



REV. ELIZABETH MYERS, SUPPLY PRIEST

2 Sundays in Lent

What We Heard You Say and Saw You Write

Most of all, a big thank you to all who participated in our “2 Sundays in Lent” and especially to the many of you there are who contributed to making it happen. So many of you contributed in so many ways to helping us come to know each other better and I, for one, am immensely grateful.

A very special thanks to Phyllis and Paul Bartkus who collated all that you wrote and prepared wonderfully clear summaries and a chart of what you said. By the time that you read this Journal, these lists and summaries and chart will have been posted on the “White Wall” near your Post-it notes and the children’s posters. I invite you to take some time to read them and hear them speak to us about what is important to us.

I’d like to share with you some of what I heard you say and saw you write.

A few of you have been among us for some 50 years and have fond memories of the strong church school, ice skating and youth programs with Fr. Sickles; a reminder of how important it is that we make such provision for our young church members today. A few of you came in dribbles during succeeding years with a large group of you coming during the ministry of Fr. Riley; a time remembered for its warmth, fine preaching, acceptance of all and discussions about the Bible. About half of us came during the twelve years that Cathy was rector. The Bartkus’ have listed what you say brought you here.

When asked to identify what has led you into a deeper understanding of the Christian Faith and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, your responses

seemed to gather in four areas. The first is the recognition, experience and celebration in

St. James of the fact that Jesus and his Church are about an inclusive welcome and support of everyone, no matter what, and a deep caring and praying when one among us is hurting. A second is the way in which St. James’ makes possible opportunities to reach out and help local people through the Backpack Program, North Porch, ministry during Sandy and the 30 Hour Famine and to become friends working with people in our Appalachian Ministry. A third is through the experience of taking special parts in our worship like acolyting, LEMming and participating in the choirs and especially the Bell Choir. A fourth is through the educational and faith sharing experience of EFM, and preparation for baptism and confirmation.

One doesn’t have to be around St. James’ for very long before becoming aware that it is considered by many to be a really fun community of which to be a part. When asked what has been the most fun for them here, people focused on the Bell Choir, the Boar’s Head Dinner, the Agape Feast, the Super Bowl Parties, the Murder Mystery Dinners, fund raisers, and especially the Tricky Tray, and choir meals between Christmas and Easter services.

While adults were busy posting and discussing our children were creating posters. One assignment was to illustrate how being at church makes you feel. The results: pictures of sunshine, butterflies and cats and “It makes me happy”. Asked to illustrate whom and what God loves we got pictures of all kinds of people and things with “Chicken Nuggets” on a list. A highlight of our time together was a fashion show by the children of the tee shirts they made with illustrations of what St. James’ made them think of.

A final exercise for the adults was to envision St. James’ as a person and after responding to all kinds of questions (see the Bartkus’ chart) adults were asked how they would introduce St. James’ to a friend. The overwhelming number of responses spoke of St. James’ as a warm/welcoming/close/dear/caring/accepting/ loving/kind friend and, on at least one, “Someone who will be your best friend”.

No wonder that I find it such a privilege and joy to be among you!

Thank you and God bless you,
Betsy+

Vestry Hi-Lites

- ✦ Betsy has recruited several youth as acolytes.
- ✦ Diocesan Youth and Adult representative to meet with children and parents on June 8th.
- ✦ Paul Bartkus will begin a campaign for North Porch support.
- ✦ Parish Picnic set for June 15th at Field of Dreams.
- ✦ Finance Committee moving to ADP for payroll services.
- ✦ St. James’ to honor graduates at 10 AM service June 8th.
- ✦ St. James’ is working on having sill/water damage repaired.
- ✦ Elizabeth Myers to revitalize the Lay Eucharistic Visitors group.

Observing a Vestry meeting

Because we are in a transition mode and I believe we all need to be as involved as possible now, I thought I would attend Vestry meetings to see what was going on: what ideas were being discussed about the future of our church, how the Vestry meetings worked, and what the members thought about different issues we are facing.

Well, life being what it is I finally got to attend one in May! It was probably a typical meeting. There were reports from the Finance committee, from Fundraising, Mission Strategies, and the other groups that represent the workings of our congregation. There was a discussion of the next steps of the Transition, which you can read about elsewhere in this Journal.

