

St. James' Journal

The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats, Rector

April 2009

sabbatical (from the Greek *sabbatikos*, from Hebrew *shabbat*, i.e., Sabbath, literally a "ceasing") is a rest from work, a hiatus, typically lasting two or more months.

The concept of a sabbatical has a source in several places in the Bible, where there is a commandment to desist from working the fields in the seventh year. In Genesis, God rested (literally, "ceased" from his labor) after creating the universe, and it is applied to people (Jew and Gentile, slave and free) and even to beasts of burden in the Ten Commandments. The sabbath is the origin of the present-day practice of "the weekend," Saturday and Sunday, when most workers usually do not have to go to work. The sabbath itself was just one day each week, but the preceding day also came to be taken off, because it was considered necessary to do the tasks necessary to permit proper sabbath observance the next day.

The Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program awards grants to support an extended time of Sabbath rest and renewal for the pastor and his or her family, and to support their congregations in renewal activities as well. More than 1,000 congregations from all over the United States have been awarded grants of up to \$45,000. The National Clergy Renewal Program allows pastors to be away from their congregations for an extended period of time (typically three to four months) in order to travel, study, spend time with families and friends and, in many cases, renew old hobbies or develop new ones that provide alternative avenues for creative expression.

There is no set "model" as to what constitutes an ideal renewal program. Pastors and congregations work together to plan a renewal experience that will meet the needs of the entire community. Life-giving experiences - strengthening relationships, renewing a sense of call, meeting and serving neighbors in a new way, finding joy and purpose in a simplified life, traveling to new lands and unfamiliar territory, creating opportunities where members of the congregation can exercise their gifts for ministry - all are common themes of the program. Profound discoveries that pastors and their congregations describe as "life-changing events" occur as they participate in this program.

The Lilly Endowment mission is "to strengthen congregations by providing an opportunity for pastors...to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for drinking again from God's life-giving waters, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry." The Endowment is particularly interested in the ways that congregations use the time for their own reflection and renewal.

At its retreat in February, the Vestry of St. James' named as one of its goals to enter into a sabbatical period in 2010. The Lilly Endowment grant would provide a major component of the sabbatical - funding - to support this time of renewal. A Sabbatical Committee has accepted the call to develop and submit a proposal to the National Clergy Renewal Program for the support and funding of a time of renewal for the Rector and the Parish. Two vestry members, Martha Travostino and Paula Van Clef, are preparing the proposal with me. The work is surprisingly exciting and full of hope. The application is due May 14, and recipients will be notified in October.

The sabbatical frame of mind is a good one with which to enter Holy Week. It is a time to let go of the tasks that keep us so busy, but can *really* wait another week. It is a time to make space for the holy to enter into our lives, whether through the reading of the passion, the witness of light fading into darkness, or walking the way of the cross. When we create this space, we make room for the holy in ourselves and greet the dawning of Easter with new hope in our hearts.

Faithfully yours,

Cathy Deats +

Wardens' Words

Spring is here, Easter is upon us and Phase II is moving along. The wall at the top of the lobby stairs was opened a few weeks ago to allow the drywall to be installed and spackled. The upper hallway railing was installed as well. How wonderful it was to get a look at where we are headed. This month we plan to paint the new parish hall, put down the flooring and get started on installing some doors. Much has been done and we thank those who have been so generous with their time and talent. There is still much to do and plenty of opportunities to be a part of making our new parish hall a reality.

May you all have a joyful Easter.

*Dawn Modugno
Senior Warden*

Vestry hi-lites from the March meeting

- A Sabbatical Committee was formed to prepare a proposal for the Rector's three-month sabbatical planned for 2010.
- Communications: email lists will be streamlined for ease of use and made available to list members (i.e., acolytes, efm, ushers, etc.)
- Vanco Services has begun providing electronic funds transfers (EFT) for members who wish to pay their pledges via bank transfer of funds. Presently, Vestry Members are testing the system for the Administrator and Treasurer. Parish Members will be invited to participate with notice to be enclosed in the first quarter statements.

