



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

THE REV. DR. CATHY L. DEATS, RECTOR

APRIL 2013

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19-20)

This is God's message for Isaiah to bring to the people of Israel in their bondage in Babylon. God sends word to the people that they will soon be able to return to their home in Palestine. This will become, for them, a second exodus. Like the first one, a chance to escape captivity and travel across the desert to the promised land.

The beauty of this passage is not only the good news that the people are about to realize a dream they had carried since being carried away into exile some fifty years before. The deeper beauty for me is that God reaffirms God's commitment to work through small rather than big. He enters the world through a small family that grows into a small nation. The nation of Israel was so small and vulnerable that it was carted off nearly in its entirety – by its enemies – to Babylon.

To God, small is never insignificant. Small is how God has chosen many times to work in the world — through a single nation, or a single family, or a single church, or a solitary person or an isolated incident.

Anthropologist Margaret Mead said this: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Small is what enables us to serve God in a world that is not only desperately in need of healing and new life, but seems to be hopelessly beyond our help.

The Vestry of St. James' spends time in retreat every year. It helps us integrate new Vestry members just elected at our annual meeting. It gives us a chance to look back over the past year to see what has gone on here, and to look forward into

the future to see what challenges we face and what service we can do. We are led in our efforts by our good friend Peter Saros, who has worked with us over the past five years on parish development. We go to a beautiful quiet place, the Kirkridge Retreat Center. We have a building to ourselves, with bedrooms and a great room with a wood stove. We prepare and eat our meals together. We party some on Friday night with snacks and drinks, and sometimes conversation stretches into the small hours of the morning.

This year, Peter led us in an exercise in which we discovered something extraordinary. Contrary to the assumption that St. James' is just like any other church – 20% of the people do 80% of the work – we identified 105 people who are involved in one or more ministries or activities here. That means that of our 296 communicants, approximately 216 of which are considered "active" members, nearly one half of the people are doing the work of this parish. This is astounding news!

We also reviewed our accomplishments and activities of the past year. This yielded the normal long list of activities with one new quality: the great majority of our activity was focused on caring for others, especially children and those who are poor. This review has always made us feel good about all the work we do to make this place a place where the gospel is not only preached, but acted out.

We also faced an urgent problem in our future. In 15 months, the Building Fund will be exhausted. This is the fund which pays our mortgage. There was no mistake in our planning or preparation for our building project. 2008 happened, and no one could predict or control the economic realities of our times. We are dealing with this reality now, and the Vestry will create and begin to carry out a plan to address it. You will hear more about it as we continue our work, and we will let you know how you can join us in that work.

It seems impossible that we could increase the numbers of people actively working on our ministries. It is a huge task to find a way to fund our current \$60,000 per year mortgage in 15 short months. Our budget is balanced and appropriate, but there is little room for error. We are facing a very big challenge, and face it we will.

Now that we make our way to the Great Hall by elevator or a short walk, it is hard to believe that at one time our building project seemed overwhelming, if not impossible. The project which seemed almost too ambitious was actually the result of the vision of trying to be faithful to our call of welcome and hospitality. And that vision began as just a tiny hope in the hearts of the people of St. James'.

The Hebrew people were promised that God would do a new thing. God would honor their faithfulness and bring them out of bondage, out of their limitations and into the freedom of God's service: *"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not see it?"*

May we hear these words as if they are spoken to us:

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not see it?

Yours in the service of our risen Lord,

Cathy +

Journal Deadlines

please mark your calendars for
upcoming issues:

| | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| April 28 | MAY EDITION |
| May 26 | JUNE EDITION |
| June 30 | JULY /AUGUST EDITION |

From the Wardens

Lent and Easter are my favorite seasons of the church year: a time for prayer, mediation and penitence; a time to listen and a time for reflection. We immerse ourselves into the life of Jesus and listen, read and relive the stories of His last days. We are inspired by His teachings, awed by His healing grace, saddened by betrayal and overjoyed in His resurrection.

Many thanks and much appreciation to everyone who helped to make this season special!

Here at St. James' the inspiration of Jesus' teachings surround us in the ministry and mission that are at the core of our community. We are a community of doers, we respond to the needs of community and we make a difference. Our ministry and mission define us, it is who we are; it is what we do.

