

ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

THE REV. DR. CATHY L. DEATS, RECTOR

May 2012

Lord, teach us what we are to know, show us what we are to do to be your disciples.



Athletes have a place they call The Zone. It is not a diet plan. It is a state of being, an extraordinary place. In baseball, it's the place where you have no trouble getting a hit. Alex Rodriguez found it in the World Series. In

golf, the ball flies straight and true. Think Tiger Woods swinging a club so well that he once held all four major titles simultaneously. Think Mariano Rivera pitching his 600th save or Lance Armstrong winning his seventh Tour de France. All of these athletes found "The Zone," also sometimes known as "Effortless Present."

While these are all sports examples, the Effortless Present can also describe a spiritual zone – an experience of deep connection and harmony with God. We know that the early church experienced this zone of Christian living. As we make our way through the Book of Acts, we see that Luke recorded not only times of struggle for the early church, but also the times when everything seemed to work, when the church was truly acting as the body of Christ.

But how do we get there? As we learn to be disciples by studying the early church, there are two things we can learn from the professional performance world that can enlighten us: preparation and visualization. Research shows that the more you do something, the more the brain changes to devote its energy to that function. The more you practice, the more you can train your brain neurons to fire in a way that creates effortless mechanical motion. For example, professional pianists don't actually think about hitting the keys on the piano; instead, their brain neurons fire in areas associated with mechanical motion rather than consciousness.

Visualization can help as well. Simply imagining yourself doing something can light up the areas of the brain you'll need to accomplish what you have in mind. I was taught to visualize my triathlon before the starting gun: to see myself swimming, leaving the water, mounting the bike, lacing my sneakers for the run, and crossing the finish line. Think of it as a mental warm-up.

The early Christians *practiced*. They "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). They were people of the Word and people of Community. They knew that to find the Zone, they would need to learn the fundamentals so they sat at the feet of the apostles to learn. They were also people of Community. They hung out together, which was a source of strength, courage and support. They shared their material goods with each other. They ate together, prayed together and studied together.

The early church members also knew about and practiced *visualization*. Notice that the apostles and the new Christians spent a lot of time in prayer, not only as a community, but individually. For us, prayer in the morning can help us set the tone for the entire day. Prayer in the evening gives time to express thanks for God's grace. It allows us to review the day, giving space to confess and release our failings, and to recognize and affirm all that worked well

God has given us Jesus Christ. The Church has given us communities we call the body of Christ and our baptismal promises. This church community has just finished an extensive database update. Our current rolls list 387 households of all kinds: active, temporarily inactive, friends, visitors; basically, anyone who has been around in the last two years. Out of this group, there are 134 active households of 268 people. And yet our average Sunday attendance stands at 96. The 8 AM service tops out at 25 during the program year, the 10 AM at about 75, including the dozen children and teachers in Sunday School, and half dozen youth group members.

This is a vibrant, active healthy community. But we can do better at gathering for Sunday morning worship. We need to *practice* and *visualize* as a body. We have just received a gift of 100 Books of Common Prayer from The Bible and Common Prayer Book society. They were given to us because we are committed to worship and we are serious about worship. When asked why we were requesting the gift, I explained that we had simply worn out our current prayer books due to excessive use.

Liturgy is the work of the people, and it is where all our work begins. Liturgy is where Godly Play begins, it is where the Backpack Program begins, it is where our work in Appalachia begins, where Youth Group begins and where our study of Spanish to be more welcoming begins. I trust that our new prayer books will help us renew our commitment to gathering as a community in the Lord's name and renew our promise "to be faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of the bread and the prayers."

Yours in discipleship,

Cathy +

From the Wardens

Many of us have had spiritual journeys that brought us to St. James'. In fact, many of us came from traditions other than Episcopal but decided that St. James' is where we belong.

I was raised Roman Catholic and attended church weekly growing up. I attended CCD (Roman Catholic education) and youth group when I was in school. I enjoyed and took great pride in being Catholic. The message was clear however that it was the "only way".

Later I was married in an Episcopal Church, was received into the Episcopal Church by the Bishop, and became a member of St. James'. Yet sometimes there was still a part of me that could not reconcile my church experience as a youth and that of an adult.