Most importantly, though, was that near the end of the meeting, I was asked if I had any questions about what had been discussed or had anything I wanted to bring up. That was key to me as it showed that the voices of non-Vestry members are important, too. I mentioned that I thought that having more detailed minutes published after the meetings would be helpful to the congregation and also that publishing each meeting’s agenda before the meeting would let people decide which meetings they might want to attend. Dave Lacouture said that the agenda isn’t always ready by the Sunday before a meeting but I am hopeful that more info from the Vestry will be coming to us!

Bottom line? You should attend a meeting, or lots of meetings! They start at 7pm and wrap up by 9 at the latest. It is important for our Vestry to know that the congregation supports their work and also to know where we stand on an issue they are facing whether it is financial, liturgical, or whatever. You can speak at the meetings but can’t vote, of course. So go to one! Hopefully I’ll see you there!

Submitted by Pam Laura

Editor’s note: Sample Agenda Below:

- Opening Prayer
- Establish Quorum
- Additional Items to Agenda
- Finance
- Transition
- Worship
- Property/Building Use
- Education
- Outreach and Ministry
- Administration
- Special Events
- Closing Prayer

Honoring Our Graduates

St. James' will be honoring all graduates at the 10 AM service on June 8th. Please contact the office by June 4th if you haven't already done so to be included in this list.

Vestry Retreat

The St. James' Vestry met with Diocesan consultant Colleen Hintz on May 24th. Colleen helped guide us through the process of discernment and what our next steps are. Please watch for more information in the near future as the congregation will be asked for their input on what we are looking for as a parish and in a priest!

Youth Ministry

On June 8th, the representative from the Diocese will meet with parents and children after the 10 AM service.

Congratulations Betsy!

Congratulations to The Rev. Elizabeth Myers who just celebrated the 40th anniversary of her ordination. St. James' is blessed to have you with us during this time of transition and wishes you the best!

Summer Services

St. James' will move to one service for the summer in the air-conditioned Parish Hall on July 6th. We will return to two services in the church on September 7th.

Parish Picnic

We will continue our tradition of having our annual picnic on June 15th at the Field of Dreams in Independence Twsp. Our service starts at 10 AM and is followed immediately by the picnic. Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please consider bringing a side dish and/or dessert.

Journal Deadline

JULY/AUGUST EDITION:

June 28th



Bell Choir "Notes"

The Bell Choir participated in the 10 AM worship service on May 4. We rang a rousing arrangement of *Earth and All Stars*, a hymn not often sung at St. James'. It is hymn 412. As you wait for a service to begin, you might want to read through the words which are quite contemporary, mentioning things like classrooms and labs, athlete and band.

On June 22, Musician Recognition Sunday, the Bell Choir will be ringing *Festive Celebration* by Kevin McChesney at the 10 AM service. We have rung many pieces by this composer. This particular piece is not based on a hymn tune, but does have a very pleasant melody. It offers the ringers opportunities to use several different techniques with the bells. Listen as the bells are dampened into the table pads (called Martellato), shaken, plucked or struck with mallets while placed on the tables along with standard ringing. Hopefully the choir will enjoy preparing this piece and the congregation will enjoy hearing it.

This will be the final ringing for the Bell Choir for the 2013-2014 program year. We all hope that our ringing has enhanced your worship experiences and that by the choir's participation in many events outside of St. James', the community was able to hear about St. James', its opportunities for worship and its many programs.

One of my thoughts is that choir should not be all work and no play. So on May 4 members of the Bell Choir met after rehearsal for a potluck lunch. Everyone enjoyed sharing the delicious food and especially having a chance to sit and talk and share fellowship. Several of those in attendance asked to do it again and we are working on having another potluck in June or during the summer, depending on schedules.

So if you enjoy fellowship and like to eat, maybe Bell Choir is something for you to consider this fall. We are a multi-generational group and welcome members from around 4th grade and up.

Louise Olshan
Bell Choir Director



6th Annual St. James' Golf Outing Another Successful Day on the Links

55 golfers teed off on Monday May 19 for the 6th Annual St. James' Golf Outing at Farmstead Golf Club. Spirits were high and the temperatures were very comfortable for a wonderful day on the links. The team of Bob Drabik, Darryl Long, Chris D'Aiello and Dennis Werksmeister won the men's / mixed division at 4 under par. The women's division was won by Connye Hardy-Jones, Hazel Godbold and Fran Lapinski.

