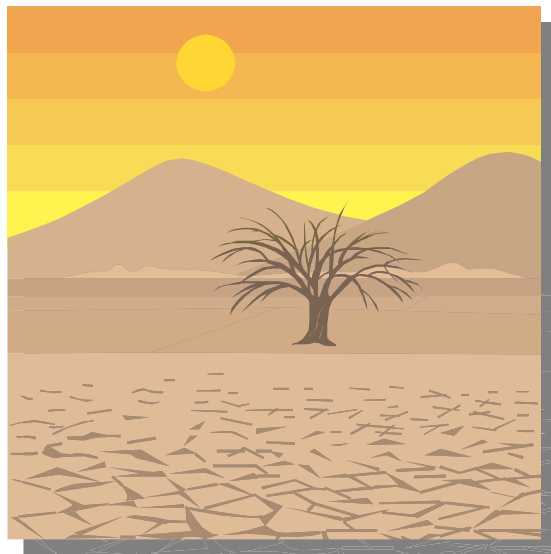




ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

THE REV. DR. CATHY L. DEATS, RECTOR

MARCH 2011



The Spirit immediately drove him out into the desert. And he was in the desert forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to him.

Mark 1:12-13

The ground is hard and brown. There are dry scrubby bushes bordering yards and highways. The snow is gone, but we know the ground is still stiff and cold. If we have never been to a desert climate and hear the story of Jesus in the desert, we can squint our eyes and imagine that we are there.

At the same time, we know that within weeks, the ground will soften and early flowers will burst through the ground. The stiff branches of bush and tree will soften and buds will swell. Color will return to the earth.

The commercial world takes this reality of nature and translates it into the latest displays in our local Walgreen's or Target. Bunnies and chicks. Green (or pink or yellow) cellophane grass. Pastel-painted wooden tulips. Eggs (chocolate, marshmallow, malted milk, or filled with fake yolk-and-white). All the symbols of spring and new life. And in a forgotten aisle in the far corner of the store, the old, dead merchandise. Stale Valentine's Day candy in a heart shaped box, a couple of fold-up snow shovels, a few knit caps and gloves, and one lonely box of multi-colored Christmas lights.

So as we enter the season of Lent, with Easter far on the horizon but still within the reach of imagination, we can get inspiration from the world around us – right?

It is true that the images in nature and even the commercial world can reinforce our Lenten discipline and Easter joy. But Lent is not simply death and brown earth and Easter is not simply springtime and new life.

The fact that Lent and Easter come along in the spring (more or less) does not mean that they are simply an amplified version of nature.

But there is a reason why the resurrection of the dead earth of winter is where we go instead of to the desert. The desert is not only dry, but lonely. It is a place where we encounter ourselves. It has historically been a place in which a person can encounter the holy. And to encounter the holy is not without pain. Ask anyone who has been deeply hurt by someone they love. Ask anyone who has hurt another and made amends. Ask anyone who has faced death with eyes wide open. The desert is not the hurt or the death. The desert is the facing of the hurt, living with the death, denying self for the sake of the other.

We cannot help but gaze at the landscape around us and imagine the lilac and the daffodil, green grass and soft-budded trees. But then let us close our eyes and invite God to lead us into the desert where Jesus has gone before, and where he waits for us even now.

Cathy Deats +

Warden's Words

Two weeks ago on Saturday night, St. James' held a bowling outing at Oakwood Lanes in Washington. I'm not much of a bowler; I think it's the second time I went bowling in the past 20 years. Having no real bowling skills, I just roll the ball down the lane about as fast as I can (and I'm not the only one I saw employing that technique). I know that technically it might not be the proper technique, but I figure all that kinetic energy will somehow make good things happen at the far end of the lane!

I believe everyone that participated that night had a good time. Many thanks to Scott Carson for organizing this event! Keep an eye on the church calendar. I understand another bowling event will be held in the future. Of course, no discussion of the night would be complete without a mention of the incredible feat accomplished by Rod Perez-Vega. He made the nearly impossible 7-10 split! Amazing.....perhaps even a miracle!

Be sure to join in some of the upcoming fellowship events being planned at St. James', including the Shrove Tuesday Dinner (at IHOP) and the St. Patty's Day Dinner. While the competition of the bowling lanes will be missed, I'm certain the fellowship will be just as great!

