



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

THE REV. DR. CATHY L. DEATS, RECTOR

OCTOBER 2011



MY SON'S FAVORITE CHILDHOOD GRACE before meals was an original: "Thank you Jesus for our food Amen now we can eat." It was said with fork at the ready and without pause. The only comfort was that at least he had the right order: first, say thanks; then, eat. But let's face it, we are only human, so it is understandable that our conversation with God usually has more asking than thanking going on.

My friends in 12 step programs have a slogan: Develop an attitude of gratitude. Whether we think having slogans is hokey or not, this one contains an important truth. Our attitude significantly affects our behavior. Someone who has reached bottom, or who is struggling to stay sober day by day, is often challenged to feel or think thankfully.

Thankfulness is a grounding, as the author of First Thessalonians knew when he wrote: "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Give thanks in all circumstances. Not just when the cancer is healed but also when you discover another round of chemo is needed. Not just when you exchange wedding vows but also when you exchange the damaging words of your first fight. Not just when the unexpected promotion comes, but also when the unexpected layoff occurs. All circumstances. Giving thanks in all circumstances because God knows where we are. God knows how we feel. God knows our next breath. How extraordinary to be so known and so loved! And when we know this and stand in gratitude before God, we are, I think, most whole.

And it just might be that giving thanks for the small stuff is more important than giving thanks for the big

stuff. The big stuff is, well... big, and so obvious that it would be really unbelievable to not say thanks. Big stuff like being healed of addiction, emerging from a totaled car without a scratch, having your brother you have not spoken to in twelve years call you to say, "I'm sorry; let's talk." The stuff that makes us actually say out loud, "Thank you, Jesus!" despite the fact that normally Episcopalians do not blurt out such things.

Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer said: "Only they who give thanks for little things receive the big things. We prevent God from giving us the great spiritual gifts he has in store for us because we do not give thanks for daily gifts."

Thank you, Jesus, for our food Gratitude emerges from a deep and holy place within us. There are many expressions which are possible. Emily Post would dictate an exact format to the thank you note, but the Holy already knows where we are and where our hearts are. To be able to express our gratitude contributes to our wholeness, deepens our life, leads us to the Holy.

While our thankfulness begins in the expression of our hearts, for disciples of Jesus Christ it does not end there. Our baptismal promises call us to embody our thanks: to express thanks in deed as well as word. We say "thank you Jesus for our food" and we pick up an extra box of cereal for the food pantry. We say thanks to God for healing, and visit those who are sick. We say thanks to God for our many material blessings, and give to the work of the church. While we struggle to say thanks for the challenges of unemployment, we give of our unexpected free time to a neighbor in need.

One of my favorite prayers is "A General Thanksgiving"; it is at the back of the Book of Common Prayer (under the rubric, we do more asking than thanking). It begins: *Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.* I commend this prayer to you; it is on page 836 of the BCP and online at bcponline.org.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know [Jesus] and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

Faithfully yours,

Cathy Deats +

Wardens' Words

I HOPE EVERYONE HAS SEEN the refurbished steeple! The contractor has been working on it for the past couple months (between the rain!) and the renovation is just about complete; all that's left is some painting! Not only does it look great, but it also keeps the rain water out! Even with all the heavy rains we've received over the past several weeks, I haven't heard a word about water entering the church! Halleluiah!

Now that work on the steeple and front face of the church is completed, the next major exterior project will focus on the sides on the church. Most of the work is cosmetic and will require scraping, sanding, priming and painting. There are a few trouble spots in the soffits and moldings that will require additional attention. The planning for this project has just begun, but the intent is to have parishioners do as much (if not all) of the work. Get your scrapers and paint brushes ready!

Thanks to the Tricky Tray Committee for another outstanding event! This is (by far) the largest fundraising event of the year and it is only successful due to the many dedicated volunteers that work so hard to make it happen! I didn't count the number of St. James' people helping out that night, but I would guess there were about twenty; an amazing number! Thanks to all!

Greg Malejko
Senior Warden



Steeple Funding Update

The total cost of the steeple renovation will be \$54,200. At the special meeting held on June 5th, the plans for funding this repair were discussed; the following is the current status:

Ward J. Herbert Grant:	\$18,428.
Congregational Gifts:	\$10,400
<u>Capital Improvement Fund:</u>	<u>\$12,000</u>
Total:	\$40,828.