Over the past few weeks the upper level of the parish hall has undergone a rather remarkable transformation; in particular, the installation of the railing along the upper hallway, the opening of the doorway (across from the Moore St. entrance) and the sheet-rocking of the walls. After looking at the unfinished space (cinderblock walls, insulation between studs, exposed wiring, etc) for a full year, the sight of sheet-rocked walls are a welcome sight! The place is really taking shape and I can sense much excitement.

Admittedly, there were times when I wondered how (and when) the Parish Hall was going to be completed. It appeared to be such an overwhelming task; one that would require so much time, talent and treasure to complete. It felt like we were climbing a mountain that just kept rising in front of us. However, I believe we've now reached the apex and from here the finish line is in sight. There is still work to be done but I believe the heaviest work is now behind us.

I hope to see everyone at the building dedication on April 26th. It will be a time of well deserved celebration. Finally, after many years of intense effort, the time is near when the community of St. James' will be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

*Greg Malejko
Junior Warden*



We are working hard on Phase II of construction. In March, a group of folks cleaned up the area for the sheetrockers to come in. Above: Dave Handville, Greg Malejko, Dawn Modugno and Thomas Malejko, home for the weekend from the US Military Academy. Rick Ames, star recycler, sorts materials for recycling. These photos with caption were sent to those unable to come to church by the Lay Pastoral Caregivers

ON APRIL 26, 1859, THE CORNERSTONE WAS LAID FOR
ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN HACKETTSTOWN
150 YEARS OF BUILDING COMMUNITY



1859 - 2009

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US
FOR THE DEDICATION OF
THE OPEN DOORS PARISH HALL
ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH 4:00 PM
SERVICE OF DEDICATION
RECEPTION FOLLOWING
THE RT. REV. JOHN SHELBY SPONG,
CELEBRANT AND PREACHER
RSVP BY APRIL 22ND
908.852.3968
STJAMES214@COMCAST.NET

Complete Holy Week and Easter Schedule on page 4

More April Dates to Remember

- April 18 Confirmation Class • 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
- April 23 Vestry Meeting • Mitcham House • 7:30 PM
- April 25 Confirmation Class • 9:30 - 11:00 AM
- April 26 Building Dedication • 4:00 pm

There is no 8 or 10 AM service that day.

Coming up in May

- May 2 Confirmation Class • Noon - 1:30 PM
- May 3 Energy Options Presentation • 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- May 4 – 11 Rector's Vacation



The Lay Eucharistic Visitors (those who bring Holy Communion to our members at home or in hospital) have reorganized. Along with regular visits to our members who need to have the Eucharist at home, they will also be available to visit on a temporary basis for people in hospital or rehab. This important ministry assists the clergy in meeting the needs of people at home or those who are ill or injured. Two new LEVs are in the process of getting “on the job” training in preparation for being licensed by the Diocese for this ministry. Please speak to the Rector if you are interested in learning more about this ministry

Lay Eucharistic Ministers are licensed to not only serve at the Holy Eucharist, but also to conduct public worship. With that in mind, led by Russ Worthington, they have launched a new ministry at the House of the Good Shepherd. Deacon Jeanette Hile conducts a service of (early) evening prayer each Sunday at 2 pm, for all residents regardless of church affiliation. The service is very popular and attendance has tripled to between 30 and 40, with special feast day services packing the house (St. Margaret's Chapel) at 50! In need of assistance at the service, she approached St. James' and Russ began to serve once a month (believing he was part of a rotation). But as he was the only LEM, he has gathered others to cover each week at the House. This service of joy is given by Meg Critchley, Pam Laura, Barbara White and Russ Worthington. Stories of their experiences will appear in future issues of the Journal!

The United Thank Offering (UTO) ingathering at the Diocese of Newark Annual Convention 2009 yielded \$15,087.77 from 57 congregations. St. James' participated with our own donations and blue boxes: \$174. Many thanks for your support of this important ministry, which gives grants for the needs of communities in the United States and around the world.

Hackettstown Group Home

We continue our relationship with the women of the Hackettstown Group Home with a craft night on April 16th (*postponed from the second Thursday due to Holy Week*). The women are looking forward to creating collages with pictures and other creative media. 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. Please contact the church office or Eileen (908.852.3283) to let us know when you would like to help. Teenagers especially welcome!

Energy Options - Green Solutions for You and Me May 3rd will be presented by Joe Wargo, an "environmental techie" who loves to spread the word about solutions to dwindling resources, and how one person can make a difference.

