



# ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

THE REV. DR. CATHY L. DEATS, RECTOR

SEPTEMBER 2010

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SABBATICAL TIME IS FINISHED. It is time to get back to work. And if sabbatical time was truly “a day of peace,” and “a time of becoming whole,” then things should never be the same. We should have some sparkling memories of connection with the divine in unexpected places, not too much frustration about the difference between what is and what could be, and gentle callings to the work that God has equipped us to do. My own time away had all these qualities, and from the looks of things around St. James’, your time did too.

This is a natural time of re-evaluation. Summer is winding down, indeed, abruptly ending for those who return to school. While it is too hot to think of putting away our summer clothing, we are switching gears and revising calendars. Sometimes we just allow activities to fill the days and weeks, rather than pause and ask, what is the best way to use the time I have? The church has a name for this process: discernment. More than just to consider or decide, discernment has within its meaning a meditative sense as well as a sense of the holy. In the Christian tradition, discernment is most often used to describe the process of determining what is my ministry, *here and now*, and how would God have me live out that ministry.

The Rev. Betsy Myers, our sabbatical priest, gently let us know that when a priest goes on sabbatical, it gives us all permission, perhaps invitation, to take a break and re-evaluate. Witness the shifts in our own community leadership for Youth Group and Sunday School. The leaders of these ministries are listening closely to the voice of God in their lives; they have discerned that God is calling them into new ministries. They have stepped aside in order that they might follow God’s leading and make way for others to serve. This may seem strange at first; typical church tradition is to expect that the leader of a ministry will continue to lead as long as they are members of the community.

For me, it is like being caught in a time warp: I see the child I baptized (wasn’t that just a couple of years ago?) surpass me in height; it is when the AARP generation says, “And the cop who pulled me over was about 12 years old!” Time marches on, people and their families grow and change, God calls us to new places on our journey. We can ignore these realities or we can bring our thoughts and feelings to God, to our community, and to our prayer life. Our lives are

constantly changing, sometimes quickly, as with illness or disability or death; sometimes more quietly, as with the usual shifts of marriage and relationship or children arriving and leaving. The process of listening to our lives, reflecting on the journey, and bringing it all before God is discernment. And discernment always brings us to a new place.

As we begin the new “program year,” we too are in a new place. The year 2009 was spent celebrating our 150 years of building community. We celebrated so much that it spilled over into 2010! We talked a lot about what St. James’ has meant to us in our lives, and what the community has given us. Now, we are ready to move into another part of the journey God has called us to.

In the process of our formal parish development process, new leaders have stepped forward into new ministries. We are more active in our local Hackettstown community; we are faithful people of prayer, both private and public. Your Vestry leaders also recognize that to grow in spirit and in number, more members of the community need to be present in our work, which is both worship and ministry.

This is the year where we all will be asked, “where can you contribute your skill and time to the St. James’ community?” It is not just “doing church work.” It is asking God where, in this community that feeds you, can you serve so others can be fed. Is there a mission or ministry that catches your heart or your eye, or simply fits your schedule? No skill or amount of time is too big or too small to be shared. And in case God is nudging you to be challenged beyond your usual comfort zone, your fellow disciples will be there to encourage and support you.

There are places of need for everyone to be part of the work of St. James’. Those in leadership now will be unafraid to ask you to help and unafraid to say, “We need your help.” They will also welcome you coming to them, asking “How can I help?”

Please join me in this prayer:

*Living God, fuel my heart with trust, my will with nerve, my mind with you.*

*And I am ready.*

*Holy God, my will is to do the will of you who send me.*

---William J. O’Malley, Daily Prayers for Busy People, p.74

Yours in the resurrected Christ,

## Warden's Letter

JUST LIKE LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME, I decided to use this space to provide a brief mid-year report on the finances of St. James'. This allows church members the opportunity to get a snapshot of the church's finances, without having to wait until the Annual Meeting next January.

As of the end July, the church's total income in 2010 was about \$1,400 above the budgeted amount. That number, however, is deceiving because \$10,000 of income was the result of a bequest. Without the bequest, total income is down \$8600, or 9.3%. The income stream typically slows during the summer and then picks up again in the fall. Hopefully, the income shortfall will be minimized (or eliminated) in the coming months. .

