



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

THE REV. DR. CATHY L. DEATS, RECTOR

NOVEMBER 2009

As I prepared to leave for eight days in Richmond, VA, things went surprisingly smoothly. I was packed further in advance than usual (the night before instead of the minutes before), coverage was arranged for the duties that needed coverage without struggle, and the bills were up-to-date.



strangers.

The Latin word, CREDO, can be translated as "I believe," but it has a much deeper meaning. Literally translated, it means, "I give my heart." The CREDO experience was developed by the Church Pension Group to encourage participants to rediscover the passionate essence of their life and ministry in the context of their faith, their relationships, and community. In the ordination process, I was asked over and over again, "who are you? who is God calling you to be?" In the course of normal life for an ordained person in parish ministry, these questions cannot easily be revisited. CREDO gives the time and space to clergy in the



The preparation work for the conference is daunting: a medical exam and report, online health assessment, eight-page financial report, reflections on spirituality and vocation, and the securing of ten people to complete an online vocational assessment of my skills and

I set out at 5:30 am on a Monday morning that dawned clear and sunny and arrived near noon at the Roslyn Retreat Center of the Diocese of Virginia. The participants of CREDO 184 gathered before dinner to meet the people they would spend eight days with. I was excited and a little anxious to enter into an experience of discovery with a bunch of

Episcopal Church to examine their minds, bodies, spirits, and hearts by examining four significant areas of their lives—spiritual, vocational, health, and financial.

challenges. The vocational assessment made me the most nervous. No one really wants to know the truth about themselves, right? And I certainly didn't want to learn that truth in a community of people I did not know and likely might never see again. I later discovered that most people felt the same way I did.

As we entered into the week of plenary sessions about health and taxes and retirement planning, spiritual practice and vocation, and small group reflection on all we were learning and experiencing, the God who called us to be there created community among us. My small group of three other women from California and South Carolina and Florida became a refuge for seeing myself without judgment or fear (there was still the pain that is part of self-examination, and also the soothing balm of grace). There was also time for solitude; places to walk in the woods (including an outdoor trail of the stations of the cross), and

entertainment. One evening was spent "funky" bowling: first frame, bowl with left hand; second frame, bowl on one foot; third frame, bowl with eyes closed, etc. It



was not a pretty sight, but the kind of laughter it produced is so healing. There was also artwork night (called "glue and glop") and a small group pumpkin carving contest (our group carved the Episcopal shield as the jack-o'-lantern face – clergy are so intense sometimes).

It will take me some time to sort out all the discoveries I made. My small group is in contact each week as we support each other in our individual CREDO plans, written goals and objectives to keep us whole and healthy. I am on a continuing journey of growth and change, as you are. The road is filled with many successes and a few failures. What is most clear to me is that this road is dangerous to travel alone. We need each other for support, affirmation, challenge, and accountability. It is my joy to be on this journey with you.

Yours in the peace of Christ,

Wardens' Letters

Things keep moving along. The kitchen floor is down and the cabinets are in! Thanks to Peter Quelly for installing the cabinets and countertops and the Modugno men for putting down the floor and trimming out the doors and pass-through. Our next step will be to install the sinks. Greg Malejko and Ed Modugno are working on sound dampening panels for the parish hall.

We are approaching a busy November month with our 150th Murder Mystery celebration dinner, the Bishop's visit and Stewardship Weekend. I hope everyone will attend as many events as possible. We should have lots of fun and good fellowship. Peter Saros, our parish development leader, will be at all the stewardship weekend events. The goal will be to find out more about each other, why we come to St. James' and what we need from the church. He will be giving the stewardship sermon later this month.

Dawn Modugno
Senior Warden

This past weekend, St. James' successfully held its fourth annual Tricky Tray. This event has become the major fundraising activity for the church and I want to send a great big THANK YOU to everyone that made it a great success. This event is a huge undertaking and, as usual, the Tricky Tray Committee did a fantastic job. Thanks to Co-chairs Barbara White and Barbara Olesen and to everyone else who contributed in so many ways.

