

ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

February 2014

I feel honored to have an opportunity to write to you in the space usually reserved for the Rector. Cathy used this space to share with us her reflections on her spiritual journey as well as our shared journey as a church. I would like to use this space to do the same.

Cathy's departure has certainly been a jolt to us all. However, together we have proven it is not a crisis. If you have noticed, Sunday services and the celebration of the Eucharist, the representation of the sacrifice and the Resurrection of Christ, the core of our faith, has continued. We have celebrated the end of Advent, the birth of our Lord, and the beginning of Epiphany just as we always have in the past.

We have shared fellowship during coffee hour, in small groups, and during the Epiphany Feast. We have celebrated the life and said farewell to a wonderful and cherished member of our church with a funeral that honored her memory.

The Vestry has continued to meet its obligations. It passed a 2014 budget and has met with the Canon to become educated about our options and next steps for clergy leadership. The bills are getting paid, offerings are getting credited, and pastoral needs are being cared for. We are planning for mission and ministry like we always have because that is who we are as a church. Surely God expects this of us.

Yet, I'm sure that a degree of uncertainly and some anxiety remains among many people in our parish. I must admit the first few weeks after Cathy announced her departure, I suffered persistent anxiety and sleepless nights. That additional stress made the pain from my car accident almost unbearable, (just when I was feeling better too).

But it is natural. Books and articles have been written to help churches in transition. If you do a search, you will discover websites and organizations dedicated to this topic. Even the Episcopal Diocese of Newark has many on-line resources which are available to anyone, and copies of which have been provided to Vestry.

But since those early weeks, I have gained a renewed strength and confidence in our direction, process and perseverance (even my neck feels better). What has made me more positive? Well, it's been all of **YOU**. Bit by bit over the past several weeks I have seen individuals and groups pull together in order to remain committed to who we are, what have started and what we are called to do. It has been amazing to watch, and the leadership is still emerging as people step-in to fill voids.

This is not to say we will not be challenged in nearly every way possible in the upcoming months. As we begin our discernment process to identify, together as a church, a priest who we hope to call (and who will be called to us) while striving to fulfill our mission and ministry, we will no doubt be challenged. But to be honest, as Christians we are challenged daily; it is what God expects of us and what defines us.

The Wardens and Vestry are committed to doing the best we can to be transparent and communicate updates and news. We are not experts. Many of us have jobs, family commitments, outside interest and obligations just like you but we are committed to do our best with diligence, hard work and faith.

May God Bless You and St. James' Church

David Lacouture

Vestry Hi-Lites January Meeting

The Vestry met on January 16th:

- + 2014 budget was passed
- + Prepared slate for Annual Meeting
- **+** Transition Team to be formed
- + Vestry Retreat to focus on discernment

From Your Vestry...

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Finding the Next Priest

A few Sundays ago the Canon of the Diocese of Newark, The Rev. Canon Gregory A. Jacobs, came to speak to St. James' Vestry regarding the process of replacing our rector. There are several stages that a congregation has to go through in order to determine who will be placed in a particular parish. This process is known as discernment; as filling a rector's position is not like replacing an employee, it involves something much deeper. It requires discernment. The first step in discernment involves the vestry arranging for a supply priest, a priest who temporarily takes care of services and any pastoral duties or special services while more permanent arrangements are made.

The next step would be initial ministry discernment which involves identifying short term goals and priorities of the church. This stage is necessary so that the vestry can, with the help of the congregation, be more specific about what is required of a new priest. This stage makes the diocese aware of what the parish is looking for in a priest so that an appropriate appointment can be made and an interim priest or priest-in-charge can be appointed by the Bishop. The third step would be the discernment of clergy ministry during the transition. At this stage the Bishop appoints a priest to help the congregation through the transition from old priest to a new permanent priest.

