



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

THE REV. DR. CATHY L. DEATS, RECTOR

OCTOBER 2009

Do you remember the game show, "Password, hosted by Allen Ludden"? One contestant is given a secret word and the object of the game is to get his teammate to say the word by giving one-word clues. If I had the word, BIRTHDAY, I might give the clue PARTY or CAKE. It is a classic exercise in word association: connecting words through context or sound or experience.

When you hear the word STEWARDSHIP, what is the first word that pops into your mind? If you are a church-going person, the most likely word would be MONEY. Good answer! A partial answer, but a good answer. You might also say, CARE or PROPERTY or SERVICE. All are good answers. Historically, stewardship was the responsibility given to household servants to bring food and drinks to a castle dining hall. Later, the term expanded to include responsibility for managing household affairs. A steward on a ship or airplane is responsible for taking care of passengers' needs. And while the term is used in these specific ways, in general stewardship means a responsibility to take care of something owned by someone else. In the church, we have our own definitions of stewardship: ...all that we do with all that we have all the time; everything we do after we say "I believe"; using the gifts God has given us to do the work God is calling us to do.

Since stewardship teaches that all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God, stewardship is our *response* to these gifts, and therefore rooted in thanksgiving. And giving which is based on thanksgiving and which honors God is sacrificial. The root of the word sacrifice is not 'pain' or 'hurt,' although sacrificial giving does hurt. The real meaning of sacrifice is to 'make holy.' The time I spend teaching Sunday School or readying the altar for worship or preparing coffee hour is holy time: time set aside for God and the good of God's community. The money I give to the work of the church is money I have had to take from something else. The talent I share freely and for which normally I am paid, is sacred: set aside for the building up of the body of Christ.

There are many ways to decide how much to give: how much time, how much money, how much talent. Since sacrifice does hurt, I can simply give until it hurts.

Not such an accurate way, and it could be mostly hit or miss. I can pay all my bills, do all my work and chores, and give what is left. But if sacrifice is to make holy, I will give the best and the first to God. The ancient people of God knew this. The standard they handed down from community to community was the tithe, most often interpreted to mean ten percent. Today that standard is held as the goal of giving for The Episcopal Church and for the Diocese of Newark.

Giving away ten percent of our income may seem not only unrealistic but impossible, especially in these days of unemployment and economic crisis. It is, in fact, not only possible but practiced by many. The more important question for me is, if someone is successful at it, how did they do it and why? People who tithe do not just wake up one morning and deposit their paycheck of \$600 and write a check for \$60 to their church community or charity. The commitment to a level of giving that will cause a person to realign priorities down to every expenditure is the result of a deep belief that not only does God own all that we have, but that God will care for us no matter what.

There is another secret to stewardship. You will find it in the Gospel of Luke: "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38)

A man in one of the host families in Appalachia was a carpenter, now disabled. He was feeling frustrated watching a team of adults and teens make repairs to his home. By the third day, he began to share his skill as he could: as a teacher and purveyor of tools. At the end of the week, the work team reported that it seemed his attitude and emotional state had undergone an amazing transformation. Giving opens the heart and makes us feel good. When we are feeling down or deprived or alone, often giving time to another can restore our spirits. When we are feeling financially pinched, giving even a small amount of money to help homeless people, whether in Warren County or Samoa, can bring us to prayer for those who suffer and prayer for ourselves that our hearts be full of thanksgiving for what we do have.

And the password is, BLESSING.

In God's sacrificial love,

Cathy Deats +



Warden's Letter

Things never seem to slow down around here! It was a great and busy summer with lots of St. James' events and fellowship. We had a wonderful and successful Golf Outing last month that was well received by everyone. The Golf Committee did an amazing job. As most of you know, my group had the highest score, but I believe we also had the most fun! Now we are back into the school routine with a new parish hall for the Sunday school to meet in and for us to use for our events. We hope to have the kitchen ready for appliances very soon.

We have many exciting things coming up this fall for everyone to enjoy and help out with: more parish development dinners, the Tricky Tray, the continued celebration of our 150th Anniversary, the Feast of St. James' Murder Mystery dinner and the Bishop's visit. Peter Saros, our parish development and stewardship leader, will continue helping us learn how to attract new people to St. James' and address the needs of those of us already here. He will also be talking about stewardship and giving from the heart.

Come be a part of all that is going at St. James'!