Unlike Kermit, Joe Wargo says, “It’s easy being green!” Joe will speak from his research and personal experience to the issue of how to be greener in our homes at a forum on Sunday, May 3rd – 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the Chapel (*but watch for signs – with the Parish Hall nearly completed, we may be in the Great Hall!*)

Learn ways to save and invest money, clear up confusion and relieve anxiety!

Coffee and refreshments will be served

Joe Wargo asks you to fill out the Energy Options Questionnaire (copies are in the Narthex). Please return this form to the church prior to April 26th.

Mission Strategy is collecting canned fruit in April for Trinity's Food Pantry. The collection bins are at all entrances.



Holy Week and Easter at St. James' Church

Palm Sunday, April 5 – 8:00 and 10:00 AM

Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entrance of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. At the 10 AM service, we remember his journey with a neighborhood procession with palms and singing. Members of the congregation read the story of the passion.

Wednesday in Holy Week, April 8 – Tenebrae

We read by candlelight the story of God's redemption. As the night progresses, the candles are extinguished and we remember the darkness of the tomb in which Jesus was buried.

Maundy Thursday, April 9 – Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing

Jesus celebrates the Passover with his disciples with a meal. Then he takes on the role of a servant and washes their feet. The altar is stripped of all decoration and the reserved sacrament is removed to the chapel for the Maundy Thursday Vigil. Choir and organ echo the solemn mood.

Maundy Thursday Vigil (in the Chapel) – April 9-10

We pray and meditate in silence in the presence of the sacrament of the body of Christ. We heed Christ's words, "Could you not watch with me one brief hour?" Members of St. James' sign up to keep vigil each hour of the night from 9:00 pm until noon on Friday. Please enter the chapel via the Moore Street chapel door.

Good Friday, April 10 - Community Ecumenical Service 12:00 noon

We pray the Good Friday Liturgy together as a community and listen to God's word to us. We read the story of the last hours of the life of Jesus the Christ.

Good Friday, April 10 – Stations of the Cross 7:30 PM

We walk with Jesus on his last journey to the cross, stopping on the way to remember those who beat and mocked him, those who helped him, and those who grieved. Choir and organ accompany our prayer.

Holy Saturday, April 11 – Chapel Service 12 NOON

Simple prayers and reflection on the day Christ spent in the place of the dead.

Easter Eve, April 11 – The Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 PM

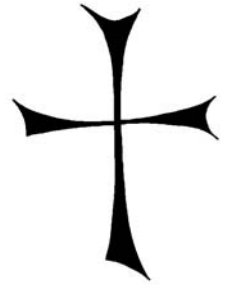
The first celebration of the resurrection, held after sundown on Saturday. The service begins in darkness. We light new fire for the Paschal (Easter) Candle, which celebrates resurrection. We hear the story of God's grace through history, and we bring back the joy postponed for the season of Lent, with alleluias and the ringing of the bells. (Bring any kind of bell to ring!) Organ and choirs lead our praises.

Easter Day, April 12 – Holy Eucharist 8:00 and 10:00 AM

We celebrate a festive Holy Eucharist with great rejoicing and the sounds of the trumpet. Organ and choirs lead our singing.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed; Alleluia Alleluia!



Dawn Modugno, Dave Heistand and Russ Worthington worked in Open Doors Parish Hall, preparing walls for the painting crew, due the next day on Saturday April 3rd. Dawn climbed THAT ladder to work on the skylight opening.

Photos courtesy of Russ



Youth Group News

Youth group will meet on April 19th, the THIRD Sunday in April, due to Easter on the 2nd Sunday and the special dedication service on the 4th Sunday. Our topic will be "Disabilities". We will have a 40 minute class and then join the congregation for Eucharist. All youth from grades 6-12 are welcome. Questions, comments: *Dawn Modugno* and *Lori Pursel*.



Congratulations and many thanks to Youth Group and Confirmation Class members who participated in the 30-Hour Famine to raise funds for World Vision. The monies raised directly address the root causes of poverty in the world.

\$861 was raised by Isaac Quelly, Justin Simmons, Amy

Modugno, Katie Lacouture and Ricky Okoye.