Things are going according to plan on the expense side. As of the end of July total expenses are about \$2,300 below budget (a good thing!). However, the diocesan pledge is about \$4,000 behind (a bad thing!). Overall, the expenses are in close alignment with the budget.

The church's investments are doing fairly well, considering the turbulent economy. The value of the Snyder Memorial Fund is now \$16,900 higher than it was at the beginning of the year. In addition, \$12,000 of investment income has been used to help fund the operating account (so the fund has actually gone up almost \$31,000 this year). The total assets in the Building Fund stand at almost \$219,000, which is about \$19,000 less than the start of the year. Not bad, considering almost \$41,000 in mortgage payments were made this year. As the 2011 budget is being developed over the next several months, the St. James' leadership would welcome any suggestions or recommendations. The dates and times of the Finance Committee meetings will be announced and all are welcome to attend and share their ideas.....and the Finance Committee is always looking for additional members!

*Greg Malejko*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF GREG AND ME while Cathy was away on sabbatical! I think we ALL did a great job stepping up and taking on additional responsibilities during her absence.

Over the last few months we have done some amazing work here at St. James'. Our continuation of the Back Pack program during the summer months has had a tremendous impact on many many families in our community. I have been fortunate enough to be here on an occasional Saturday morning when families arrive to pick up their weekend supplies and know first-hand how appreciative they are. I am here almost every Sunday morning when the line forms around the table and the

bags are packed for this program and know how important this program is to you. I see bags being filled with mac & cheese, cereal, fruit, juice and most importantly, the love and commitment of the St. James' community for our community. You should be proud!

We have opened our doors to literacy programs in both Warren and Sussex counties. We have sign language tutoring happening right here at St. James'. Think about how important these programs are. Can you imagine not being able to read or how difficult it would be not to be able to communicate with your loved one? These programs make a difference; you make a difference.

When I asked for your support for the trip to Appalachia, you showed up in record numbers to help with the car wash and when that fell short of funding the trip, your donations poured in. Once again, we sent a team to Virginia. Louise and Sam Olshan even let us use their almost brand new van which made for one of the more comfortable trips we have had. Thank you, Sam and Louise, and thank you all for your support

After our Sunday morning worship in the Parish Hall, one of our parishioners, noticing brown chairs, green chairs, yellow chairs, chairs with padding and chairs without padding, decided that we needed matching chairs in our hall and generously donated fifty new folding chairs with padded burgundy seats. The chairs arrived last week and were immediately unpacked and put to very good use during coffee hour last week. Thank you for that generous donation.

These are just a few examples of how not just your financial commitment to St. James' has impacted our community but your gifts of valuable time and extraordinary talent impact the mission of our church. This is an amazing community.

Thanks to Peg Faust and Chika Okoye for answering the call for coffee hour coordinators, one of our very important ministries, feeding us on Sunday morning. Please be sure and let them know which week you can host coffee hour.

As you know, we have a couple of positions that need to be filled: Sunday School coordinator and Youth Group coordinator. If you are being called to one of these ministries, please talk to Kathy Lacouture for Sunday School, Dawn Modugno for Youth Group or Cathy for either.

On a more personal note; thank you all for your prayers and support!

Invite a friend to church. Share with someone the love of this community and the many Blessings of our Lord.

*Barbara White*



## Seminarian begins field education with St. James'

We welcome Rodrigo Perez-Vega to our community as he enters his second year of studies at General Theological Seminary. Rod is a Chaplain at Lehigh Valley Hospital, and will join us to learn more about parish development and administration as well as to join in with our ministries and mission. Rod makes his home in Washington with wife Michelle. Ask Rod about his time as an Officer in the Venezuelan Navy!



**Project Homeless Connect** is a one-day event to provide a broad range of services to people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Held at the Hackettstown Fire Department on West Moore Street, services will include health and dental screenings; social, financial, and legal resources; Veterans' services; haircuts and giveaways. There is no cost and lunch is provided. Volunteers are needed for the day, Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm for set-up and clean-up, assisting with food and clothing distribution, etc. Volunteers should report at 9 am for training and can offer a few hours or the whole day. Contact Anna Hockenbury 908.835.3550.

## Support Your Local Food Pantry

In September, we will be collecting juice for Trinity's Food pantry

**The Church Office will be open Tuesday – Friday** from 9 am to 12 noon during the Parish Administrator's leave for the month of September.

Email and phone calls will be monitored daily. Your patience with us during this time is appreciated!