There were times when internal whispers ask me questions like "is being Episcopal really legit?" or "is this really the right place for me?"

But then I learned of a few things that helped make the whispers go away:

I learned the Catholic Church has begun to trend more conservative, even to the point of rejecting or trying to rein in/control some of the very reforms I grew up with. I never thought the original reforms went far enough. Changes and challenges are dealt with head-on on the Episcopal Church and not dismissed. I believe a church should move forward in response to challenges, not backwards. To me, this is a more healthy approach and it matches my worldview.

I also learned about the very detailed and complicated process to "convert" to the Catholic Church (something I never needed to know). The whole process was a shock to me. I strongly identify with the welcoming nature of the Episcopal Church, which appreciates diversity and is accepting of all who wish to worship. As Episcopalians, we all take this for granted and it makes so much sense to us.

So I came to the conclusion that the Episcopal Church is indeed consistent with many of my values. It is very much "legit" and I should stop worrying and be at peace for the blessing that is St. James' Church.

Dave Lacouture

Vestry Hi-Lites From the April Meeting

- A committee will meet with commercial real estate agent to explore use of the lower level of the Parish Hall.
- The Summer Backpack Program planning has begun with Linda DeLoreto and MaryAnn Simmons as chairs; Carol Novrit is Vestry Liaison.
- Spanish as a Second Language Classes begin on April 30th and will proceed twice per week for four weeks.
- An All-Parish Dinner will be held on Wednesday, June 6th. Fellowship will be focused on our mission in the coming program year (the format and plans arose from the Vestry Retreat in March).



Reflection

I was ordained into the vocational diaconate on June 3, 2006 by Bishop Croneberger. The road to ordination was not without bumps. Since my early teens when I began to lose my hearing I was marginalized in the Episcopal Church. I was a "cradle Episcopalian" and loved the church but there was no outreach for a deaf person until I met a missioner for the deaf in North Carolina. He encouraged me to teach hearing people how to be inclusive.

When I first met Cathy Deats she was a professional sign language interpreter. She offered her services to me for speaking engagements and fundraising for the Deaf Contact Center. The DCC was a TTY/phone relay I founded at St. Dustan's Episcopal Church in Succasunna. Cathy encouraged me to attend Education for Ministry with her. Again she offered her interpreting skills. I ran a Bible Club for deaf children at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Mountain Lakes. Cathy was active in founding the group. By then Cathy had become ordained and was called to St. James'. With the encouragement of Cathy and Bishop Croneberger, I was able to hear and follow my call to become a Deacon.

Deacons are to interpret the needs, concerns and hopes of the world to the Church. Deacons are called to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and ministrations of God's Word and Sacraments. A deacon's life and teachings are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself. We serve as a bridge of information between the church and the world's needs. A priest is a model of leadership, spiritual responsibility and pastoral oversight. A priest has a teaching and preaching ministry.

As a deacon, I am under the supervision of my priest and bishop. My special calling is for the needs of differently abled people especially the hard of hearing, late deaf and Deaf. My liturgical functions include to set and clear the table (altar), lead confession, administer communion, administer healing and dismiss the people. I may also preach. Preaching is not my strong point! My call includes my ministry as a chaplain for the deaf patients at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital.

One of the special calls of my ministry is the ability to offer "Holy Communion by a Deacon". This is done from the reserved sacrament with permission of the bishop at the priest's request. I have

had the pleasure of doing this four times. Most recently was on February 5, 2012. I confess the first time was a challenge. The more often I am a servant in this ministry, the easier it becomes. It is a reminder of Christ's own prophetic role. Christ said "I am among you as one who serves."

It is a joy to serve at St. James'. My heart thanks Cathy and the congregation for allowing me among you.

The Rev. Sheila Shuford, Deacon

Fundraising

May starts off with the Rummage Sale on Saturday, 5/5/12. If you can help in any way please sign up in the Parish Hall. If you have items to drop off, we will be sorting on May 4th. Try to have the items in by then.