Dawn Modugno
Senior Warden

Vestry Hi-lites from September meeting

- The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, Bishop of Newark, will be our guest on Sunday, November 8.
- Veteran's Day service with reading of the 7,000 names of war dead from Afghanistan and Iraq will be held November 8 beginning at 1 PM.
- The Vestry approved donations from Mission Strategy to Homeless Connect (\$100) and Family Promise (\$247), both programs, which assist homeless individuals and families in Warren County.
- Sunday School registrations are doubled over last year. Godly Play now meets in the Great Hall, with the benefit of room dividers.

CREDO

The Rector will join 30 other clergy in a CREDO conference in Richmond, VA, from October 12-19. CREDO was founded in 1997 as a program of the Church Pension Group, and is funded by them. Over the course of the conference, participants meet in small groups and plenary sessions, as they find clarity in four component areas: spiritual, physical, vocational and financial. CREDO provides a foundation for participants to foster wellness in their vocations and personal lives. Please support Cathy in prayer as she takes this time to reflect and renew.

Diocesan Events

The Diocese of Newark offers many opportunities for education, service, and spiritual growth, especially for youth. Here are some happenings:

Christophany: A FUNtastic Program for Middle Schoolers: Youth in grades 6-8 in our diocese have a wonderful opportunity to experience a fun, faith-filled weekend with new and old friends! It's called Christophany and it will be held on **October 23-25** at St. Luke's, Montclair.

The registration deadline is October 9 and the cost is \$60. As always, **SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.** The program is planned by a great team of youth and is sure to be one of the highlights of the participants' youth ministry experiences! For more information please visit our website or contact Kaileen Alston.

"Becoming Disciples - How will we create a culture of call?" World-renowned Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann will give the keynote address at an afternoon workshop on **Sunday, October 25**, which will begin the discussion and planning of a Day of Discernment in the Spring. Dinner and table discussion will identify key areas of how we might begin and continue to live into our Covenant to be life-giving, vibrant faith communities. To be held at St. Andrew & Holy Communion, South Orange from 4 pm - 7 pm. **Registration is required by Monday, October 19.**

Planned Giving Seminars: Facilitated by Jim Murphy of the Episcopal Church Foundation, these seminars are open to all clergy and lay leaders who are interested in taking the mystery out of planned giving for their congregation. Learn how planned giving differs from annual stewardship and capital campaigns, and how your parish can build endowment funds. The presentation is **Tuesday, November 3** at 7:30 pm - Church of the Messiah, Chester (Evening Prayer, 7 pm). Please RSVP to [Jim Murphy](#) directly (by email or phone, 800-697-2858). **The response deadline is October 27.**



What soever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me

October Dates to Remember

October 3	Hackettstown Community Day • Blessing of Animals
October 4	Family Breakfast
October 8	Finance Committee meeting • 7:30 PM
October 24	Tricky Tray • Budd Lake Fire House
Choir Practice	October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 - Church - 7:30 PM
Bell Choir	Sundays after Coffee Hour following the 10:00 service
Youth Group	October 11 & 18 • during 10:00 AM Service

November Dates to Remember

November 7	Feast of St. James' • 150th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
November 8	Bishop's Visit • One Service



Support Your Local Food Pantry In October, we will be collecting soup for Trinity's Food Pantry. Collection containers are in the Narthex and in the hallway to the Parish Hall.

College Students If you have a family member away at college, please email, or call the office, with their address at school so that we may send them the monthly newsletter and care package.

The Finance Committee will be meeting on **October 8th** at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome and we are interested in getting everyone's input as we start preparing the 2010 budget.

Greg Malejko

Healing Service October 18th

In honor of St. Luke the Physician, the liturgies on October 18th will be Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing. The Rev. Jim Warnke will preside and the Prayer Ministry will assist with the Laying on of Hands. The Prayer Ministry members pray each day all year round for the needs brought to them by the people and clergy of St. James'. Their ministry also supports the work of our community as they pray for various ministries, meetings and issues. As we offer a public service of healing this Sunday during each year, we are reminded that we are to bring our needs to God and to offer prayers for our own health and wholeness, and that of others.

We welcome the newly baptized

We welcomed Paityn Corinne Bates, daughter of Michael and Dawn Bates, into the body of Christ on Sunday, September 27th.