## September Dates to Remember

September 5 Return to two services  
 September 19 Homecoming Sunday  
 September 23 Vestry Meeting/MH • 7:30 PM  
 September 25 Lavonne Wurts Memorial Service

## October Dates to Remember

October 2 Hackettstown Community Day • Noon – 5:00 PM  
 October 3 Blessing of Creatures • Parish Hall • 4:00 PM  
 October 16 Tricky Tray • Budd Lake Fire House  
 October 23 Murder Mystery Dinner  
 October 28 Vestry Meeting • Mitcham House • 7:30 PM  
 October 30 Maintenance Morning • 9:00 AM to Noon

## Homecoming

**September 19<sup>th</sup>** is our Homecoming Celebration, with Family Breakfast beginning at 9 AM, the first Sunday School class, and lots of opportunity to reconnect with folks you may have missed seeing over the summer. Come and enjoy our new chairs, given anonymously, with comfy burgundy cushions – they add so much to the Great Hall! Most of all, join in our joyful worship (8AM and 10 AM) and fellowship!

## Redesigned Website

If you are regular reader of the Journal, you have been following the story of our website for more than a year. The Publicity Committee, chaired by Paula Van Clef, with much able assistance from David Lacouture and a host of publicity hounds to get the word out, long dreamed of and worked on a website design that would grow with us and show who we are becoming through our parish development process. The design is now complete, and has been unveiled as of September 1. It is maintained at the same address:

<http://stjameshackettstown.org> We hope you will visit and let us know what you think. Many eyes have proofed but if something is amiss, let us know that, too. Many thanks to Loom Web Design and expert designer Mary D. Echevarria

## Vestry hi-lites from September meeting

- good discussion of leadership in ministry and how it relates to stewardship; actions to fill important ministry positions in the works
- anonymous gift received: fifty new padded folding chairs for the great hall
- need for a kitchen wish list to be publicized
- review of successful Backpack Program to feed children in summer
- Homecoming Sunday, 9/19, will be September family breakfast at 9 AM
- Barbara Olesen was elected as Vestry Clerk to serve until the Annual Meeting, January 2011.

Fan Club presidents of world famous detectives are primed and ready for the **2nd Annual Murder Mystery Dinner on October 23<sup>rd</sup>** when Oliver Devlin Stone, better known as OG, returns to St. James' for a celebratory roast. Yes, though he tried to do away with our Cathy last year, all is forgiven by our Rector. But there are more than a few who aren't ready to forgive OG and would like nothing better than to see him for the last time – anywhere. What's going to happen



**Coffee Hour**

As summertime gives way to fall, lemonade and iced tea give way to Coffee Hour! You will be hearing from coordinators Chika Okoye and Peg Faust, but don't wait for them to ask – sign up outside the main doors to the Great Hall. We make the coffee, you provide the goodies and clean up. Our new kitchen makes the job much easier! Contact Chika 973.448.0851 or Peg 973.691.8885.

**Maintenance Morning – save the date – Saturday, October 30, 9 AM to 12 NOON**

**Summer Baptisms**

This summer, we welcomed two families into our community through the baptism of their children.

Avery Lyn Dawson, daughter of Jodi Lyn Dawson and Gregory Joseph Dawson, Jr.

Chloe Helen, Rhys Sean and Luke Sullivan Connolly, triplets, daughter and sons of Patty and Richard Connolly.

**Episcopal Appalachian Ministry**

The St. James' crew, Cathy, Barbara White, Sylvia Okoye and Katie Lacouture, all agree that this was one of the best trips ever, with an awesome group of people - both host families and fellow workers.

Our high points and low points: for Sylvia, the high point was being a team leader, and the low point not finishing the bathroom project that her team worked on. Katie's high point was being on Sylvia's team, and low point also not completing the work on their project. Barbara's low point was leaving Grace House, and high point was the way the group worked together and the incredible host families.

Cathy was very moved by the faith and the music of the people we met and worked with; low point, as always, was the heat and humidity

We thank the people of Episcopal Appalachian Ministries, Grace House, and all the host families and their friends. Most of all, we thank the people of St. James' whose generous donations make this trip possible each year.



