



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

THE REV. DR. CATHY L. DEATS, RECTOR

FEBRUARY 2011

Are you tired of snow?

I surely am. I am tired of the shoveling, wearing boots, the trouble finding a parking place, and slow traffic because sidewalk snow has encroached on the roadways. I am tired of people who don't know how to drive in the snow. I am tired of slippery roadways and storms predicted to be "a dusting" turning into 6 inches. I am tired of happy weather forecasters who *love* to tell us about the blizzard that will dump 18 inches of snow on us. I am tired of seeing just the heads of Jesus, Joseph and Mary (my neon lawn ornament for Christmas) peeking out of the drifts because they are frozen solid in the ground, most likely until Easter.

My son Alex and his wife Vanessa are coming from California for a visit on February 17th. They are looking forward to seeing the snow. No problem! Alex also hopes it will snow "real good" while they are here. He wants to see it and play in it. He also wants to *shovel* it. But, let's face it, people from New Jersey who now live in California miss the weirdest things: Taylor ham, bagels, pizza and Dunkin' Donuts coffee. And snow.

Me, I'm tired of snow. Maybe you are too. I cannot even imagine the buds of the magnolia tree popping or the daffodils' spiky stalks cracking out of the cool ground. I look outside and see the shutter ripped off in the last blizzard, the fence listing drunkenly from the blizzard before that, and not one little piece of ground uncovered by snow – not even over the septic tank!

I am sure the apostle Paul never saw snow. But he really connects to the feeling I get when I say I am tired of snow. I am weary of snow. Paul says, "Do not be weary," but not of something inanimate like snow. He says to the Galatians, "Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart."

Maybe I do get weary of well-doing. Lots of times when we do the right thing, no one notices. Lots of times when we do the right thing, it doesn't seem to make a difference. Lots of times when we do the right thing, it does not seem to matter. I let the car on my right go ahead of me; no wave of acknowledgement and two other cars zoom in behind the first one. You make a special effort to make a special treat for a gathering and people make fun of it. I share a kind word with someone and they lash out in anger. You work very hard at a job and are taken for granted. You produce a document and

someone finds the one typo that got by you, and lets you know about it.

Rabbi Harold Kushner said, "Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is like expecting the bull not to charge you because you are a vegetarian."

I like stories where the good guys triumph. *Erin Brockovich. Shawshank Redemption. It's a Wonderful Life.* But none of us is called to make our stories come out with a happy ending. We are called to live out our baptismal promises no matter what response the world gives us. We are called to respect the dignity of every human being, even if people criticize us for doing so. We are called to seek and serve Christ in all persons, even if those persons are pretty unlovable. We are called to be faithful to fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers – that is, to assemble with our brothers and sisters around the table of God, the altar, which nourishes us week by week. Some weeks we may feel like we are crawling to that altar, and there will be hands to lift us up. Other times, we will be striding strongly, ready to offer that hand.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." (*1 Thess 5:11*) Paul again, with more good instruction: Keep on keepin' on.

If it snows the weekend of February 19th, blame Alex. But remember: spring is coming.

Faithfully yours,

Cathy Deats+



Wardens' Words

Last week, the Annual Meeting was held at St. James' and it was great to see so many people in attendance. As with most events, it takes many people to make it successful. Kudos to Cathy for assembling the picture slide show; it's my favorite part of the meeting! It's such a great way to review all the activities of the past year. It's obvious from his presentation that Penn spent many hours closing the financial books for the year and putting together a presentation so everyone could understand the church's finances. Thanks to Gerry for loaning us the projector and to DJ for setting up. At the meeting, the 2010 Annual Report was distributed. If you weren't able to attend, be sure to get a copy. It's an impressive documentation of last years' activities. Many thanks to everyone who contributed articles and to Phyllis for formatting and compiling it all! The Annual Report also contains the 2011 budget. I encourage everyone to take a look at it and if you have any questions, feel free to ask me or any other Vestry member.

We also took time at the Annual Meeting to thank those whose terms expire (on Vestry and delegates to convention) and to vote in new members. I look forward to working with the new Vestry members, most of whom I don't know very well. I'm interested in hearing their ideas and finding out where their gifts and talents can be put to best use here at St. James'.