Greg Malejko
Senior Warden

Vestry Retreat

Your vestry will spend time apart to get to know each other, renew our mission and make some plans for the coming year. From Friday evening supper, March 11th, through Saturday afternoon, March 12th, we travel to Kirkridge, a lovely retreat center in Bangor, PA. The "Hermitage" is ours for our time together, sharing meals and ideas and ourselves. Check your April Journal for our report!

Empowering People

God Is Calling – How Will YOU Answer?

Tuesday, March 15 is the deadline to register for the day-long discernment event, [God Is Calling -- How Will You Answer? Discernment For All God's People](#), taking place on **Saturday, April 2**. See website for location. Sponsored by the [Commission on Ministry](#), which is comprised of the Committees on the Priesthood, the Diaconate and the Laity, this event is open to those interested in both lay and ordained ministry.

Questions? [Download the brochure](#) or contact [Paul Shackford](#), chair of the Commission on Ministry.



137th General Convention

The General Convention was mostly business as usual: resolutions, budget, reports and elections, all of which can be found on the diocesan website. The Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Beckwith and the homily was delivered by The Rt. Rev. Julio Murray, Bishop from the Diocese of Panama. He is a powerful preacher. In his message, he talked about the difference between believing and faith. Also in attendance were The Rt. Rev. John Spong and The Rt. Rev. Jack Croneberger, both former Bishops of the Diocese of Newark.

There were many resolutions proposed and passed at convention, one of which was the resolution to "Save our public schools" The resolution calls for a letter writing campaign focused on local, state and national political leaders insisting that they allocate more funding and other resources to improve our national public education system. With the many educators and even administrators we have in our very own parish, I thought this would be something we could get involved with. I have asked a couple of our parishioners to draft letters that you can use as models for composing your own letter, or if you agree with what a letter says, sign it and send it to our government officials.

A copy of the resolution, letters and addresses can be found on our website and in the parish hall.

We would like to be able to tell and show the diocese that we are supporting their goals. We can do that by sending them copies of our letters and telling them how many letters were submitted from St. James'. Please, if you send a letter let me know.

Invite a friend to Church!

Barbara White
Junior Warden

Vestry Hi-lites from February meeting

- The Vestry heard a presentation by Fulton Financial regarding the investment of the Snyder and Building Funds, with recommendations for the coming year.
- The Blood Drive February 13th was a huge success. The goal of 20 pints was surpassed as we collected 34 pints for the New Jersey Blood Center.
- The Wardens are assembling a "wish list" for all groups to say what some of their material needs are. The list will be published in hopes others have some items or would like to donate them.
- Peter Quelly is coordinating work to install cabinetry in the Great Hall for a "coffee bar" and storage.



March Dates to Remember

March 6	Family breakfast • 9:00 AM
March 8	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper • IHOP • 5:00 – 8 PM
March 9	Ash Wednesday • See service times below
March 11 – 12	Vestry retreat • Kirkridge
March 13	St. Patrick's Day Parade • St. Patrick's Day Feast • Parish Hall • 4:30 - 6:30 PM
March 19	Adult Class • Ministry • 10 AM – 12 PM

Coming up in April

April 9	Visit to the Seaman's Church Institute • 11 – 2 at the Porrt*
April 24	Easter! (*tentative)

Coming up in May

May 22	Confirmation • Trinity and St. Phillip's Cathedral • 3:00 PM
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Prayer for the good of the soul



Fasting for the good of the body



Alms giving for the good of our neighbor

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

On Tuesday, March 8th from 5:00 to 8 pm, we will have our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner at IHOP in Hackettstown. Please come down and join us for fellowship and fundraising. IHOP donates a percentage of the food purchases to St. James'.

Support Your Local Food Pantry

In March, we will be collecting canned fruit and fruit juice for Trinity's Food Pantry. There are collection containers in the in the Parish Hall lobby and hallway by the entrance into the sanctuary.

Family Breakfasts, 9:00 to 10:00 AM

Come and have great fellowship with your St. James' family at our Family Breakfasts, served in the Great Hall, thanks to DJ Hoffman and his team. Jewels Quelly is coordinating the March 6 family breakfast in DJ's absence. Family Breakfasts at St. James' are a time to meet newcomers and old friends. Next month's breakfast is on April 3.

Episcopal Appalachian Ministries (EAM) Work Camp 2011

St. James' will have six slots for the work camp to be held July 30 – August 6. Registration forms will be due June 15, but it is not too early to plan your summer and reserve your space. Please contact the Rector at cathydeats@comcast.net or 908.850.4549 to let her know of your interest.