It costs \$360 to feed a child for one year. That means that our Youth Group is feeding two children for an entire year!

A portion of the Famine funds raised this year will now help feed 5 times more children. The U.S. government has awarded World Vision a number of matching food grants for 2009 so the funds we raised will have a much greater impact.

Thanks to our young people for the lessons we learned through their service. Thanks to them for bringing the realities of hunger and poverty into the sanctuary with the visual images of hundreds of school buses. When full of children, they represent the 26,000 children who die of hunger-related causes each year (14,000 from hunger and malnutrition alone).

Thanks to Lori Pursel and Dawn Modugno for their leadership! **This is our eighth Famine, and from 2002-2009 our young people have raised a total of \$9881.00! Awesome!!**

Cathy Deats

Godspeed Kopper

March 22nd was Kopper's last day with us. He has learned all his lessons and is on his way back to The Seeing Eye for testing to see where he will serve best. He could become a dog guide, therapy dog, or even a service animal for a disabled person.



Blessings on Kopper, and on all the Modugnos who loved him and prepared him for this day.

Photo: Dawn Modugno, Ben and Madeline Edens, and Kopper

Sunday School News

Godly Play Lessons have focused on Lent and Christ's journey during that time before Easter. In addition, the students are preparing to sing in church on Easter Morning at the 10 AM service. Pam Laura has been visiting us to teach the students the song and to practice it. It should be an extra Easter treat to hear them!

The collection of Bins and Bags went very well and the items were delivered to Family Promise on March 23. The organization was very appreciative and I am already in receipt of a thank you letter. **Thanks to all of you who contributed** and it is our hope to make ourselves available for future projects with them.

Please save the date of **May 31st** to celebrate the end of Sunday School with a recognition of students and a party.

April Schedule:

April 5	Family Sunday/Palm Sunday- No Sunday School
April 12	Easter Sunday-No Sunday School
April 19	Godly Play Lesson – Easter theme
April 26	Celebration of St. James 150 th No Sunday School Services will be in the afternoon that day

Kathy Lacouture

Preparing the Table

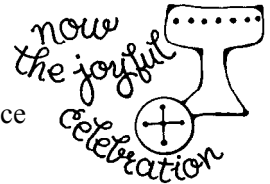
Whether you call it cup or chalice
plate or paten
napkin or purificator
this special feast is for us

And under the silken veil and carefully folded linen
is our food

Our children can teach us so much about mystery. We know the common names and the Episcopal names of the things of which ritual is made. And underneath it all, God's love to us.

Thanks to the children of the Sunday School who helped to dress the altar on March's fifth Sunday.

Cathy Deats



Members in the news

Eric Gurnowski won the gold medal in the US Fencing Association Junior Olympics in the under-20 Junior Men's epee. Eric is an Ohio State University freshman. *If you know of a member or friend of St. James' who is in the news, report it to news4stjames@comcast.net anytime!*

POPE JOHN'S ALL-ROUND ATHLETE Okoye looks to master decathlon

Photo and excerpts from an article by Jon Geramita in the NJ Herald, March 30th.

Ricky Okoye, a Pope John senior, has begun training for the decathlon at the Nike Outdoor Nationals in late June in North Carolina. If you go to a track meet this year; he'll be the one running from event to event like his pants are on fire.

He already competed in the pentathlon (five events) at the National Scholastic Indoor Championships in New York in March, placing 13th out of 28 competitors. He already has become an expert in the high jump, the long jump, triple jump, the shot put, and his best event, the discus, where he threw a county-best 148-4 last year.

The decathlon is a two-day event with 30 minutes between each individual event. Day one consists of the 100 meters, long jump, shot put, high jump and 400 meters. Day two features the hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin and the final event, the 1,500 meters.

(GO, RICKY, GO!! – editor)



Meet Janice Cipriani

Janice was born and raised in Pennsylvania and attended the same high school in Plains Twsp as her husband Ron. She was a cheerleader and took ballet lessons and loved to read.

Janice and Ron eloped, but when the family found out and decided they should attend the ceremony, they were married at St. James'. When her father was asked to give Janice away, he said, "Absolutely not, she has lived with us for 21 years and we want to keep it that way!" Father Wing, who performed the ceremony, was shocked until he realized Janice's father was joking!