Greg Malejko
Senior Warden

Vestry Hi-lites from January meeting

- Vestry looking to refinance mortgage at a lower rate
- St. James' to hold blood drive on February 13th
- Sunday School to visit House of the Good Shepherd Feb 13th to deliver valentines to residents
- Annual Parish Meeting to be changed to February next year by action of the annual meeting January 23rd
- Two additional community volunteers have joined St. James' Backpack Program
- \$3000 grant received from St. Peters, Morristown for Deaf Ministry
- Hospitality Committee to be revived



Thanks to everyone for attending the Annual Meeting! Many, many thanks to Penn Pixley, Greg Malejko and the finance committee for all the work that they do to make our finances transparent for us all. A ton of work goes into preparing these reports and they do a great job. Special thanks to DJ for his work on the technical side. Great job DJ! Thank you to Phyllis and all the folks that helped get the report assembled. It looked wonderful. Thank you to everyone that helped set up and clean up coffee hour and thanks to Cathy for another great report. I can't wait to get my copy.

Welcome to our new Vestry members, Dave Bernauer, David Jenkins and Roy Smith. I look forward to working with you.

We have our first two of what I hope will be many fellowship events scheduled. First, the SUPER BOWL PARTY on February 6th. Green Bay vs Steelers, should be an excellent game. We will have a great time. *Additional details are on page 3.*

Next, we have a Bowling Night planned for February 19th, 5:30 at Oakwood Lanes on Route 31. Cost is \$14.00 per person and includes two games of bowling, pizza and drink. Even if you do not bowl, you might want to come out and see this. Should be a ton of fun for everyone!

I know it is a little early to be thinking about the St. Patrick's Day parade but we do want to participate again this year. Last year it was the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day, so mark your calendars.

Invite a friend to church!

Barbara White
Junior Warden

St. James' Staff



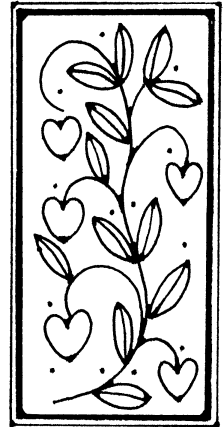
Pauline Volkert, Sexton, Pam Laura, Music Director, Frances Keefe, Parish Administrator, Louise Olsham, Organist, Bell Choir Director

February Dates to Remember

- January 30 Diocesan Convention Forum • 9 AM & 11:30 AM
 February 3 Yarn Twisters • Great Hall • 6:30 PM
 February 6 Family Breakfast 9 AM
 Super Bowl Party starting at 5:30 PM
 February 9 First Confirmation Class • Mitcham House • 7:00 PM
 February 12 Snow tubing for Youth • see notice on this page
 February 13 NJ Blood Center Drive • Great Hall • 9 AM to 1:30 PM
 February 19 Bowling for all • Oakwood Lanes • 5:30 PM
 February 24 Vestry Meeting • Mitcham House • 7:30 PM
 February 26 Singles Social

March Dates to Remember

- March 9 Ash Wednesday
 March 11-12 Vestry Retreat • Kirkridge

LOVE
COMESFROM
G•O•D**Super Bowl Viewing Party**

Yes!! St. James is repeating its wildly popular Super Bowl Viewing Party on Sunday February 6!! It's the Packers v Steelers. We'll be in the Great Hall. Pre-game festivities begin at 5:30 pm. Kick-off is at 6 pm.

This year, as the football players are suiting up to do battle on the field, St. James' attendees are invited to "dress down" in their jammies or other comfortable clothes! Bring comfortable folding chairs, blankets or sleeping bags, too! Please bring a dish/snack to share and BYOB.

Please RSVP by signing up on the bulletin board and/or contacting Jewels Quelly at 908-689-9530 or angelfoodpcs@verizon.net.

Come cheer on your favorite team, or just socialize!! Let the cheering and jeering begin!!

Jewels Quelly and Pam Laura

Snow tubing for Youth

Saturday, February 12, Shawnee/Big Boulder, 9 AM – not far from us. The cost is \$20 per person. Contact Rod Perez rod.prec@verizon.net.