So, at this time, the project is roughly \$13,400 from being completely funded; additional gifts are always welcome. Any part of the project that is unfunded when we have to pay the contractor will be accomplished through the generosity of an anonymous parishioner who will loan the money to St. James' with no interest! The loan would be paid back over the next year using contributions made to the Capital Improvement Fund

THE MURDER MYSTERY is just a few short weeks away, Saturday, October 22. Be sure and put that date on your calendar. You will not want to miss it.

The steeple project is almost complete. If the rain holds off, it will be just a few days to completion. It looks great! We are still accepting donations to complete the funding. If you are able and would like to make a donation, there are green Steeple envelopes in the pews.

We have a special date coming up in November on Saturday the 5th. You are invited to a dinner to celebrate Cathy's tenth year at St. James'. Cathy's first service at St. James' was November 25, 2001 and her installation dinner was February 9th 2002. We hope that you will join us in a celebration of 10 years of ministry together. Please do not forget to RSVP by October 18th by emailing the church at stjames214@comcast.net or calling the office 908.852.3968. The cost of the dinner includes a wine and cheese reception, dinner and a gift for Cathy. To save on postage, invitations are in this Journal, being handed out where possible and the rest will be mailed.

There are a lot of new folks in the congregation, some we have not seen in a while and others that have just found St. James'. Welcome! Thank you for worshipping with us. If there is anything that you need, please be sure and let us know.



Invite a friend to church!

Barbara White
Junior Warden

Vestry Hi-Lites from the September meeting:

- Dan Miller will chair Planned Giving efforts. He has arranged for a professional to meet with us to explore options within the next two weeks.
- Veteran's Day Service will take place on Sunday, November 13, beginning in the early morning hours and extending through the worship times Sunday morning
- The Fundraising Committee turned over \$8,933 to the General Fund from the Tricky Tray
- The church database is now organized; it will be updated through the efforts of a Calling Committee during October.



October/November Dates to Remember

Saturday, October 1	Calling Committee Training Mitcham House 9:30 – 11:00 AM Yarn Twisters- Great Hall 9:30 AM
Sunday, October 2	Stewardship Sunday
Thursday, October 6	Calling Committee Rehearsal 7:30 – 9:00 PM
Thursday, October 13	Yarn Twisters Mitcham House 6:30 PM Theology and a Hot or Cold Drink Great Hall 7:00 to 8:00 PM
Saturday, October 15	Maintenance Morning 9:00 AM -12:00 PM
Sunday, October 16	Feast of St. Luke – Healing Service Backpack Program Celebration of Volunteers 10:00 AM Festive Reception in Great Hall 11:15 AM
Saturday, October 22	Mystery Dinner Great Hall 6:00 PM
Thursday, October 27	Vestry Meeting Mitcham House 7:30 PM
Saturday, October 29	Yarn Twisters Mitcham House 9:30 AM
Saturday, November 5	Celebration of Cathy's tenth year at St. James' Great Hall Wine & Cheese @ 5:30 and Dinner @ 6:15 PM
Thursday, November 10	Theology and a Hot or Cold Drink Great Hall 7:00 to 8:00 PM
Sunday, November 20	Bell Choir at Gethsemane Lutheran Church (Time TBD)

Parish Life Committee

The Parish Life Committee will meet Wednesday, October 12, at 7:30 pm in the great hall. You are welcome to contribute your ideas to this committee which organizes and coordinates parish activities, including our worship life. Our agenda is to plan the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. We will also spend time creating opportunities for fellowship and making plans for supporting the ministries of worship.

Your Mystery Dinner Invitation is on page 12 with RSVP instructions. Pete Hurak is ready and waiting to mail or hand over your information packet with participation questions and/or answers. All you need to do is to make a reservation(s) by October 14th!

Joan Knechel Memorial Walk

Wanda Smith and Barbara Olesen will be participating in the 9th Annual Joan Knechel Memorial Walk on October 16th in Mountain Lake. We would like to see St. James' represented and are looking for others to walk with us or sponsor us with a monetary donation. Contact either Wanda or Barbara at the following emails:

rwsmith@verizon.net or olesen@comcast.net

For more information or to donate to Team St. James', please visit the Joan Knechel Memorial Walk website at

<https://bos.etapestry.com/fundraiser/HackettstownRegionalMedical/jkmw2011/>

You are Invited

Backpack Program

Celebration of Volunteers

*The United Way of Northern New Jersey and St. James' Episcopal Church
honor the volunteers who feed hungry children through the Backpack Program*

October 16th

Worship Service 10 AM

Festive Reception in Great Hall 11:15 AM

stjames214@comcast.net

St. James' Episcopal Church

214 Washington Street, corner of Moore, Hackettstown

For ease of access, use Moore St. Entrance

The Calling Committee will be calling on you!
15 minutes of your time will help our community immensely
as we work to update the office database

The Parish Administrator and Rector have recently finished a complete overhaul of the office database, Church Management Software (CMS). This program keeps track of the church membership data, which has been maintained over the past ten years through a number of methods: your notification of changes to your information, address corrections from the post office, registration forms for activities, and the like.