Your vestry is working on plans for funding our mortgage and continuing our ministry and we need your help. We have several options, including finding a partner to lease space both in the Mitcham House and the lower level of the parish hall and promoting the Columbarium. We invite you to share your time and talents to help us in this process. Speak to any Vestry member to volunteer.

Invite a friend to Church!

Barbara

Junior Warden

As some of you know, I was in a serious car accident last month. I T-Boned another car at 35-40 MPH on Route 202 in Montville when he crossed in front of me as he made an unexpected left turn. I had no time to react. My car was totaled, but thanks to my seat belt and air bag, I survived. I was quite shaken and sustained some deep bruises.

I had begun an extreme fitness conditioning program earlier that month to complement my running routine. That morning, I had worked out and felt great. I felt strong and confident...nothing could stop me... so I thought. Immediately after the impact, things changed. As I looked over the crumpled hood through the fog of the air bag smoke, I felt weak, vulnerable, and totally beaten. Within seconds, I was instantly transformed into different person and felt the lowest of the low. I had blacked-out, I hurt all over, was in a stupor, and my

Junior Warden...Continued on page (3)

clothes were bloodstained from a bloody nose.

But luckily for me, soon an angel arrived. He appeared in the form of distinguished looking gentleman in the uniform of the Montville Twp. Volunteer Ambulance Squad. He quickly put me at ease and reassured me. He was gentle, compassionate, patient and competent. At the same time he was upbeat, encouraging and funny. He smiled a lot. While he cared for me during our ambulance ride to the ER, he made me laugh and kept me talking (which was extremely painful but strangely made me laugh even more.) Being suddenly powerless was an odd and uncomfortable role for me. I initially hated it. But he made it "OK" to receive help. It was his time to give and my time to receive help.

At the hospital, I overheard him talking to the other caretakers and referring to me with the greatest respect and concern. When he left the ER, he rubbed my shoulder gave me firm handshake, a big smile and very sincerely wished me well. The impact of the encounter did not hit until later.

The memory of this "angel" touches me a great deal. I nearly tear up just recalling every aspect of our brief time together. I did not know anything about this man, not even his name. But to me, this man embodied everything good, dare I say Christ-like, that is surely in all of us. He showed me what is possible when we show our best qualities to aid others who are weak and vulnerable, and that it is sometimes necessary for us to receive, as well as to give, compassion and love. He was truly an inspiration to me and gave me a gift that I'm sharing with you.

Dave Lacouture

Fundraising Committee

Fundraising is off to a very good start. The St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner was very well attended, the candy sale was very successful and our first gift card sale has us very excited about its possibilities.

Our golf outing is scheduled for May 20th. Be sure to read Dan's article on the golf outing and the many ways you can participate.

A rummage sale is just around the corner, April 20th from 9am -3 pm. Please plan to help out if you can. If you have items for the rummage sale, please

place them downstairs in the Parish Hall. Areas are identified for sorting, your help in sorting donations is greatly appreciated.

Remember to place your orders for gift cards to celebrate Mother's Day,, Father's Day and graduation. This program offers us the opportunity to contribute to St. James' in purchases we make every day, like trips to Wal-Mart or the pharmacy. The purchase of gas cards through this program could potentially earn St. James' significant dollars and the cards are used the same as cash. For your convenience, there is a binder in the Parish Hall with a list of all cards that are available.

Thank you for continued support in all our fundraising efforts.

Invite a friend to Church!

Barbara

"it's more than the mortgage it's our ministry."

Easter 2013

Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! the Lord is risen indeed; Alleluia!

On this Easter, I write full of joy and admiration for our congregation which, like the little engine that could, has managed to perform outstanding feats of outreach in the community. Our recent Vestry retreat was an eye-opener in terms of understanding the dynamism of the St. James' congregation. While conventional wisdom states that 20% of the people do 80% of the work, at St. James' the case is very different. We have about 50% participation among the congregation, meaning at least 50% of the people in the St. James' community participate in at least one church activity. Most congregants participate in 2 or more! Our level of participation shows that the various ministries in the church are very important to the way we see ourselves as a congregation.

It is with that in mind that I write to ask for your help. As you may (or may not) already know, the Open Doors Parish Hall was built with the intention of expanding our ministry as well as accommodating the congregation. Great effort was put into planning

the funding of this effort, we all pulled together, and we now have a magnificent edifice for our hard work. We have expanded our ministry, but because of the economic crisis of 2008, our funding is on a somewhat precarious path. Once again we have to pull together to solve this problem. We need the time and talent that we know is available within our congregation to come up with and execute a plan to cover the church mortgage. This matter is of utmost urgency as we have enough to cover the mortgage for about 12 months.