Bowling – open to all

Join us for bowling on Saturday, February 19 at Oakwood Lanes, 234 State Route 31 N, in Washington 5:30 pm. \$14 includes 2 games and pizza, drinks and snacks. Shoe rental is extra. Contact Scott Carson, 908.850.5857, for information.

Support Your Local Food Pantry

The request this month is for cereal, especially hot cereal!

**Save Lives – Give Blood**

On Sunday, February 13, St. James' Episcopal Church is sponsoring a blood drive in conjunction with The Blood Center of New Jersey from 9:00AM to 1:30PM. To schedule an appointment, please call 973-676-4700, ext 151 or email gtozano@bloodnj.org for more information. All are welcome, so come in and join us. This drive is being held in an effort to meet the urgency of the community's increasing need for blood for the patients who require life-saving transfusions.

Sixteen year olds can now donate blood in the state of New Jersey with parental/guardian consent. The consent forms will be available at the blood drive. Donors must weigh at least 120 pounds and be in general good health. There is no upper age limit for donors provided they meet health requirements. Donors should bring a signed or picture form of identification and know their S.S. #. Please eat a meal one hour before donating and drink plenty of water.

Blood center officials note that each unit of blood donated is broken down into several components including platelets, plasma, and red cells so one donation can save up to three lives.

The donation process is safe and simple. Donors are first asked medical history questions and given a mini-health check, including pulse, blood pressure, and iron level. The actual donation of blood takes just 5 to 7 minutes, and then the donor is given a snack and juice. The entire process generally takes under one hour. Donors will receive a free cholesterol screening.

People with a fever or sore throat should wait until they are feeling better before donating, and there is a 24-hour deferral for teeth cleanings and fillings.

For those who have recently traveled outside of the United States and for other eligibility questions, please call the blood center at 973-676-4700, ext. 1.

Sunday School News

This year’s Sunday School class includes a great group of children and dedicated teachers. All children from Pre-K (age 4) up to 5th grade are welcome to attend. We meet in the Parish Hall during the 10 AM service every Sunday except for Family Sunday (the first Sunday of the month). Godly Play lessons, which include a story, craft and a feast, are taught to the children.

In December, the Sunday School students sorted donated food to create Christmas baskets for families in need. Also, Pam Laura worked with the children to prepare a special song for the Christmas season, which the children sang during the Christmas Eve service.

We are planning on taking the children to House of the Good Shepherd again this year for Valentine's Day. The children will be preparing valentines cards as part of Sunday School classes in January, and then they will give those cards to the Good Shepherd residents during the trip. The trip will be during Sunday School on February 13th. Parents are welcome to come and drive their children.



We are always looking for more volunteers help teach and assist with the classes. If you are interested, please contact one of the coordinators.

Sunday School Schedule

- February 6th Family Sunday
- February 13th Valentine’s Trip - House of the Good Shepherd
- February 20th Lesson – Holy Baptism
- February 27th Famine Lesson

Alicia LaForge

Confirmation – Reception – Re-affirmation

The Confirmation Class for 2011 has been formed! Our first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9th at 7:00 in the Mitcham House. It includes young adults preparing for Confirmation as well as adults who wish to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church (see below). A full schedule is available from the church office. If you have not already spoken with the Rector, please do so immediately to be included.

Young Adults:

The Bishop requires that young adults be in eighth grade or older. *(Please contact the Rector to ask about special educational circumstances.)* They will prepare to affirm their baptismal vows throughout the class with the assistance of a mentor of their choice. Confirmation classes are a combination of education, worship and service.

Adults:

If you were baptized as an infant and not confirmed, you may choose to affirm your faith as an adult through the rite of Confirmation by the Bishop. If you have been confirmed in another denomination, you may choose to be received into the Episcopal Church by the Bishop. Anyone who has been baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church and wishes to recommit him/herself to the life of faith may choose to have their baptismal covenant reaffirmed with the Bishop at the celebration of Confirmation.