In the past six months, we have discovered the power of the CMS system. In order to make full use of it, we must have an accurate database. We have assembled a Calling Committee, which will do the work of updating your household information. This can be done in any number of ways. The Calling Committee will have a database record for you (and your family) and will update the record with you. This can be done in the Great Hall around Sunday service times (space will be set up for this purpose), or at a time and place convenient to you.

An updated database will enable us to

- #1: know you!
- know your gifts
- help leaders connect with you in the way you prefer
- manage mailings to reduce office costs
- manage email to increase efficiency while maintaining privacy
- remember birthdays and anniversaries in prayer

Thank you for helping us continue our next 150 years of building community!

Calling Committee

David Bernauer + Ron Cipriani + Dave Handville + David Jenkins
 Pam Laura + Brian Nolan + Chika Okove + Peg Pfaff + Helen Wise

Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is October 4, St. James' Episcopal Church will bless the animals Sunday, October 9 at 4:00 pm in the Great Hall at the corner of Washington and Moore Streets in Hackettstown. Bring your pets and other furry friends to the service (leashed or otherwise restrained!) where each one will be blessed.

Please also bring donations of dog / cat food, old, clean towels, and laundry detergent, which will help local pet shelters to care for those animals not fortunate enough to have a family home.

Peg Pfaff and
 Ellen Infante
 with Shila
 Blessing of
 Animals, steeple
 renovation and
 rainbow
 Stewardship
 photos courtesy
 of Cathy Deats.



Stewardship

Watch the mail for your Stewardship packet! During the week of October 3rd, you will receive a very innovative packet to help you prepare for the financial stewardship decisions you are about to make. We hope you will find the "Narrative Budget" helpful, and the message from Janice Cipriani inspiring.

Our preacher for Stewardship Sunday is David Lacouture, who is deeply committed to St. James' as lector, former Vestry member, and all-around maintenance guy. Check him out at the last Maintenance Morning! (photo on page 11)

Cathy Deats
News for St. James'

Tidbits

What was St. Francis of Assisi real name?

Francis real name was Giovanni (John). His mother was French and he learned to speak the language at an early age. The people of his town nicknamed him "Francesco" (Francis) which means "the little French;" and it was by this name that he became known by his followers and the rest of us.

Godly Play at St. James'

The classroom is ready, the materials are in place, the teachers are excited to welcome the students... *Godly Play* has begun.

St. James' Episcopal Church in Hackettstown invites all children to its Sunday School program, *Godly Play*, which include a story, craft, and a feast. Preschoolers aged four through fifth graders will learn the stories of faith, do a lesson-related craft and share the "feast" with each other.

Coordinators Jennifer Howlin and Alicia LaForge lead the *Godly Play* program. It is not just stories of Noah, the Good Shepherd and the birth of Jesus. The children also take time to prepare food packages for hungry families at holiday times. They visit the House of the Good Shepherd to deliver valentines to residents. There is also fun for them: a Hallowe'en party given by the St. James' Youth Group and riding on a float in the Memorial Day Parade. Music Director Pam Laura teaches the children song and sign language. At Christmas and Easter, the children sing and sign their song during the worship services.



Photo: Alicia LaForge and Jennifer Howlin, coordinators of *Godly Play*.

The St. James' Yarn Twisters

The St. James' Yarn Twisters did an awesome job this year, completing 5 helmets, 11 Watch Caps, 17 Crocheted scarves and 16 Seafarers scarves as well as 13 Ditty Bags! Great job ladies! Two large boxes were shipped to the Seamen's Institute c/o Paige Sato, Program Director for "Christmas at Sea". All of these items will help some Seamen feel a little warmer and let them know they are appreciated as they sail the seas throughout the year and spend so much time away from their families and homelands.

We will continue to meet on a regular basis, however with the Holidays and dark nights approaching; we may want to think about meeting once a month. Please feel free to continue to knit and crochet at home as you relax between all the Holiday shopping.