Several suggestions have already been made, but since the Vestry does not have a monopoly on talent in this congregation, we are asking for your help. Most of the suggestions involve leasing the lower level of the church hall and the rooms in the Mitcham house to non-profit organizations which are compatible with our mission; however, we are open to other suggestions. We also need people to volunteer to be on committees to help develop a plan of action and then implement the chosen plan of action. Any plan will probably involve leasing and real estate, so if anyone is a broker, here is your chance to work for a worthy cause!

This is an urgent matter and it is not just about the mortgage. As Dave Lacouture said quite aptly, **"it's more than the mortgage... it's our ministry."** As we continue to do what we do, let us remember that we have to focus on making sure the mortgage does not get in the way of our ministry. St. James' has been through tough times before and pulled through, and I am sure that, with God's help, we can pull through this as well.

Peace,

Chika Okoye

on behalf of the Vestry of St. James'



[St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown](#)

Golf Outing



We're less than two months away from the 5th Annual St. James' Golf Outing. It will be held this year on Monday, May 20. As in the previous couple of years, it will be at Farmstead Golf Club in Newton, starting with registration at noon, golf at 1 PM and dinner to follow. Our golf outing has grown each year, and this event is shaping up as better than before.

The cost per player is \$125 which includes lunch, golf (with cart) and the awards dinner that follows. For dinner only, the price to join the fun is \$30.

If you don't golf or can't join us for dinner, there are other ways that you can help with this fundraiser. Tee sponsorships are available to parishioners for \$50. For commercial sponsors, the price is \$100. The Golf Outing committee is also busy soliciting for tee sponsors as well as prizes from local merchants. In the past, many local restaurants have donated gift certificates. Other golf courses have donated free rounds of golf. Merchants in the area have sponsored tees. If you do business with a merchant in the area and they know you are from St. James', let the Golf Outing committee know and we will follow-up with them.

Registration and sponsorship flyers can be found in the Narthex and in the Great Hall, as well as on our website. Contact Dan Miller, Phyllis & Paul Bartkus, Meg Critchley or Pete Gartelmann for more information.

Dan Miller



Seeking Treasurer

Please notify the Rector or a Warden (Barbara White, David Lacouture) if you have some skill and/or willingness to assist us

Vestry Hi-Lites From the Vestry Retreat

- ♦ the peace and beauty of Kirkridge
- ♦ accomplishments of 2012, especially outreach
- ♦ half of our members are actively working in our community!!
- ♦ warmth of the wood stove
- ♦ 2 AM conversation
- ♦ Dave L's breakfast casserole
- ♦ Peter Saros' gentle nudging
- ♦ sense of urgency about our mortgage
- ♦ new energy for the work ahead
- ♦ sharing the Eucharist

Your Vestry is ready to meet the challenges of the year ahead; watch for our news and how you can help.



You are invited to an
Education for Ministry
OPEN HOUSE

if you want to see what EFM is like,
join us for an

Open House Session

Tuesday, May 7th – 7 PM to 9:30 PM

*try the study, fellowship and food of EFM
at St. James'!*

RSVP emalejko@comcast.net

*What exactly do we do in EFM? We dig deeper into
the Christian faith, studying the Bible,
Church history and theological ideas and reflect on
connecting faith with life experiences.*

Maundy Thursday



Before the Maundy Thursday service, we had an Agape Love Feast. The feast was just like the one Jesus shared with his disciples on his last night with them. I had a reading part at the feast. It made me feel part of the service. At the service there was a foot washing just like how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. I played the bells at the service and helped to strip the altar. It was interesting to learn a little more about what Jesus and his disciples did before he was crucified..

Amelia Vitalos. age 9

Special Events Committee

1. St. James' Bowling Outing: Sat, April 13th, at 5:30 pm at Oakwood Lanes, Washington. Cost \$15. per person which includes 2 games, shoe rental, pizza and beverage. Please see Scott Carson, or look for sign up sheet in the Great Hall. Come on out for a fun evening!
2. Upcoming bus trip to Yankee Stadium: Stay tuned for the date! We will need to fill the bus (55 person capacity) to keep the transportation cost down. Details to follow as soon as date is determined.
3. Next Special Events Committee Meeting: 7 pm on April 17th in the Mitcham House.