Cathy, Sylvia, Katie and Barbara at worship in Roanoke, Virginia on their way to EAM

More EAM photos On page 9

**Fundraising Notes**

The date has been set for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tricky Tray, Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. We will once again hold our tricky tray at the Budd Lake Firehouse in Budd Lake. Letters have been sent out to local businesses that have supported us in the past and we have had a very good response. In an effort to save a few dollars we agreed to not send out letters to the parish but instead send an email and make weekly announcements. This is the first official announcement. Our tricky tray is a huge fundraiser for St. James' and is successful because of your gifts of time and talent and your wonderful generosity in supporting this event. As usual we ask for gifts of baskets. You can create a basket yourself, make a donation to purchase items for a basket, or purchase items for a basket and our very talented tricky tray team will put one together for you. Baskets can include anything except alcoholic beverages but you can do wine glasses, Halloween candy, coffee sets, pet supplies, bird watching or feeding supplies, books and candles, small appliances, music CD's, DVD's. There is a list of basket ideas in the parish hall hallway. If you have any questions or need help creating a basket, please contact one of our master basket makers, Barbara Olesen, Anne Dutton or Ellen Infante. Of course we will need tons of help before during and after this event so please put the date on your calendar and make plans to be there. A sign-up sheet will be in the hallway.

In other fundraising news, Rick Ames is heading up our Innisbrook Holiday Gift Wrapping sale. Catalogs and order forms will be here shortly.

We have scheduled an **IHOP dinner for Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 5PM to 7:30 PM** at the IHOP in Hackettstown. IHOP donates 10% of your food bill to St. James'. Please come out for an evening of fellowship and dinner to support St. James'.

**Hackettstown Day is Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 12 Noon to 5 PM in the Lowes parking lot. We use this event to conduct our annual Blessing of the Animals and have a bake sale. If you would like to bake some goodies for this event or help during the event, you can also sign up in the parish hall hallway.

Thank you for all your support.

*Barbara White*

**October Journal articles due Monday, September 27**  
 Phyllis Heistand, Editor  
 Cathy Deats, news for St. James' and all the writers, reporters  
 David Heistand, proofreader, printer  
 Marge Ames & Heath Village Team, assemblers  
 Email [news4stjames@comcast.net](mailto:news4stjames@comcast.net)

## Sunday School Children 10 AM!

If you have children between the grades of Pre-K and 5<sup>th</sup> grade, or you know anyone looking for Christian Education, Sunday School resumes on September 19<sup>th</sup>. We meet every Sunday in the parish hall during the 10 am service, except for the first Sunday of the month, which is Family Sunday.

Registration will be held on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall and then the following Sunday, lessons will begin. Godly Play curriculum is used and Bible storytelling, prayers, crafts, and "a feast" are the usual activities, but we often have a special project or a trip during the school year as well.

Miss Marie, Miss Lynn, Miss Phyllis and Miss Kathy look forward to teaching the children of St. James' for the coming year!

*Kathy Lacouture*

### Sunday School Schedule

September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Family Sunday
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	SS Registration
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	SS Lesson
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	SS Lesson
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Family Sunday

### From the Modugno's

Utah went back to the Seeing Eye for formal training early in August. We will miss him, but we are sure he will do well. We have received Merlin back from the breeding farm and are so glad he is home. We will keep you posted on Utah's progress. Thank you for being such a supportive congregation to the Seeing Eye program.

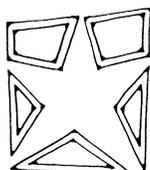
*The Modugno family*

### HELP WANTED: Youth Group Coordinator

A new coordinator is needed for the Youth Group. Please speak to Dawn Modugno or Cathy Deats.

### Singles Social Group (SSG)

The game/pizza night on Saturday, September 18th will start at 5 PM with a planning meeting for 2011 events, followed by pizza and games. A \$5.00 donation from attendees will cover the cost of the pizza. There is no need for people to RSVP, but if they would like to, they can contact Church of the Messiah via the telephone (908-879-7208) or via email.



### Meet Justin Simmons



Justin Simmons was born in Newton and raised in Hackettstown. He is currently starting his sophomore year at Hackettstown High School. He has been active in baseball, basketball, cross country and track as well as the school choir and the Key Club.

In his spare time, Justin likes to read, spend time with family, play video games and hang out with friends.

Justin is a member of the St. James' Youth Group. He is an usher and has recently taken on the role of Lector. He helps out with the Backpack Program and the Fundraising Committee.

Did you know Justin attended the inauguration of President Barack Obama? Ask him about it!

