

# St. James'



# Journal

*The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats, Rector*

*February 2009*

O LORD, our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth.

*Lord, keep this nation under your care.*

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors and Cities, and to all in administrative *Give grace to your servants, O Lord.*

Book of Common Prayer, 1979, p. 821

O LORD, our heavenly Father, the high and mighty Ruler of the universe, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth; Most heartily we beseech thee, with thy favour to behold and bless thy servant The President of the United States, and all others in authority; and so replenish them with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that they may always incline to thy will, and walk in thy way. Endue them plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant them in health and prosperity long to live; and finally, after this life, to attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Book of Common Prayer, 1789

We have always prayed for our national leaders. In the early days of the Anglican Church in America, clergy were required by their ordination vows to not only swear allegiance to the king, but to pray for him and his family. Some clergy were creative in their avoidance of the conflict as the Revolution took hold. Samuel Tingley, a priest in Delaware, rather than praying "O Lord, save the King" said "O Lord, save those whom thou hast made it our especial Duty to pray for." One Connecticut clergyman demonstrated his defiance by continuing to pray for the king in public worship throughout the war.

We have just inaugurated a new President. There were plenty of people who wanted to pray for him publicly, at festivities both celebratory and solemn. Rick Warren prayed, "Give to our new president, Barack Obama, the wisdom to lead us with humility, the courage to lead us with integrity, the compassion to lead us with generosity." Gene Robinson prayed, "Give him wisdom beyond his years, and inspire him with Lincoln's reconciling leadership style, President Kennedy's ability to enlist our best efforts, and Dr. King's dream of a nation for ALL the people." And Joseph Lowery,

"We pray now, O Lord, for your blessing upon thy servant, Barack Obama,...[and] because we know you got the whole world in your hand, we pray for not only our nation, but for the community of nations."

How shall we pray in this undeniably momentous time? It is a time of excitement and hope. It is a time of anxiety and fear. It is a time of cynicism and volatility. It is a time of reassessment and renewal.

In my own lifetime, 'blacks' were not allowed to share bathrooms or drinking fountains or to sit at the same lunch counters with 'whites.' "Separate yet equal," was the way we told ourselves it was okay. The leaders who chose to do justice were killed in our streets. Every new administration offers a new start; this one seems to be infused with a new sense of hope.

In the Shawshank Redemption, Andy DuFresne gives the prisoners of Shawshank a taste of hope when he plays a magnificent aria over the loudspeaker system of the prison. "For only those few minutes," the narrator tells us, "every man in Shawshank was free." That is the fruit of hope: freedom.

And then, peace.

I hope as a country we will learn humility as well as pride; I hope that our leaders spend more time listening than talking; I hope that we all practice patience; I hope that we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God; I hope...

Yours in the hope of Christ,



## Warden's Words

A brand new year is here, with brand new possibilities. Last year we finished Phase 1 of the building project and this year we hope to complete Phase 2. This means we will have a parish hall again! Rough plumbing and electric are almost completed as well as the framing and our new elevator is almost ready for use.

Also in store for us this year is the 150th Anniversary of St. James' and the new Capital Campaign. These two events will provide many opportunities for participation and fellowship. Please bring a friend or acquaintance with you to one of the events or a church service so they can see what we are about and what we have accomplished. To continue to grow and do the Lord's work, we need to invite more people to walk through our "open doors" and join our congregation.

*Dawn Modugno  
Senior Warden*

## Vestry Hi-lites from the January meeting

- ✘ A plan to offer electronic transfer of funds for pledges and donations was presented. Vote awaits further information from Vanco Financial Services.
- ✘ Stewardship Committee and Vestry Members discussed St. James' stewardship message and our own stories of our giving. Families who have not yet responded to the stewardship mailings will be contacted by a member of the Vestry to follow up and share their own stewardship stories.
- ✘ The next Vestry Meeting will be held at the Vestry Retreat February 27-28, and the agenda will be essential business only.
- ✘ At the December budget meeting, the budget was approved without salary increases for staff. The vestry voted to institute 3% staff cost of living increases if pledged income increases sufficiently (\$5,000 to support the \$3,000 total increase amount

## Undercover Angels

- ☺ Paula and Michael Van Clef donated and assembled a baby changing table for the accessible rest room.
- ☺ A flock of angels brought donated furniture and household goods from a storage unit to the church for the next rummage sale (angels and cherubs included: Barbara White, Greg Malejko, David Olesen, Ted Deats, Thomas Malejko, Diana Grant)
- ☺ Paul Bartkus gave us an easy way to spread salt on steps and sidewalk with a giant "salt shaker."