April Journal articles due Monday, March 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



7:00 AM	Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes
12:00 NOON	Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes
7:30 PM	Choral Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes (with music)

St. James' Lenten Programs Daytime program

A Lenten study, beginning Thursdays on March 17 at 10:00 am in the Great Hall and continuing on every Thursday during Lent. The study and discussion are based on daily readings, scripture and prayer from *A Season for the Spirit* by Martin L. Smith. The reader is led on a journey of self-discovery to find that Christ, through the Spirit, embraces every aspect of our humanity. Each of the forty daily meditations concerns itself with one of the many different "selves of the self".

The sessions will be led by Phyllis Heistand. Please contact Phyllis at pdheistand@comcast.net or 908.850.0372.

Lenten evening program

Each Thursday evening in Lent, we will gather for the Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at 7:00 pm. Immediately following will be a five-session study of the *Parables of Jesus*. The study will begin on Thursday, March 10 and conclude on Thursday, April 7. Please contact Cathy for copies of the first assignment cathydeats@comcast.net or 908.500.2463.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE!

We will participate in this year's Hackettstown's third annual St. Patrick's Day parade. It will begin at 3:30 on Sunday, March 13th. The parade route is the same as the Memorial Day parade, running from Grand Ave. to the cemetery. We will promote our Deaf Ministry by distributing flyers to the crowds. Please come down and join us for a few blocks or for the entire route. We'll gather at Valentine and Grand beginning at 3:00. We will have candy and balloons to give out as well. A sign-up sheet is in the parish hall.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FEAST

Sunday, March 13th

4:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Parish Hall

**Corned Beef & Cabbage
Carrots & Potatoes**

Homemade Irish Soda Bread

Dessert

Coffee, Tea, Soda

\$10 Adults & Children

Advanced tickets not required

Reservations suggested

Call 908-852-3968 or email

[barbarawhite 7@msn.com](mailto:barbarawhite7@msn.com)



A few notes about upcoming fundraisers.

Our Easter Candy sale starts, March 6.

Gertrude Hawks catalogs are available in the Parish Hall. Orders are due March 20th and candy should be available around April 10th.

Join us for good food and fellowship at our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner at IHOP on March 8th in Hackettstown and our annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner here at St. James' on Sunday, March 13th. Please invite your friends and come on down. If you would like to participate in this event by helping out with serving or cleaning up, we would certainly appreciate it. A sign up-sheet is in the Parish Hall hallway.

As always, thank you for your support.

Barbara White

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

Paul Bartkus creates new accessible worship booklet for HOGS

At the House of the Good Shepherd, many residents can struggle with the Book of Common Prayer due to its weight and size of the typeface. Paul Bartkus, who attends weekly Holy Eucharist services there with wife Phyllis and HOTGS resident Dorothy Bartkus (his mom), created a new worship booklet that is easy to use for anyone with dexterity challenges, low vision, and many other problems of aging. From his perspective in the congregation, he saw the struggles around him and made a booklet with only the essentials (no rubrics and other instructions to be mistaken for text), large heavy type and huge page numbers. The priests who celebrate there (including our Rector Cathy Deats) find that there is more participation and less frustration. Many thanks to Paul for his ministry of watching, listening and responding!



Barbara and Marjorie with new worship booklets created by Paul Bartkus

College Kids in the News

Kevin Honigsberg has made the Dean's List at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Amy Modugno has finished her training for massage therapy at the Appalachian Training Center for the Healing Arts. She is waiting to take the national certification test. Upon passing the test, she will be certified in general massage therapy and reflexology.

Lindsay Modugno has graduated with honors from Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences with a BS in Ecology. After completing a variety of internships, she plans to get her masters in wildlife management.

And a special achievement

Utah, the Seeing Eye puppy raised by the Modugno family has graduated. He passed all his training and has grown into a wonderful guide dog. He is waiting to be placed with a blind person.

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.

For Valentine's Day, the children took a field trip to the House of the Good Shepherd. We prepared valentine cards as part of Sunday School classes in January, and then the children gave those cards to the Good Shepherd residents during the trip. Several parents were able to join us, as well as Paul and Phyllis Barkus's dog, Maggie. It was a great experience for everyone.

We are looking forward to some great activities this spring, including helping to prepare care packages for the college students and the Children's Sabbath at the end of May.