House of The Good Shepherd Dedicates Renovated Skilled Nursing Center

Warm woods and soothing colors of earth and sky now welcome you into the skilled nursing center at the House of the Good Shepherd. A major renovation of ten months' time was recently completed. Staff and residents remained in place as the work proceeded in all common areas and every resident room. The process was tricky and at times frustrating, but all agreed on Sunday, the 27th of September, that the result was well worth it.

continued on page 4

The Feast of St. James' Celebration

The sesquicentennial of St. James' has been celebrated with dinners, parade presence, dedication of artistic objects, and dedication of the Open Doors Parish Hall. Our final celebration will prove to be the jewel, which crowns the year!

On Saturday, November 7th, be sure to be at the Feast of St. James' Dinner, beginning at 6:30 pm in the Great Hall. The evening will feature a Murder Mystery Party.

On Sunday, November 8th, the Bishop of Newark will be our guest at one liturgy beginning at 10 AM. He will meet with the Wardens and Vestry at 9 AM, and the service will be followed by a reception and conversation with Mark Beckwith. This is the Bishop's regular visit, which takes place every two years. It is our opportunity to hear what the Diocese is doing and to receive the Bishop's blessing on our ministries, individual and corporate.



BE FOREWARNED! A DASTARDLY PLOT IS BEING DEVELOPED TO COMMIT MAYHEM AND POSSIBLY MURDER AT THE FEAST OF ST. JAMES' DINNER ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH. YOUR POWERS OF OBSERVATION WILL BE NEEDED TO HELP CATCH THE PERFIDIOUS PERPETRATOR! WATCH FOR YOUR DINNER INVITATION THAT WILL BE ARRIVING SOON IN YOUR MAIL.



Sunday School News

We have resumed Sunday School in our new location in the Great Hall and will meet in a special area. Our altar is out of storage and helps us begin our worship. Thanks to our church leaders, we have some partitions so we can have two simultaneous classes. In addition to our new location, we have some new faces: Daniel and Taylor joined us for their first class on Sunday! Also, Miss Phyllis (Heistand) has graciously volunteered to teach Godly Play monthly and Miss Lynne (BeDell) will assist with class activities, as well.

In October we have plans to begin a special project: a quilt that Sunday School will design and make and will then be displayed as a wall hanging in the Great Hall. This idea was met with much excitement when announced. Registration is open to all students from Pre-K (age 4) to 5th grade and new students are welcome at any time.

October schedule:

October 4 Family Sunday-No quilt
 October 11 Godly Play Lesson
 October 18 Godly Play Lesson/Quilt
 October 25 Godly Play Lesson/Quilt

Kathy Lacouture

Back to [Church] School – in the News

Press release

Our children are back at school and getting settled in their new classes with new routines. St. James' Episcopal Church begins its Sunday School year with an Open House on Sunday, September 20th, in their new Parish Hall on the corner of Moore and Washington Streets in Hackettstown. Children ages 4 through fifth grade will learn Bible stories, seasons of the church year, and more with a unique curriculum known as "Godly Play." The curriculum is based on the Montessori model of learning, with a focus on sacred story and parable in the spiritual and moral development of children. The lessons encourage "wondering questions": "I wonder if Noah was worried the rain would not stop? I wonder how it felt to be washed clean and start over again?" With props and materials like the desert box (a large flat box of sand to simulate the desert of Moses' and Jesus' times), the stories of faith are told in the original oral tradition.

Coordinator Kathy Lacouture says, "The children love these stories, and we adults also learn so much about our own faith. Children are spiritual beings; we are just tapping into that and helping them use spiritual awareness in their everyday lives." Kathy and Godly Play teachers will be available to answer your questions and demonstrate the materials at the Open House.

Youth Group

Youth group is off to a wonderful start this year. We met twice in September and talked about "Heroes" and "Honey". Both meetings were well attended. I hope everyone enjoyed having the bees in class! Next month we will meet twice and host a Halloween Coffee Hour on October 25th. We are still looking for guest speakers. New members are welcome.

Dawn Modugno and Lori Pursel

St. James' Episcopal Church Youth Group

Press release to Hackettstown Community Site on Americantowns.com and Hackettstown News and Announcements

St. James' Episcopal Church Youth Group, which meets the second and fourth Sundays of each month, starts its new year in September. Featuring lessons by leader Dawn Modugno and parish members with special knowledge and/or respect for and love of teens, the group meets at 10 AM. Previous topics included "Growing Green," World Religions, and a report from a member who attended the Presidential inauguration. The Youth Group also participates in the 30 Hour Famine to raise money for hungry people and some members have traveled to Appalachia to repair homes. Christmas is celebrated with a party and Halloween with a party for the Sunday School.