We are grateful for the support from parishioners and businesses that sponsored holes. Those signs will be displayed in the Great Hall for all to see. Copies of the Brochure produced for the outing are available as well. Prizes were donated in the form of gift certificates by a number of local restaurants and merchants. When you visit a restaurant, let them know you are from St. James'. They remember when we ask them to donate a prize!!

Special thanks to our volunteers on Monday who got everyone registered and helped sell raffle and 50/50 tickets: Anne Dutton, Pam Laura, Louise Olshan, Linda Miller and Maureen Dutton. I'd also like to thank the Golf Outing committee Paul & Phyllis Bartkus, Meg Critchley, Barbara White and Pete Gartelmann for helping to bring it all together.



No one starts without checking in with the volunteers. Left to right: Anne Dutton, Pam Laura, Louise Olshan, Linda Miller, Phyllis Bartkus (standing)



Left: Kevin Honigsberg, Sam Olshan, Meg & Bill Critchley

Right: Barbara White, Greg & Eileen Malejko, Mike Panetta



Left: Paul & Phyllis Bartkus, Rick Birmingham, Andrew Keys

Fundraising Report

The St. James' FRC meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6 PM in the Mitcham House. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 11th.

Scrip Pro - Next orders are due on June 8th. Think about using gift cards for graduations, weddings and summer picnic supplies!

The Golf Outing was held on May 19th and was quite the success. The Golf Outing Committee raised \$2840.23 for the FRC. We thank them for their hard work!

Finally, Tricky Tray planning is beginning. Please start thinking about our event, which is being held on September 27th, by making a donation of time, treasure or talent for our biggest fundraiser of the year. Also, get those sale coupons to any member of the FRC. We love Kohl's 30% off as we can get some great values to make nice baskets! You might also want to donate a Scrip Pro gift card instead of putting together a basket...we need gift cards for this event as well!

Thanks for your support in our fundraising efforts!

St. James' FRC
Barbara White, Ellen Infante,
Ann Dutton, Barbara Olesen

Congratulations Drew Lacouture!

Drew Lacouture received the Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award on April 26th at West Point! This award is presented to high school juniors from select schools in recognition of demonstrated performance and potential in the areas of academics, athletics, community service, good citizenship and leadership ability. Your St. James' family is proud of you, Drew!

(see picture, right)

**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!**

Take a look at North Porch

A newly elected Jr. Warden once commented that it was amazing to see just how many things were going on behind the scenes here at St. James'. Just one of these is our outreach through the North Porch Women and Infants Center. We are host to a satellite location for this Diocese of Newark organization that provides supplemental and emergency food and supplies to mothers and their infants and toddlers. Eligibility is based on economic need and those participating can get baby formula and supplies once every three months. Recently we spoke with Miss Laura, who is the North Porch, Dover Center Coordinator, who comes to St. James' every Friday. In round numbers about 40 families or about 80 children are served here each month. The focus is on the needs of children up to 3-years-old. Formula is provided for children from newborns to one-year-old and baby cereal is provided for 6-month-old and older. Miss Laura indicated that they have needs for formula powder (Enfamil), pull-ups, regular size tubes of Desitin ointment, size 4-6 diapers, wipes and baby shampoo. Please look for future Journal articles about this ministry and plans for supporting it. You can also visit their web site at <http://www.northporch.org>.

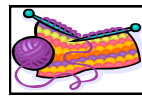
Phyllis and Paul Bartkus

Tony G. Smith,
Colonel, AUS,
Retired, and President of
the West Point Society
of New Jersey presents
the Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership
Award to Drew
Lacouture on May 26th
at West Point.

(Photo courtesy of The
Hackettstown News)



Yarn Twisters



So far this year, we have not had too many meetings. It seems that the first four months we were snow bound and then spring/summer has arrived and everyone is so busy with outdoor activities. Louise Olshan, Phyllis Bartkus and I continue to knit and crochet and slowly the items in the container in the closet in the Great Hall is mounting up, but we can use many more items in readiness to send to SCI later this year. There is plenty of yarn in the containers in the Great Hall and anyone interested in helping, is welcome to pick out some yarn. Knitting and crochet patterns are listed on the SCI website at:

www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea

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,
Linda Miller



St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown

Terror in Nigeria

Chika Okoye

On April 14, 2014, members of an Islamic fundamentalist group known as Boko Haram, invaded the Government College in Chibok* Borno State in Nigeria and abducted about 300 teenage girls who were at the boarding school to take their final exams in Physics. They got the cooperation of the girls by telling them that they were soldiers come to take them to safety. About 50 girls were able to escape but the rest of the girls were taken into a forest where there are camps used by their abductors. Boko Haram in the local Hausa language means Western education is forbidden/taboo, and this group is particular about girls getting married rather than getting a western style education. This particular group has been terrorizing North Eastern Nigeria for the past five years. This year alone they have killed close to 2000 people, razed several villages, bombed churches, schools and markets, and caused all kinds of mayhem. Their main tactic has been to bomb and kill in major public or religious institutions such as churches, schools, police stations and markets. While they say they want Nigeria, a secular state, to resort to Islamic Sharia Law, many legitimate Islamic authorities have condemned the group and its tactics.