The following items can be collected during the year. There is a blue plastic barrel in the Great Hall for donations:

The Sunday School program at St. James' meets at 10 AM in the Great Hall. Children may be registered at their first class. Classes meet every Sunday, except first Sundays of the month. Those dates are Family Sundays, when children worship in church with their families at 10 AM. For more information, contact the church office (908) 852-3968 or visit the website

<http://stjameshackettstown.org>

Cathy Deats

Sunday School Schedule

Throughout October, we have several fun lessons planned, as well as a Halloween party at the end of the month!

October 2 nd	Family Sunday – No Sunday School
October 9 th	Circle of the Church Year Lesson
October 16 th	Jonah the Backwards Prophet Lesson
October 23 rd	Creation Lesson
October 30 th	Halloween Party

We are always looking for more volunteers help teach and assist with the classes. If you are interested, please contact Alicia LaForge, Jennifer Howlin, or Kathy Lacouture.

Alicia LaForge



- Unscented, Hypoallergenic Hand Lotion (2-4 oz bottles)
- Sealed Packages of Holiday Sweets
- Books or Activities like Sudoku, word searches, or playing cards
- Facial Tissue
- Microwave Popcorn
- Chewing Gum

Our next dates to meet are as follows. Please note that all dates could be subject to change, so watch for emails from me.

Thursday, October 13th

Saturday, October 29th

Thursday, November 10th

Saturday, November 26th

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact me at frlbailey1@comcast.net

Linda Miller

Senior Choir "Notes"

October means that Advent is right around the corner and THAT means it's almost time to start rehearsing Advent and Christmas music for the Senior Choir!

It also means that there's another opportunity for YOU to have a "limited engagement" with the Anthem Choir! You can join us for the Lessons and Carols Service and/or for one of the Christmas Eve services (7 pm or 11 PM) or both Christmas Eve services. The more voices we have, the greater flexibility we have in allowing singers to just sing at one of the Christmas Eve services without reducing the sound and numbers to something unworkable.

If you would like to join the choir for one or more of these limited engagement opportunities, just let me know! You don't have to come to rehearsals until 8 PM or maybe 8:15 PM and we're done by 9 PM.

Look for a short survey asking you what it would take to have you join the Anthem Choir. Maybe it's a different rehearsal time or day, or maybe it's child care, or...well, we want YOU to tell us! The survey will be out in a week or two and we'll announce it in church when it's ready for distribution. So start thinking about that!

Youth Choir "Notes"

Youth Choir will begin rehearsals for Advent/Christmas in mid-October. Once again, we will take the rehearsals to Sunday School where we learn the music and also how to sign the song.

The Youth Choir will sing at the early service on Christmas Eve, and also, if the event takes place again this year, at the annual Story of the Nativity through the Arts program hosted by the Port Morris United Methodist Church in early December. Stay tuned for more information on that!

*Pam Laura
Music Director*

Bell Choir "Notes"

The St. James Multi-Generational Bell Choir began rehearsals on September 18. The choir was happy to welcome Marge Schafetz and Peter Bimbi to the choir. Returning members are David Bernauer, Jim Brndt, Roberta Brandt, Scott Carson, Meredith Firmin, Pam Laura, Dawn Modugno, Brian Nolan, Chika Okoye, Sam Olshan and Helen Wise. We are waiting to see if Kristen Carson will be able to rejoin the choir, based on her work schedule.

This fall will find the Bell Choir "on the road" several times – for the Christmas through the Arts/Program at the Port Morris United Methodist Church

Continuing Education for the Organist

Last year Sam and I attended the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) in Washington, DC. This year a convention for regions I and II of the AGO was held in Morristown from July 3 – 6. The Metropolitan Chapter of the AGO served as the host chapter, but welcomed help from members of other chapters. Since Sam and I were considered "locals", we were invited to assist at the convention, working Sunday afternoon as attendees registered, on Monday afternoon as guides to venues and on Wednesday evening as hosts at the closing service. It was great to meet so many local organists and choir directors and to play a very small role in the convention.

The convention opened with a wonderful worship service at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit. The Harmonium Choral Society participated and sang outstanding music with the highest level of musicality. Brian Harlow served as organist displaying his enormous talent and also the versatility of the organ. It was a wonderful and inspiring way to begin the convention.

Monday found us attending a recital by Carol Williams from San Diego, CA in the Presbyterian Church on the Green. Selections ranged from an Adagio by J. S. Bach to Gershwin tunes, Sousa marches and the Empire Strikes Back. That afternoon we attended a "Postmodern Hymn Sing" at the Church of the Assumption where we all sang music from many different cultures. What fun to listen and participate along with so many trained voices!