This year, they look forward to "Honey, food of the Gods," by beekeeper Dawn Modugno and discussions of Decision-Making and Communication. Youth in grades 6 through 12 are welcome.

HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD *continued from page 3*

A liturgy of dedication was led by The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, Diocesan Bishop, and The Rev. Canon George Bowen, President of the Board of Trustees. The Rev. Jeanette Hile, Chaplain, led prayers and music was provided by the combined choirs of HOTGS and St. James' as well as an amazing trombone choir! They were accompanied by Bobby Boulware, the regular Sunday organist at HOTGS, and St. James' Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors (who regularly assist at the HOTGS Sunday prayer service). Meg Critchley, Patti and Russ Worthington assisted. Tours of the facility were available as well as delicious refreshments under a tent in the courtyard

Senior Choir

Our Senior Choir has already been “on the road” this year! We participated in the Service of Rededication at the House of Good Shepherd’s skilled nursing wing this past Sunday, September 27. The service was led by Bishop Beckwith and attended by most of the wing’s residents plus many family members and staff. We combined with Deacon Jeannette Hile’s Chapel Choir, her intrepid accompanist Bobby, and a wonderful trumpet quartet, to sing hymns and an anthem. It was a great opportunity to bring the two groups together and we hope it is the start of a regular combining every couple of months or so, or at least for special holidays! Look for more news about our choirs and the House of the Good Shepherd in coming Journal issues.

Meanwhile, here at home, we continue our Thursday evening practices and are still looking for more members. You will notice us looking a little sparse in October and November as family travels take several members away for extended periods. More voices make the absence of one or two voices less challenging, so please consider joining us! If you have a friend who likes to sing but doesn’t sing anywhere else, invite them to sing with us! We’re “non-denominational” and welcome singers from all belief traditions.

Youth Choir

Youth Choir “rehearsals” begin on Sunday, October 11 during Sunday School. Once again, we will be singing at the “Story of the Nativity” through the Arts” program in Port Morris on December 6 at 4:30 pm. We will also sing at the early service on Christmas Eve. Starting on October 11, will give us eight weeks of potential rehearsals, so there is some room for those “no Sunday school” Sundays! This year’s song may include some “acting” and maybe some non-singing parts, too! There will be more to come on that.

Pam Laura, music director

Bell Choir “Notes”

The St. James Multi-Generational Bell Choir held its first rehearsal of the school year on September 13. It felt strange to be hearing Advent music already, but Advent will be here before we know it. On September 27, the choir started working on a piece of Christmas music. The choir looks forward to participating in the Annual Christmas through the Arts program at Port Morris United Methodist Church and at the Lessons and Carols Service at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Montclair. Details about these services will be in a later edition of the *Journal*. The choir will also play these pieces at St. James’.



The Bell Choir was happy to welcome a new ringer to our group, Meredith Firmin. She did a splendid job at her first rehearsal and we all hope she enjoyed her first rehearsal with us.

We are always ready to welcome new or returning ringers, so let me know if you are interested. Come and observe us at a rehearsal and see what ringing is all about. I try to accommodate busy schedules so feel free to join us as in preparing music for a Sunday service or for a liturgical season or for the year. Rehearsals are held most Sundays after the Coffee Hour following the 10:00 worship service.

Louise Olshan, director
732-807-3211



Meet Diana Grant

Diana Grant was born and raised in Barbados. She was a runner for her elementary school and was a member of 4-H, learning how to craft and sew. She attended the Anglican Church in Barbados and sang in the choir.

After graduation, Diana worked for the Transport Board in Barbados as a conductress for 11 years. Her job was to greet passengers, make change, count passengers and keep track of mileage.

In 1989, Diana came to Brooklyn where she worked as a babysitter. She moved to NJ in 2002 and joined St. James’ at that time. She is currently a Home Health Aide.

Diana is involved in so much at St. James’. She sings in the choir, is a member of Altar Guild and Bell Choir and helps out at fundraising events. She rarely misses any of our functions!

Diana has 4 children and 7 grandchildren, all in Barbados. In her free time she likes to watch movies and LOVES to shop!

When Diana was about 18, a dog chased her up a tree and she couldn’t get down. Find out how she finally got down by asking her!

