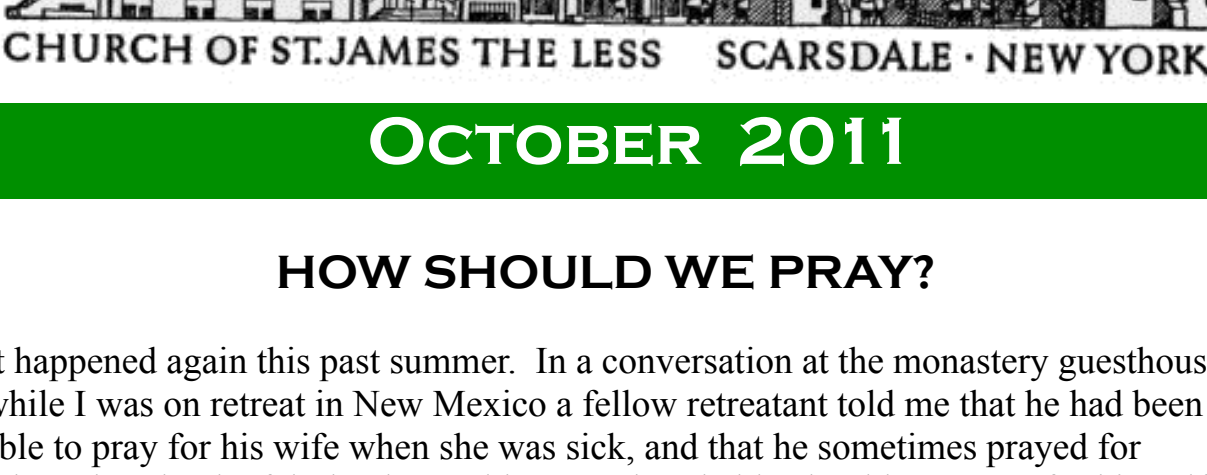


# THE PARISH MESSENGER

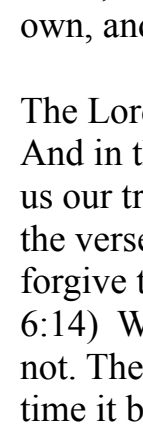


CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE LESS SCARSDALE · NEW YORK

OCTOBER 2011

## HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

It happened again this past summer. In a conversation at the monastery guesthouse while I was on retreat in New Mexico a fellow retreatant told me that he had been able to pray for his wife when she was sick, and that he sometimes prayed for others, but that he felt that he could not, and probably should not, pray for himself. He said that when he tried to pray for himself he felt selfish and unworthy. I was, once again, amazed, but not surprised. Again and again over the years people have told me something similar. Gently I tried to persuade him that he was wrong, that he should pray for himself. I hope he has been able to lay aside that idea and pray more openly for himself and others.



At a recent Wednesday evening bible study we had an interesting discussion on prayer. It was brought about by our study of the part of the Sermon on the Mount in chapter six of Matthew where Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray by giving them The Lord's Prayer. In the book *Matthew for Everyone* which we are following, Tom Wright points out that The Lord's Prayer is really a framework for prayer. It gives us a structure to follow when we pray. It teaches us how to approach God in prayer, what our attitude should be, and what kinds of things to pray for.

The first words of the prayer are significant. Jesus says when you pray say, "Our Father." We have heard those words so often that we forget how revolutionary they are. Jesus is telling us to call God *father*. In ancient Aramaic, the language Jesus used in everyday conversation, the word for father is *Abba*. It is the intimate term that children use, equivalent to "papa" or "daddy". And just as a child loves and trusts his father, so Jesus invites us to love and trust God as our heavenly father. Children who trust their parents are not afraid to ask them for things, either for themselves or others. In the same way God does not mind if we ask him for things. Like a good parent he does not always give what we ask for, but we should not be afraid to ask.