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

Sunday School Schedule

March 6th Family Sunday
 March 13th Lesson – Lent
 March 20th Lesson – St. Patrick
 March 27th Lesson – The Sower

Alicia LaForge



Phyllis and Paul Barkus with his mother, Dorothy Barkus and Sunday School visitors with Valentines



Sunday School children gather around therapy dog Maggie at the House of Good Shepherd



Confirmation Classes

The Confirmation Class for 2011 has been formed and has enjoyed some great classes. The group sessions are adult education and so are open to anyone who wants to learn more about The Episcopal Church and our faith. Classes in "How to Be An Episcopalian," and "The Secrets of The Book of Common Prayer" were eye-opening, and you can still join in.

Some upcoming sessions:

Wednesday, March 16, 7 - 8:30 PM,
 Church History by Rod Perez Vega

Saturday, March 19, 10 AM - 12 PM,
 Ministry: Yours, Mine and Ours

Wednesday, March 23, 7-8:30 PM,
 The Bible, by the EfM Seminar Members
 Sunday, April 3, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM,

Prayer, by Phyllis Heistand and Prayer Ministry
 Check the online calendar for more information and location (on our website

<http://stjameshackettstown.org>

Help St. James' Journal go green and lower costs! If you would like to join in helping to lower postage and paper costs, you can receive our monthly newsletter, the Journal, via email. To sign up, send an email to Editor Phyllis Heistand at pdheistand@comcast.net

Seminarian Rod Perez's Homily on Sunday, February 27, 2011

Hunger, Worry and Jesus

HOPE – AWARENESS – DETERMINATION – INSPIRING - EYE OPENING -ENLIGHTEN –
MOTIVATED – COMPASSION – WILL POWER – GENEROSITY – GREATEFULLNESS – LOVE –
TO EXPERIENCE HOW OTHERS FEEL EVERY DAY – TIRED – VERY, VERY HUNGRY...

These are some of the phrases and words that the youth that participated in the 30 hour famine used to describe their experience. Between Friday and Saturday afternoon, youth and adults from St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and from St. James fasted for 30 hours with the purpose of experiencing firsthand what more than one billion of our sisters and brothers in Christ experience on a daily basis...Hunger.

During those 30 hours, the youth had the opportunity to take part in a service project that involved collecting food to be donated to local food banks, as well as learning about the damage and desolation that hunger produces throughout the world, as well as in our own community.

We learned that every day nearly eight thousand children under the age of five die of a hunger-related cause. We learned that tonight, one in six people will go to bed hungry. Take a moment to think about that, look around you, count six people, yes, it is not so hard to envision one in six people.

We learned that in places such as Haiti, hunger may lead to betrayal and collapse of families who at times see no other choice but to sell their child into slave labor with the hope that with the few dollars they made, they will be able to feed the rest of the family, and the thought that perhaps the child will be a little better off working at sweat shop in the nearby Dominican Republic.

We learned that in some places, hungry people walk for miles in order to procure minimal food for themselves and their families. And we learned that in some parts of the world, hunger forces children and young adults to join gangs, become mercenaries; learn how to use weapons and kill, in order to have a minimal sense of security about their sustenance.

We learned that the economic downturn that we have faced in the last few years has produced an increase in the number of families that on a daily or weekly basis have to make decisions such as to either buy medicine, pay the heat or the electricity, or go without food. We learned that our local food banks are providing assistance to record numbers of people in need, and that in many cases some of these food banks have become stretched beyond their capabilities.

We also learned that there is enough food in the world to feed all of the six billion inhabitants of the

planet; that there are enough resources and know-how, but people still go hungry...

And as the hours went by, and our stomachs started to growl, and we became grouchy, tired and it was harder to focus, we started to look forward to six o'clock, and the meal that we were going to enjoy once the fast was done. Fortunately, we did not have to worry about where our next meal was going to come from.

But as we learned at least one in six people in our community was hungry and probably worrying about how to calm their hunger. And who can blame parents for worrying about how to feed children? Who can blame a mother for wondering and worrying where the next bottle of formula for her baby may come from? Who can blame a hungry young person, or an adult who has not eaten in a couple of days, for worrying and asking how much longer can I survive?

In what seems to be an extremely sharp contrast with this reality, we just heard in today's Gospel Jesus Christ telling the apostles and those gathered around him not worry about life, not to worry about shelter, not to worry about hunger. In fact he is telling us not worry about any of those things social scientist in our day have classified as basic physiological needs, which if not satisfied become obstacles to the any person fulfilling other needs such as safety, love or even self-esteem. Did Jesus not know this? How do we deal with this tension?