Tuesday and Wednesday mornings offered us the opportunity to hear the winners of the Regional Competition for Young Organists from the AGO regions I and II. I have great faith that the profession is in excellent hands when you hear the talent that is being developed.

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on December 4th. The Service of Lessons and Carols, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Montclair, will be on December 11th.

The choir has started to work on one piece and will begin on two others shortly in preparation for going "on the road".

If you are interested in joining us for any of our fall pieces, please call me at 732-807-3211.

*Louise Olshan
Director*



CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR THE ORGANIST *continued from page 6*

Tuesday afternoon saw convention attendees traveling to St. John the Evangelist Church in Orange for a recital by Eric Plutz, who serves as Princeton University Organist. Attendees then headed to Grace Church, Newark for a recital by Renée Anne Louprette, a very talented young organist who is on the faculty of Montclair State University. Her program included a mass by Guillaume-Gabriel Nivers (c. 1632-1714) sung by the Women's Chant Schola. Our travels ended at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, also in Newark. Selections ranged from Bach to Hindemith and Widor. The day finished with a delightful dinner at Don Pepe's.

We also attended a workshop on Nordic music which covered pieces of lesser known composers. We both enjoyed the workshop on Taizé worship. Thanks to the leadership of Phyllis and David Heistand I found that I was aware of much that the leader had to offer and really hope that we will again offer a service based on the Taizé tradition. We also attended a recital at St. Peter's Episcopal Church by Ken Cowen. Highlights for me were a piece by Healey Willan and one by Saint-Saëns. Wednesday afternoon we attended "Organ Recital of Organ Demonstrators" at the Morristown United Methodist Church. I had no idea what such a title meant and learned that the recitalists were playing pieces that can be used to teach people about the organ, hence the pieces they played were called demonstrators – demonstrations of the range of the organ.

The convention ended on Wednesday evening with a Hymn Festival at the Presbyterian Church on the Green, including brass and a festival chorus made up of singers from the choirs of several of the people on the planning committee. It was an outstanding finale for the convention. "The festival service honors the recurring

rhythm of Christian worship celebrations according to the historic order of their development in liturgical practice". For each day or season an anthem or hymn was presented. Many of the selections were accompanied by the brass group, Solid Brass. Again, this was an outstanding, inspiring, and educational worship experience.

I was so impressed with the quality of the organs in our area and also the beauty of the many churches we attended. I am not sure I need to travel to Europe to see magnificent artwork or hear outstanding instruments in churches. Much can be seen and heard locally.

As an extra, convention attendees could travel to Ocean Grove on Thursday to see and play the beautiful organ in the Great Auditorium. It was a special treat for us as we often hear that instrument but have never had a chance to be up close to it. Dr. Gordon Turk, Auditorium Organist, discussed the history of the instrument and played several pieces demonstrating the wide range of sounds that this instrument can produce. We were then allowed to peek around some of the pipes of this historic instrument.

I found attending the convention to be a bittersweet event for me. While I enjoyed the beautiful music that was offered, I felt both challenged to improve my playing or perhaps I should just "hang up my organ shoes". I think that I will continue to strive to improve my playing and not "hang up my shoes" just yet.

*Louise Olshan
Organist*

**Danskin Triathlon**

Rector Cathy Deats competed in the Danskin Triathlon to benefit Breast Cancer Research on September 11 at Sandy Hook, NJ. She says, "I love this tri because of the cause it supports and because it is 'user-friendly.' The competitors may vary in intensity, but there is a strong sense that we are a team working together to conquer breast cancer in our lifetime. Several members of my family had breast cancer, and there is no one in the St. James' community whose life has not been touched in some way by this disease." Husband and photographer Ted Deats caught this picture of Cathy leaving the water and heading for her bike. The triathlon was a half-mile swim, 12 mile bike and 3 mile run. She finished 1523 out of 1606 competitors aged 13 to 78.

"We welcome you into the household of faith . . . Henry Frederick LaForge"

Henry is the son of Fred and Alicia LaForge, and joins his sister, Helen Claire. Alicia is the co-coordinator of the St. James' Sunday School Program, *Godly Play*.