Roving Reporter Barbara Olesen



Fundraising News

On September 21st, St. James' held its First Annual Golf Outing and it was a big success. We had 20 golfers who were divided into five teams. The skill levels ranged from the very good to the not so good but everyone had a great time. In addition to the golfers, about 25 additional guests attended the dinner afterwards; and we had a wonderful meal and great fellowship. Russ Worthington provided a slide show of the day's events during dinner and we had a few laughs. Those pictures can be found on our website and in this Journal. We raised \$523.30 during this event. We are looking forward to our second Golf Outing, hopefully in the spring of 2010.

Nicole Keane set up a beautiful display of **Lisa Sophia jewelry** in the parish hall a couple of weekends ago and raised \$89.20 for us. Thank you for your support and to Nicole for providing this opportunity.

We are currently running the **Innisbrook Gift wrapping sale**. Please see Rick Ames if you need a catalog and additional information. Innisbrook provides beautiful gift ideas and wrapping paper for any season or occasion.

Roberta Brandt will once again offer the **Longaberger Homestead products** during the last weekend of October and the first weekend of November. Roberta will set up a display of some of their beautiful products, offer catalogs and take orders during this time. Please stop by and visit. Roberta donates all of her commission from these sales to St. James'.

The Tricky Tray is rapidly approaching on October 24th, and while we are all very excited about this fourth annual event, we are only about a third of our way to our goal of 200 baskets. You already know that this is the largest fundraiser we have each year and its success depends on the gifts you donate. In the parish hall, there are many beautiful baskets. So stop by, look, and ask questions. There are many, many great ideas for putting baskets together. If you would like some help with an idea or with wrapping a basket, we will be glad to assist. If you would like to make a monetary donation, we will purchase items and create a basket for you. Please make your checks payable to the St. James' FRC and add tricky tray to the memo line of your check. If you have plans for a basket, please let Barbara Olesen, Anne Dutton, Ellen Infante or Barbara White know so that we can add it to our list.

To help with this event, there is a sign up sheet in the parish hall. This is truly a parish event and we need many folks to make it a success. We will need to set up baskets in the parish hall to label and number them on Friday, October 23rd, before the event, and we will also need a few folks to help transport them to the firehouse on Saturday. Ticket sales, runners, kitchen help and clean up are all areas where you can help.

This is a great event and we have a lot of fun before, during and after the event. Please *join us!*

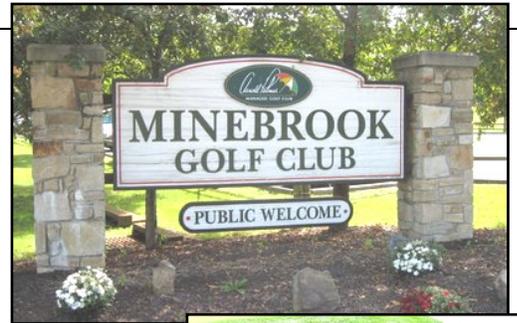
Barbara White

A Japanese Version of Psalm 23

*The Lord is my pacesetter, I shall not rush.
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness,
Which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind,
And His guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things
To accomplish each day,
I will not fret, for His Presence is here.
His timelessness, His all-importance will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity
By anointing my mind with the oils of tranquility.
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruit of my hours,
For I shall walk in the peace of my Lord
And dwell in His house forever.*

*Author unknown, as it appears in the book
The Catholic Companion to the Psalms
by Mary Kathleen Glavich*

Golf Outing September 21st



Team Barkus: Andrew Keys, Meg Critchley, Peg Pfaff, Phyllis Bartkus, Paul Bartkus



A Ringer



The Gathering



Bag Lunch



Team Lacouture: Steve Ricucci, Dave Lacouture, Mike Camporini, Bob Corda



Next up



And the award goes to ... the highest scoring team!

Best Dressed Golfer:
Linda Murray
Pictured above as well!



Team Miller: Simon Medley, Dan Miller, Tom Errickson



Team Handville: Jim McCracken, Doug Murray, Dick Moore, David Handville



Team Deats: Cathy Deats, Linda Murray, Dawn Modugno, Linda Miller

With thanks to Russ Worthington for Golf Outing photos

THIS HOLE SPONSORED BY



St. James' Church Appreciates Your Support!



Registration



For shade, not rain



50/50 anyone?

— With our thanks to all committee members and participants who made this event a great success —

Inside St. James' October Journal

Rectors Letter • Wardens' Words
Diocesan Events
Upcoming Events • Parish Life



Tricky Tray October 24th
Meet Diana

Fundraising News
Golf Outing Photos
The Feast of St. James' Celebration
November 7th
and a

MURDER MYSTERY PARTY



October Calendar

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