Congregations have two options when it comes to priests during the transition period. They can have an interim priest or a priest-in-charge. An interim priest is an agent of change but does not work to be disruptive or solve any existing problems. The interim priest maintains the status quo. An interim priest cannot become the permanent priest of the parish. This would be the ideal transition clergy for a parish that is vital and financially stable, with very little conflict. A priest-in-charge is a priest that comes into a parish that has significant issues that need to be resolved. Such a priest will provide leadership and guidance and works with the vestry to confront major issues facing the congregation. The priest-in-charge can be an option for permanent priest of the parish he/she is serving. Both options are appointments by the Bishop but require the vestry and congregation providing adequate information as a guide to the appropriate appointment. An interim priest is usually an appointment of between 12 and 18 months while the priest-in-charge is a longer term appointment that can last up to 3 years.

The Canon was very informative and understanding of the fact that this transition and discernment process can be overwhelming, but there are systems in place that help bring the process to a suitable conclusion. We are thankful to the Diocese for all their help. The vestry asks that the congregation come forward with their concerns and suggestions as we are all in this together. For us to get the next priest we need input from everyone. As we continue our search we pray for earthly and heavenly help.

Chika Okoye

St. James Vestry

WELCOME OUR SUPPLY PRIEST!

We warmly welcome The Rev. Elizabeth Myers to our Altar to provide liturgical leadership during the transition from Fr. Boyle's departure to the calling of an Interim Priest. Betsy will be with us through the end of February. You may remember her as our Supply Priest during Cathy's sabbatical-we are so happy to have her with us again!

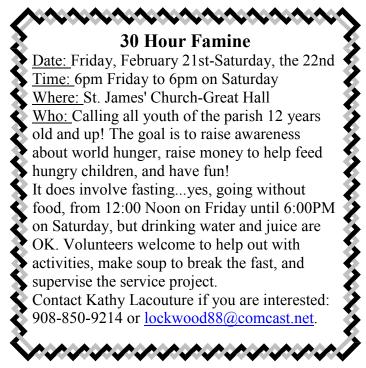
Invitation to Join Transition Team

As we are all learning, transition is an important time in the life of a parish. It can be a time of anxiety, uncertainty and opportunity. Ensuring the good health of the parish and clergy, so that this time is life-giving and positive, is important. The Vestry is therefore seeking 4-8 persons who may want to serve as members of a "Transition Team" who would facilitate good communications among members of the church.

The Transition Team who would serve exclusively during this time of transition. The Transition Team is not the Search Committee (this will be formed after the church's self-study process). Instead, the Transition Team will make themselves available to listen to concerns expressed by members of the church and serve as a calming empathetic voice. The Transition Team will help enhance and enable communications that encourage conversations and reach out to those who may have moved toward the margins or become disenfranchised. Through their listening, they serve to sense what needs need to be addressed during the transition phase and channel this vital information back to the Vestry. The Transition Team may also work with the Search Committee in the gathering of self-study information.

They may also assist the new rector and their family to become oriented to the community. A member of the Vestry may serve on the Team or a member of the Team will attend Vestry meetings to report on their work.

If you are interested in serving on this team or you want more information contact Dave Lacouture at 973-477-3604 or lockwood88@comcast.net.



The St. James' Fund Raising Committee (FRC) meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6PM in the Mitcham House. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 12th at 6 PM.

Fundraising Report

Lia Sophia-Thanks to Linda Deloreto for her donation of \$90 to the FRC for the jewelry event! Please see Linda if you would like to buy Lia Sophia or host a party.

Scrip Pro-Thanks to your participation in ordering gift cards, the FRC was able to raise \$911.85 in 2013! The next orders are due on Feb 9th.

Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner is scheduled for March 4th. Watch for details.

We are considering having a Rummage Sale some time this spring. Please contact the FRC if you have donations.

Thanks for your support in our fundraising efforts!

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING-Sunday, February 9 ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 9 AM Followed by Annual Meeting at 10:30 AM

Bell Choir "Notes"



While I am looking ahead and starting to plan music for Lent through June, I want to share with the congregation of St. James' the many activities of the Multi-Generational Bell Choir in December and January.