Often times when I face this kind of question, my response is to say, well in the time and context in which Jesus said it, it was taken to mean this and that, in our world of today we can take it to mean such and such...

Well, let me suggest today that what Jesus meant then, is exactly the same thing he means now.

No doubt, Jesus is telling us to put our trust in God and not on wealth. Furthermore, He is pointing us and those around him to a Kingdom to come, and at the same time HE is pointing to a Kingdom that is here and now, and that was then and there.

Jesus knew that the people gathered around him had real needs of sustenance and shelter, and he knew that they had difficulties satisfying those needs¹; just like he knows those needs are also real in our day and age, and that we often times struggle in meeting those needs.

¹ From ESERMONS.COM Leonard Sweet's Sermon Life's Three Guides on the Pilgrim Way. <http://www.esermons.com/> February 2011

Jesus was also aware that the people gathered around him, knew as part of their foundational story as community, something that may be a little harder for us to grasp. They knew that their ancestors had journeyed through the wilderness and God had provided enough water and food in the form of manna, which collected just in enough amounts, satisfied the hunger for that day. Furthermore, they knew that in their ideal of a community, they were all responsible for gathering and allocating enough resources within the community, including food and shelter in such a way, that no one, would go without.

Jesus also knew that worrying distorted this image of community. Jesus knows that when we worry we start losing perspective. We become so focused on the source of our distress and in the multiple options or avenues we can follow to tackle the problem that pretty soon we can see nothing else but ourselves, our own needs and our own ability to address the situation. Jesus knows that when we worry, we lose sight of God, we lose sight of others in our communities, and perhaps most importantly we lose sight of the God who is in the other.

Perhaps the key to understanding today's gospel lies in the first verse: "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." We could also say: You cannot serve God and serve Worry. Jesus knows that worry can enslave us and led us to such sins as slavery, human trafficking and letting others die of hunger...

Let us then follow Jesus' command and trust God, let us find hope and optimism in the fact that there are enough resources, that there is enough know-how, and that there are enough of us who can raise our communal voices to fight hunger. And when we go forth, let us go forth, in the knowledge that beyond the struggles of our everyday life; in, with, beside and above us, Jesus joins us in the journey...Amen!

Rod Perez

Scenes from the 30-Hour Famine

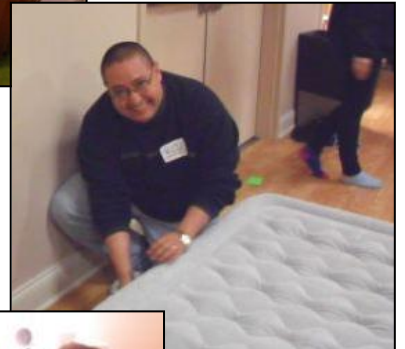


Haiti water drinking water exercise



Haiti drinking water

Rod Perez Vega gets his bed ready



Trever Carson and Joe Ayres



Tanya Volkert and Rachel Nestman



Nick Salinas and Justin Simmons

A Boy Scout's Reflection on Camping, Cooking and Prayer

Hello, my name is Drew Lacouture. My main obligations alongside school and family are God and Boy Scouts. I'm in the confirmation class this year at Saint James' Church. So far it's great! The experiencing is interesting, eye-opening and I've been to every class so far. But there was only one problem. I couldn't go to the 30-hour famine which was the class project. That is because the same weekend of this important event, I had a camping trip to Resica Falls Scout Reservation in PA with my Boy Scout troop. This was an important opportunity to earn critical requirements I needed to earn my next rank.

So instead of the 30-hour famine, I chose to plan, shop, cook, and serve 4 meals for 24 of my fellow scouts and the leaders. Along with those duties, I also wrote and said grace at all 4 meals. This took a lot of preparation and hard work to accomplish. Plus, as part of the requirements, I had to sit down with my scoutmaster and discuss the menu, what pots and utensils I should use, and the importance of good nutrition.

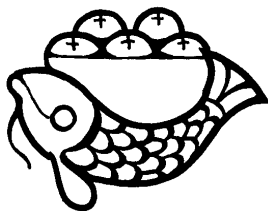
After saying grace at each meal, I definitely felt proud and confident about what I wrote about. So I thought I would share them with you. Here are three of my favorites:

Breakfast: "Dear gracious Lord. We thank you for the wonderful meal this morning. We are truly grateful for this cabin and this scout camp. Let us walk through our days with passion, productiveness, and grace. We hope you present a memorable weekend as you watch us. Grant us a new day as scouts and that you live on for the rest of our lives. Amen."