The words, "hallowed be thy name" in the prayer teach us that at the same time that we approach God with a sense of childlike intimacy and trust, we are to have a sense of awe and reverence for God. He is the creator of the universe and all things. And even though we should not be afraid to enter into his presence, we should always acknowledge God's holiness and majesty. The phrase "thy kingdom come, thy will be done," teaches us that the purposes of God are greater than our own, and that ultimately we are to surrender our own desires to the will of God.

The Lord's Prayer also deals with our short comings and failures, and with sin. And in that regard what Jesus teaches us to pray is revolutionary. He says, "forgive us our trespasses (sins) as we forgive those who sin against us." Jesus goes on in the verse after the prayer to to underscore this teaching by saying, "If you do not forgive those who sin against you, your Father will not forgive you your sins." (Mt. 6:14) While these words are challenging and may come across as harsh, they are not. They really are words of kindness because unforgiveness is insidious. Over time it becomes like poison to our spirits. Forgiving can be difficult, it may take a time, and we may need help, but ultimately it is the only way to freedom. As Christians we learn that because God has forgiven us so much, we can and must forgive others and leave their judgment to God.

Finally in The Lord's Prayer Jesus calls on us to say, "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." The translation from the original Greek is problematic. The sense is more like "save us from the time of trial". Throughout the scriptures, and especially in the life of Jesus, we see a struggle between good and evil. At times we are unaware of this struggle. Then evil erupts, hurts us, and seems to get the upper hand. But again and again God intervenes and brings good out of what appears to be evil. The ultimate demonstration of this is seen in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus prayed that his disciples would be spared as much as possible from the suffering that comes as a result of this struggle, and we are to pray for this as well.

The Catechism of the Book of Common Prayer summarizes and explains the various kinds of prayer that Christians should practice: adoration, praise, thanksgiving, penitence, oblation, intercession, and petition. (BCP p. 856) Learning how to pray and deciding to persevere in prayer is both the duty and the great privilege of Christians. When prayer is practiced it changes everything. Jesus summarizes his teaching on prayer by saying, "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you." (Mt.7:7) Never be afraid to ask God for anything and discover the untold blessings that God, our heavenly Father, gives to those who pray.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Susie McNiff

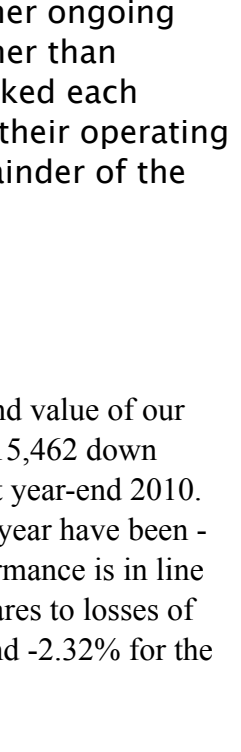
Church School is bustling and thriving! With over ninety children in our classrooms, we are a blessed parish indeed. There are several new families who have joined us. Please take a moment to seek out new faces and welcome them to the Saint James community.

### What goes on in Children's Chapel?

Every Sunday morning from 10:00 to 10:40, children in classes pre-k through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to Children's Chapel. During, this special time, children hear a lesson, gather to offer prayers and express themselves through art.

This fall, as part of our "Foundations in Faith" theme, we will explore the stories in the book of Genesis. We'll meet Adam and Eve in the Garden, hear about Noah's amazing voyage and gaze at the stars with Abraham and Sarah. If you would like to enrich your child's learning experience, you can read through Genesis at home. We have children's bibles available (suggested donation \$5.00) The Beginner's Bible is hardcover and colorful - a great way for your child (and you) to learn these important stories. Bibles are available in my office.

October is a special and festive month in the life of St. James the Less. We begin with the **Blessing of the Animals** on Tuesday, **October 4th** at 4:30. This special event is in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals. (He has also become the saint associated with ecology and the environment.) Bring your dogs, cats, hamsters and goldfish to the churchyard. Father Tom will bless our furry and feathered friends. We will have cookies and dog biscuits afterwards.