*Roving Reporter and Photographer Barbara Olesen*

### Thoughts on United Thank Offering

It is almost September, and with all of the hustle and bustle of the fall season...kids going back to school, fund raisers, things we meant to take care of during Cathy's Sabbatical but didn't, etc., etc., etc. Before you know it, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here.

I hope you have been recognizing the major and minor miracles that happen in your day. I also hope that you will be putting some coins into your UTO boxes to reflect your thanks to God. It is great to see a whole family taking part in this process. Listen to the children. Their explanation of what makes them thankful can sometimes open your eyes in amazement.

With this depressed economy, it is harder to recognize the things that give you hope and the tiny miracles that keep you sane while you have politics at work, changes all of the time, more demands from family members, medical expenses....and the list goes on.

Please recognize the miracles that keep you going and in return, help us thank God by helping others who will be getting these UTO grants. The United Thank Offering addresses compelling human need through grants to projects that alleviate poverty, both domestically and internationally, within the Anglican provinces, dioceses, and companion dioceses. The boxes or envelopes will be collected before the Diocesan Convention in January. Please keep the UTO in mind and the millions of people it helps.

## Sabbatical nuggets

Never let anyone tell you a trip to another country is just like going to another state. It is not.

I was in total culture shock from the first moment of my arrival in England. I could not understand the language (I speak American, not English, it seems!) I was ready for euros and found pounds. The rental car was small, but fine. The stickshift was fine. The fact that it and the steering wheel were on the right side of the car caused a little stress in my driving. Then add the fact that there are roundabouts everywhere to take you where you want to go. I was dizzy from following them around and around until I could decide where to exit. Even the GPS is British: "go straight through the roundabout and take the third exit. "How can I go straight through if I am taking an exit? Which one is the third; do I count the one I arrive in?" On top of all of this, thank God, the English people are such *civilized* drivers! They hardly ever blow their horns at me, and always smile.

*Cathy Deats*

*Excerpts from Cathy's Sabbatical Blog*

## L'Arche in the city

The first L'Arche home opened in Liverpool in 1976. The core members came from long-term institutions to live in the house called Anchorage. Today, L'Arche has five homes, a group of flats and a workshop not only for its own members, but for others with learning disabilities who live in the larger Liverpool community. L'Arche has grown and changed here and throughout the United Kingdom; regulations governing the care of people with learning disabilities have likewise changed. And in the past few years, as we all know, the economy has changed, causing more adjustments by organizations and governments. So of course, what L'Arche Liverpool is facing now is how to deal with lots of change.

I spent time in the workshop, where jobs are done and crafts are made for sale. In the printing room, we worked to assemble greeting cards and stationery. Candles and weaving projects, like bags and scarves, were made in other parts of the workshop.



## Education for Ministry (EfM)

EfM starts September 21st -- if you are on the fence about joining us, listen to one of our students:

### What EFM has meant in my life

Excerpts from a letter by Linda Ayres

Eleven years ago my husband Robert, died suddenly of a heart attack, leaving me to raise two children alone. I slipped into a deep dark depression for many years, withdrawing from everyone that I was close to and everyone who cared about me especially the members of St. James' Church. In 2007 I had started to come out of my depression and I attempted Year One of EFM (Education for Ministries) but I was in so much physical pain from my back that I had to withdraw.

I was feeling much better in 2009; I really felt like the time was right to try to take EFM again. So I re-enrolled in Year One (The study of the Old Testament) and what a difference. Don't get me wrong; it was difficult because of medication issues but the feeling I got from studying the Old Testament and learning everything that I wanted to know about, and then talking about it at class the following week was amazing. And each week the spiritual feelings grew stronger and stronger and my ability to study became easier and easier.

By midyear in December I...had a sense of well being and peace, knowing that God was truly in my life; knowing that I could turn any and all of my problems to him; as well as attribute my blessings to him. I had come full circle, I had come out of my depressive shell, I was sharing with people outside my EFM group and attending Church more often as my back permitted, and I was venturing outside of that closed little circle that I had created for myself after my husband had died.

I am anxiously anticipating Year Two of EFM (The New Testament).

*Linda Ayres*

## Singles Social Gathering

On Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, the first annual Singles Social Gathering\* (SSG) potluck/barbeque was held at Church of the Messiah in Chester. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of good food and great company! Everyone took a turn or two at playing badminton and croquet. This event brought out several regular as well as some new attendees.