I'd also like to send Kudos to everyone who contributed to the recent work in the Parish Hall Kitchen. The floor is in and some cabinets and counters have been installed, thanks to a crew of Modugno's and Peter Quelly. Be sure to check out the kitchen the next time you're in the Parish Hall. It looks great!

On November 7th, we will be celebrating the Feast of St. James' in a unique way: with a Murder Mystery Dinner. I haven't been involved in the development of the show, but from what I hear, the plans are going well and the pieces are coming together to ensure that this is a fun and memorable evening for all. I do know a little about the story's plot, however, I don't know any specifics. I'm excited to learn the outcome and I'm also a little concerned for my own safety (there's always a chance that someone will want to "knock off" the Finance Chair in an effort take over the powerful position)! Here's hoping the Finance Chair and Junior Warden survive the night.....or someone will have some explaining to do to the visiting Bishop the next morning!

Greg Malejko
Junior Warden

The Feast of St. James' 150th Celebration



Sunday, November 8th, the Bishop of Newark will be our guest at one liturgy beginning at 10 AM. He will meet with the Wardens and Vestry at 9 AM, and the service will be followed by a reception and conversation with Mark Beckwith. This is the Bishop's regular visit, which takes place every two years.

It is our opportunity to hear what the Diocese is doing and to receive the Bishop's blessing on our ministries, individual and corporate.

Vestry Hi-lites from the October meeting

- Mission Strategy Funds were used to send \$247 to Family Promise, a comprehensive program for homeless families in Warren County and \$100 to Homeless Connect, a program, which also serves homeless individuals and families by providing services such as information and referral, haircuts, and health screenings.
- Fulton Financial, Managers of the St. James' investments, presented their review of 2009 and projections for 2010 for the Snyder Fund and the Building Fund.
- A ventilation system for the Parish Hall basement was presented by Dawn Modugno and Vestry members will review information for the November meeting.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee for elected offices at St. James' is the Rector (Cathy Deats), Wardens (Dawn Modugno and Greg Malejko), and outgoing Vestry members (Russ Worthington, Barbara White, and Brian Nolan). They will meet to propose names for elections to Vestry (3), Junior Warden, and regular and alternate Deputies to Diocesan Convention. Please speak to any one of these members to suggest a name, including your own. Vestry service is challenging and very rewarding; all kinds of skills are useful to Vestry service.

Keep Up Your Pledge!

We would like to thank all of you who are up to date on your pledges, and even some of you who are ahead in your payments. For those of you who are behind, we ask that you remember that even if you are not in attendance at church on a Sunday we look forward to you "catching up" on the next Sunday you are here or mail your payment into the church office. Remember the expenses of the Church and its Ministry continues even if you are away. If your circumstances have changed and you need to change your pledge, just let the office know. God and the church are here for you.



November Dates to Remember

November 1	All Saints Holy Baptism • 10:00 AM No Family Breakfast
November 7	Feast of St. James' Dinner • Murder Mystery Party • Parish Hall • 6:00 PM
November 8	Bishop's Visit • One Service at 10:00 AM Forum • Reception Veterans Day Service of Remembrance • 1:00 PM
November 19	Vestry Meeting • Mitcham House • 7:30 PM
November 20 – 22	Stewardship Weekend • Parish Development... A New Beginning/Weekend Activities • <i>see article on page 5</i>
November 22	Stewardship Sunday • Peter Saros guest preacher at both services
November 25	Thanksgiving Eve Service • St. James' Church • 7:30 PM
November 26 – 27	Church Office Closed • Parish Administrator Out of Office.
November 29	First Sunday in Advent



We welcome the newly baptized

We welcome Trey Alan Compoli, son of Ryan and Suzanne Compoli, baptized into the body of Christ on Sunday, November 1st.