Janice received her BS degree from Centenary College where she attended part-time while raising her family and working. She has been with Heath Village for the past 25 years where she is currently the Director of Marketing/Housing Services.

Janice and Ron have two adult children, Diane and David. Diane and husband Joel have given them three beautiful grandchildren, Zack, Colby and Tess. David lives in Georgia and has given them a granddog named Brandy and a grandcat name Pee Wee!

Janice is a very involved parishioner at St. James'. She has served on the Vestry as both member and Warden, is an usher and counter along with Ron, is on the Stewardship Committee and is the Chairperson for both the Open Doors Capital Campaign and the 150th Anniversary Campaign. You can find Janice participating in most of St. James' events.

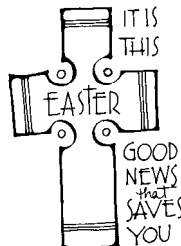
In her spare time Janice enjoys traveling, reading, walking and playing tennis. Ask her about her current venture, Jazzercise!

Roving Reporter Barbara Olesen

May Journal articles Due Monday, April 27, 2009

Phyllis Heistand, Editor
Email news4stjames@comcast.net

This issue marks the beginning of my eighth year as Journal Editor. To all who contribute to these pages, beginning with Cathy, to Dave for his support, and to the assemblers on page 8, my heartfelt thanks.



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

stjameshackettstown.org
Russ Worthington, Webmaster

Check out the latest slide shows!

Altar Guild

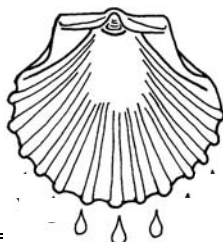
All Altar Guild teams will meet on Saturday, April 11th at 10 AM to set up for Easter Sunday. We will be polishing brass and wood, ironing linens, arranging Easter plants and cut flowers...everything to make the church ready for this special day. Cathy will give a brief Lenten service for us during the preparations. Any member of the congregation how would like to come out and see what altar Guild is all about is most welcome...no strings or long term obligations attached.

Earlier this month Cathy sent me an email asking me to accompany her on a trip to the Almay showroom in Connecticut to choose a commemorative chasuble for St James' upcoming 150th anniversary. Actually I think she asked if I would play Thelma to her Louise. Well I've never seen the movie *Thelma and Louise* but I've heard it does not have a good ending. And since my daughter began driving herself to Morris Catholic and Kevin can walk to school here in Hackettstown and I work less than two miles from home, I avoid highways and interstates at all costs. But Cathy was going to drive and we had Gertrude the GPS along for the ride, so I decided to try it. We made it to Greenwich in just under 90 minutes.

With the help of a very knowledgeable salesperson, Cathy selected a white Bristol fabric, red and black orphrey binding in a Y design with a vesica with a shell on the back. The Bristol cloth is a durable and wrinkle resistant polyester that drapes well. It is comfortable in the summer ...and we all know how hot our Church can be. The chasuble will be lined with white satin and embroidered with a commemorative inscription for the occasion. It is also roomy enough to accommodate those rectors who may serve after Cathy. (Unless one is over 300 pounds and 6'8" and then s/he should bring their own vestments!)

Orphrey bindings are ancient decorative adornments for vestments and hangings. A vesica is an embroidered symbol on a fabric background. The red and black represents St James' martyrdom and shell with three drops of water is his liturgical symbol. We also arranged for matching priest and deacon stoles to be made. It is anticipated that Cathy and Sheila will wear these vestments at the 150th commemorative service in April.

Meg Critchley



Bell Choir "Notes"

The Bell Choir was busy in March, participating in the 10:00 service on March 22 and March 29. The bells will be heard again on Maundy Thursday, April 9 and at both services on Easter Sunday. The bells will also participate in the service on April 26 for the 150th Anniversary of St. James' and the dedication of the new building.

We are looking forward to having an additional octave of bells and may actually be using them on Easter Sunday.

Louise Olshan

Senior Choir

The senior choir is busy preparing for Holy Week and our 150th Anniversary/Building Dedication! We will be singing on Good Friday Stations of the Cross, Easter Vigil and at both Easter Services. Listen for our Easter piece as it is a departure from the traditional Easter anthem. The music was written by William Albright, born in 1944. It has a modern, almost jazzy, feel. The lyrics are by John Bennett, also a contemporary lyricist.