Fred and Alicia
LaForge with
Henry and
Helen on
September 25th

Fundraising Committee

The tricky tray was a huge success. We raised close to \$9000 this year! A huge success! The core of our committee, Anne Dutton, Barbara Olesen, Ellen Infante, Gerri and Pete Huryk deserve a huge thank you. They all worked for months preparing for this event, meeting once a week since July. Thank you to everyone who shared their time, talent and treasure before, during and after the tricky tray. Moving the date up a month to avoid all the schools was a big help. Our total for baskets was 242 including all three tiers and the specials. Remember to go to trickytray.com to vote for your favorite tricky tray.

Please remember to let our local community merchants know that you appreciate their support. A list of merchants that donated can be found on the bulletin board. It truly makes a difference when we start soliciting for other events. Just a thank you for supporting St. James' would be great. They do look for it.

To date, the fundraising committee has contributed \$14000.00 to the General Fund.

We are almost there. Over the next couple of months, we will have a few smaller fundraisers, Innisbrook Gift Wrapping, Sees Candy, and a Longaberger sale. Keep an eye out for more details on these opportunities, all of which make great gifts for the upcoming holidays. Support us if and how you can.

Barbara White

Tricky Tray 2012

Just when you thought you heard the last of the "tricky tray" until next year.....we're back! This is a small reminder that you can make baskets throughout the year. Keep your eye out when shopping at Kohl's, Wal-Mart, and CVS etc. for end of the season clearance items. Often, these items can be reduced to over 75% of their original cost. If each parish family was able to make a basket at the end of each season, we'd be in great shape next Fall! If you're not comfortable putting a basket together, you can purchase sale items and we'll be happy to make them into a basket. Thank you for all your support.

The Tricky Tray Committee

EfM

The Education for Ministry class gathered this past weekend for a retreat at St. John Baptist Convent in Mendham. Each year we start the year with a spiritual autobiography, sharing with each other the stories of our lives and how and where God has influenced us. This is usually done in the classroom over several weeks with the clock ticking away. It was a real treat to be able to meet overnight and share worship, meditation and meals together as we got reacquainted and heard the stories of our new classmates. The staff of St. John Baptist was warm and welcoming and the food was excellent. By the way, EfM also stands for Eating for Ministry. Thank you, Cathy, for arranging this for us.

Barbara White

EfM Retreat Reflections

The Education for Ministry Seminar Group began their new year of study with a retreat at the Convent of St. John Baptist in Mendham. We were welcomed by the Sisters and partially funded by St. Martin's Fund (which funds retreats). Each year, members reflect on their lives as spiritual journeys. In a spiritual autobiography, we shared with one another our individual journeys through life with God as guide. Here are some reflections:

Cathy

Michelle Perez-Vega: It was a time of bonding, to share and know everyone was accepted for who they were, not what we perceived them to be.

Eileen Malejko: The retreat was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about ourselves and each other and to celebrate our relationship with God. Through sharing stories about life, past and present, with each other we cheered for each other on our victories and cried for each other over our struggles and loss. This sharing of stories brings the class closer together and helps to join knowledge about ourselves and those around us.

Carol Novrit: After two weeks attendance at EfM class, I attended my first retreat. I found it to be a time of sharing, celebration and acceptance. On Monday morning, God helped me to know that whatever experiences I have, he is there with me, giving me his love and comfort.

Linda Ayres: I loved doing the spiritual autobiographies all together this year in the surroundings of the St. Marguerite's Retreat House. I was able to walk around and gain comfort from the Chapel and the beauty of the house. I really liked having everyone doing their spiritual autobiographies together because I felt like it allowed the group to bond right from the beginning, as opposed to having one or two people doing their biographies a week over a several week period. After the spiritual biographies were completed we ended with the Eucharist in the Chapel, and just made me feel really good. I hope we can do this again next year.

EfM Retreat photo is on page 11.



September 11, 2001: a homily by Rod Perez Vega

8:46 a.m. American Airlines Flight 11: 87 people killed
 9:03 a.m. United Airlines Flight 175: 60 people killed
 9:37 a.m. American Airlines Flight 77: 59 people killed
 9:37 a.m. The Pentagon: 125 people killed
 9:59 a.m. The South Tower of the World Trade Center collapses: 614 people killed
 10:03 a.m. After a valiant effort by the passengers to retake control of the flight, United Airlines Flight 93 crashes near Shanksville, Pennsylvania: 40 people killed
 10:28 a.m. The North Tower of the World Trade Center collapses: 1402 people killed

Among the dead:

8 Private Emergency Medical Technicians
 23 New York City Police Department Officers
 37 Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Officers
 343 New York City Firefighters
 2,977 people were killed that day, and all of us suffered a loss.