Veterans Day Service of Remembrance

St. James' will hold its Veterans' Day service on **Sunday, November 8th**. The service will begin at 1:00 PM and includes the reading of the names of U. S. soldiers who have lost their lives during this war in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Continued on page 6

Celebrating Our Ministries

Lay Eucharistic Ministers serve at services of worship, both at regular Sunday liturgy at St. James' and in our community. They may read lessons, lead prayers and assist at the altar during Sunday liturgy, or lead public worship, such as the Thursday night chapel service or Sunday afternoon chapel service at The House of the Good Shepherd. Others, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, bring Holy Communion to those who cannot come to church. We will welcome new members and commission all at both services on Sunday, November 15th.

Counter Needed

We are looking for one additional person to count the donations on Sundays. If you are interested in counting, please speak with Janice Cipriani or call the office

Murder Mystery Party

Saturday, November 7th at 6:00 PM

We hope you are able to join us. Please RSVP to the church office. There is no admission price for this exciting and mysterious event. A basket will be available for donations to cover the cost of the dinner. Please feel free to give as you are able!



Acolyte Festival

District 4 will sponsor a festival for acolytes and crucifers, open to the entire Diocese of Newark, on Saturday, November 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral (beginning at 24 Rector Street). There will be workshops, lunch, and an exciting festive Eucharist with all acolytes and crucifers processing.

The registration fee of \$15 per person (**due November 2**) includes lunch and a t-shirt. Registration form is available on the Diocesan Website, www.dioceseofnewark.org

Thanksgiving Eve

St. James' will host the annual Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical service for Hackettstown and the surrounding area. The worship, led by local clergy, begins at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, November 25th. Pam Laura will lead the combined choirs of the churches, with a special group: the Chapel Choir of the House of the Good Shepherd. This is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the blessings which we will enjoy the next day: food, friends and family (and football!).

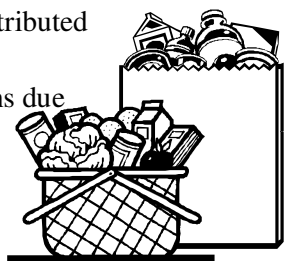
Thanksgiving Food Baskets

November 1

Thanksgiving food bags distributed

November 22

Thanksgiving food donations due





Parish Development . . . A New Beginning

As we close our Sesquicentennial Celebration, we begin to think about where we want to go as a community. What is our reason for being here in Hackettstown now in the 21st century? What should we be about as we fulfill our baptismal promises to follow Jesus Christ and seek and serve him in all persons?

You are invited to join in this visioning process and we have created some wonderful opportunities for you to do so. There will be a weekend of activities, and you can choose one or more to attend as our leaders listen to *your* ideas for this community.

Mark your calendars now for these events:

- Focus on “the rest of us”: Friday evening, November 20th, 7 to 9 pm, wine and cheese and light supper
- Focus on young families: Saturday early evening, November 21st, 4 to 6 pm: Children’s activity and Parents’ program
- Focus on seniors: Saturday, November 21st, noon to 2 PM - Luncheon

Remember, you decide which group you identify with and which event(s) you want to attend. Then help us welcome the future at worship on Stewardship Sunday, November 22nd at 8 and 10 AM. The Rector will preside and our guest preacher will be Peter Saros, who has been our mentor and guide in this year of transformation.

Look in the mail for your invitation the week of November 9th. RSVPs for all events go to stjames214@comcast.net

Church Practices in the Flu Season

With the onset of the flu season, we have been asked about common liturgical practices in the Episcopal Church, such as the passing of the peace and the sharing of the communion cup. We offer the following guidelines to help you remain healthy, especially in this season:

- We believe that when you receive the Eucharist in one form (bread or wine), you are receiving full communion. Therefore, it is perfectly acceptable to receive the bread and decline the wine, either by leaving the rail before it is served, or by crossing arms over your chest after you receive the bread and before the chalice is served. People who wish to avoid placing their lips on the chalice may choose to intinct, or dip, the bread into the cup. If you choose to intinct, please be careful to avoid touching the wine with your fingers.

Continued on page 6

Advent is Coming

Advent is *coming* – soon it will be here.