The Confirmation Service for District One (St. James’ district) will be held on **Sunday, May 22 at 3 PM** at the Cathedral of Trinity and St. Philip in Newark *(this is a change from a previously announced date).*

Confirmation Mentors Needed

As Confirmation classes begin, we are seeking adult confirmed Episcopalians who will offer to mentor our young adults as they learn about their baptismal promises and the Episcopal Church. The best mentors are simply those who intentionally try to live out their faith and do their best to be disciples of Christ. Please speak to the Rector to be included.

cathydeats@comcast.net 908.500.2463.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will collect for the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 6. We are collecting soup cans for the local pantry and money donations.

On February 25 and 26, we will participate in the 30 Hour Famine for World Vision. Youth from St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church, Panther Valley Ecumenical Church and First Presbyterian Hackettstown will join us here. Sign up at youth group or with Rod Perez or Lori Pursel. Please consider sponsoring one of our youth to raise money for world hunger.



Bell Choir "Notes"

The St. James' Multi-Generational Bell Choir resumed rehearsals on January 16 after a much deserved rest following the busy Advent and Christmas seasons.

The choir is now preparing music for Epiphany and Lent. The choir is scheduled to ring on February 20. The piece is entitled *Danish Star Carol*. The piece for Lent involves techniques other than just ringing. Hopefully the techniques will enhance the mood of the piece and increase the listening pleasure for the congregation. I think the choir members enjoy learning and using the different ways of producing sounds with the bells.

If you are interested in joining with the group for one Sunday's music, for several Sunday's music, or until June and beyond, please contact me (732-807-3211, lolshan@ccm.edu) or speak with me during a Coffee Hour. We welcome new members throughout the year. The commitment is not from September through June. I try to be flexible and work around the varied schedules of the ringers.

Louise Olshan

Thanks to the St. James' Vestry and Congregation

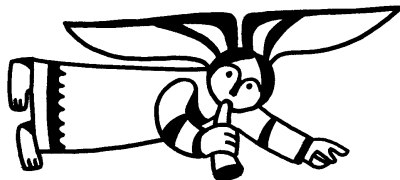
I was overwhelmed to be singled out, along with the other members of the staff at St. James', during the homily on Sunday, January 23. Thank you for honoring my work and making a contribution to the Heifer Project in my name, a gift of sheep for my work with the Yarn Twisters group.

I enjoy the work I do at St. James' and hardly consider the position to be a "job". Rather it offers me a special opportunity to use my skills and talents to enhance the worship of God. Directing the Bell Choir is a labor of love on my part. Working with the members of the Bell Choir and the Senior Choir adds so much to my life in the way of support, encouragement, friendship and laughter. Working with Cathy and Pam makes the music program run smoothly and helps to make the "job" here at St. James' so very pleasurable.

My thank you goes to all the volunteers at St. James' who help to make my "job" here fun and enjoyable. Thank you to all those who have given encouragement and support over the years, and comments about a Prelude or Postlude or a Bell Choir piece.

Louise Olshan

Organist and Bell Choir Director



Choir News

So...Advent and Christmas are behind us now. The children signed and sang, the bells rang, and the adults sang, too, and it was all really good! Now we are sailing through Epiphany! It's a long season this year, going right through February. Then Lent, Holy Week and Easter (April 24th)!

Plenty of time for anyone who thinks they might like to sing with us for Holy Week (primarily Palm Sunday and Easter) to come on board as we won't be starting that music until mid- to late-February! If you'd like to join us on any 'regular' Sundays, you are always welcome!!

Again this year, we are planning on having the Sunday School children sing and sign at the 10 am Easter morning service. Rehearsals will start in March and will be during Sunday School.

Sing joyfully!

Pam Laura
Music Director



A Birthday Reflection

The Rev. Edwin Sumner, a resident of Heath Village, in reflection on his 80th birthday, as he shared at Heath Village Chapel service January 11, 2011:

When we hit those birthdays with zeroes after them, they get our attention. We say, "Wow!" My birthday is an opportunity to thank God for the gift of long life. That gift is also a commitment. Jesus said, "From those to whom much is given, much shall be required." We believe this and do this! As we celebrate a birthday, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit for continued service to God and man. I thank God that he empowers me to serve in my ministries! We imitate Him who taught, "I am among you as one who serves." Heath Village is a community! Staff cannot do it all; residents must do much of the work around here. We are a team in co-operation. That is God's plan, Praise the Lord! Mutual service brings mutual joy!

