

August, 2014 NEWSLETTER

St. James Episcopal Church Amesbury

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The Anglican Eagle

Almost everything about God and God's church can be looked at from various points of view and understood in various ways. The magnificent brass "eagle lectern" at St. James, for example, can be understood in historical, practical, scriptural, poetic, and mythological ways (loosely defined).

The first time I saw an eagle lectern, it was in St. James, Porter Square, Cambridge. I thought it was an American eagle, a symbol of patriotism. Not so. Here are some of the many ways of explaining or understanding the tradition, in some English and Episcopalian churches, of the eagle lectern (or reading desk).

Historical: The eagle was a symbol of authority in the ancient Roman Empire; the church in England adopted it.

Practical: The eagle's wings are the right shape for a book stand.

Scriptural: Eagles are used as images of God in Hebrew Scripture. For example, Exodus 19:4 speaks of God as a mother eagle who bears her young up on her wings.

Poetic: The eagle represents the Word of God, "flying" to the farthest reaches of the earth. It reminds us to spread the word. OR There is a creature-eagle, lamb, ox, or human-associated with each of the four gospels. Because The Gospel of John starts with the lofty "Hymn to the Word", it is associated with the eagle.

Mythological: Eagles, it was believed, can stare into the sun without blinking. The Christian, it was thought, should be able to gaze at God

similarly.

Maybe there are even more proposed explanations for the use of eagles on lecterns. Presumably one of them might explain why the church in England started using the symbolism, and the others would explain how the symbolism works. If I had to guess, I would put the "historical" explanation in the first category, and all the others in the second. Or, to put it another way, the church in England adopted the emperor's symbol for authority and put it to practical use. Then people re-interpreted the symbol in religious terms.

p.s. Why brass? Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc. It shines like gold but costs less; it is durable and easily repaired. (Bronze, an alloy of copper with, most often, tin, is even more durable and can be used out of doors. However it is harder to work with, and it doesn't have the same bright shine.)

Rev. Christen Frothingham

Search Committee Update



[Ad by Tube Dimmer](#)

Both the Search Committee and the Vestry met together on August 4th and decided to re-open the search for our new Rector. Unfortunately a candidate that we had been in discussion with decided to become an Associate Rector at a large church in NYC. We had continued our discernment with the candidate even though we knew that she was also a finalist for this other position, but we are understandably disappointed in the outcome.

Because both the Search Committee and the Vestry feel strongly that finding the right Rector is so important for St. James

we have decided to open up the process of receiving names again. As you know the leadership at the diocesan level is also in transition at this time, and we feel that with the consecration of Bishop Gates in September it would be beneficial to extend our time of receiving names until the end of September.

As always, we appreciate your words of encouragement and support as we work through this transition. The vestry leadership will keep you updated as to who will serve as our supply priest as we continue the process. Rev. Dee, still supportive and watching over us, offered these words:

"Be patient.. God is in control.. We don't need to fret over God's timetable. We will inherit all the promises of God through faith and patience. God knows how and when to bring about change. Trust his timing"



Please Help Us Finish The Fight!!

RELAY FOR LIFE

The 2014 Relay for Life of Amesbury event is August 16th and we want to get everyone engaged in the fight against cancer! Our team ranked in the top 5 last year earning \$4000. We were awarded the Silver Star status!

Bishop Tom continues his battle with cancer and the LMVC will continue to honor him with "Bishop Tom's" team. Our church has been voted to take the lead AGAIN and we

need your support!

Please take a few moments to visit [Relay for Life](#) and officially register for the August 16th event. When you sign up go under join a team and select "Bishop Tom's Team" or just click [here](#) for quick access.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

On August 9th several of our YLA students leave for their Mission Trip to El Salvador.

We ask you all to keep them in your prayers. The following link is a blog where they will share daily journal entries about their travels and mission.

[Our Daily Journal](#)

We wish them all a safe and bountiful journey in God's love!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

On September 7th we will have the Blessing of the Backpacks at our 10am Worship Service.

Bring your empty backpacks for a special

blessing for the new school year.

Christian Formation

The St. James Montessori - based Christian Education "Godly Play" program will begin on Sunday, September 7th at 9:45 am.

Each scheduled Sunday your K-8 grade child will learn about the Christian Faith and participate in fun and educational activities.

Registration forms are available on our website at www.stjamesamesbury.org.

Please print and complete the form in advance. You may bring the completed form with you on September 7th or e-mail earlier to the office at stjames.clergy@verizon.net.

Child Care is available from 9:45 until end of service.

If you are interested in Confirmation classes for grade 9 and up, please contact the church.