Advent is *coming* – *coming* is what *advent* means.

It also means a time of quiet preparation for the incarnation, something which is challenging in a world whose focus is on preparing for the Christmas holiday season. Each year I look forward to the calming blue color, the quieter liturgy, the minor key which characterizes advent music and emphasizes the time of mystery. This year, following a very full 150th year of celebration and completion (for the time being) of our building project, it will be even more welcomed. Even the calendar cooperates to slow things down: after our four Sundays in Advent, there are four full days before Christmas Eve!

Join us every day or some days as we enter into the season of Advent with daily evening prayer, Monday through Friday in the chapel at 6:30 pm, November 30 through December 23rd.



The St. James’ Giving Tree

Advent will soon be here. It is during Advent that the Mission Strategy Committee puts up The Giving Tree in the Narthex. It will be in place for the First Sunday in Advent, **November 29th**.

The gifts from this year’s Giving Tree will be used to help two local families, one in Hackettstown and one in Allamuchy.

The school nurse chooses the families and their identities are kept confidential.

If you wish to supply a gift, take a candy cane from the tree. Attached to the candy cane are two paper strips. One has a copy of these instructions. The other has the name of the gift and some identifying information that we need in order to match each present with a child. Please print your name in the space under “Your Name” and tear the tag at the fold. Place the piece with your name in the red box that is on the counter in the Narthex. Enjoy the candy cane. As the candy canes are chosen, they are replaced with red bows.

When you have purchased the gift, please wrap it and re-tape the tag on the wrapped gift. Again, this is how we will identify each present so that it can be matched to a child.

Return the present to St. James by **December 20th** and place it under the tree. We need to have the presents collected that early in order to coordinate delivery with the schools.

Thank you for your help in supporting this outreach and have a contemplative Advent and a Merry Christmas.

Paul Bartkus



Sunday School

Sunday School is enjoying our new expandable Story Room of the Parish House at 10 AM for worship, lessons of crafts, we have begun created by the Sunday School students. We have our plans on paper and in November we move to fabric! Godly Play lessons are presented each week by the teachers, Miss Kathy, Miss Marie and Miss Phyllis. We have Miss Lynne assisting us this year as well. Offertory Envelopes are available for our offertory of thanksgiving each week, if you need some. Also, Pam Laura has been visiting us weekly to teach the students a special song for the Christmas season. They sound amazing already!

Schedule for November (Note changes in usual Family Sunday schedule):

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 1 | Sunday School Class-Quilt |
| November 8 | Families in Church for Bishop's visitation |
| November 15 | Class: Godly Play and Quilt |
| November 22 | Class: Thanksgiving Food Sort |
| November 29 | Class: Advent Lesson -Wreath Craft |

Kathy Lacouture

Youth Group News

Youth Group continues to meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday in the Mitcham House during the 10 o'clock service. Last week, guest speaker, Ed Modugno, Jr. led a discussion on Saints and youth group members supplied some Halloween treats for coffee hour. This month the Youth Group will attend church on November 8th for Bishop Beckwith's visit and then attend church on November 22nd to learn about Stewardship and Giving from guest preacher, Peter Saros. Questions, comments, suggestions, see *Dawn Modugno* or *Lori Pursel*.

Hackettstown Regional Medical Center

Our Rector, Cathy Deats, presented the opening devotion at the HRMC's Annual Mission Conference on October 1st. Cathy spoke about healing and what it means in community. The goal of HRMC's Annual Mission Conference for leaders of the organization is to renew focus on the mission of the hospital. Their mission statement is "[to] demonstrate God's care by improving the health of people and communities through a ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing." Their vision is to be "a leading resource for innovative patient-centered healthcare."

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir is rehearsing during Sunday School. They will be singing at the annual Story of the Nativity through the Arts program at Port Morris United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 6. The program is at 4:30 pm and the singers will need to be at Port Morris United by 3:30 PM. They will sing again at the Children's Christmas Eve service at 4:30 PM.