Angels in the Kitchen

Our condolences are extended to Glenda Van Houten, whose mother died in January. Glenda and Michael are the parents of Whitney, age one, who was baptized at St. James' in October. When the family needed a place to gather following the service at the funeral home, the Great Hall was offered. The family provided food and drink. A hospitality team (quickly assembled!) made coffee and made everyone feel welcomed. The team worked on a Friday afternoon to evening, and we want to thank Richard Ames, Marge Ames, Linda Miller and Barbara Olesen for their good work of welcome and comfort.

St. James' "Yarn Twisters"

2010 saw the formation of a new group at St. James' – the "Yarn Twisters". The group was formed in spring of 2010 and was a big success. For those of you who missed the December visit of the Rev. Megan Sanders, Chaplain at Port Newark and Tri-State Church Coordinator and Paige Sato, Program Director of "Christmas at Sea", they brought the mission of the Seaman's Church Institute (SCI) to St. James'. They collected our completed items, which amounted to 47 mariner scarves; 27 sea caps; 17 sea scarves and 7 vests, all of which would be distributed in time for the Christmas holidays. It was very interesting to hear about the program and we are hoping to plan a "road trip" to the Port when the warmer weather arrives.

Our first scheduled get together for this year is Thursday, February 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Great Hall – if the weather cooperates. We are also hoping for a few new patterns. If you are interested in joining this group, please email me at frlbailey@comcast.net.

Linda Miller

Fundraising

We start this year in fundraising with a Longaberger sale. Please check out Roberta's display in the parish hall this week and next and remember that Roberta donates her commission to St. James'. These are great products and they make wonderful gifts for any occasion. We will also hold our first golf outing planning meeting today. If you would like to get involved with the planning of this event, please let Dan Miller or me know. This will be our third event and it just keeps getting better and better. We will let everyone know the date and location soon. We will have a St. Patrick's corned beef and cabbage dinner in March and a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on March 6th. We will follow that with the Easter candy sale. As you can see we are already busy planning our calendar for this year. We would love to have you help us plan and execute some of these events. If you are interested, please let me know.

Invite a friend to church and to these events!

Barbara White

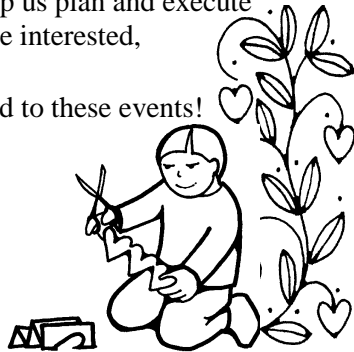


Photo: Marge Ames, Helen Wise, Paige Sato (SCI, Knitting Director), the Rev. Megan Sanders, Chaplain, Ellen Infante and Barbara Olesen

Singles Social Gathering (SSG)*

What: Movie and Dinner

When: Saturday, February 26th

(The time and choice of the movie will be determined as the date approaches)

Where: Clearview Cinemas, Chester Springs Shopping Center, 169 Route 206, Chester, NJ

Dinner: Chester Diner, 65 Route 206, Chester, NJ

Please RSVP to Church of the Messiah by no later than Thursday, February 24th.

If you have questions regarding SSG or this event or to RSVP, please email messiahchester@earthlink.net or call 908-879-7208.

*SSG, which is sponsored by District 1 of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, is a singles group for all single adults age 30 or above. **Everyone** is welcome to attend, no matter what his/her religious affiliation.

Meet Your New Vestry Members and Convention Delegates January 23, 2011

For Vestry, three-year term expiring 2014:

David Bernauer I started attending St. James' in 2003. In 2007, I graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a BS in Business Management with a specialization in Accounting. Since returning home after college, I attend St James' regularly. I am a member of the Senior Choir, the Bell Choir and a counter. I enjoy Christmas caroling. I have passed the CPA exam and will be obtaining my CPA license in a few months.