We are also preparing two pieces for the 150th/Dedication. If there are any of you who would be interested in singing with the choir at the 150th/Dedication service, please let me know. The two pieces are not difficult but we could use more voices to really fill the pieces out. We usually get to those pieces near the end of our rehearsal time - about 8:30 or 8:45. If you'd like to sing at that special service but would rather rehearse that music earlier in our rehearsal time, we can arrange that. Just let me know that you want to sing and can come to the remaining three rehearsals and I will plan to rehearse those pieces at the beginning of rehearsal if that works better!

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will be singing at the 10 am Easter service. They have been rehearsing during Sunday School time for the past couple of weeks and are doing a great job!

Pam Laura

*IN HIM WE LIVE
I AM IN THE FATHER AND
AND MOYE AND
YOU ARE IN ME and I AM IN YOU
HAVE OUR BEING*

ACTS 17:28 + JOHN 14:20

Fundraising News

During the month of March, we held a St. Patrick's Day dinner at Christ Church in Budd Lake, where we discovered several things. First, the advertising in the local newspapers does work in getting people interested in our dinners, the first twenty people we served were not members of either St. James' or Christ Church and had read about the event in the newspaper. So the word really is getting out there. We made some friends at St. Jude's that have volunteered to post our events at their church, which is really cool. The second thing we discovered; it does not take five hours to cook corned beef. Paul Bartkus can do it in 40 minutes! [thanks to his handy pressure cooker] And it was delicious. Thank you Paul. And last but not least, Cathy still has her GREEN hair. We had a great turnout both from our parish and the community. Thanks to everyone that attended and helped out before, during and after the dinner. We raised \$507.00.

The Easter candy sale went very smooth. Candy was ordered, received and distributed with little effort thanks to Ellen Infante. We raised \$263.63. Thank you again for your support.

What in the World coffee hour was also a success. We do not have a figure yet but many people stopped by to shop. Thanks to Barbara Olesen and Anne Dutton for hosting that event for us.

We still have the St. James' pens for sale if you need one or TEN just let me know, we still have plenty. Cold Stone Creamery is offering 10% of your purchases back to St. James' so remember, "LIFE IS SHORT; EAT DESSERT FIRST", be sure and remember to take a bulletin with you.



Undercover Angels

- ☺ The children of the Sunday School prepared more than twenty bags of food for our neighbors who are hungry
- ☺ Desserts and drinks for the second Parish Development Dinner were brought to you by Linda Murray
- ☺ The children of the Sunday School prepared fifteen care packages for our college students – we are sure they enjoyed the snacks and magnets and stationery items, but the best prize must have been the personalized cards and pictures from the children.
- ☺ Desserts for the third Parish Development Dinner were prepared by Brenda Hubert

If you discover an undercover angel, report it to news4stjames@comcast.net anytime

We will kick off our Yankee Candle sale on April 19th. This sale will run for four Sundays with orders being due on Mother's Day, May 10th. Catalogs and order forms will be in the coffee hour area. If you have questions, please contact Barbara White. The fundraising committee will also host coffee hour on the 19th. If you have any ideas or suggestions for fundraisers please bring them with you.

Our rummage sale will be on Saturday, April 25th, the same weekend as the Hackettstown Town-wide Yard Sale. Sorry, no electronics or books. Donations can be dropped off at the Mitcham House starting the 20th. Our sale will begin at 8 am. We need volunteers to help set up and clean up. There will be a sign up sheet in the coffee area if you are interested.

We are planning a golf outing for late September or early October. There will be lots of details available in the next couple of months. If you would like to participate in the planning phase for this event, please let us know. You can contact Meg or Bill Critchley or Barbara White. We look forward to hearing from you!!! The next meeting for that committee is April 15th, 7:30 in the Mitcham House. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The FRC has several events in the planning stages, Our next meeting is April 30th, 7:30 in the Mitcham House. Again, if you have ideas or suggestions and would like to attend, please feel free.

Thank you for all your support.