Earlier on April 14 there was a bomb blast in a bus station that killed more than 50 people in a suburb of the Nigerian capital Abuja, in the center of Nigeria. Boko Haram claimed responsibility. Abuja has generally been spared the worst of Boko Haram attacks with most of the mayhem being restricted to the north east of the country, but with this bombing the level of destructive activity has risen to an alarming level. The Nigerian government seems helpless to control the situation.

Groups within Nigeria have used social media to generate support for getting the girls back by launching a twitter campaign #BringBackOurGirls, to bring awareness to the plight of the abducted girls. As a result of this campaign, three weeks after the abduction, the international media started to cover the abductions extensively. The US, UK, France, Israel and China have sent help in the form of technical advice and drones. However no girls have been returned and Boko Haram

has continued to bomb and kill villages in the Chibok area.

On May 20th a market in Jos, another town in the middle of Nigeria was bombed. Boko Haram is suspected of being responsible for this act. Jos has been a hot bed of violent clashes between various groups struggling for power and resource control in an area that marks the divide between the mostly Muslim north of the country and the mainly Christian south. However there has been a period of peace; it was hoped that the worst had passed.

I grew up in Jos and my parents still live there. I also went to college in Borno state and what is happening now seems so alien to the experience I had growing up in northern Nigeria. While there have always been tensions in Nigeria, people (particularly Muslims and Christians in Northern Nigeria) have always found ways to live together. What has now become the norm is killings and retaliation. The happenings in Nigeria are very distressing and I ask that we as a congregation pray for the safe return of the abducted girls of Chibok and for the people of Jos and other towns in northeastern Nigeria that are afflicted by the scourge of Boko Haram. There are many things that are wrong with Nigeria, but killing innocent citizens and kidnapping young girls is no way to solve the problem. Your prayers are desperately needed. For more information on this situation consult the links provided below.

<http://www.cfr.org/nigeria/boko-haram/p25739>

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/comment/2014/04/nigerias-stolen-girls.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/15/chibok-nigeria-200-kidnapped-schoolgirls-boko-haram>



*Chibok is 130km north east of Maiduguri the state capital, near the border with Cameroon. See map for a general idea of the areas discussed.

JUNE 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No Family Breakfast Picnic June 15 Field of Dreams 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal after coffee hour	2 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	3 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	4 8:30 AM BACKPACK PROGRAM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church	5 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting Great Hall	6 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	7
8 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM HONORING OUR GRADUATES 11:00 AM Appalachia Registration Deadline 11:15 AM Diocesan Rep for Youth and Adult Ministry	9 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	10 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	11 8:30 AM BACKPACK PROGRAM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 6:00 PM FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE 7:00 PM SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church	12 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	13 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	14
15 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Family Picnic at Field of Dreams, Independence	16 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	17 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	18 8:30 AM BACKPACK PROGRAM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church	19 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM VESTRY MEETING	20 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	21
22 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM HONORING OUR MUSICIANS	23 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	24 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	25 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church	26 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	27 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	28 7:30 PM The Church El Shaddai Great Hall
29 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	30 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	1 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	2 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church	3 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting Great Hall	4 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	5



PARADE PICTURES



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

JUNE 2014

St. James' Staff & Vestry

Supply Priest:	The Rev. Elizabeth Myers
Deacon:	The Rev. Sheila Shuford
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:	David Lacouture
Junior Warden:	Carol Novrit

Paul Bartkus	Peter Quelly	Ann Edens
Peter Gartelmann	David Handville	Bill Critchley
Barbara Olesen	Chika Okoye	Ellen Infante

Vestry Clerk:	Jayne Mutascio
Treasurer:	Janice Cipriani
Asst. Treasurer:	Ricky Okoye
Bookkeeper:	Ellen Infante

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