Lunch: "Dear God, we humbly thank you for this meal. Present this beautiful afternoon as we continue our journey this Saturday. We are also thankful for the warmth around us and the fantastic life of nature. As we abandon this home and enter the real world, show us the right path and grant us your name. Please give us the strength to continue to live on your ways."

Dinner: "Dear God, as this day ends as we await another sunrise tomorrow, we all thank you for this food. We are also grateful for everything you've created for us this weekend. Please allow us scouts to continue our year's learning as you watch us. We hope for a new and final day of this trip and that you will show us the path to your kingdom. Amen."

Drew Lacouture



30-Hour Famine Participants

St. James' Youth: Joe Ayres, Trever Carson, Matthew DiMarzo, Sarah DiMarzo, Tanya Volkert, Rachel Nestman, Justin Simmons.

Joined by 9 youth from St. Mary's.

Melissa Vitalos and Linda Ayres provided soup for the break-fast.

Carol Novrit taught about local hunger and hunger in Haiti.

Rod Perez and MaryAnn Simmons guided the youth through the days and night.

Ray Reyes and Kathy Voorhees were St. Mary's Youth Leaders.

Watch the next Journal for the total funds raised!!!

Yarn Twisters

The Yarn Twisters are back in session! We had our second get together of 2011 on Thursday, February 24th in the Mitcham House. Several enthusiastic knitters and crocheters attended and we already have a little "stash" for the Seamen for this year. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact me at frlbailey1@comcast.net

We will be getting back to our regular schedule as weather permits, but we hope that we have turned the corner now that it is March! Our next get together will be Saturday, March 12th at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall.

We will visit the Seamen's Institute in Newark in April – Cathy Deats is working on finalizing the details.

We are also still collecting the following items to include in the 2011 package. There is a blue plastic barrel in the Great Hall for donations:

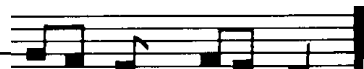
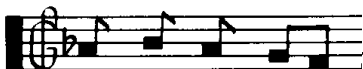
- Unscented, Hypoallergenic Hand Lotion (2-4 oz bottles), facial tissue
- Books or Activities like Sudoku, word searches, or playing cards
- Microwave Popcorn, chewing gum
- Gently used men's coats

All items must be in new and unused condition and in their original packaging. We cannot accept items that are used or unsealed.

Linda Miller

Visit to the Seamen's Church Institute

We have a date, Saturday April 9th and a tentative time, 11 - 2 at the Port. Mark your calendars for a truly astonishing experience to see the Seamen's Church Institute in Port Newark. We are making arrangements to see the port, go on board a ship, and see as well as hear about the great work of SCI with our seafarers. Those of us who heard Chaplain Megan Sanders and Paige Sato in December at St. James' are ready to go! **HOLD THE DATE!**



Choir News

Well, Epiphany will be over soon and the Senior Choir is already looking ahead to Lent and Holy Week. As always, there are plenty of opportunities to join the choir during this time for any or all Sundays or special week-day services like Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Easter Vigil. If we have interest, we will arrange to sing anthems downstairs using the piano. Music has been selected that can be accompanied on either the piano or the organ, so don't let the fact that you haven't seen us sing downstairs yet concern you. When the need is there, we will accommodate!! Rehearsals are 7:30 – 9 pm on Thursdays and are held in the church.

Here are the dates and times of the Holy Week services at which the Senior Choir will be singing:

Palm Sunday April 17th – 10 am service

Maundy Thursday April 21st – evening service.

Warm-up about 30 minutes prior to service. The Bell Choir is providing the anthem so this is just hymns.

Good Friday April 22nd – evening service. Warm-up about 45 minutes prior to service.

Easter Vigil Saturday, April 23rd – evening service. Warm-up about 45 minutes prior to service.

Easter Sunday April 24th – we sing at both services, 8am & 10am, and usually have a nice breakfast in between. With enough singers we could split the choir between the two services.

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will again sing at the 10 am Easter Sunday service. Rehearsals for this will be held during Sunday School starting Sunday, March 13. The choristers will be singing and signing their Easter song.

Pam Laura



Meet Maryann Simmons

MaryAnn Simmons was born and raised in Garfield, NJ. She was active in all kinds of sports. She attended Montclair majoring in English and Education. MaryAnn grew up Roman Catholic and she and Jim were married in Holy Name in 1993.