At the end of the month, on **Sunday, October 30th**, all are invited to the famous and historic **All Hallows Eve** program. There will be the traditional churchyard tour, party for young children and haunted house for older kids. The evening begins at 6:30 pm. Please plan on coming to this wonderful event.

## SENIOR YOUTH GROUP

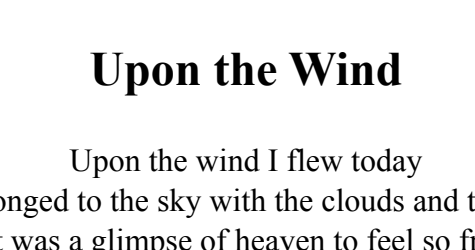
Calling All High-Schoolers!

The first meeting this year will be held on Sunday October 2nd, 2011. Please come and have some fun and fellowship with old friends and welcome the incoming freshmen to the group. Bring with you lots of ideas for what YOU would like to do this year!

Date: Sunday October 2nd, 2011

Time: 6 - 8 pm

Place: 30 Tisdale Road, Scarsdale



## Nursery School News

Carmelita Bois

We are off to a great start! It's so nice to hear the children's laughter and chatter as they gradually settle into their classroom routines, make new friends and get to know their teachers. I am happy to share that the 2<sup>nd</sup> class has officially moved upstairs and the children are having a great time in their new classroom environment. A special thanks to Bob and Pablo for all their hard work over the summer in helping us make the transition upstairs.

We will be having a **Halloween Bake Sale on Sunday, October 30, following 10:00am service**. Please stop by and purchase some delicious baked goods. If you have a great recipe for a delicious treat we welcome volunteers to bake and donate some bake goods.

If you are interested in enrolling your child for next year we will be starting the registration process for 2012-2013 school year on Friday October 21<sup>st</sup>.

To learn more about the Nursery School program at St. James the Less please call the Nursery School office at 723-1018 to schedule a tour. All tours are scheduled on Fridays between 9:30-11:30am.

## SUMMER IS OVER WHAT'S THE HURRY

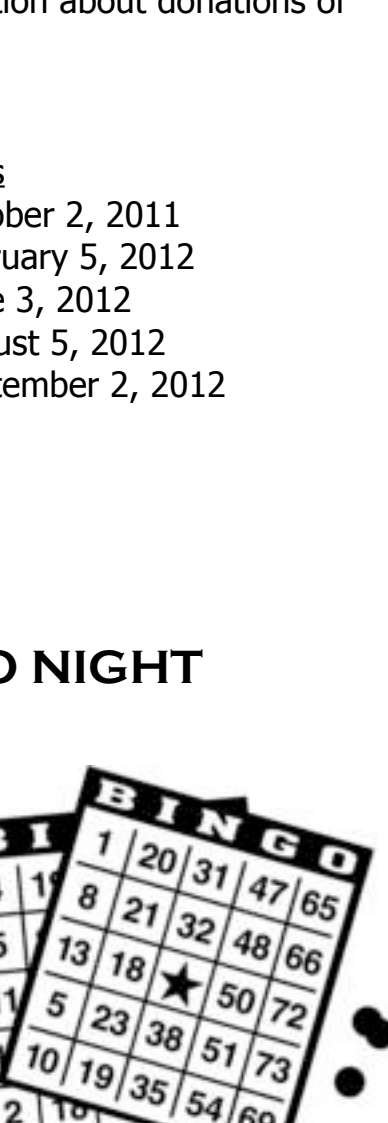
Bob Foster

A sure sign that summer is over is seeing Halloween decorations in the stores. This past week while shopping for coffee hour I came across Christmas items at Costco. Why is it that we always rushing to get to the next day or event and not enjoying where we are in at the moment. On those hot summer days we find ourselves wishing for the cool days of autumn without thinking about the cold days of winter when we will be wishing for the warm days of spring. We will never be able to see around the corner or know for sure what will happen tomorrow so we must strive to enjoy today. If you can rate your days on a scale from 1 to 10 never be disappointed on those bad days that you rate as 1 or 2, they can make a day of 5 or 6 seem like a 10.