Friday, December 6, Hackettstown Tree Lighting

While the evening was rainy, the sponsoring organization made arrangements for us to ring in the firehouse down the street from church. We were honored that they were so interested in our participation that they found a way for us to ring out of the rain. Many thanks to those members of St. James' who stopped by to hear us – Peter Huryk, and Colette, Olivia, and Mylene Clark. We very much appreciated your support. I apologize if I missed anyone else who came out that evening. Several non-St. James' folks stopped in and some thought we were from Trinity United Methodist Church. I was quick to hand them our song sheets which included information about St. James'. Thanks to Linda Ayres for helping to produce the song sheets. The ringers that evening were Pam Laura, Chika Okoye, Sam Olshan, Marge Schafetz, Amelia Vitalos and Melissa Vitalos.

Sunday, December 8, Final Service of Cathy Deats at St. James'

Ringers that afternoon were Scott Carson, Pam Laura, Drew Lacouture, Brian Nolan, Meredith Nolan, Chika Okoye, Marge Schafetz and Amelia and Melissa Vitalos.

Sunday, December 22, 10 AM Service at St. James'

Ringers for that service were David Bernauer, Pam Laura, Drew Lacouture, Brian Nolan, Meredith Nolan, Chika Okoye, Sam Olshan, Marge Schafetz and Amelia and Melissa Vitalos.

Sunday, December 22, Donaldson Farm Market, 1 – 3 PM.

We enjoyed seeing Cindy Nolan with grandchildren Julianna and Michael Fox and also former St. James' member Patti Worthington. Both Patti and her husband Russ had been bell ringers at St. James'. Thanks to these folks for coming out to support us. We appreciate that they took time to join with us that afternoon. Santa was present and several children who came to see Santa were fascinated by the bells. Ringers that afternoon were Chika Okoye, Brian Nolan, Meredith Nolan, Sam Olshan and Marge Schafetz.

Christmas Eve, 4:30 PM

The bells rang the Introit. Participating were Drew Lacouture, Katie Lacouture, Pam Laura, Amelia Vitalos and Melissa Vitalos.

Christmas Eve, 7 PM

The bells rang the Introit and the Gradual. Ringers were Steven Bernauer, Drew Lacouture, Katie Lacouture, Pam Laura and Marge Schafetz.

Bell Choir...Continued on page (5)

Bell Choir...Continued from page (4)

Christmas Eve, following the 7 PM service, at the Okoye Home

Steven Bernauer, David Bernauer, Chika Okoye, Sylvia Okoye, Tina Okoye and Marge Schafetz rang bells at the Okoye home. Several neighbors and friends were present and sang along. Former St. James' members Pat and Richard Hawkins were in attendance and rang in some of the carols with us. Both Pat and Richard had been in the St. James' Bell Choir.

Sunday, January 12, House of the Good Shepherd, 2 PM

Once again the Bell Choir went "on the road" sharing their Christmas music with others. The Bell Choir played at the service which is held each Sunday. Ringers were Scott Carson, Drew Lacouture, Pam Laura, Brian Nolan, Meredith Nolan, Chika Okoye and Marge Schafetz. While my husband Sam was not ringing, he was once again instrumental in making sure all the necessary bells and other items were safely delivered to the House of the Good Shepherd and returned to St. James'. Many thanks to the Bell Choir members who assisted with this.

The Bell Choir had planned to participate in the Service of Lessons and Carols at St. Luke's Church, Montclair, on Sunday, December 15. Because the weather was quite bad and some ringers were snowed in, the choir did not make the trip to Montclair.

St. James' is so very fortunate to have this group of dedicated musicians, who ring not only at services at St. James' but who are also willing to travel and spread the Good News to others.

A very sincere thank you to each ringer for wonderful music in December and January.

Helen Wise had been a faithful ringer for many years. For 2013 she was "on leave" because of an illness, but we were so pleased that she was able to hear us at the House of the Good Shepherd last winter and again this Christmas season at the 4:30 PM Christmas Eve service. And now we rejoice in the memories that we have of Helen, her deep faith, her dedication to the St. James' music program, and her love of family and friends. She will be missed by all of us in the Bell Choir.