MaryAnn and Jim have a son Justin, 15. Rounding out the family is Press, a retired Greyhound who they adopted 4 years ago.

MaryAnn currently teaches at Wallkill Regional High School where she is an English teacher. She just completed her 26th year of teaching! In her spare time MaryAnn likes to read, travel and spend time with family.

Bell Choir "Notes"

The St. James' Multi-Generational Bell Choir took part in the 10:00 worship service on February 20. While I never told the choir, the piece was one of the harder ones that we have played. I was somewhat reluctant when I selected the piece knowing that we did not have many weeks to prepare the piece, but the group came through with flying colors! Thank you to each ringer for a job well done!

A special thank you to the members of the congregation who took time following the service to seek out a member of the Bell Choir and to compliment the group. We all very much appreciate the feedback and we share the comments we hear the following week.

Now the focus at rehearsals will be on our music for Lent and Easter. The Lenten piece is very beautiful and haunting and includes the use of mallets. The bells will be struck with mallets while the bells are placed on tables. Hopefully you will be able hear the very different sound that will be made because of this technique.

The Bell Choir was very happy to welcome Scott Carson as a new ringer. While he has a musical background, both with trumpet and organ, he is new to ringing. He has fit right in and we hope he feels welcome. Usually I give new ringers one bell until they request two, but Scott was willing to ring two bells from the start.

We are always looking for additional ringers and would welcome newcomers. In fact, I will not be using all of the bells on Easter Sunday as Jim and Roberta Brandt will not be with us that Sunday and I cannot cover four of the bells in the piece. Luckily bell music is often written for situations like this and the missing bells will not harm the piece. But you can see that there is room for you on the Bell Choir. If you are interested in joining us, please see me at Coffee Hour or call me at 732-807-3211.

Louise Olshan

She is currently serving on the Hackettstown Board of Education. She was also a recreational coach in Hackettstown for many years!

MaryAnn is an usher at St. James' and helps out with the Backpack program. You can find her working on and attending St. James' Fundraising events.

It's not hard to imagine that MaryAnn marched with the Garfield Cadet Drum and Bugle Corp-talk to her about it!

Roving Reporter Barbara Olesen

Deacon Sheila Shuford's Homily on Sunday, February 6, 2011

Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:13- 20

In today's Gospel, we are back with Jesus on the mountaintop. He is teaching his disciples and us. The Sermon on the Mount is pointing us to the role of love and ethics and daily living. The ethic of love, as defined by doing right for another (whether that is exacting justice or doing mercy), is the underlying reality of Jesus' words.

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven". Strong words that make us come to grips with our mortality and the fact that we must all stand before God one day and be judged.

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can it be restored?" Salt preserves from corruption. Christ wants his disciples to preserve the world from general corruption. Who are the salt of the earth? They are the humble, the ones who mourn, the meek, and those who thirst for doing what is right in the world.

I want to share two stories about my favorite disciples, my grandmother Jesse Milne Smith and my uncle Puppy. Uncle Puppy's given name was Guveneor Elwes Smith but his schoolmates christened him Puppy. He grew to be six feet three but he was still Uncle Puppy.

My grandmother, Granny Smith, was a child of Victorian times. She married Guveneor Smith, the First. They were very happily married and had five children. He was killed on the Brooklyn Bridge when he stopped to offer assistance. Granny Smith was left with five children and no financial assets to maintain their gracious life. She downsized to a small farmhouse and joined an all women real estate firm, which was pretty radical for her time, to provide for her family. She became a pillar of strength for me. My parents were divorced when I was two. Granny let it be known that my mother was still her "daughter in law" despite the fact that I gained a stepmother.

Jefferson Township Rescue Squad Names

The Jefferson Township Rescue Squad recently named Kathy Jacoby as EMS Chief for 2011. Kathy has been volunteer EMT for over ten years, the past seven years with JTRS where she has held the positions of Lieutenant and Trustee as well as being a certified CPR and First Aid instructor. Kathy looks forward to meeting any challenges that arise during her term as EMS Chief, and to lead her Jeffersons so they may continue to provide the Township of Jefferson with the fine service the Rescue Squad is capable of.

Family moves and situations changed but Granny Smith was a constant source of love, discipline and faith. My sister and I were summer visitors and every Sunday, we went to Christ Episcopal Church. We were the rare Episcopalians who sat up front. Granny Smith had a cabinet of church hats that she updated by changing the décor in season. She was a real 'deacon' in that. She brought the church to me and me to the church. She read her Bible as a call to action.