Not much going on in October except for the Graveyard Tour and Halloween. The Graveyard Tour is very exciting and also educational for the young and old but Halloween itself has always had some misgivings to Church's. Some wrongly see it as devil worship and witchcraft. But Halloween only marked the last day of the year on the Celtic calendar and was a day to honor the dead. It was called Samhain and is pronounced sow-en. It signifies summers end or November. This was a harvest festival with huge bonfires to celebrate the year's end. They also believed that the souls of the dead roamed the streets on that night and since not all spirits were thought to be friendly, gifts and treats were left out to pacify the evil ones. So get your treats ready for the little spirits, they won't be evil but they are cute as hell.

## Upon the Wind

Upon the wind I flew today  
I belonged to the sky with the clouds and the sun  
It was a glimpse of heaven to feel so free  
In the spring I watched the birds go by  
I wondered how did they do it how does that feel  
Now that its fall I have joined them at last  
The air moves around me and tickles my skin  
But the ground gets much closer, I stop with a thud  
I look up to the sky, see the branch that I lived on  
It sways in the wind, the baron and bare  
No more leaves live upon it We all flew through the air



Before you seek the flight know where you will land

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Graham Stanley

### 2011 Summary

August was a quiet financial month for St James the Less given the summer period. There was a net cash outflow of \$37,400 for the month, \$9,600 more than was budgeted. The year to date deficit is \$248,000, \$8,100 more than was budgeted. This deficit has been funded by a \$245,000 year to date draw from the endowment and \$6,000 prior year surplus.

Envelope and Open Offerings: \$12,400 offerings were collected in August, \$8,000 lower than expected as one week of collections was lost due to the hurricane. Year to date income from offerings are \$309,000 against a budget of \$290,000 and this is +2.5% compared to prior year.

Nursery School: the nursery school results continued to be good with income of \$14,200 in August, \$2,600 better than budget. Year to date income from the nursery school is \$92,400 against a budget of \$81,000 and this is +4.3% on prior year. Enrollment for the 2011/12 season is on plan for the remainder of 2011.

Fund Raisers: there were no new fund raising events over the summer.

We had a very successful Mardi Gras fund raising event in March and Rummage Sale in May, and income from these two events was \$19,000 more than budgeted. The book sale is planned for the coming month, and an additional fund raiser needs to be planned for the year end.

Year to date operating expenses are \$60,000 higher than budget. Some expenses offset income from the nursery school and fundraisers. A reduction in the Diocesan Assessment was anticipated for the year, but the assessment was flat to the prior year, and other ongoing running costs are higher than expected. We have asked each department to review their operating expenses for the remainder of the year.

### Endowment Report

The August 2011 month-end value of our portfolio at UBS was \$7,115,462 down -2.21% from \$7,529,768 at year-end 2010. Drawings on the fund this year have been - \$248,000. The fund performance is in line with the market and compares to losses of -1.77% for the S&P 500 and -2.32% for the Russell 3000 indices.

## MIDNIGHT RUN

We will be doing Night Runs on November 12 (please note change from November 5 due to Membership Dinner) and December 10. There are many ways to volunteer. We need drivers for both runs. We also need meatloaves and hard boiled eggs. Warm clothing, especially jeans and sweatshirts, coats and sneakers are also needed. Additionally, clean pressed suits, sport coats and blazers are needed at headquarters for interviews.

If you would like to volunteer or donate please contact **Cheryl Smith** at 914-472-7022 or [cherylsmith225@gmail.com](mailto:cherylsmith225@gmail.com).

All church members are welcome to participate. Clothing donations can be left in the bins in the Great Hall.

Please join us in this meaningful fulfillment of Jesus' instruction to feed the hungry and to care for the poor and homeless. By sharing we actively participate in God's love.