The choir will be enjoying some well-deserved rest time while I am on vacation. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, February 16.

Want to join us? Come to a rehearsal to see what we do and how we do it, give me a call and we can talk about ringing, or speak with any member of the Bell Choir. We would love to have folks join us!

Journal Deadline

MARCH EDITION: February 16th



St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown



Music Notes – February 2014

Senior Choir

The Choir has been guiet lately in the post-Christmas time but we continue to rehearse and meet with an eye towards Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. It seems far away now, but it will be here before we know it!

The Choir participated in Helen Wise's funeral service on Jan. 18, singing "Abide With Me" during Communion. We have missed Helen's voice over this past year and will continue to miss her. Helen's Mass Card is now in the frame hanging near the bottom of the stairs to the Choir Loft. She joins previous members Bob Ayres, Steve Orokos, and Meredith Moody, all of whom left us too soon, as did Helen.

We do continue to look for more members. Our rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 8:30am and we meet in the Mitcham House living room. Attendance every Sunday is not required. The ability to read music is also not required - if everyone read music we'd hardly need to rehearse! Instead, we try to have at least 4 rehearsals of a piece before we sing it so there's time to learn the music. We can sing downstairs in the Church to accommodate those who cannot do the stairs to the choir loft -we're very flexible! So, please consider joining us! We're a great group!

Youth Choir

Our Youth Choir is part of our Sunday School program. The children will be singing at the 10am Easter service and will start rehearsing for that in late February or early March.

Other Music

Don't forget your Birthday Hymns! You can fill out a Birthday Hymn form and either give it to me or put it in the collection plate and it will get to me! I will try to get it into the music on a Sunday as close to your birthday as possible, as long as your hymn is liturgically correct for that date. If it's not, (e.g. a Christmas hymn but your birthday is in Lent), then I will include your hymn during its liturgical season.

> Lift your hearts up to the Lord.....with music! Pam Laura

A NOTE ABOUT COUNTING...

Counters prepare a deposit ticket for each account (General Fund, Building/Capital Fund). It would be helpful if you could write separate checks for each account. It is difficult to take a single check written out for both accounts and split it correctly in order that you are credited for the proper fund. Please consider writing a check for each account you are donating to. Thanks for your consideration.....the Counter's of St. James'

Prayer Ministry

St. James' has an active prayer ministry in which pray-ers lift up prayer requests in their own personal devotions. They are open to receiving prayer requests and thanksgivings from anyone; the pray-ers hold your requests in confidence. Please forward requests Barbara Olesen at Olesen@comcast.net; you may also wish to join us as a pray-er; please speak with Barbara to get started.

"When Prayers go up...

Blessings come down."

The St. James'



Whispers from the Library...

Anyone in the St. James' family who had the privilege of knowing Phyllis Heistand knew that she was a woman of courage and deep faith. Her passing has left a void in our community. However, due to the generosity of Phyllis' loving husband, Dave Heistand, we continue to have Phyllis' prayerful spirit available to us.

Dave has donated to St. James' much of the spiritual library that helped to sustain Phyllis and it is now a vital component of the St. James' Library housed in the Great Hall. From commentaries on the books of the Bible to stories of courageous women and their search for meaningful, spiritual lives to the contemplative reflections of Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen, Phyllis possessed a diverse and enriching array of spiritual reading.

I would like to thank Dave for sharing this treasure trove of insightful and inspiring literature with all of us and invite each of you to peruse the selections. I am confident you will find a small part of Phyllis' heavenly legacy on those shelves.

Peace.

Jim Simmons

The School Year Backpack Program Needs Your Help The school year backpack program gets and delivers ready-made snacks for the children's backpacks. They also leave behind loose items п for the nurse to hand out as needed. The nurse is in need of more loose items. The list below is what is needed: п cheese/crackers snack packs * Gummies * fruit drinks * Pretzels * cheese-its * Chips * any real fruit that doesn't get mushy * iuice * п We can send children home with the following things but they probably won't be useful in the school building because of limited resources: Ramen noodle soup mac & cheese applesauce Thanks for your help!