## St. James' Annual Meeting

We elected officers (Ron Cipriani, DJ Hoffman and Paula Van Clef to three-year terms on the Vestry; Deputies to Diocesan Convention (beginning with the 2010 Convention, Barbara White (three-year term) and Wendie Germain (alternate, one year term). We heard an update of the Building Project, Treasurer's Report for 2008 and Finance Report and Budget for 2009. We saw slide shows of the capital projects and building project of 2008, as well as the Rector's report, "Journey 2008."

Thanks to those concluding special service: Jerry Sheard, Vestry; Brian Nolan, Deputy to Diocesan Convention; Ron Cipriani and DJ Hoffman, who fulfilled unexpired Vestry terms. Ellen Infante was recognized for her "behind the scenes" work as Bookkeeper for St. James', and thanks were extended to three key people who make the Annual Meeting possible: Phyllis Heistand, for formatting the Annual Report and making the many parts a whole; Linda Murray for encouraging timely submission of reports and production of the document; and Russ Worthington for technical expertise in slide show production and display of reports so they are accessible.

Copies of the Annual Report and CDs are available in the narthex

## Phase II Begins

**Question: What is bigger than Maintenance Morning or an Undercover Angel?**

**Answer: A hardy band of folks who spent some hours under the direction of Modugno Carpentry Inc** (Ed, Dawn and Ed Jr.) to begin work on the upper level of the Parish Hall. (Many thanks to the Modugnos; Greg, Michael, and Matthew Malejko; Barbara White; Dave Handville; Oliver Puig; Tony, Mary Jo and Sophie Elmo; DJ Hoffman.) The area was framed and was made ready for the work of the electrician and plumber, who are now nearly finished. The heating unit was installed last week. Next steps include inspections, insulation and sheetrock. One Sunday, ask a Vestry Member to show you around. Watch your bulletin and e-newsletter!

## Wish List

Do you have access to any of these items we could use? A friend who works for a manufacturer, or a desire to give a gift in honor of someone? Please contact the church office.

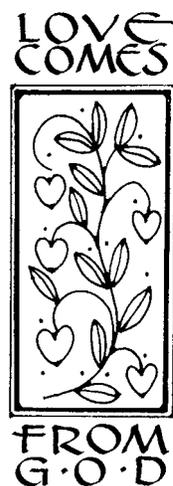
- ☐ Remaining sacristy furnishing (estimate: \$500)



*If you discover an undercover angel, report it to [news4stjames@comcast.net](mailto:news4stjames@comcast.net) anytime!*

## February Dates to Remember

February 1	Adult Forum after both services/Report from Convention Continental Breakfast/Between Services Souper Bowl of Caring
February 4	Parish Life Meeting • Mitcham House • 7:30 PM
February 8	Celebration of the Children's Sabbath Youth Group Meets • Mitcham House • 10:00 AM Bell Choir Practice Resumes • every Sunday after 10 AM Service
February 20–21-	30 Hour Famine • Youth Group
February 21	Worship Ministry Day • 10 AM to Noon
February 22	Youth Group Meets • Mitcham House • 10:00 AM
February 25	Ash Wednesday Services • 7 AM • Noon • 7:30 PM
February 27-28	Vestry Retreat • Kirkridge



## Hackettstown Group Home

We continue our relationship with the women of the Hackettstown Group Home with a craft night on December 11, when we made Christmas decorations. Eileen Malejko is our regular leader. Three people are needed each of the nights (second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm) to lead a craft activity. The next date is **February 12**. Please contact the church office or Eileen to let us know when you would like to help. Teenagers especially welcome!