For additional information please check our website at www.stjamesamesbury.org or

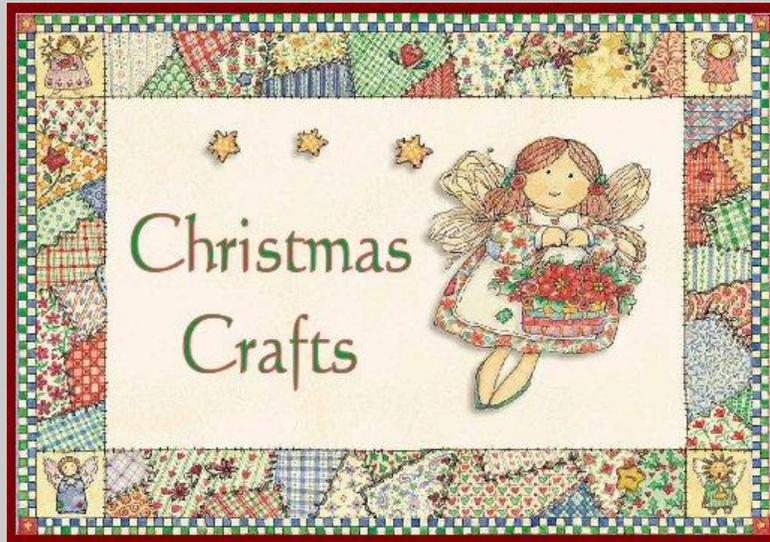
call the Parish Office at 978-388-0030.

B-SAFE 2014

The B-Safe event was held at Green Meadow's Farm on July 11th. The children enjoyed a hayride throughout the farm.

They fed chickens and pigs, along with picked their own herbs. The fresh mint was put to good use by making "candy cane tea." A delightful and refreshing treat! Everyone was treated to an organic farm style lunch while listening to the Boston Children's Musical Choir. Afterwards, we celebrated in fellowship with craft activities and a soccer game. Our collaboration with St. John's of Beverly Farms was a successful partnership and we look forward to next year!

Many blessings,
Jenn Collins
Director of Christian Education



August Crafting at St. James

Calling all Crafters!
(and "want-to-be" Crafters)

Please join the Craft Fair Committee on
Saturday, August 23rd
10:00 am to 2:00 pm (or maybe later)
in the St. James Parish Hall.

Bring your friends! This is just a casual, fun time
- no theology involved. Come when you can,
leave when you need to. Bring your own lunch or
\$\$ to buy one nearby. We provide supplies and
how-to lessons, if you need them. No talent
required.

Some of the crafts we worked on are:



Coasters & Magnets

really cool coasters and refrigerator magnets
(Thank you, Jamie Harlow!) small knitting
projects (Beth Mauch is our knitting coach!!)
fleece blankets, jewelry, tags for presents.

Crafts will be sold at our Church Fair in
November. All proceeds from the Fair go to
Outreach.

Questions? Ideas? Please contact Committee Co-
Chairs Dawn Schmidt or Liz Iacobucci.

Save the Date
Ordination and Consecration of
The Rev. Alan McIntosh Gates
Saturday, Sept. 13 at 10:30 a.m.

Preparations are underway for the

ordination and consecration of the Rev. Alan McIntosh Gates as the 16th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Everyone is welcome at this momentous occasion in the life of our church.

Pending consent from the wider Episcopal Church, the consecration will take place on Saturday, Sept. 13 at Boston University's Agganis Arena (925 Commonwealth Avenue) in Boston, with the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, presiding. The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth Jr., Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, will be the preacher.

Seating is at 10 a.m., with the processions beginning at 10:30 a.m.

A reception will follow the service.

The service and reception are open to all, but everyone who plans to attend (including participants and volunteers) must register for a free ticket by Aug. 15. Please register for tickets online by clicking on this link. Tickets will be mailed by Aug. 29.

Those who need to register for tickets by phone may call 617-482-4826, ext. 687; please leave a name and phone number so that a staff or committee member can return the call.

Accommodations: A limited number of rooms at a special rate have been reserved at The Inn at Longwood Garden and the Holiday Inn, Brookline. Both are easily accessible to the Agganis Arena by public transit.

- The Inn at Longwood: Please use [this link](#) or call 617-731-4700 and request the Episcopal Diocese block.
- Holiday Inn, Brookline: Please use [this link](#) or call 617-277-1200 and use the booking code "EDM."

All block rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau has an extensive guide to hotels. September is high tourist season in Boston so accommodations should be booked as soon as possible.

Please check the [consecration Web page](#), where updates will be posted as they become available over the summer months.

August Food Donations

During the month of August, ONT is in need of canned fruit, cereal and peanut butter.

Also, as always, personal items such as shampoo, deodorant, mouthwash, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc., are always in need.

To check out ONT's website - click [here](#).

Let us give thanks for God's many blessings to us.

QUICK LINKS

[St. James Website!](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts](#)

[Send us an E-mail](#)

Blessings and Peace to All!

St. James Church