For more information about Midnight Run visit [midnightrun.org](http://midnightrun.org)

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Copies of St. James' Pictorial Parish Directory have finally arrived. We are very grateful to **Wilder Howland** who coordinated picture taking and production, and to **Ying Tong Li** who did the layout. Each family will get one directory free. Extra copies are \$5.00. Directories can be picked up at the church or if you call the church office (723-6100) one can be sent to you.

## FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

One of the ways we worship God is through the decoration of the church and chapel. The Altar Guild arranges for flowers on the main altar every Sunday, excluding Advent and Lent, and on other feast days throughout the year. In addition, there are flowers in the Chapel on the first Sunday in each month for the Healing Service.



Please join us in our worship and consider a donation of flowers for the altar or the chapel. Flowers may be given in memorial for a passed loved on or in thanks for blessings such as the birth of a child or for a special occasion.

The Altar Guild needs flowers for the following dates. Please contact **Jeanette Warner-Goldstein** (917-692-5220 for further information about donations of flowers for the altar and chapel.

### Main Altar Dates

Sunday, April 29, 2012

Sunday May 6, 2012

### Chapel Dates

Sunday, October 2, 2011

Sunday, February 5, 2012

Sunday, June 3, 2012

Sunday, August 5, 2012

Sunday, September 2, 2012

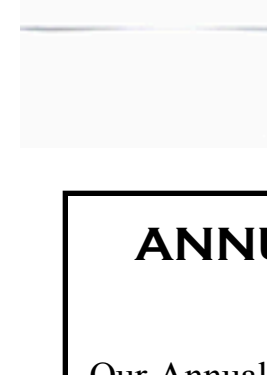
## CHILI COOK-OFF & BINGO NIGHT

Please mark your calendars and save the date for a Chili Cook-off followed by on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm. This event is designed to include parishioners of all ages. Representatives of various parish groups - choir, vestry, of St. James, and others will compete to see whose chili is the best. There will also be other food for the younger parishioners. Please bring a small prize to contribute to the bingo winners' prize table.



## WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Time Change



A bible study on the Gospel of Matthew led by Father Newcomb meets Wednesday evenings in the Isom Room. The starting time has been changed 7:45 pm to 7:30 pm. For the study, the group follows the outline of a book entitled *Matthew for Everyone* by Tom Wright, who is a well known biblical scholar. Please join us.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING & EVENING EUCHARISTS

We invite you to join us on Wednesday mornings and evenings for celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm respectively. These simple celebrations in the chapel are each followed by bible studies. You may come to just the Eucharist, or just the bible study, or both. Come and take advantage of the opportunity for prayer and spiritual nourishment in the midst of your busy week.



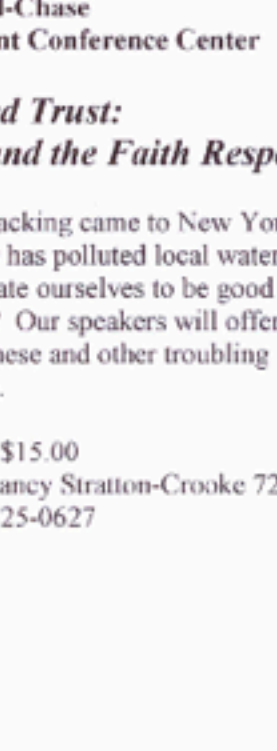
## HOSTS NEEDED

Each week members of St. James serve as hosts for our Coffee Hour, which takes place in the Parish Hall following the 10:00 Service. The hosts supply the refreshments that usually consist of coffee cakes, rolls or bagels or other light fare. A sign-up poster is located in the Cloister, and lists all the Sundays through December. We need volunteers to sign up. Please help make Sundays at St. James the Less welcoming and enjoyable.