At the greening of the church, the women were our guests and helped with the decoration. They will also be guests at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Worship Ministry Day

Question: What does it take to be a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Acolyte, Usher/Greeter or Altar Guild Member? Answer: willingness to serve (see I Samuel 3 or Mark I:14-20)

On Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, from 10 AM to noon, while veteran Worship Leaders brush up on skills, you are invited to come and see where you may be called to serve. The schedule is:

10:30 – 11:00	Acolytes / Ushers
11:00 – 11:30	Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers
11:30 – 12:00	Lay Eucharistic Ministers who take Communion to homes

*Altar Guild will meet separately on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM*

Please RSVP to the church office  
[stjames214@comcast.net](mailto:stjames214@comcast.net) or 908.852.3968.



## Parish Life Highlights for February:

- ⊕ Celebration of the Children's Sabbath: *page*
- ⊕ Sunday School will again make "College Cheer" packages *page*
- ⊕ 30 Hour Famine *page*
- ⊕ Worship Ministry Day: *this page*
- ⊕ Ash Wednesday *this page*

Parish Life is a great place to bring new ideas and offerings of your talents – next meeting is **Wednesday, February 4, at 7:30 pm.**

## GoodSearch Pays Off!

GoodSearch, the search engine that donates 50 percent of its revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users has been the search engine of choice for several of us here at St. James' for the past several months. We are encouraging everyone (and friends and family) to get on board with GoodSearch (and if you shop online, use GoodShop) as we all look for ways (great and small) to help the budget! If 100 people do an average of 2 searches per day, it means \$730 per year! Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)



## February 25

7:00 AM	Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes
12:00 NOON	Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes
7:30 PM	Choral Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes (with music)

## Sunday School News:

Despite snow and ice, attendance at Sunday School has been consistent and we welcomed two new enthusiastic students, Tabitha and Fred, in early January. Preparation has been underway for **The Children's Sabbath**, which will take place on February 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a service with a focus on children's needs and this year the theme is children's poverty. Students will participate in the service and bake the bread for the Holy Eucharist. Lessons, crafts, and readings have been used to teach the students about the plight of others in our community and the world.

In addition, a project will take place for the month of February. The Sunday School will collect clear plastic bins of all sizes and large black trash and kitchen-sized trash plastic bags for an agency based in Oxford named *Family Promise* that serves homeless families throughout Warren County. They rely heavily on donations from area churches for needed items. We look forward to assisting them with their mission.

*Kathy Lacouture*

## Youth Group News

Youth group will collect for the Souper Bowl of Caring today, Feb. 1. We are collecting soup cans for the local pantry and money donations. On Feb 20 and 21, we will participate in the 30 Hour Famine for World Vision. Please consider sponsoring one of our youth to raise money for world hunger. Youth group meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday during the 10 o'clock service. This month we will hear about the presidential inauguration from Justin Simmons who attended this historic event. Come join us!

Questions: *Dawn Modugno or Lori Pursel*

## Episcopal Appalachian Ministries (EAM) Work Camp 2009

St. James' will have six slots for the work camp to be held August 1 – 8. It is not too early to plan your summer and reserve your space. Please contact the Rector at [cathydeats@comcast.net](mailto:cathydeats@comcast.net) or 908.850.4549



Justin Simmons at the Presidential Youth Conference

## February Schedule

February 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday School-Preparation for the Sabbath

**February 8<sup>th</sup> The Children's Sabbath-  
Please arrive by 9:45**

February 15<sup>th</sup> Godly Play Lesson

February 22<sup>nd</sup> Godly Play Lesson

## Help the Children Help the Homeless

**Collect clear plastic bins  
with covers of any size -  
from very large to shoe size.  
and trash bags -  
kitchen and large black  
for *Family Promise*  
during the month of February**

## YES I DID!

Most people watched Barack Obama become the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States on television and in a way I did too. Except my TV was a Jumbotron on the National Mall surrounded by roughly 2 million people.

I had the honor of attending the Inauguration as a member of the Junior Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference which brought Middle School students together from all over the nation to Washington D.C. to witness history.

It was inspiring to hear President Obama's address and it was really, really cold! I had roommates from California and Ohio as well as New Jersey. I had the opportunity to attend seminars on leadership featuring Former Vice President Al Gore and Former Secretary of State Colin Powell. I also heard Erik Weihenmayer, a legally blind man who climbed Mount Everest, talk about overcoming obstacles in order to achieve your life goals. My group also had the chance to visit the Air & Space Museum where we met astronaut Buzz Aldrin and members of the Space Shuttle crew.