We are all looking forward to next year's SSG potluck/barbeque, as well as our upcoming scheduled fall events. If anyone is interested in learning more about SSG or being added to our email event distribution list, please contact Church of the Messiah either via email ([messiahchester@earthlink.net](mailto:messiahchester@earthlink.net)) or telephone 908-879-7208.

## Music Director's Musings

I've been told by a reliable source that this year's Stewardship theme will be more about time and talent than usual. I hope I'm not stealing anyone's thunder but your Adult Choir could sure stand in the front of the line to receive your time and talent!

We're willing to meet you half-way, too! We are taking a new approach to the "anthem" part of our weekly musical offering by creating an "anthem choir". The anthem is usually sung while the offerings of the congregation are being collected but is occasionally sung in place of the Psalm. The Anthem Choir will augment the regular choir during the singing of the anthem. This means no robes, no processing around the church as the service starts or as it ends, and very little, if any, climbing up to the choir loft to sing. It also means you can remain with your family during the service, joining the regular choir only for the anthem and then returning to your pews. Even 'little ones' are welcome to come and stand quietly with Mom or Dad while singing. Maybe even Youth Group participants could come over for the anthem, then return to class because the Adult Choir is open to high school and college students, too!

So here's where the 'Time and Talent' part comes in:

**Time:** all you have to do is be willing to commit 90 minutes of time on Thursday evenings to attend rehearsals and about 35-40 more minutes on Sunday mornings before the 10am service to warm-up for and review the anthem. As an added bonus, you'll get to learn all the hymns we'll be singing in church that Sunday because we practice them during rehearsals, too! You don't need to commit to every rehearsal or every Sunday, either, if something comes up that you have to attend to. Just let me know in advance so I can plan the music accordingly!

**Talent:** you don't need a big, strong voice to sing in the choir (regular or anthem); you don't need to sing like an opera star or a rock star! Just be able to sing on pitch and carry a part once you learn it. You'll generally have about four rehearsals to learn each piece and people to sing your part with! If you aren't sure whether you can sing on pitch or learn to carry a tune, come and try! If it doesn't work out, that's ok!

If you have need of some babysitting during rehearsals, we might be able to arrange something, so don't let that stop you either!

By the time you are reading this, we will have had our first choir rehearsal and maybe some of you have already attended! If not, don't let that stop you! There's plenty of time to catch up as we aren't singing an anthem until September 12<sup>th</sup>!

I hope we'll see YOU on Thursday!

*Pam Laura,*  
Music Director

## Bell Choir "Notes"

September will bring the restart of Bell Choir rehearsals. Rehearsals will begin on September 19, following the Coffee Hour after the 10:00 service. All are welcome to join us. The official name of the group is the St. James Multi-Generational Bell Choir so we welcome members of all ages. I try to be accommodating to members' schedules. Join us for participation in one service, for several months, for the year and for years to come!

Current plans call for the Bell Choir to participate in the worship services at 10:00 on October 17 and a Sunday in Advent (December 5 or 12). The choir will also participate in a service(s) on Christmas Eve. Music has been selected for Advent and Christmas Eve and I am working on finding a suitable piece for October 17.

On December 5, the Annual Christmas through the Arts program will again be held at the Port Morris United Methodist Church. Hopefully we will be able to take a quartet (or more) of ringers to participate in this wonderful event of preparation for Christmas.

With sadness, we say farewell to two long-time and very faithful members of the Bell Choir. Wendie Germain feels she must leave the group now. Hopefully she will be able to return to the group soon. Russ Worthington has also decided to leave the Bell Choir. Russ joined the group when I first restarted a Bell Choir at St. James' over 7 years ago and Wendie joined the Bell Choir shortly after coming to St. James'. Both Wendie and Russ have been faithful ringers throughout their years with the choir. Their talents will be sorely missed.

We are looking forward to welcoming Jewels Quelly to the choir. She has made a commitment to be with the group through October 17. Hopefully she will find her schedule will allow her to remain with us longer.

If you are looking for something to do for your church, please consider Bell Choir. Rehearsals do not require an additional trip to church and there are only a few services in which we participate. If you are interested in joining, please contact me at [lolshan@ccm.edu](mailto:lolshan@ccm.edu) or 732-807-3211. If you are curious about what being a ringer means, stop by and watch a rehearsal.