Pam Laura

Bell Choir "Notes"

The St. James Multigenerational Bell Choir has been asked to participate in the worship service on November 8 when the bishop will be present. Given the short time frame involved, the choir is playing a piece that was played before. However, with new ringers and some of the former ringers away in college, many people are ringing new parts. We hope you will enjoy our efforts.

The choir is also preparing music for Advent and Christmas. The bells will play on Sunday, December 6, at the 10:00 service at St. James and at the *Christmas through the Arts* program at Port Morris United Methodist Church at 4:30. Join with the Bell Choir and the St. James' players for a relaxing afternoon during the often too hectic Advent season. Remember the reason for the season. See how this is interpreted in different art forms. In the past, there have been bells, singing, signing, liturgical dance, clowning, and drama.

The choir will also play at the Service of Lessons and Carols at St. Luke's Church in Montclair on December 13 at 5:00. If the beautiful music, the wonderful sounds of the newly renovated organ, and the majestic building aren't enough to get you to attend, there is a delicious soup supper following the service.

The bell choir will be part of the worship services at 4:30 and 7:00 on Christmas Eve. The piece we are preparing is based on the carol, *O Come, Little Children*. I was afraid that I knew the piece because of my German Lutheran background, but when I asked the choir if they knew the carol, many started to sing it right away. So I hope that it will be familiar to the congregation and will enhance your worship on Christmas Eve.

Louise Olshan



**8th Annual
Christmas through the Arts
Port Morris United Methodist Church
December 6, 2008 at 4:30 PM**

Feed Hungry Children

St. James' has been approached by NORWESCAP to take part in an expansion of a successful program that helps feed hungry children on weekends.

The "backpack program," so named because children take a backpack of food and snack items home every weekend, currently supplies 127 backpacks to children in the Phillipsburg school district. Hatchery Hill School in Hackettstown is considering joining the program and, pending Board of Education approval, they will launch the program with 12-15 students enrolled.

St. James' is needed to receive the foodstuffs and deliver them once per week, most likely on Wednesday, to the Hatchery Hill School between the hours of 8:30 am and 3:00 pm.

Our Vestry supports this program as a good outreach for us, since we feed people in many ways. However, we need to have volunteers in place to carry out the program before we take it on. The program may be ready to start as soon as the week of November 19, or in December. Please notify the Rector ASAP; Cathy can also answer any questions you may have.

Support Your Local Food Pantry

In November, we will be collecting **canned fruit** for Trinity's Food Pantry.

Feed the hungry



VETERANS' DAY SERVICE *continued from page 3*

Armistice Day became Veterans' Day by an act of Congress in 1954. President Eisenhower called on the nation to remember the sacrifices of those who fought in all our nation's wars, to celebrate the contributions of all veterans of military service, and to rededicate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace. It is Eisenhower's call that remains the three-fold purpose of Veterans' Day: remembering those who fought and died, celebrating all veterans, and promoting an enduring peace.

And so on this day, we remember, we celebrate, and we pray.

And we invite you to join us. Our service is continuous for as long as needed to read the more than 5,000 names. Everyone is welcome to join us for a few minutes, for a half hour or whatever you are comfortable with. Our service usually takes 4-5 hours. We read the names in 15-minute segments and separate each segment with a prayer.

Setting the Table

As I lay the fork near the plate,
let me remember this is Your table, not mine.
As I set the water glasses down,
and fold the napkins, let me be reminded
that every setting at this table
is Yours, not mine.

Each one who will partake of this meal
is a particular someone You love, a someone
You have made and whom You sustain.
In You nothing and no one is forgotten.
How vast and providential is the memory
with which You keep us all.

It is only we who forget You
and then one another.

It is we who starve each other
and exclude each other.

Give me new eyes.

When the glass is raised by my friend,
Let me see You drinking.

When the fork is lifted by my child,
let me recognize You eating.

You are the hidden joy which feeds
and keeps everything. You are the table,
the guest, the meal and the commemoration.

Make in my person a place setting for You.

Remind me of my true nature
which is recalled only in You.