Many were never found, and all of us were diminished

Many were injured, and all of us were hurt.

Many gave their lives for others, and all of us wanted to give something.

Many worked to serve, and all of us wanted to help.

Many sought justice, and all of us needed to find meaning.

Our nation had been attacked, and we all felt vulnerable.

As pillars of smoke rose from Ground Zero, from The Pentagon, and from Shanksville; as we held on tightly to friends or loved ones, and as tears flowed from our eyes; Jesus' cry at the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"¹ -perhaps became our own cry as we may have felt abandoned by God.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 "took over all our attention and absorbed all our sensory and emotional power. The memories are vivid, filled with horror and righteous rage. The memories are so very present that at times it seems that 9/11 happened just yesterday."²

In the hours and days that followed the attacks, we started hearing of a new "enemy". An "enemy" that we could not see; an "enemy" that could strike anywhere at any time; however, we were told something about t

enemy" often did not dress like the rest of us, and always prayed differently. We learned that we needed to be on the lookout for "this enemy" that did not look like us. Words like Islam, Quran, Jihad, Muslim and terrorist, became part of our daily lexicon, often times all of them used in a single sentence; even when perhaps we did not quite understand what these words meant.

On September 11, 2001 we entered into an unknown dimension, a dimension in which fear (even if we denied it), vulnerability and mistrust became part of our daily life and routine.

Ten years later it is appropriate to ask ourselves the question, are we still in that dimension?

Personally, I cannot ignore my own biases; among them the fact that after 9/11, whenever I have had to fly, I stop to look around, searching, looking for the "other," "for the enemy", among the faces of my fellow passengers.

Collectively we cannot ignore the 4,474 fallen heroes of the war in Iraq, and the 1,746 fallen heroes of the war in Afghanistan. Just like we cannot ignore the thousands of casualties the "other" has suffered; and the thousands of grieving wives, sisters, sons, daughters, fathers and mothers on both sides.

We also need to ask ourselves: have we healed?

In today's Gospel from Matthew we hear of violence, we hear of justice and we hear of forgiveness.

When justice and forgiveness are absent; we encounter violence: a man holding another by the throat, a man thrown in prison; and man tortured until the entire debt is paid.

When we find justice and forgiveness; we encounter grace: a debt forgiven and family that remains together avoiding losing all their possessions and being sold. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a man who knows a thing or two about forgiveness, tells us that "forgiveness does not mean condoning what has been done. It means taking what has happened seriously and not minimizing it; drawing out the sting in the memory that threatens to poison our entire experience. It involves trying to understand the perpetrators and so have empathy, to try to stand in their shoes and appreciate the sort of pressures and influences that might have conditioned them...By forgiveness we are saying here is a chance to make a new beginning."³

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"enemy": it didn't look like the rest of us. "The enemy" we were told, came from faraway lands, "the enemy" had a different skin color and spoke with an accent; "the

¹ Mark 14:34

² Darlrymple, Timothy: Remembering 9/11 Have we made progress? In Patheos.com

³ Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Seekers Church: <http://www.seekerschurch.org>

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001: *continued from page 9*

We are then called to ask: what do we need to forgive? Who do we need to forgive? Who are we seeking justice for? What does justice look like?

We are called then to keep the "others" in our hearts and minds as we look for answers, both at the individual and the collective level.

And as we continue to search for answers to all these questions, we are called to keep in mind that from the first time we recite in our Baptismal Covenant the words "I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord," and henceforward, every time we say "Jesus Christ is our Lord," we are making a commitment to follow Jesus.

The same Jesus that when being arrested at the garden, restored the ear that had been cut off from the slave; as he said "no more of this,"⁴ no more violence; the same Jesus that on the cross said "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."⁵

And we must be extremely cautious not to interpret every other event of history, or every other event in our lives in the light of September 11, 2001. For as "Christians that sort of possessive historical exclusivism is permitted only in the ultimate light of the resurrection event, and not from the perspective of 9/11 or any other lesser event, no matter how momentous it may seem to our limited minds."⁶

Let us then go forth today, seeking healing and becoming healers; seeking forgiveness and forgiving; remembering that:

Everything is about nothing.

Everything ended with the sacrifice of Jesus.

All is consummated.

We are forever and always at the Last Supper, at the Crucifixion;

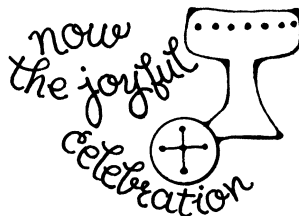
at the Resurrection.