There will be a Pot Luck Dinner and game night. Pot Luck dinners are a favorite of mine. There is time to try all sorts of food and great fellowship. We will also be playing Bunco.

Bunco is a fun game guaranteed to make all smile and laugh. If you think of it, please bring a jar of peanut butter for the Back-Pack program. It would be greatly appreciated. Sign up sheet will be in the Parish Hall for the Pot Luck part of the evening. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Infante.

Our Golf Outing will be on Monday, May 21st. This is a time for Golfers to have some fun. Lunch and Dinner will be served. For more information about this event, please contact Dan Miller or Barbara White.

The Memorial Day Parade will be on May 28th. The Bell Choir will be our attraction. For those who want to join in the fun, we will be glad to see you.

The Fundraising Committee

PAUL AND PHYLLIS BARTKUS are two of eleven folks being inducted into the Hackettstown Senior Hall of Fame! They are being honored for their generous giving of time and talent to the Hackettstown community. Join the festivities at the Lackland Center of Centenary College on May 22nd at noon.

SHAVING MY HEAD FOR KIDS WITH CANCER

The reason that I shaved my head is for children with cancer: I did this so kids with cancer who lost their hair through chemotherapy would not feel so different



from other kids. Also, through St. Baldrick's I raised money (\$230) to help these children and their families. All of my friends thought it was cool, and they can't stop touching my head. There are two children in my middle school now battling cancer. I

have a friend, Michael Palumbo and a teacher, Mrs. Reynaldo, who also shaved their heads, as well as my Dad. I hope my example will lead even more people to shave their head next year.

Ben Edens

BELL CHOIR "NOTES"

The St. James' Multi-Generational Bell Choir will have a very busy month of May.

On **May 20**, the Bell Choir will travel to The House of the Good Shepherd to be part of the afternoon worship service. The choir will be playing three pieces.

On May 27, the choir will be part of the 10:00 worship service at St. James' at which time the members of the Bell Choir will be recognized for their dedication this current school year. The choir will be playing two pieces as part of the service. We ask that the congregation remain seated at the end of the service as the Bell Choir will be playing one of the pieces as the Postlude.

On **May 28** the Bell Choir hopes to participate in the Hackettstown Memorial Day Parade. The choir will be playing several different selections, including some patriotic music and possibly the song *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* from The Wizard of Oz.

Come and sing along. Enjoy a Hackettstown tradition

My very sincere thanks to the members of the Bell Choir for 2011- 2012. They have all been so willing to travel to various locations and participate in different events besides being part of the worship services at St. James'. An extra thank you to all who have helped carry bell cases, music books, foam pads, music stands and the table coverings to our various venues.

The ringers this year have been David Bernauer, Scott Carson, Meredith Firmin, Drew Lacouture, Pam Laura, Dawn Modugno, Brian Nolan, Chika Okoye, Sam Olshan, Marge Schafetz and Helen Wise. Please thank these choir members for all their commitment to the choir when you see them around. At Christmas Steven Bernauer, Katie Lacouture and Lori Kay Mattison helped out. Hopefully the playing of the Bell Choir added to your experiences during worship here at St. James'.

The members of the Bell Choir will soon be enjoying a well-deserved summer vacation. May the summer be a time of recreation and relaxation for each of you.

It is not too early to start thinking about joining in the fun of bell ringing for the fall. Let me know if you are interested. Any member of the Bell Choir will be happy to talk to you about being a member and I will be happy to get out some bells and show you what is involved.

Louise Olshan



Singing Choir News

Easter day is past now and we are looking ahead to the Choir Recognition Days on May 20 for the Youth Choir, and May 27 for the Senior Choir and the Bell Choir. All our choirs worked very hard to bring more music to our Holy Week experience. The Palm Sunday anthem, "When Jesus Came to Golgotha" recalled how easy it could be to simply pass Him by in our modern world. The Sr. Choir allowed the emotional content of that song to carry them to a wonderful performance. The Easter anthem, "Come, Ye Faithful! Raise the Strain!" celebrated our joy at the risen Christ. At the 10 AM service, this anthem was done by the combined Youth and Senior Choirs. the first time we've done this. Sadly, I had to miss that due to my mother's illness but I know it went verv well!