Gunilla Norris Being Home

CHURCH PRACTICES IN FLU SEASON *continued from page 4*

- The passing of the peace is a church ritual from the earliest days of Christians gathering for worship and Eucharist. In our tradition, it is often accompanied by a handshake, hug, or other sign of peace. You will notice a great variety in these signs of peace, and a respect for the practice an individual may choose. We will not be offended if you wish to share a raised hand, bow or other non-contact way of saying, "The peace of the Lord be with you."
- Hand sanitizer is available for your use at the rear table of the church, in the narthex (entryway), and in the pews.

We are committed to the health of every member of this community, and will provide updated information regarding influenza as it becomes available.

Fundraising

What a busy season this has been! Our tricky tray took a tremendous amount of effort and was very successful. We raised \$4800.00 at this year's tricky tray. Once again, your support of time, talent and treasure paid off. Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's event. It was great having the Parish Hall available to meet and plan, collect the many gifts, create baskets, and organize and stage all the baskets.

We offered a survey at this year's event to find out what people liked and did not like about our event. The results of that survey are posted in the parish hall. Please take a couple of minutes to look at them. What you will find is that they love us. They love the baskets, they love the snacks, they love the set up, the runners, the kitchen help and the ticket sellers. They love the organization and they love Pete Huryk! Pete is our caller for this night and he certainly has won the hearts of the crowd. GREAT JOB to everyone that worked on tricky tray night!

This weekend Roberta Brandt will conclude her Longaberger sale. Please stop by and take a look at all the beautiful items Roberta has on display. The Longaberger products are wonderful gifts for any occasion and with the holidays coming, this is a perfect time to do some shopping. Remember, Roberta donates all of her commission from these sales to St. James'. Thank you Roberta!

We will also have some unique candles for sale later this month. Wickless candles by "Scentsy" are flameless and a beautiful selection is available to choose from. These candles make great gifts for anyone with children or pets, and since they are flameless, you do not have to worry about the dangers of candles being left unattended or knocked over. Check it out; catalogs are available and if you have questions, Barbara Olesen will be glad to field them for you.

We have ordered samples of a hooded sweatshirt and long sleeve tees. They will be here in the next couple of weeks and guess what; they will make great gifts too! We will let you know when they arrive.

This has been an extremely busy year for all of us at St. James'. The fundraising committee wants you to know that we very much appreciate your support. We are always looking for new ways to support the ministry and mission of St. James' and you are invited to share any ideas that you have. Just talk to Ellen Infante, Barbara Olesen or me. We would love to hear from you.

One of my favorite comments from the tricky tray was in regards to the pens we gave out at the door, (the pens were the St. James' pens that were misprinted earlier this year and could not be sold). "What a great way to let people know about your church." That is what it is all about, getting the word out about St. James' and inviting people to join us on our journey with Christ. Invite someone to church!

Barbara White



Tables filled with baskets are ready and waiting, Diana Clark and Pam Laura check things over, and Patti Wothington is armed with tickets and ready to go!



Inside St. James' November Journal

Rectors Letter • Wardens' Words
Bishop's Visit
Upcoming Events • Parish Life
The Feast of St. James' Celebration
and a

MURDER MYSTERY PARTY

Veterans' Day Services
Stewardship Weekend
Schedule of Weekend Events



Outreach: Feed Hungry Children
Church Practices in Flu Season
November Calendar

St James' Staff & Vestry

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats
Deacon The Rev. Sheila Shuford
Rector Emeritus: The Rev. Clarence Sickles
Sr. Warden: Dawn Modugno
Jr. Warden: Greg Malejko
Treasurer: Penn Pixley
Parish Administrator: Linda Murray
Music Director: Pam Laura
Organist: Louise Olshan
Sexton: Pauline Volkert

Vestry:

Richard Ames	Ron Cipriani
Paula Van Clef	DJ Hoffman
David Lacouture	Brian Nolan
Martha Travostino	Barbara White
Russ Worthington	



**hanks-
giving**