Time ended with the tearing of the veil; and the rolling back of the stone.

The rest is an illusion and catching up.

There is nothing to be afraid of....⁷

Rod Perez Vega



⁴ Luke 22: 51

⁵ Luke 23:34

⁶ Wright, J. Robert "Comments on the Tragedy of 9/11 after Ten Years", The Anglican – Volume 40, Number 2 Spring A.D. 2011

⁷ From the anchoress at Patheos.com

A Place of Gratitude

When I came home from Heath Village's sub-acute rehabilitation facility, I was filled with gratitude for Dave's love and caregiving. I was filled with gratitude for the prayers of the St. James' community.

But, and it is a large "but", I faced the daily dangers of pain, fatigue and overdoing "it".

Then I read an article by Montel Williams in *Living with Good Days*, a publication of Chronic Disease Fund. Montel has MS. Reading his calming technique for stressful times could not have come at a better time for me.

1. Close your eyes.
2. Think back on a thankful moment in your life,
3. Take two deep breaths,
4. Open your eyes,

"I go to that place of gratitude," he says. "I go to that place of fulfillment and taking advantage of the small things." (*Living with Good Days*, page 6)

I go to places of gratitude and they open my heart, and to thanking God for all the love and blessings in my life.

Phyllis Heistand

Refresh
my heart  in
CHRIST
PHILEMON 1:20

Theology and a Hot or Cold Drink Returns

We'll resume on a monthly basis on the second Thursday of every month from 7 to 8 pm in St. James' Great Hall. Come join us for a time of fellowship, with an open and sincere discussion about controversial issues of our daily life.

During the next four sessions, we will be exploring issues such as:

October 13, 2011	Reality TV: reality or terrible fantasy?
November 10, 2011	Social Media: bringing us together or pushing us further apart?
December 8, 2011	The 24-hour News Cycle: helpful information or source of stress?
January 12, 2012	Faith and Politics: intimate relationship or an unsurpassable divide?

Rod Perez Vega




Left: David Handville
E/M retreat: Peg Faust, Michelle Perez-Vega, Eileen Malejko, Linda Ayres, Barbara White, Carol Novrit and Cathy Deats; not pictured: Linda DeLoreto

Tricky Tray 2011



Left to right: Rainbow Team - Ted Deats, Barbara White, David LaCouture, Greg Malejko; Rod Perez Vega and Pam Laura sell tickets; MaryAnn Simmons joins the crowd; Pete and Gerri Hurak in the kitchen at Tricky Tray; Announcers Pete and David Handville and runners; Mike Malejko sells 50/50 raffle tickets





**YOU ARE INVITED
To the
Feast of St. James' Dinner
And
Murder Mystery Party
Saturday, October 22, 2011
Wine & Cheese at 6:00 p.m. promptly
In the Parish Hall**

St. James' Church has gone Hollywood.

*Last years film of O.G.'s Roast has hit You Tube in a big way ...
Now Hollywood wants to make a Motion Picture of the Event.*

*Come join your Host, the Rev. Cathy Deats
On the Red Carpet as she greets our new stars.
Join the fun as O.G. Memorabilia is auctioned off ...
& be entertained by the Mystery Magician.*

**But someone is planning to commit mayhem
And possibly murder!**

**Everyone is a suspect!
Prizes awarded to the best super sleuths.
RSVP to church office by October 14th
908.852.3968 or stjames214@comcast.net**

Join the fun! Don't make alibis!

Inside St. James' October Journal

From the Rector • From the Wardens
Steeple Funding Update • Vestry Hi-Lites
October Dates to Remember
Parish Life • Upcoming Events
Backpack Program Invitation
Calling Committee will be calling on *you!*
Blessing of the Animals • Stewardship
Sunday School • Yarn Twisters
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Continuing Education for the Organist
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Fundraising • Tricky Tray
EfM Retreat Reflections
September 11, 2001: a homily
Theology and a Cold or Hot Drink Returns!
A Place of Gratitude
Mystery Dinner Invitation!
October Calendar

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:	Linda Ayres
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	

November Journal articles due

Sunday, October 23

Phyllis Heistand, Editor
Cathy Deats, News for St. James'
Rod Perez Vega, Homily and Tidbits
All the writers, reporters and photographers
David Heistand, proofreader and printer
Marge Ames and Heath Village team
Email pdheistand@comcast.net



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

stjameshackettstown.org