## GRAVEYARD TOUR OCTOBER 30

On Sunday October 30 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, St. James the Less invites the community to come to our Annual Graveyard Tour. Parishioners don costumes and share with visitors interesting glimpses the history of Scarsdale by representing some of the noteworthy people buried in our historic churchyard. Our Youth Groups offer refreshments, games for young children, and the, always popular, haunted house. If you or your children haven't come before,

plan to attend. If you have, volunteers are needed to act as tour guides and to play the parts. If you can help please call or email **Rosemarie** at the church office 723-6100 or [st.jamestheless@verizon.net](mailto:st.jamestheless@verizon.net)



## VESTRY NOMINATIONS

The governing body of the Church of St. James the Less is the Vestry. It is comprised of the Rector, two Wardens and nine Vestry Members.

The Nominating Committee will be preparing a slate to be presented for election at the Annual Meeting.

We invite members of the parish to submit candidate names to the Nominating Committee for persons you believe should be considered for these positions to **Mark Hansen**, Vestry Nominating Committee Chair.

Mark Your Calendars Now!

## 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PARISH OUTREACH EVENT

### TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN THROUGH MUSIC

Piano Concerto No. 1 Beethoven

Opera Aria (TBD)

Denn Wir Haben (Requiem) Brahms

Symphony No. 1 Brahms

The Senior Youth Choir & The Parish Choir

The Scarsdale Interfaith High School Girls Choir

The Canadian Chamber Orchestra of New York City CCO/NYC

Jonathan Estabrooks, baritone

Justin Bischoff, conductor

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 2011

2:30 P.M. CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

7:00 P.M. CONCERT

To order tickets, please call the church at 914-723-6100 (press #1 then #3)

Tickets are \$75, \$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500 & \$5,000 (Please call us if you are in need of financial assistance)

Volunteers are needed to help with the many aspects of this Outreach Day.

Please contact Benefit Chair **Dorothy Yewer** at 723-3540.

## SCARSDALE-HARTSDALE WOMEN'S INTERFAITH COUNCIL

### Fall Luncheon

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Sanctuary Talk at 11:45 am (note time)

Luncheon at 12:15 pm

Program 1:15 pm

At Scarsdale Community Baptist Church (intersection of Auenreth and Poppleton Roads)

Featuring speakers

Kate Hudson  
NYC Watershed Program Director at Riverkeeper

and  
Rick I. Hurd-Chase  
Co-director of Stony Point Conference Center

"Our Sacred Trust:  
Environmental Concern and the Faith Response"

Did you know that this summer hydro-fracking came to New York? In other states this new gas extraction technology has polluted local water supplies and the environment. How do we educate ourselves to be good stewards of our state, and what and who can help us? Our speakers will offer interfaith, social justice and legal perspectives on these and other troubling environmental questions. Tickets are \$15.00

Contact: Joan Murphy 723-7853, Nancy Stratton-Crooke 725-5166 or Pat Lilly 725-0627

## ANNUAL BOOK FAIR NOV. 11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup>

Our Annual Parish Book Fair will take place on Friday and Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. **Louise Clark** is our Chair and **Tom De Pietro** serves as Co-chair. Volunteers are needed to help with the sale in a number of capacities including set up, manning tables on the day of the sale and clean-up. We also need books, so take let Louise be the month to reorganize your book shelves. Contact **Louise Clark** (472-0187) with questions. A sign up sheet will be available shortly.



You are cordially invited to a

### Fall Harvest Tea

On Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

At Church of Saint James the Less  
Church Lane and Crane Road

Father Newcomb will speak briefly  
on a spiritual topic.

Tea Hats Welcome! Bring a Friend!

RSVP Joan Murphy 723-7853 or  
Susie McNiff 723-6100

## STEWARDSHIP DINNER

You're invited

Please save the date and plan to attend St. James' Annual Stewardship Dinners on Saturday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. As in past years, we will begin the evening with small dinners in the homes of various parishioners. Then we will all come together back at the Parish Hall for dessert, coffee and other refreshments. Invitations and details will be coming soon.