Speaking of Easter services, I want to thank Tanya Volkert for taking care of the Youth Choir on Easter Sunday when I was with my Mom. I heard Tanya did a fine job, which doesn't surprise me at all! I also want to thank Jeannette Hile for leading the Sr. Choir at Easter Vigil, and Louise Olshan for guiding the Sr. Choir on Easter morning and also filling in for me at the last minute at the House of the Good Shepherd.

To wrap up our singing season, the Youth Choir is preparing an old "Sunday School" hymn, "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" with sign language and the Sr. Choir is preparing a piece called "How Majestic Is Your Name" by Michael W. Smith, a well-known contemporary Christian singer. Louise has info on the Bell Choir pieces so I won't give that away here!

Pam

Thank You to my St. James' Family

Dear St James' Family,

I want to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, help and caring during the final days of my Mom's illness. Knowing you were all praying for her and for my family was a wonderful feeling and reminds me again of what a great community we have here!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Pam Laura

Yarn Twisters

The Yarn Twisters did not meet during April due to busy schedules. Our next meetings are scheduled for Thursday, May 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Mitcham House and Saturday, May 19th at 9:30 a.m. also at the Mitcham House; if we have a large group.



we can move to the Great Hall. We are hoping to send at least one container of completed items to Paige Sato at SCI later in the summer, so any items are very welcome. New patterns are available on the *Christmas at Sea* website ... www.seamenschurch.org - check them out!

Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome to contact me at 908-684-3566 or email me at frlbailey1@comcast.net.

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

- 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

Thank you,

Línda Míller



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Claudia Scala and David Handville, who will be married on May 17th in Jamaica. Their wedding rings were blessed as we prayed for them on Sunday, April 29th.

Maintenance Morning

Spring Maintenance Morning accomplished so much:

- Mitcham House sink leak repaired
- Mitcham House front door repaired

• Mitcham House screen doors installed

- Emergency lighting checked
- Light bulbs replaced in Great Hall
- Tiles replaced
- Paint touched up
- Crack at top of stairs repaired
- Installed shelving on both sides of sinks in PH Kitchen
- Continue finishing stainless steel table in basement
- Entrance to Lady Chapel repaired
- Repair panel behind Cross in church
- Repair torch on left side of altar
- Bring Good Friday cross from basement
- Planting of flowers in pots and porch boxes

And the saints who did the work:

- Dave Handville, leader of the work
- Cathy and Ted Deats
- Linda Ayres
- Dave and Drew Lacouture
- Dawn and Eddie Modugno
- Paul and Phyllis Bartkus
- Peter Gartelmann
- Greg Malejko
- Jayne Mutascio
- Sam Wood
- Linda and Nick Deloreto
- Michael Howlin
- Barbara Harris
- Barbara White

WATCH FOR THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN IN THE WORK AND FUN!

SUMMER BACKPACK PROGRAM

Plans are underway! We have applied for another grant from Sam's Club, United Way is gathering snacks and donations, and our leaders MaryAnn Simmons and Linda De-Loreto are organizing to collect food and arrange for



families to do pickups. (The Hackettstown High School Key Club has already donated snacks for our academinc year backpack program -- thanks to them!!) We will begin on June 30th and continue (tentatively) through September 8. Please watch for signups to help with all kinds of jobs from donating specific foods (peanut butter, tuna, cereal, etc.), working on the Saturday AM pickups as a greeter, "walker" (help people without transportation get food home), caller (phone work), and other miscellaneous jobs. Everyone who attends church on Sundays will be a food packer! We are looking forward to providing nutritious snacks and supplemental foods for children this summer.



THE BIBLE AND COMMON PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY gift has arrived!

We thank them and Bishop Mark Beckwith, who supported our request.

Note: We are working on sorting through the old books to see which ones are usable by members of the parish (yes, you can take one home!) or others. We are also compiling all the dedications which may have been noted in some of the books. These dedications will be preserved in another format.

Stay tuned for more news about this!