The night of the Inauguration, we had our own Inaugural Ball at the Cole Field House on the campus of the University of Maryland, which was a lot of fun.

I am very grateful to have had the chance to attend the conference. Like everyone else on the Mall, I was very proud that day...proud to be an American and proud to represent Hackettstown Middle School in our nation's capital.

*Justin Simmons*



## Senior Choir News

We are excited to welcome back Joyce Forman!! Joyce had to take a leave from singing for a while but is good to go now and we're so glad! Jiying should also be back from her trip home to China this month. More power to the alto section! Doug Brunner, one of our tenors, made All-State Choir last fall and has recently made Regional Choir. Congratulations, Doug!

### Rehearsal Change - temporary

Choir rehearsals will be moving to Wednesday nights for the month of February only - still the same time and place, though. We will return to Thursday nights starting March 5.

### Music

As we approach Lent, we are again considering chanting the weekly Psalm. The tune is the same as the one we used during Advent. If you have a strong opinion one way or the other, please let me know.

As always, we look for more singers, especially basses!

### Youth Choir

We will be starting to work on our Easter piece in March. I will again be going to the Sunday School class to work with the children.

*Pam Laura*  
Music Director



Those of you who went to the "Christmas through the Arts" celebration at Port Morris know what a great job the children did with Pam Laura's Christmas song



The Multigenerational Bell Choir at "Christmas through the Arts"  
L to R: Katie, Christina, Chika, Dawn, Pam

## A Trip to Utah

As much of the parish knows, Russ is heavily involved in genealogy and loves being so. Get him to start talking about it and he can go on for quite a long time. He has a true love for his ancestors and history.

Because of his involvement in genealogy, he has become involved in the use and updates for Family Tree Maker, a program that uses Ancestry.com heavily, along with other search engines for the "average person" and the genealogist. He is involved in an eight member group that gets advanced notice of updates and tries them out to see what the "bugs" are and to get them cleared up before the programs are put into use for the general public. This group is worldwide and has held conference calls. (This is not always conducive for family meals as it is difficult to get a time when Europe and Australia can co-ordinate with the States.)

On January 10, 2009, Russ was a Guest of Honor at a dinner held in Salt Lake City and given the company's thanks for his work done for them. The dinner included all the company executives and numerous people for Genealogical Institutes across the states. We were not able to take a photograph of the event but it was wonderful to hear their appreciation of the work he has done and continues to do.

To paraphrase their words, "Well done thou good and faithful servant"

As an extra benefit, we got to visit with the grandchildren.

*Patti Worthington*

**Cathy Kahl's daughter, Cara** (M. Psychol.), is on the faculty at the University of Hamburg. She studies and publishes in the field of creativity from a social systems perspective, including how to create environments that foster creativity. Check out her work on the University website: [http://www.uni-hamburg.de/fachbereiche-einrichtungen/fb16/absozpsy/kahl\\_e.html](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/fachbereiche-einrichtungen/fb16/absozpsy/kahl_e.html)

hint: be sure to click the British flag on the page to translate into English!

*Thank You! Once again this Christmas, I received an anonymous gift. This year I was treated to a very generous gift card to Kohl's (where I can be seen on various occasions holding my sale coupon in hand). I truly appreciate the thoughtfulness of this gift and would like to thank the anonymous donor(s).*

*Linda*



## Greening of the Church

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Well, another Greening of the Church at St James has come and gone. And this year, in spite of several difficulties, many hands and hearts transformed our simple wood and plaster church into a vision of red poinsettias and smelling of fragrant pine ready to receive the newborn King.

The first difficulty was the weather. The evening before Greening, the weatherman was predicting a major snow/ice event. I know that lately it seems that weather forecasting has taken on the aspect of a hunter tracking a marauding beast. But this prediction was so ominous that I seriously wondered if my husband and two sons could be pressed into service to help me accomplish the task. But fortunately the weather wasn't as dire as predicted and many stalwart souls came back or stayed on to help out.

Then, two Altar Guild members, David Handville and Claudia Scala, were setting up for Christmas Eucharist and discovered paint on the fair linen and stains on the Jacobean. The linen was cleaned and since the Jacobean has four sides, we could turn it around away from the Congregation. Note to self: wash and iron the fair linen after Advent 4 and send the Jacobean to the cleaners by the end of August.