David Jenkins David was born in London, England and lived in Wales before moving to the United States during September 1993. David and his wife Janel have attended St. James' since 2008 and were married in St. James', September 2009. He enjoys spending time with his wife, two children, two dogs and two cats. In his spare time, he also enjoys kick boxing, reading, working out, camping and traveling. David is looking forward to serving on the Vestry.

Roy C. Smith III Roy has been a member of the St. James' Church since moving to the Hackettstown area in 1983. He worked for 20 years at New Jersey Bell (now Verizon), then an additional 20 years in financial sales (auto finance and home mortgages) before retiring in 2005. Roy and his wife Wanda adopted their daughter Hayden Maria in 2002 and now spend time with their antique cars & motorcycles during the summer and traveling whenever they can. Roy is looking forward (blindly???) to serving on the Vestry in hopes of helping steer St. James' to continued and greater community services.

For Deputy to Diocesan Convention, three-year term expiring 2014 (*Deputy attends Convention in year of term expiration*):

Wendie Germain A few years after my husband's death, I decided to move from Cleveland, Ohio, to this part of New Jersey to be near my daughter and her family. When I visited St. James', I knew it would be my new church home. Pam Laura quickly recruited me for the choir, which I have continued to enjoy. I attended the EFM classes for two years, learning much about the church teachings and about myself. I have been an avid birdwatcher, but between bears, deer ticks, and hunters, I've learned to be leery of the woods. However, Charlie, my dog, still makes sure I spend quality time outdoors with him each day.

For Alternate Deputy to Diocesan Convention, one-year term expiring 2012 (*Alternate serves through Convention in year of expiration*):

Ellen Infante I have been a member of St. James' for approximately a decade. I am active in the Prayer Ministry, Altar Guild, currently completing my 4th year in EFM, a member of the Fundraising Committee, bookkeeper and member of the Yarn Twisters. I have in the past, served on the Vestry and was the Coffee Hour Coordinator for a few years. I still work for the Morristown & Erie Railway, Inc. in Morristown, NJ in the Administration/Accounting capacities. In my spare time, I enjoy a good book, crocheting, or watching a good movie. I look forward to representing the St. James' Parish as an Alternate Deputy to the Diocesan Convention.

And Happy Birthday, Bailey!



Happy Birthday from Suzie



Bailey's 16th Birthday cupcake
Photos courtesy of Linda and Dan Miller

A Postscript from Christmas 2010



The Giving Tree



The Youth Choir sings and signs and the Bell Choir rings for Christmas Through the Arts



The Youth Group presents the story of "Saint Nicholas - The Real Santa Claus" on the 2nd Sunday in Advent. Isaiah, John the Baptist and Saint Nicholas, AKA Justin Simmons, Isaac Quelly and Rod Perez, all come to St. James'!

Special thanks to Dave Heistand who edited and produced the December/January Journal while I was on "sick leave".
Phyllis

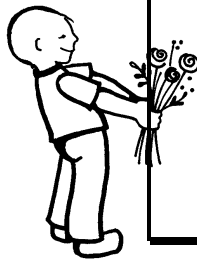
For Weekly Announcements and what's happening at St. James', visit our Webpage:
stjameshackettstown.org



March Journal articles due Monday, February 28
Phyllis Heistand, Editor
Cathy Deats, News for St. James' and all the writers, reporters and photographers
David Heistand, proofreader, printer
Marge Ames & Heath Village Team, assemblers
Email pdheistand@comcast.net
To sign up for Email-Journal, contact pdheistand@comcast.net

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St James' Staff & Vestry

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats
Deacon: The Rev. Sheila Shuford
Seminarian Rod Perez-Vega
Rector Emeritus: The Rev. Clarence Sickles
Senior Warden: Greg Malejko
Junior Warden: Barbara White
Treasurer: Penn Pixley
Parish Administrator: Frances Keefe
Music Director: Pam Laura
Organist: Louise Olshan
Sexton: Pauline Volkert

Vestry:

David Bernauer Ron Cipriani
Dave Handville DJ Hoffman
David Jenkins Dan Miller
Peter Quelly Roy Smith III
Paula Van Clef

*Dear Saint Valentine,
bless this friend of mine!*