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Stewardship Pledges are due - please place them in the offering plate. Many thanks to those who have already sent in their pledges!

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Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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





It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Helen Ruth Westmacott Wise on January 13, 2014. She was a faithful and devoted member of St. James' and active in both the Sr. Choir and the Bell Choir, as well as a Lay Eucharistic Minister.

A celebration of her life,

led by the Rev. Elizabeth Myers, was held in the Sanctuary of St. James' on Saturday, January 18th. She was the mother of Jennifer Wise Howlin, mother-in-law of Michael Howlin, and grandmother to Dylan, Emma and Daniel. She will be sorely missed by her family and all who knew her.

> A rose grew where all could see Sheltered beside a garden wall. As the days passed swiftly by, It spread its branches straight and tall...

> One day, a beam of light shone through A crevice that had opened wide ~ The rose bent gently toward its warmth Then passed beyond the other side...

> Now, you who deeply feel its loss, Be comforted ~ the rose blooms there ~ Its beauty even greater now, Nurtured by God's own loving care.

> > ~Author Unknown~



OPEN YOUR HEART PAJAMA PROGRAM

"Share your love with children in need."

A Pajama Program Contribution Drive will be held in Hackettstown, for the 5th year, to benefit the New Jersey Chapter of the Pajama Program, a 501c3 nonprofit that provides new, warm sleepwear and new, nurturing books to children in need. The drop off site is Trinity United Methodist Church, Main Street, from Sunday, February 9th until Saturday, February 15th during the hours of 11am to 6pm. Sizes needed range from newborn to adult medium, as the program serves children aged newborn through teens.

The Pajama Program has given more than 2 million pairs of pajamas to children in need. Last year Hackettstown collected more than 330 new pairs of pajamas and more than 120 new books for needy children in Warren County.

Since Valentine's Day, February 14th, is a day of love, it seems appropriate to focus our local drive on this day. Pajamas and books are on sale at clearance prices in many local retail stores, making it easy to give at this time of year.

This year the pajamas and books collected will be distributed to the children in Warren County. Tax-deductible checks are also welcome, made payable to Pajama Program, NJ Chapter. Individuals, families, groups and organization are encourage to donate.

For more information, visit the Pajama Program International website:

<u>www.pajamaprogram.org</u> or call Shari Boggs at 908-684-8102.

Isaac Quelly -Congratulations on your Eagle Scout project for Washington Boro Recreation!



Kathy and Jim Jacoby-Blessing of a civil marriage Dec 1st!





Alica LaForge reads to the Sunday School children during their Halloween event!



Thanks to Paul and

Phyllis Bartkus for

Giving program which enables parish-

ioners to donate

organizing the Tree of

Christmas gifts to low -income families!

Cathy's Farewell Dinner pictures, courtesy of Brian Nolan



20 December 2013

Dear members and friends of St. James',

Ted and I are now in our home in Raleigh, NC. It is an adventure of finding our way around a new community, unpacking boxes (only some of which are labelled), and new internet service with a rough startup. On the blessing side: while my trip from NJ on Saturday was propelled by blowing snow, it is in the 50s and sunny here.

First, I would like to thank you all for the spectacular send-off you gave me. From the liturgy to the dinner to the most generous purse, your graciousness and care for me were clearly communicated. I know how much work went into such a day, and in the face of the transition we knew was to come, it is especially appreciated.

My transition and yours arise from the same event; they have some clear differences and some similarities. I am leaving and you are staying. It was my decision to leave, not yours.

But both you and I are facing grief at the loss of each other. This transition will have an impact on our lives. There will be a period of struggle and disorientation. There will be times of great joy as we each figure out new ways to do things and to live into our commitment to Christ and community.

The message of this season - *Emmanuel*, God with us - is the good news in the face of loss and change. God is with us, not just as a kindly teacher, parent or friend. God Is with us in the flesh, having known every emotion and every challenge we have faced, are facing, and will face.