Barbara White

Heath Village Folders and Sealers (of the Journal)

Marge Ames and Dolly Iverson indicated an interest in working on the Journal when they filled out their Time and Talent cards last fall. Barbara Olesen gave them assembling training and happily, with our many thanks for her service, turned the monthly job over to them.

Marge Ames has assembled a stalwart crew to fold, seal and label the 200 x 6 or 7 sheets of paper that photocopier Dave readies for them on the Saturday before the first Sunday of the month. Along with Marge and Dolly, those who have worked to assemble the Journal include Rick Ames, Peg Pfaff and Paul Whitney. Those who have signed up to help in the future include Pat Taylor, David Taylor, Jane Lowery, Isabelle Simon, Les Gurney and Elizabeth Gurney

Thank you one and all!! *Phyllis Heistand*

EFM Joins a Purim Celebration

EFM class went on a field trip to Temple Shalom in Succasunna to join in the Purim celebration. Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. The word "Purim" means "lots" and refers to the lottery that Haman used to choose the date for the massacre. It is customary to hold carnival-like celebrations on Purim, to perform plays. Americans sometimes refer to Purim as the Jewish Mardi Gras.

Read the story of Purim as it is told in the Biblical book of Esther. The book of Esther is commonly known as the Megillah, which means scroll. Ask someone from EFM about the celebration that we attended at the temple. It was awesome.

Among Jews, a common treat at this time of year is *hamantaschen* (lit. Haman's pockets). These triangular fruit-filled cookies are supposed to represent Haman's three-cornered hat. I have included a recipe below that my friend Rene at work gave me

Eileen Malejko

Parish Development Dinner April 1st



Our consultant, Peter Saros, applauded the large turnout for our third meeting on April 1st. After dinner, we split up into the four committees, Ministry, Promotion/Publicity, Events, and Host/Hostess. Working in this inclusive way has energized each group to plan, carry out and actively support parish development

Our next meeting, with dinner, will be held Monday, May 11th, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, at Trinity House (behind Trinity United Methodist Church, on Moore and Main Streets). **Come with us on this journey!**



Peter Saros

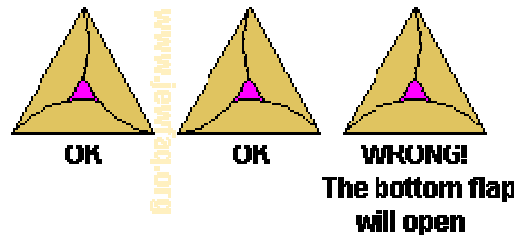


Hamentaschen

- 2/3 cup butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup orange juice (the smooth kind, not the pulpy)
- 1 cup white flour
- 1 cup wheat flour (DO NOT substitute white flour! The wheat flour is necessary to achieve the right texture!)
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- Various preserves, fruit butters and/or pie fillings.

Blend butter and sugar thoroughly. Add the egg and blend thoroughly. Add OJ and blend thoroughly. Add flour, 1/2 cup at a time, alternating white and wheat, blending thoroughly between each. Add the baking powder and cinnamon with the last half cup of flour. Refrigerate batter overnight or at least a few hours. Roll as thin as you can without getting holes in the batter (roll it between two sheets of wax paper lightly dusted with flour for best results). Cut out 3 or 4 inch circles.

Put a dollop of filling in the middle of each circle. Fold up the sides to make a triangle, folding the last corner under the starting point, so that each side has corner that folds over and a corner that folds under (see picture at right). Folding in this "pinwheel" style will reduce the likelihood that the last side will fall open while cooking, spilling out the filling. It also tends to make a better triangle shape.



Bake at 350 degrees for about 15-20 minutes, until golden brown but before the filling boils over!

Traditional fillings are poppy seed and prune, but apricot is my favorite. Apple butter, pineapple preserves, and cherry pie filling all work quite well from what my friend Rene tells me.



Where and When We Pray

Members of the Prayer Ministry were asked to share something about when and where they pray. "Anytime and anywhere" could summarize their responses.

BECAUSE I WORK ALONE in an office and often have short periods of quiet, I open the prayer request e-mails during those quiet periods and pray right away. If I don't do that the prayer time may be overtaken by events. This has been a good thing for my prayer life because in the process of praying for others I have increased the times I pray. It is also very comforting to be able to have several quiet periods during the day that are set aside for prayer and reflection. Now every time I go on my computer, I wait for the quiet time, open my e-mail and pray.

