

THE CHAPEL OF
ST. JAMES THE FISHERMAN

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Fall 2015

I (Tracey) have spent the past decade of my life living on the North Coast, with my backyard overlooking Lake Erie—one of our nation's great inland seas. Throughout the seasons, I've admired beautiful sunsets, listened to the wind and waves, and experienced the freezing ice and snow. I've seen eagles, hawks, coyotes, deer, foxes, and all sorts of other wildlife in our backyard, and at the same time can walk out my driveway to a bustling urban neighborhood that reminds me of the interconnectedness of God's creation. But last summer, I had an experience that I'll never forget.

It was the night of the meteor shower. Emily and I walked from the "rectory" to the Lieutenant Island Bridge, close to midnight. We lay down on our backs and watched dozens of shooting stars streak across a magical night sky. When it was over, we waded through the high tide back to our house. The experience reminded me of the words of the Psalmist: "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" (Psalm 8:3-4)

I (Danielle) am never more spiritually moved than when I am granted a real experience of God's bigness. And it always takes me by surprise. Once, on the garden roof of a high-rise apartment building, I looked up to see the entire city that I lived in stretched as far as the eye could see. It was a familiar scene, but I was suddenly, surprisingly aware of what it contained: people in lush townhomes, people huddled under bridges along the river, people in hospitals and housing projects, in museums and markets. To my right, a huge body of water dominated the scene, looking more like an inland sea than a lake. I was overcome by the realization that I and all that I could see belonged to God, who was bigger than even this powerful landscape.

I know you will believe me when I say that a similar thing happened for me last summer on the Cape. Wandering along the bluffs in the Marconi area, I was time and time again caught off guard by the beauty of the Atlantic. I did not expect to be so frequently moved by the vastness of the ocean, by the seals playing in the waves, or by the sense of being at the continent's edge. Wellfleet is not a major urban center, but it does not fail to remind us of the bigness of God.

We (both) observe the role that the Chapel plays. St. James the Fisherman is necessarily an ecumenical community: all of us spend a portion of the year worshipping, serving, and fellowshiping in other places. St. James reminds us that worship is bigger and community is bigger than any one church or civic group. With its reverence for history and its forward-mindedness, St. James reminds us that the company of the faithful is bigger than the congregation gathered together at any one time. And with its generosity

and openness toward the concerns of the local community, St. James reminds us that life on the Cape is bigger than the summer alone and that God hears and heeds our biggest needs and hopes.

This season, we ask that you please

- remember the Chapel of St. James the Fisherman, the town of Wellfleet, and the Outer Cape in your daily prayers;
- make plans to be with us again in the Summer of 2016; and
- offer a year-end gift that will help us continue our seasonal worship and our tradition of dedicating fifty percent of our annual budget to outreach programs that serve the year-round needs of residents on the Outer Cape.

And until we meet again, be safe, be well, and may God bless you!

Faithfully, your Priests-in-Charge,

The Rev. Danielle Thompson

The Very Rev. Tracey Lind

The Chapel of St. James the Fisherman
Proposed Outreach Grants for 2015

Cape Abilities	\$1,500
Serves individuals with disabilities on Cape Cod by providing education, counseling, and residential, therapeutic, social and employment supports.	
Community Development Partnership	\$1,500
Develops and delivers programs that foster an economically and environmentally sustainable Lower Cape Cod community.	
Dexter Keezer Fund	\$2,000
Assists people of Truro in meeting genuine crises through individual grants.	
Habitat for Humanity	\$3,500
Develops affordable housing for Cape Cod residents; houses in Eastham and Truro are in planning or in construction.	
Homeless Prevention Council	\$1,500
Helps people at risk of losing their homes on the Lower and Outer Cape.	
Hospice of Cape Cod	\$1,500
Provides hospice services to the Outer Cape.	
Lower Cape Outreach	\$5,500
Provides emergency assistance of food, clothing, and financial support.	
Mustard Seed Kitchen	\$2,000
Prepares and delivers meals in Wellfleet, Truro, and Eastham.	
Outer Cape Health Services	\$2,000
Provides urgent and primary health care services.	
Wellfleet Alzheimer's Association	\$1,000
Provides support on the Lower Cape to people with Alzheimer's and their families.	
Wellfleet in Need	\$2,000
An arm of the Wellfleet Council on Aging; provides immediate assistance with medicine, food, and basic needs.	
Total	\$24,000