And so I wish you the blessings of this season, with grace to see God being born into your life and in the life of the St. James' community. Please know that as the days unfold into the new year, you are in my prayers. The love and care you have shown me in my twelve years with you will be with me forever, and I pray my love will stay with you all.

In the love of Christ,

Cathy+

The Rev. Dr. Cathy Deats has been called as Interim Rector of Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount, NC. She describes the parish as "warm and welcoming, just like St. James'."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL 9:00 AM FAMILY BREAK- FAST 10:00 PM Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 4:30 PM EI Shaddai Church	3 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan</u> <u>Bereavement Center</u>	4 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan</u> Bereavement <u>Center</u> 10:00 AM <u>Literacy</u> <u>Tutoring</u>	5 8:30 AM <u>BACKPACK PROGRAM</u> 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan Bereavement</u> <u>Center</u> 7:30 PM <u>El Shaddai Church</u>	6 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan</u> Bereavement Center	7 <u>Quinlan</u> <u>Bereavement</u> <u>Center</u>	8 10:00 AM <u>VITA Tax</u> Preparation
9 8:30 AM <u>SENIOR CHOIR</u> <u>REHEARSAL</u> 9:00 AM <u>Holy Eucharist</u> 10:30 AM <u>ANNUAL PARISH</u> MEETING 4:00 PM <u>EFM - EDUCATION</u> EOR MINISTRY 4:30 PM <u>EI Shaddai Church</u>	10 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan</u> <u>Bereavement Center</u>	11 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan</u> Bereavement <u>Center</u> 10:00 AM <u>Literacy</u> <u>Tutoring</u> 2:00 PM <u>VITA Tax</u> <u>Preparation</u>	12 8:30 AM <u>BACKPACK PROGRAM</u> 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan Bereavement</u> <u>Center</u> 6:00 PM <u>FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE</u> 7:30 PM <u>EI Shaddai Church</u>	13 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan</u> Bereavem <u>ent Center</u> 6:00 PM <u>VITA Tax</u> Preparation	14 8:30 AM <u>Joseph</u> <u>Quinlan</u> <u>Bereavement Center</u>	15 10:00 AM <u>VITA Tax</u> Preparation
16 JOURNAL DEADLINE! 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 4:30 PM EI Shaddai Church	17 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan</u> <u>Bereavement Center</u>	18 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan</u> <u>Bereavement Center</u> 10:00 AM <u>Literacy</u> <u>Tutoring</u> 2:00 PM <u>VITA Tax</u> <u>Preparation</u>	19 8:30 AM <u>BACKPACK PROGRAM</u> 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan Bereavement</u> <u>Center</u> 7:00 PM <u>SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE</u> 7:30 PM <u>EI Shaddai Church</u>	20 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 6:00 PM <u>VITA Tax</u> Preparation 7:30 PM <u>VESTRY</u> MEETING	21 8:30 AM J <u>oseph</u> <u>Quinlan</u> <u>Bereavement</u> <u>Center</u> 12:00 PM <u>30 Hour</u> <u>Famine</u>	22 12:00 AM <u>30 Hr.</u> <u>Famin</u> e
23 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM <u>SENIOR CHOIR</u> <u>REHEARSAL</u> 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY	24 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan</u> <u>Bereavement Center</u>	25 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan</u> Bereavement <u>Center</u> 10:00 AM <u>Literacy</u> <u>Tutoring</u> 2:00 PM <u>VITA Tax</u> Preparation	26 8:30 AM <u>BACKPACK PROGRAM</u> 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan Bereavement</u> <u>Center</u> 7:30 PM <u>El Shaddai Church</u>	27 8:30 AM <u>Joseph Quinlan</u> Bereavement Center 6:00 PM <u>VITA Tax</u> Preparation	28 8:30 AM <u>Joseph</u> <u>Quinlan</u> <u>Bereavement</u> <u>Center</u>	1 <u>10:00 AM VITA Tax</u> <u>Preparation</u>

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Rector: Deacon: Rector Emeritus: Parish Administrator:	The Rev. Sheila Shuford The Rev. Clarence Sickles Linda Ayres	
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