Uncle Puppy was a senior at Harvard when his father died. He promptly left school and went to work with the Canard line to help support the family. He lived at home and was a financial and moral support to his mother and family. When I first remember him, he was an usher and very involved at Christ Episcopal Church. He then became involved in "moral rearmament". I do not know the exact beliefs of that movement but I clearly remember it involved sitting quietly, reading the Bible and feeling loved by Uncle Puppy. He went on to become a Catholic. He was a searcher and a true 'salt of the earth'.

Granny and Uncle Puppy were 'shining lamps that gave light to all in the house'.

When we read the Sermon on the Mount, the one thing it clearly teaches is that action and faith go hand in hand.

At St. James' recent annual meeting, I was struck by so many people who not only care about the church but are actively involved and give so much of themselves.

God is light. Jesus is light and, says Matthew's Jesus, so are you! You are people living the kind of life called for in the Beatitudes.

I pray you let your light continue "to shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven".

Amen.

Sheila Shuford

New EMS Chief for 2011

In addition to being a volunteer with JTRS, Kathy is certified in American Sign Language and teaches this at Mansfield Elementary School to all the students from first through sixth grade. Kathy is also one of three sign language interpreters that the Saint James' Episcopal Church in Hackettstown uses during their services.

In all Kathy is able to balance a busy schedule of serving her community and teaching her students, as well as being a wife and a loving mother of two young children ages one and six years old. *By James Jacoby*

"Souper Bowl Sunday"

The youth group raised \$57.00 and filled the bowl with food supplies for the local pantry on February 6, "Souper Bowl Sunday".

Photo courtesy of MaryAnn Simmons

Justin Simmons, ready to collect donations



Bowling Night

Well everyone, we had our very first St. James' bowling night at Oakwood lanes and boy is my arm tired. We had a total of 29 parishoners show up and from the looks of it, they had a great time. And, by popular demand, they would like to have another one. So as to not disappoint, we will be running another one sometime in June so I hope to see a strong turnout!

Scott Carson



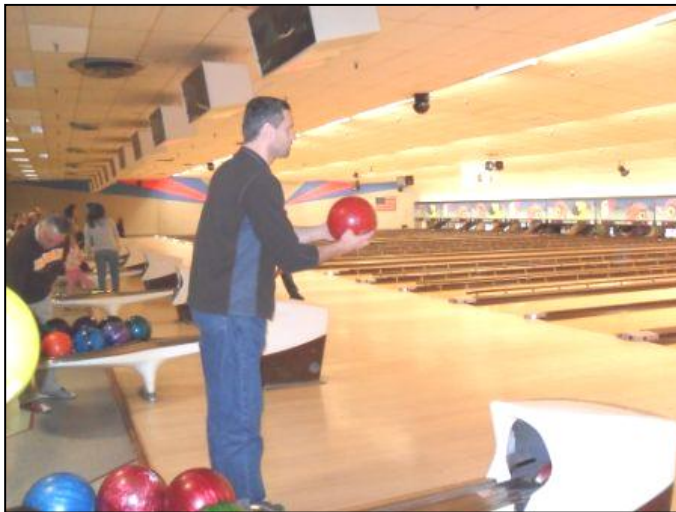
Bowling Team I

Scott Carson, MaryAnn Simmons, Jim Simmons, Justin Simmons, Trevor Carson, Carol Carson, Kristen Carson



Bowling team II

Janel Jenkins, Dave Jenkins, Gareth and Cole Jenkins, Pam Laura, Ted Deats, Alex and Vanessa Deats
not in picture: photographer Cathy Deats



Greg Malejko shows us how it's done.



Bowling team III

Ed Modugno, Dawn Modugno, Rod Perez, Greg Malejko, Eileen Malejko, Barbara White, Linda Ayres, Linda and Dan Miller



The February Blood Drive

It was the eve of Valentine's Day and thirty-four people rolled up their sleeves to give the gift of life -- more than half were members of St. James'! The Great Hall was already bustling with Sunday School preparation for their trip to HOTGS, and later coffee hour, but The New Jersey Blood Center took information and drew the blood with great dedication and calm.



Audrey Honisberg and son Cameron at the Blood drive



Left: Sweethearts Peter and Rebecca Hurak give blood, Joe Ayres signs up to give blood



Meg Critchley gives at the Blood Bank



And one more of our Sunday School givers - of themselves and their Valentines

Inside St. James' March Journal

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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	

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