term.

The Nominating Committee has nominated the following parishioners for the positions of Warden and Vestry member:

For Warden:

William P. H. Hoar

For Vestry member
(four to be elected):

Sue Bennett

Sarah Marsh

Patricia Ranson

Holly Heston Rochell

Gordon Smith

Waddell W. Stillman

John B. Trammell

Campbell Wharton

Warden and Vestry Members Continuing in Office

After this year's Annual Parish Election, in addition to the Warden and the four Vestry members to be elected this year, the Vestry will also include the Rector and the following persons (with terms of office expiring at the Vestry meeting next following the Annual Parish Election held in the indicated year):

Warden:

Mary Malhotra (2012)

Vestry members:

Michael Ambler (2012)

Jonathan Bays (2013)

Sarah Gardner

Cunningham (2013)

G. H. (Denny) Denniston, Jr. (2013)

Fraser L. Hunter, Jr. (2012)

Marguerite Oat (2012)

Katherine Sincerbeaux (2012)

Bradley S. Whitehurst (2013)

Term Limits

continued from p. i

would count as a term. For example, a Vestry member elected by parishioners to fill a vacancy and to serve the one or two remaining years of a three-year term could be reelected for only one additional three-year term. Appointment by the Vestry until the next annual parish election would not count.

The relevant sections of the By-Laws, as they would be amended, appear below. New language is underscored. Language to be deleted is stricken out. A copy of the entire By-Laws, as they would be amended, is posted on the Vestry bulletin board on the ground floor of the Parish House. Adoption of the amendment requires the favorable vote of two-thirds of the qualified voters present and voting on the amendment at this year's Annual Meeting.

Excerpt from Article I of the By-Laws

9. Any person having served as Churchwarden for three consecutive two year terms or as a Vestry member for two consecutive three year terms shall be eligible for election to either office after one year has elapsed. Previous service as a Vestry member shall not prevent any person from being elected to three consecutive two year terms as a Churchwarden. ~~A Churchwarden or Vestry member elected to fill an unexpired term of another shall, upon the expiration of said term be eligible to stand for election in his or her own right for three terms as Churchwarden or two terms as Vestry member, as the case may be, except where a Churchwarden has served for a period of one year or more of an unexpired term of another or a Vestry member has served for a period of two years or more of an unexpired term of another, such service shall be deemed a full term for determining eligibility for reelection to such office. A Churchwarden or Vestry member appointed by the Vestry to fill a vacancy until the next Annual Parish Election shall be eligible to stand for election in his or her own right for three consecutive terms as Churchwarden or two consecutive terms as Vestry member, as the case may be. Where a Churchwarden or Vestry member has been elected at an Annual Parish Election to fill an unexpired term of another, service for such unexpired term shall be deemed a full term for determining eligibility for reelection to such office.~~

Candidate for Warden

William P. H. Hoar

Antoinette (Toni), Will (27), Eliza (22); *Occupation*: Residential real estate staging and re-design; *Age*: 62; *Activities*, St. James' Church, *Present*: Junior Warden/Vestry, Properties Committee, Sixth/Seventh Grade Sunday School teacher, Lay reader, Stewardship Committee, Budget Committee, Executive Committee of the Capital Campaign, Executive Committee of the Vestry; *Past*: Vestry, Treasurer, Usher, Greeter, Welcome Committee, Audit Committee, Communications Committee, New Ventures Committee, Grants Committee, Gatherers' Committee, Fine Arts Committee, Financial Planning Committee, Disaster Recovery Committee; *Additional Information*: Served on several non-profit boards.



Candidate Statement: I have been a parishioner at St. James' for 37 years, have served in many capacities, and would be proud to continue to serve this community as your Junior Warden. We are blessed with a church that offers so many ways to celebrate the love of Christ with each other and the communities around us. Together we need to continue to build our church community and ensure its financial strength. After considering what matters most about St. James', each one of us must closely examine our own approach to stewardship both through annual giving and through a pledge to the Capital Campaign and then encourage others to do likewise. By changing St. James' culture of stewardship, we will be able to grow in faith and look forward to a brighter future together.

Candidates for Vestry

Sue Bennett

Sophie (8); *Occupation*: Creative Director at NBC Sports / Graphics Producer for NBC's Olympic coverage; *Age*: 40-something; *Activities*, St. James' Church, *Present*: Children's and Family Ministries Committee, Partners in Mission-Children Committee, Adult Education Committee, Welcome Committee, 9:10 Greeter, Share the Joy, Friday Dinner Program volunteer, Prison visit with Osborne youth; *Past*: Grants Committee, Mission Committee, Africa Action Study



Group; *Additional Information:* GE Scholars Program teen mentor, NY Singles Adopting Children, Class parent, Auction Committee, Women's Sports Media Initiative, Broadcast Designers Association.