And lastly, did anyone notice there were two fewer aisle torches? It seems that after it was set up, the pole of one of the three candle torches telescoped into the base so violently that the glass globe fell the floor and shattered. Not having any extra globes and no way to get any more, the only solution was to reduce the number of torches to free up a globe. I guess we will have to do this again in the future when such accidents happen.

And now for my litany of thank you's:

1. To John and Carol McKinney who diligently fluffed and then attached the bows to the wreaths. (I must admit I loath that job.) Note to self: get the bows out of storage before Greening and use the fabric steamer to freshen them up.
2. To Ed Modugno Jr. and all the young people who scaled the ladder and hung wreaths inside and outside the Church.
3. To Dan Miller and DJ Hoffman who managed to secure using only florists wire that enormous wreath to the choir loft railing.
4. To DJ Hoffman who somehow makes 75 ft of pine roping cover like 100 ft. Good news DJ – I found a place to buy just a bit more so you can wrap and swag to your heart's content next year.
5. To Daniel Hoffman who waited so patiently to set up the Nativity scene and then informed my son, Kevin, that "the Wise Men don't belong with Jesus just yet."
6. To David Handville who knew that the torches needed an Allen wrench to prevent all of them from crashing to the floor and to Russ Worthington who happened to have a set in his truck.
7. And finally my apologies to Pauline for clogging up the vacuum cleaner with pine needles – we really meant to be helpful.

By the time I walked home from Greening that Sunday, the storm had passed. The sun was shining brightly, and the trees were dazzling in their brilliance. It seemed to be Nature's fulfillment of the Advent readings emphasizing the readiness of hearts and minds passing from darkness into light. Let His Light so shine.

*Meg Critchley*



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## Sheila Shuford on the Ordination to the Priesthood

I am an Associate at The Convent of St. John Baptist. My spiritual advisor is Sister Pamela, a member of the Convent. On Saturday, December 13, 2008, Sister Eleanor Francis " by the Grace of God and the consent of the people of God" was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests by the Right Reverend Mark Beckwith, Bishop of Newark. It was freezing cold outside but about 300 people in the Convent chapel were warm and enthused to be part of the celebration. Members of The Commission on Ministry, local and visiting clergy, the choirs of Church of the Redeemer, Morristown and All Saint's Episcopal Church, Millington and people from the community shared the joy of the event.

The Rev. Sr. Eleanor Francis had created the order of the program. Bishop Beckwith served as cantor during the Veni Creator Spiritus. A communion motet "O Taste

and See" was written by James Douglas for the ordination of Sr. Eleanor Francis. Petie, the Convent dog, joined in the service by adding barks at the appropriate moments. The service closed with "We Are Marching in the Light of God" with singing and drums and dancing by the Bishop.

Karin Kasper served as my interpreter for the event. We were seated near the choir and organ but to the side. At first people were reluctant to sit near us, not knowing what was happening. As the seats filled up, people seemed more comfortable and interested. During the passing of the peace, I was delighted to have many clergy and people from the community sign "peace" by making the old V sign and several people signed the I Love You hand sign. I have been to many services at the Convent chapel.

*Continued on page 6*

## Outreach – The Mission Strategy Team

Reaching out – Surprise! That’s what any outreach from our parish is. It is what Jesus asked all His disciples and followers to do as individuals and as groups. And, He meant reaching out to everyone, helping wherever we can. All of you, I know, reach out in Christ’s love as individuals to the people around you as part of your daily lives. Some of you have done so in groups through the parish like the folks who visit the ladies at the Arc home or who participated in supporting the English as a Second Language program a few years ago. Now, we of the St. James’ community are “re-gearing up”, “re-generating” thought and action to build on what’s been done in the past to reach out to help in our surrounding community. We are working on creating an approach to outreach in a little more organized way, identifying a focus for our mission here in the Hackettstown area and, with God’s help, fulfilling God’s will for us.