Thank you very much,

Kathy Lacouture

Bell Choir “Notes”

The St. James’ Multi-Generational Bell Choir has had a very busy Lenten season.

The bells accompanied the Communion Hymn, *Dona Nobis Pacem* on Ash Wednesday at the 7:30 PM service and for each Sunday in Lent, except March 10. This was a great commitment on the part of the members of the Bell Choir. A very sincere thank you to all the ringers who shared in this work: Scott Carson, Meredith Firmin, Drew Lacouture, Pam Laura, Brian Nolan, Chika Okoye, Sam Olshan and Marge Schafetz. Some of these ringers even played every Sunday! Amelia Vitalos was unable to ring during Communion as she is in Sunday School. St. James’ is truly blessed to have such a dedicated group of ringers.

In addition the Bell Choir rang at the 10:00 service on March 17 and at the 7:30 PM service on Maundy Thursday. At both of these services the choir rang *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*. It is a very haunting piece and very appropriate for Lent, both in the words of the hymn and in the mood of the piece.

On March 17 the Bell Choir went “on the road” again. The choir participated in the 2:00 service at the House of the Good Shepherd. The choir rang the anthem that was played in St. James’ in the morning and also the St. James’ Lenten Communion hymn. We were most pleased to share our music not only with the residents there but with our own Helen Wise. We look forward to her return to the choir.

Once again some of the Bell Choir college students helped out. Tina Okoye and Sylvia Okoye were both home on Spring Break on March 17 and they both helped out with the ringing on that day. Thank you to both of you for sharing your time and talents with the Bell Choir. It is very much appreciated. Good luck to both young ladies and to their brother, Ricky, as they approach the end on their undergraduate careers and college graduations next month.

David Bernauer also helped out on March 17. We look forward to his return to Bell Choir following a grueling tax season.

The Bell Choir is now preparing to ring on April 7 when the bishop will be with us. Looking into the future, the bell choir plans to participate in the 10:00 services on May 12 and May 26.

The Bell Choir is still interested in participating in the Hackettstown Memorial Day Parade. However, we have not yet solved the amplification problem. Anyone with expertise in this area is asked to speak with Barbara White or myself.

As always, we hope that our ringing adds to your worship experience.

Louise Olshan

North Porch Bulletin

North Porch provides year round support

Every Friday North Porch operates a center from St. James’ Moore street entrance. Local families in need are referred by local or county agencies to North Porch for emergency supplies for their infants and toddlers. North Porch provides a week’s supply of diapers, formula, toiletries and clothes.

It costs a family about \$50 per week per child to provide their baby formula and about \$150 month for diapers and related supplies. Food Stamp programs do not include diapers. Government support programs allocate formula based on the age and weight of the baby but any variance by mother or baby (spills, spit-up) means the supply will not last the entire month.

North Porch currently needs: diapers (all sizes), especially newborn and size 6; Enfamil formula (concentrated liquid or powder); Baby Wipes and diaper ointments; baby cereal and food (all stages); zipper-type storage bags (1 or 2 gallon). We post our most urgent needs on our website or Facebook page. <http://northporch.org> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Porch-Women-Infant-Center/100889303289723#!/NorthPorch>. There are many ways to assist us including hosting baby showers and donating gifts to North Porch, or developing youth service projects. Please see Linda DeLoreto (North Porch Board Member) if you are interested.

**For Weekly Announcements and
what’s happening at St. James’ visit
our webpage:
stjameshackettstown.org
Check out the new calendar!
Sign up for email news!**

Music Notes

Holy Week/Easter Thank you!!

Yes! Thank you, thank you, thank you to all our musicians for singing/ringing at extra services through Holy Week: Sr. Choir, Bell Choir; Youth Choir, and to Louise for all her extra playing and rehearsing during this busy time.

All the music was wonderful and I heard many compliments on all the pieces! You all are the best!!

Senior Choir

We are wrapping up our preparations for the Bishop's visit on April 7 and looking forward to the rest of the Easter and post-Easter seasons. If you're thinking you might like to join us, there are still many Sundays left for singing! So come to the Mitcham House living room any Sunday at 8:30am!

Early warning: Choir Recognition Sunday is May 26 this year so please try to be available that day. We will continue to sing at the 10am services through the end of June.