Candidate Statement: St. James' has provided wonderful experiences for my daughter and myself. Bishop McMullan baptized Sophie, she sat on the steps as Bishop Tutu preached, and sang in the choir at the Bicentennial. It is my hope to add to St. James' with enthusiasm for learning about God and our Church. The monthly Family Friday events have been a huge success and the recent parenting forum was standing room only. I feel it is important to continue reaching out to families to create a warm atmosphere of inclusion. While membership growth remains a goal; we also need to nourish our congregation with programs to meet our spiritual needs and provide opportunity for fellowship, mission and support among our entire Church family.

Sarah Marsh

Leonard Marsh, D'Arcy (16), Fletcher (14);

Occupation: Architect and interior designer; *Activities, St. James' Church, Present:* Chair, Properties Committee; *Past:* Properties Committee, Children's and Family Ministries Committee.



Additional Information: Adjunct critic at The New York School of Interior Design, professor of ongoing education at the Stephen L. Newman Real Estate Institute, Baruch College; member of two business networking groups and organizer of one, middle- and high school Parents' Association committees.

Candidate Statement: The last couple of years, during which the economic recession has cut deeply into local and national economies, have hit our church, our city and our country hard. New York City has cut back deeply on social services. I believe that we should focus our church on local help towards the homeless and disenfranchised who have lost what little help they were receiving before the cuts. Locally, hard economic times mean more city crime. Included in St. James' outreach should be continued consideration towards those families who have an incarcerated mother or father, and children who need our help to visit their parents and stay in touch with them.

Patricia Ranson

John H. C. Ranson (deceased); Elizabeth (27); Gibb (24); *Occupation:* Mother, volunteer, retired advertising / marketing executive; *Age:* 64; *Activities, St. James' Church, Present:*



Vestry, Altar Guild, Parish Life Committee, End-of-Life Task Force, Health Ministries, For All the Saints Campaign; *Past:* Chair, Gatherers; Chair, Community Festival; Co-Chair, Winter Parish Dinner; Co-Chair, Celebration Dinner; Co-Chair, Stewardship Committee; Welcome Committee, Tuesday Lunch Program, Lenox Hill Saturday Lunch Program, Vestry Nominating Committee, Pastoral Visitor; *Diocese of New York, Present:* New York Altar Guild Board; House of the Redeemer Board, Program and Publicity Committee, Winter Benefit and Spring Benefit Committees; Cathedral Guild; *Past:* Spring Benefit, House of the Redeemer; *Additional Information:* Crescendo (Baroque music) Board, Hotchkiss Summer Portals Board, Lake Association Board, NYC Parents-in-Action Board, World Childhood Foundation Board, Chapin-Brearley Exchange, Annual Giving Campaigns at St. Bernard's, Brearley, Hotchkiss Schools, Dartmouth College

Candidate Statement: It has been my extraordinary privilege to serve on the Vestry for the past almost three years. Because of the financial meltdown, we have found ourselves faced with difficult, painful decisions. Every program has seen cuts. Some have been altogether eliminated. No one has been spared, least of all our wonderful staff. However, our strong programs in education, mission, music and community service must continue, and will, with the increasing involvement of our current parishioners and by the warm welcoming of new members. We must not lose sight of the pastoral needs of those in our community, both at St. James' and in the city beyond. Our challenge as a parish is to discern and delineate the apportionment of our spiritual, human, and financial gifts so that they, and we in turn, may best serve God.



Fifteen St. James' youth and four chaperones traveled to New Orleans over the Presidents Day weekend to assist with the Episcopal Diocese's ongoing rebuilding efforts. While they worked hard painting and repairing homes in the area, they also made time for fellowship activities such as a swamp tour.

Holly Heston Rochell

Ridley (14); Charlie (11); *Occupation:* At-home Mother; *Age:* almost 50; *Activities:* St. James' Church, *Present:* For



All the Saints Steering Committee, Welcome Committee, Children's & Family Ministries Committee, Mother's Bible Study, Friday Night Dinner Program volunteer, traveled to Santiago, Spain with the 2008 parish pilgrimage; *Additional Information:* I am active at my children's schools, have served on the board of my building for more than ten years, and work with the Adoption Institute furthering the rights of adopted children.