Chika Okoye

I OFTEN PRAY IN THE POOL while swimming laps. The water is calming and the repetition of the laps provides a framework for prayer. Some prayers require four or six laps; others, ten or twenty. My prayer is often framed by the image of God ruling the waters at creation as well as the muting of sound that helps me enter more deeply into prayer.

Cathy Deats

I PRAY IN MY CONDO'S one large living and dining room. Here I have a serene view of trees, farm fields and distant mountains. My upstairs neighbors are away to school and job, so I have quiet and peace.

Joyce Forman

YOUR REQUEST HAS TRULY MADE ME THINK about prayer. My time with God lately has been limited. As is my usual custom in times of stress, I have built that tall, sturdy wall around my heart to protect me from my feelings; one can only deal with so much pain at a time no matter the kind. I always say a special prayer when you send me a prayer request, but the silence I feel when a prayer is offered always seems overwhelming.

The thing I realized this morning as I drove to work (in silence- a habit I picked up several years ago during Lent) is that at some point there is "nature picture" out my car window that takes my breath away. It is for me the vision of God, and although our exchange is still perhaps silent, it is not without connection and meaning. I have in the last day also realized that perhaps God helped build my wall, not for me to cut myself off from my feelings necessarily, but to allow me the strength to offer comfort and support to those I love. I know that he will be there in time to take down the wall, but for now prayer will have to be what my heart does alone, body and mind will come later.

Mary Pratt

PHYLLIS ASKED THE PRAYER GROUP to write about where and when we pray. At first I thought this would be a simple thing to do, but as I thought about it, I examined why I prayed. I guess different circumstances call forth different prayers.

Of course, being part of the prayer chain I get e-mail about those who need prayer. Therefore, I pray in front of my computer. Sometimes hearing or seeing something leads to prayer at that moment anywhere or anytime.

One of my favorite types of prayer is a spontaneous "Thank You" to God. These prayers seem to come to me mostly when I'm outdoors, such as when I look up at the night sky here in Northern New Jersey and see those stars shining back at me. We have beautiful skies in this area. When I lived near Lake Erie, we had cloudy overcasts for six to eight months of the year. I live on a golf course now and have a beautiful vista off my deck. When I eat my breakfast or lunch out there, I am in awe of God's creation, and my soul sings. Charlie, my dog, also watches the deer quietly go by. Strangely, he doesn't bark at the deer. I think he too shares in the wonders of nature.

Then there are the times I'm really upset!!!! It's a good thing God is patient. One time in the 1980s stands out in my mind. I was in a motel on I-80 traveling back to Ohio after taking care of my parents in their declining years. I literally yelled at God in a motel room because I thought God was being very unfair to my parents. He listened. During that period, I remember crying in a restaurant, tears streaming down my face, because I was so incapable of helping them. Again, God listened. Sometimes that is what is needed – just to be listened to.

Other times something eats away at me. This calls for meditation in a quiet place. Often I work out problems in the middle of the night. I know I want to take some kind of action, but I don't know what to do or how to do it. Answers seem to come to me in the dark of my bedroom. The next morning I don't know why it took me so long to figure it out.

So where and when do I pray? I guess the answer is anywhere and anytime. God's always there with me.

Wendie Germain

We invite you to join the Prayer Ministry in our intercessions for others in need. Each of us prays wherever we are - at work, in a swimming pool, at home, in a car, anytime and anywhere.

Speak to one of the contributors to this article, to Cathy or to me, at church or call 908.850.0372.

Phyllis Heistand

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St James' Staff & Vestry

Rector:	The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats
Deacon	The Rev. Sheila Shuford
Rector Emeritus:	The Rev. Clarence Sickles
Sr. Warden:	Dawn Modugno
Jr. Warden:	Greg Malejko
Treasurer:	Penn Pixley
Parish Administrator:	Linda Murray
Music Director:	Pam Laura
Organist:	Louise Olshan
Sexton:	Pauline Volkert

Vestry:

Richard Ames	Ron Cipriani
Paula Van Clef	DJ Hoffman
David Lacouture	Brian Nolan
Martha Travostino	Barbara White

Russ Worthington

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