As mentioned in the Annual Report, last year we started thinking and talking about a more organized effort to build on what the Mission Strategy Committee has established. We agreed that we needed to do some research to identify community needs and have some time to discern what our mission is here and now (and we continue to need that). But, rather than wait until all that is done, we decided to act on what we already knew – people were having trouble getting the food they needed for themselves and their families. You’ve seen the result. We started asking you to contribute a “food of the month” to be delivered to Trinity Methodist’s Lord’s Pantry. And, our contributions have been warmly appreciated. Just a note – they have been consistently serving over 400 people a month through this winter, around 160 families. Given people’s need for heating fuel this winter, we also used some funds from the Mission Strategy account to support the “Community Call to Action” from the Warren County United Way. These actions are a start.

Earlier this month, we met with Sarah Brelvi, head of the United Way in Warren County, to talk about community needs and to open a relationship to help our outreach work. We will be meeting again on **Saturday morning, February 7**, at the church to talk about and brainstorm ideas for what St. James’ outreach mission can be and should be as we move forward. Please join this discussion from **9:30 – 11:00 am** on that Saturday with your ideas and thoughts about mission and what we can do.

*Dave Heistand*



## Support Your Local Food Pantry

For February, please bring in Toilet paper and canned meats. The collection points are both entrances to the Parish Hall: the Moore St. and side entrances where bins have been set up.

## Giving Tree

This year the Giving Tree held 59 gift tags. Despite three Sundays of rough weather, our congregation demonstrated their faithfulness to outreach by collecting all 59 tags and returning more than 59 gifts. Congratulations and thank you on behalf of the two families and their seven children.

Paul Barkus

Dear St. James’ parishioners,

Thank you

It is with sincere gratitude that I write this letter on behalf of one of our families in Allamuchy Township School. A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure to speak with Paul Bartkus as a representative of your church. He has, along with the generous donations by church members, organized a toy drive for a large family living in Allamuchy Township. I have spoken with the parents of these students who have expressed how grateful they are for such lovely gifts. They truly appreciate it.

Have a happy and blessed Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

Sandra Van Stone-Rubenstein, R.N., B.S.N.  
Allamuchy school nurse  
Allamuchy Township School District



Mission Strategy Meeting Thanking St. James' for its gift to Heating Assistance Fund -Sarah Brelvi, Paul Bartkus, Cathy Deats, Dave Heistand



## Fundraising 2009

The true meaning of time, talent and treasure was exhibited throughout this year and everyone at St. James' is to be commended for a job well done. We are truly blessed!

We shared many great events this year and had a great time celebrating with each other and celebrating the gifts that God has given us. We are looking forward to this coming year with great anticipation hoping very soon we will open the doors to our new Parish Hall and be able to hold some events there.

We have established several regular events in our fundraising efforts, the rummage sales, the tricky tray, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration in Blairstown, candy sales, a couple of dinners and gift wrap sales to name a few. These events have proven to be very well received and supported by everyone. This past year we added a couple of things, dinners at IHOP have proven to be an excellent way for us to get together and enjoy some fellowship during our construction project, can recycling raises a little money for us and helps keep our environment a little cleaner, coke caps and flaps support the tricky tray by allowing us to get some of our door prizes at no cost. Good Search makes a donation to St. James' every time you search for something on line. It is simple to set up and as easy to use as any search engine you are currently using. Just go to GoodSearch.com and follow the directions. Let's not forget Cold Stone Creamery who gives us 10% for eating ice cream, doesn't get any better than that!

On the agenda for this year we have:

**The Valentine's Day candy sale, those orders are due today, February 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Roberta Brandt will again offer the Longaberger products that are loved by so many on February 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Items will be set up in the area where we enjoy coffee hour and catalogs will also be available. Roberta generously donates her commission from these sales to the fundraising effort.

We will celebrate Shrove Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup> at IHOP, please join us for dinner and conversation. This is a great time to catch up with one another.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, we will kick off our Easter candy sale. This year we decided to go with Gertrude Hawk candy. They offer a wider variety of the types of candies that the Easter Bunny normally brings. This sale will run for three Sundays with orders being due on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have a corned beef and cabbage dinner at Christ Church in Budd Lake. Tickets will be sold in advance, please watch the bulletin board and bulletin for updates.

We also have in the planning stages a Tupperware book party, a Yankee Candle sale, a coffee hour at What in the World and much more.