Candidate Statement: I have joined the capital campaign this year to secure St. James' future. Our campaign will enable the church to continue its important works in New York City and around the world. I am committed to strengthening our church, which suffered from the financial crisis of 2008. Rebuilding our portfolio needs to be the focus of our community this year so we can pass on the love and faith of our savior Jesus Christ to the generation to come.

Gordon Smith

Occupation: Commercial Banker/JPMorgan Chase; *Age:* 52; *Activities, St. James' Church, Present:* Usher Captain, Friday Night Dinner Program, St. James'



Career Day, Youth Advisor, Stewardship Committee; *Past:* St. Jamesians Planning Committee; Gatherers Planning Committee; Chair, Welcome Committee; Greeter; Associate Rector Search Committee

Candidate Statement: It has been my good fortune to have attended St. James' Church since 1981. During the past thirty years I have been involved in a number of activities and committees. The committee work I have most enjoyed is the five years spent as Chair of the Welcome Committee. Through the Welcome Committee I have had the formal opportunity to welcome newcomers and help them learn about the wide variety of offerings St. James' can provide. If provided with the honor to serve on the Vestry, I will focus on ways to ensure that St. James' is as welcoming and accessible as possible to both newcomers and parishioners.

Waddell W. Stillman

Kristina W. Stillman, Katie (18), Alex (14); *Occupation:* President, Historic Hudson Valley, a non-profit network of six historic



sites along the Hudson River; *Age:* 49; *Activities, St. James' Church, Present:* Personnel Committee, For All the Saints Steering Committee, guest speaker at The Way; *Past:* Stewardship Committee; Music Committee; Chair, Pastoral Committee; Chair, Nominating Committee; *Additional Information:* New York Genealogical & Biographical Society trustee, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation trustee *Candidate Statement:* A strong signal that parishioners care deeply for the wellbeing of St. James' Church is their broad encouragement to launch a capital campaign. For All the Saints deserves generous support because its success will put the parish on a strong financial footing, free of debt and growing in stewardship. Everyone is called to be generous to St. James', as St. James' replies with rich opportunities for worship, mission, and pastoral care. The Vestry helps enable this call and response. Its special duty is to budget carefully and monitor costs closely. We're abundantly blessed, and at church we learn to be thankful, joyful, and generous. What more natural response could there be from us to our Creator?

John B. Trammell

Donna Trammell; *Occupation:* CEO, Cadoogan Management, LLC; *Age:* 53; *Activities, St. James' Church, Present:* For All the Saints Steering Committee, Grants Committee; *Past:* The



Way at St. James'; *Additional Information:* Member of Jazz Foundation of America, which provides financial, medical and legal assistance to those jazz and blues veterans in crisis due to illness, age and/or circumstance; active in our boy's schools programs and fund raising activities.

Candidate Statement: St. James' should focus on mission elements that shape its legacy and tradition: maintaining pastoral care that attends to our needs; preserving outreach programs to our wider community; and provide mission aid in locales where we have means to be of meaningful service. This mission is in practice quite complex. Any church is comprised of groups. These groups share a faith but seldom agree about how to express it. Some

focus on the daily traditions that many parishioners have come to expect. Some would take into account St. James' legacy of leadership in the Diocese and National Church. Yet others would fire the imagination of younger church members and have programs to keep those who want to be active involved.

Campbell Wharton

Occupation: Director of Publicity, Random House Inc.; Agent Director, Random House Speakers Bureau; *Age:* 32; *Activities, St. James', Present:* For All the Saints Steering Committee, St.



Jamesians Committee, Music Committee, Youth Advisor, Friday Night Dinner Program volunteer, Canterbury Choir, Greeter, End of Life panelist, Trivia Night Fundraiser host; *Past:* Vestry nominee, St. Jamesians Chair, Bicentennial Task Force, The Way facilitator and speaker. *Diocese of New York, Past:* Lay Delegate, Diocesan Convention; *International Church:* Vestry member, St. Jude's Anglican Church, Sydney, Australia

Candidate Statement: We just ended a terrific celebration for our bicentennial. Our mission now as a parish: what is the path we need to set for the next 200 years so St. James' can keep its doors open and continue to be a significant Christian community here and abroad? At one level St. James' is an historic property that pays tribute to the foresight of our forebears and significance of our church in 19th-century life. But we know it is more than just an inventory of buildings. Thousands of people have a heartfelt connection to St. James'. We have so much to offer. But we need to plan for future generations by helping to increase stewardship and invest in the capital campaign so that ultimately our doors on Madison Avenue can stay open for everyone.