Youth Choir

I have to say that I was thrilled to see 9 young singers on Easter morning! Thank you, parents, for getting them all to church!!

The Youth Choir will also be recognized on May 26 and rehearsals for their song that day will begin later in April.

Pam Laura



WHO ARE WE, REALLY?

Is it true that Episcopalians "believe whatever they want"? How are we different from the (Roman) Catholic Church? Are we Protestant or Catholic? Come and hear about where we came from and what we are about -- bring your questions! Sunday, April 14 at 11:30 AM in the Great Hall. Grab some coffee and have a seat for this fun and informative presentation!



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Saturday, April 20th at 9:30 AM

If you would like your child to begin to receive Holy Communion, please contact the Rector cathydeats@comcast.net. Children of any age are eligible, and we leave it to parents in conversation with the clergy to determine when their children are ready. The First Communion Celebration will be on Sunday, May 5th.

The **INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST** is a great opportunity for children of all ages to learn more about our celebration and why we do the things we do. Sunday, April 21st the Sunday School will join us at the 10 AM service to teach us what they know, and learn a little more about Holy Communion.

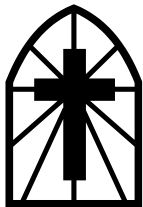


FINANCE MEETING Saturday, April 20 from 11 AM to 1 PM We will be continuing our work on streamlining our accounting systems -- can you help? A light lunch will be served (to tempt you!). We are also continuing our search for a Treasurer -- Assistant Treasurer and Chair of Finance Carol Novrit and Bookkeeper Ellen Infante will be your colleagues and teammates, and that is an awesome team! Contact the Rector or one of the Wardens (Cathy Deats, Barbara White, Dave Lacouture).

Life at St. James'








**Committed
to Worship
and Building
community**



In Christ's Name

APRIL 2013

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| 31  EASTER DAY 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:30 PM El Shaddai Church | 1 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 2 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 6:45 PM PRAYING THE BOX 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY | 3 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church | 4 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service | 5 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 6 9:00 AM SPRING GARDENING |
| 7 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:30 PM El Shaddai Church | 8 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 9 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 6:45 PM PRAYING THE BOX 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY | 10 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church | 11 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service | 12 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 13  5:00 PM BOWLING |
| 14 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM EPISCOPAL CHURCH 101 4:30 PM El Shaddai Church | 15 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 16 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 6:45 PM PRAYING THE BOX 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY | 17 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Special Events Committee Meeting 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church | 18 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service 7:30 PM VESTRY MEETING | 19 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 20  9:00 AM RUMMAGE SALE 9:30 AM FIRST COMMUNION CLASS 11:00 AM FINANCE COMMITTEE |
|  21 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 3:00 PM CONFIRMATION 4:30 PM El Shaddai Church | 22 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 23 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 6:45 PM PRAYING THE BOX 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY | 24 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church | 25 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service | 26 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 27  11:00 AM BELIEVE OUT LOUD WORKSHOP |
| 28 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:30 PM El Shaddai Church | 29 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 30 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 6:45 PM PRAYING THE BOX 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY | 1 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church | 2 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service | 3 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center | 4 |

ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

APRIL 2013

St. James' Staff & Vestry

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rector: | The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats |
| Deacon: | The Rev. Sheila Shuford |
| Curate: | The Rev. Rod Perez-Vega |
| Rector Emeritus: | The Rev. Clarence Sickles |
| Parish Administrator: | Linda Ayres |
| Music Director: | Pam Laura |
| Organist/Bell Choir Director: | Louise Olshan |
| Sexton: | Pauline Volkert |

Vestry

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Senior Warden: | Barbara White |
| Junior Warden: | David Lacouture |

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| David Bernauer | Carol Norvit | Ann Edens |
| Peter Gartelmann | David Jenkins | Roy Smith |
| Barbara Olesen | Chika Okoye | Ellen Infante |
| Vestry Clerk: | Jayne Mutascio | |
| Treasurer: | | |
| Asst. Treasurer: | Carol Novrit | |
| Bookkeeper: | Ellen Infante | |

Phyllis Heistand,
Editor Emeritus

Rod Perez-Vega, Editor
Linda Ayres, Production
Richard and Marge Ames,
Barbara Olesen, Worker
Bees



ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
214 WASHINGTON STREET
HACKETTSTOWN NJ 07836