I just want to say, fundraising is not just about the money, although in light of our recent annual meeting we all know how important that is. But it is also about having fun and enjoying ourselves in the community. It's an opportunity to get the word out about St. James', to let people know that we ARE an open, inclusive and caring faith community, that we DO celebrate the joy of Christ everyday not just on Sundays. I encourage you to invite someone to one of our events this year, to tell someone that your church is selling candy for Easter or Yankee candles. You don't have to ask them to buy anything but please don't turn down an opportunity. Invite someone to a corned beef and cabbage dinner, open the door to a conversation about St. James' and what a warm and comfortable place you have found to worship. If you invite someone who is not a member of St. James' to one of our dinners and they come, your dinner is half price!

Thank you to the many people who work so hard to make this committee successful whether you help at one event or at every event, it is all appreciated. As always, if you have an idea for a fundraising event or would like to join our committee, please do not hesitate to let one of us know.

Your continued support is much appreciated.

*Barbara White*



*Continued from page 8*

This was the first time people spontaneously responded in this way to the signing and it was wonderful!

Congratulations to The Rev. Sr. Eleanor Francis and to all those who made her special day possible.

*Sheila Shuford, Deacon*



**February Journal articles  
Due Monday, January 28, 2009**

Phyllis Heistand, Editor

Email [news4stjames@comcast.net](mailto:news4stjames@comcast.net)

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

[stjameshackettstown.org](http://stjameshackettstown.org)

Russ Worthington, Webmaster

## Humanly Possible

If it feels good, do it; Reconciliation

I was awakened, recently, by the post-flu coughing of my youngest child. After attending to her, I lay fully alert and unable to sleep. The time: 2:39 a.m.

My mind drifted to thoughts of one of my relatives. The one I've always had the fiercest of relationships with. The closest of friends, the loudest of adversaries, the zaniest of the silly jokesters, but the one who has hurt me the most. Again and again, until I walked away. She laid her sword to rest when her father died. We were cordial when we had to be in the same room together, even pleasant.

Time passed with little contact and the next thing I remember is that I silently and stealthily picked up the sword where it was left off and all contact ceased. We sat at separate tables at large family functions as though we were strangers. My family was excluded from her family news. And on it went.

So at the hour of 2:39 am when I was imagining her, I was astounded that the vision was not accompanied by the customary anxiety that accompanies insomnia but of peace and I heard the whisper, "Contact her." Usually, a notion of this sort would offend my very sensibilities to say the least, or later, be chalked up to wee-hour-delusions. However, nothing in my spirit argued with the directive this time. It all made perfect sense.

God and I hashed it out right then and there. I asked, "Should I send her a card?" "Nah," he answered, "Give her a call."

"But you know she has caller ID and won't pick up the phone for me."

"Okay," said God, "then just leave a message for her to call you when she has a minute. Ask her to please call your cell phone if you're not home. You know she will return your call because even if she does hate your guts, she is very loyal and dependable."

"I'm really afraid that if I call her, she will let loose a tirade of all the past crimes of mine that she can dig up and then where will I be?"

God said, "If she chooses that response, in one sense you will be the same place that you were before the call, she won't be speaking to you. But you're still strong and sure of who you are and what you stand for. On the other hand, no matter what the result of the phone call, you will both be in better places because you have finally chosen peace."

Even at 2:39 a.m. the plot that God and I hatched made me giddy with excitement. It became a challenge: How nice can I be to another wounded human for no other reason than "Because I can"?

When the opportunity to phone her presented itself at 9 a.m, I made myself wait. At 10 a.m. I knew I couldn't wait any longer because my 'brave-juice' was wearing off. As prepared as I felt to speak to her (Hey, God told me to do it!), my hands were still cold and clammy and my heart was beating a mile a minute.

The phone rang twice.

"Hello?" she said in a very flat tone that indicated she knew it was me and was steeling herself already. Darn that caller ID!

"Hi. It's Jewels."

"Yes?"

"Well, I just wanted to tell you that I am sorry for the times I have hurt your feelings and I'd like to move on."

Silence. Stone dead silence.

"Wow. You really caught me off-guard." She said, coming to life.

"That's not always such a bad place to be," I cracked.

She was stymied. "Thank you. I really don't know what to say."

"You really don't have to say anything, I know this isn't the phone call you expected on a Saturday morning." I told her. "I just want us to move on."