Honored for their Service

Perhaps the greatest strength of the St. James congregation is the tireless efforts of so many of its members. A genuine spirit of giving, compassion and love has become a trademark of the St. James community.

That giving spirit is ably represented by Paul and Phyllis Bartkus and they are being publicly honored for their service.

Word arrived in late April that Paul and Phyllis are two of 11 area residents who will be inducted into the Hackettstown Area Senior Hall of Fame for 2012.

Both Paul and Phyllis served as outstanding educators and have continued their meaningful contributions to the community through their work with Hackettstown Library, House of the Good Shepherd and, of course, St. James! Their efforts helping to organize the Christmas Giving Tree, twisting yarn and creating blankets for the Seamen's Institute or raising much needed funds through the Shop Rite card program are small examples of how Paul and Phyllis Bartkus live the Gospel on a daily basis.

Paul and Phyllis along with the other inductees will be honored with a gala luncheon on May 22 beginning at 12:00 Noon in the Lackland Center on the campus of Centenary College.

Congratulations Paul and Phyllis!

Jim Simmons

¿Habla Español?

Our Spanish as a Second Language class has begun and is fully subscribed! Fifteen eager students gather on Monday and Wednesday nights to learn the basics of conversational Spanish in order to be more effective and welcoming in the Summer Backpack program and in our everyday lives. Rod Perez-Vega is an awesome teacher. We love the way he teaches (sometimes we don't even know that we are studying!) and he always adds fun activities (like, "go and get me the _____," and Spanish Jeopardy!). The class is muy buena! (very good)



St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown

YOU ARE INVITED

to the

Ordination

into the Sacred Order of Deacons of

Rod Perez-Vega

Saturday, June 2, 2012
10 AM - Trinity and St. Philip's
Cathedral
608 Broad Street, Newark, NJ
Clergy: red stoles Laity: red ties,
jackets, scarves

Festive Celebration

St. James' Episcopal Church 214 Washington St, Hackettstown, NJ at 1:00 pm in the Great Hall

RSVP to church office by May 27th - carpools available 908.852.3968 or

stjames214@comcast.net

Bowling

Hello all! We have had some bowing outings and happily it has they been met with a lot of success. It doesn't matter if you are a league bowler or someone who bowls once in a while. We all have a great time between the bowling and the great food and service Oakwood lanes provides.

The price is \$15.00pp which includes bowling, shoes, pizza and beverages. Well, fellow parishioners, another bowling night is coming up. Saturday June 9th 5:00pm sharp! Is the time, and it takes place at Oakwood lanes Rt.31 in Washington. Whether you are a league bowler or just want to have a night out it is always a great time for all. Look forward to seeing you all there!

Life at St. James'



Committed to Worship and Building community









In Christ's Name

| FEAST OF THE PENTECOST 8:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM Youth Group | 8:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM CHILDREN'S SABBATH AND PARTY 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST | MOTHER'S DAY 8:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM Youth Group | 8:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM FAMILY BREAKFAST 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST | 29 8:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST | Sunday | |
|---|--|--|---|---|-----------|----------|
| 28 MEMORIAL MEMORIAL PARADE PARADE | 21 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 1:30 PM 4TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING | 14 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 7 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 30 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | Monday | |
| CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM) | CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM) | CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 12:00 PM SENIOR HALL OF FAME 7:00 PM EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM) | 6 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM) | CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM) | Tuesday | ~ |
| 30 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 23 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 16 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 9 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM PARISH LIFE | 2 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | Wednesday | MAY 2012 |
| 31 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:00 AM CLERGY BREAKFAST 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 24 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 17 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM VESTRY MEETING | 10 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED TODAY 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 3 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | Thursday | |
| 1 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 25 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 18 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 11 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 4 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | Friday | |
| 10:00 AM ROD PEREZ- VEGA ORDINATION 1:00 PM ROD PEREZ- VEGA PARTY | 26 | 19 5:30 PM BUNCO POT LUCK AND GAME NIGHT | 12 | 9:00 AM RUMMAGE SALE | Saturday | |

ST, JAMES' JOURNAL

May 2012

St. James' Staff & Vestry

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