We exchanged pleasantries about Christmas plans and about how her sons are. It was a very warm conversation. We sounded like two grown-up women who had half a chance of meeting in the middle.

I've seen how a five-minute span of time can affect me in terms of birth and death but I completely underestimated the power of time in day-to-day activities, such as a telephone conversation. That tiny measure of time shook me to the core and provided levels of clarity unforeseen by me until now.

I believe in the whispers of God's answers after years of praying, arguing, debating and pleading with him. I believe in the voices of angels who help shore us up when we fall to our knees, whether in surrender or in frailty. I clearly heard and trusted in God's voice that told me it was okay to lay down the sword, to pick up the phone, that the details no longer matter.

In the end, I learned that reconciliation isn't about the relationship between two or more humans, but between individual humans and God. I certainly cannot control what another human being thinks of me. But I can control my behaviors and my choices and I choose peace.

*Jewels Quelly*



## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### **For Vestry, three-year term expiring 2012:**

**Ron Cipriani** has been a member of St. James' since 1966, when he and Janice exchanged their wedding vows in the Lady Chapel. Over the years he has served in the capacity of Sunday School Superintendent and Vestry member, and for the past several years has been an active usher and counter. Both their son David and daughter Diane were baptized and confirmed at St. James'. Ron is a retired school teacher and now spends many happy hours with grandsons Zack and Colby and granddaughter Tess. In his spare time he likes to travel, read and exercise. Ron looks forward to continuing his service on the Vestry with the goal of helping to make St. James' an even better place. Ron is currently completing service on the Vestry for an unexpired term.

**DJ Hoffman** is a graduate of Education for Ministry (EFM) who has been worshipping at St. James' since 2003. You can find him in the kitchen cooking breakfast (with son Daniel, age 9) or reading a lesson or ushering. His is currently a partner in a small wellness company in Chester, and he also is a consultant in networking and computer training. Additionally, he is currently in the process of starting up his own toy company. DJ brings to the vestry his willingness to serve and ability to work in groups. DJ is currently completing service on the Vestry for an unexpired term.

**Paula Van Clef** was born in Elizabeth, NJ and has lived in New Jersey all her life. She lives in Great Meadows with her husband Michael, and son Alex who attends Sunday School at St. James'. Paula earned a Master of Public Health (MPH) from Columbia University School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from Rutgers University-Douglass College. She is a Certified Public Manager and has worked in healthcare for 15 years. Paula is employed by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services as a Regional Health Planner for Northwest New Jersey. She has been active with St. James since 2006, and serves as a lector and media liaison to help 'get the word out' about church events to local radio, television and newspapers. In her free time Paula likes to keep in touch with family and friends, crochet and go on family day-trips.

### **For Deputy to Diocesan Convention, three-year term expiring 2012**

*(Deputy attends Convention in year of term expiration):*

**Barbara White**, born in Norfolk, VA and raised in NC, joined the U.S. Army a few years after high school. While in the service she served at Fort Monroe, VA, Ft. Shafter, HI and Ft. Campbell KY. After 2 years as a Drill Sergeant at Ft Jackson, SC she moved to the Berlin Brigade, where she coordinated troop and equipment movements through East and West Germany for training purposes. She helped to establish and was appointed Commander of the first chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) established in the city of West Berlin. Barbara moved to Hackettstown from Brick, NJ and found St. James', where she has worked with the Altar Guild, Parish Life Committee and Fundraising Committee. Barbara is currently 3rd year student of Education for Ministry (EFM).

### **For Alternate Deputy to Diocesan Convention, one-year term expiring 2010**

*(Alternate serves through Convention in year of expiration):*

**Wendie Germain**: A few years after my husband's death I decided to move from Cleveland, Ohio, to this part of New Jersey to be near my daughter and her family. When I visited St. James', I knew it would be my new church home. Pam Laura quickly recruited me for the choir, which I have enjoyed for the past five years. The bell choir soon also joined my church activities. I attended the EFM classes for two years. (I believe in life-long learning and finally earned a college degree when I was 51.) I have been an avid birdwatcher, but between bears, deer ticks, and hunters, I've learned to be leery of the woods. However, Charlie, my dog, still makes sure I spend quality time outdoors with him each day.