*Louise Olshan*  
Bell Choir Director



## Summer Bell Ringing Group

At a planning meeting last spring, Cathy asked if a small bell group might be able to play during the summer. Volunteers from the choir quickly came forward and with a few rehearsals the group was able to play on August 22 and September 5.

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## American Guild of Organists 2010 Convention

From July 5 – 8, Sam and I attended the American Guild of Organists Convention in Washington, DC. Yes, it was that week with temperatures over 100 in DC. Since Sam and I are very familiar with the DC Metro system, we decided to save a few dollars and opted to use the Metro along with walking to get from church to church where the events were being held. Because of the heat, the convention organizers had everyone use chartered buses so we were able to tolerate the heat a little easier.

Busy isn't the word for the four days of the convention. Days started at 7:30 (breakfast at 6:30) and events went until midnight. We arrived at the hotel on Sunday, July 4, hoping to enjoy the DC fireworks from the hotel, but that was not possible. We watched the DC fireworks on the TV and simultaneously saw fireworks from nearby towns from the lounge windows. All quite spectacular as we had a view of the Capitol along with the fireworks.

The days were filled with organ recitals, choral groups and chamber ensembles, workshops and vendor displays. Some of the sessions I attended included:

Opening Convocation - Washington National Cathedral (Episcopal) with the Washington National Cathedral Choir, The Washington Symphonic Brass and Scott Dettra, organist.

What a thrill to join with over 2,100 organists singing hymns to the glory of God!

Organ Recitals by Jonathan Biggers, Jason Roberts – 2008 winner AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation, Michael Unger – 2008 winner AGO National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, David Higgs, Isabelle Demers, Ulrike Theresia Wegele, Bruce Neswick.

Choral groups: Washington National Cathedral Choral Society, the Choir of the Basilica, Washington Chorus, Cantate Chamber Singers, The Woodley Ensemble.

Instrumental groups: Virginia Bronze Handbell Ensemble, National Brass Quintet, Fessenden Ensemble.

Workshops: New Songs of Celebration Render: Enlivened Hymn-Singing, Music for Handbells, I Really Thought I Would Have This Piece Ready, But..., The Music of Salamone Rossi.

Additional sessions: Jewish Worship Service featuring the music of Salamone Rossi, a Hymn Festival, Carillon Recital by Robert Grogan, carillonneur.

Closing Concert – Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with the Choir of the

Basilica, The Washington Chorus and David Briggs and Reneé Anne Louprette, organists .

There was standing room only in this immense facility and the event was inspiring and spectacular.

The venues I went to included the National Presbyterian Church, Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, National City Christian Church, United States Naval Academy Chapel, Old St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Rock Creek Parish, Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle (Roman Catholic), Sixth and I Historic Synagogue.

It was a great experience to hear world famous concert organists playing on fantastic organs in beautiful churches. Many of the pieces played throughout the convention were commissioned works with the composers present. Much of the remaining music was from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Lest you think it was all very modern, it was all very accessible and easy on the ears.

We also spent many hours walking through the vendors' area. Of course, I purchased some organ music to play at St. James and I bought Sam a beautifully decorated calligraphy of the Shema for his birthday. Our Discover card is very tired.

On the drive to and from Washington, I was a busy member of the St. James Yarn Twisters group and almost finished my third scarf for the Seamen's Institute.

In 2011, regional conventions will be held with our region meeting in Morristown. I have been asked to help at the event (no, I will not be playing). I will gladly share news of events that are open to the public with the congregation.

*Louise Olshan*

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SUMMER BELL RINGING GROUP continued from page 7

The piece selected was "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee". While we originally planned to ring only in August, the hymn is one that is listed for September 5. The group agreed to repeat the piece on that Sunday.

A very sincere thank you to those ringers who were part of the Summer Bell Ringing Group: Dawn Modugno, Chika Okoye and Sam Olshan. David Bernauer rang on August 22 and Pam Laura rang on September 5.

We hope our efforts added to the worship service on these two Sundays.

*Louise Olshan*  
*Bell Choir Director*



## Altar Guild

Greenway Florist has informed St James' that it is changing its billing practice for weekly Altar flowers as of September 1, 2010.

Previously members of the congregation would sign up as flower donors the last Sunday before New Year's or in response to a notice in the Sunday Bulletin. Our Parish Administrator would then send a list of donors with addresses to Greenway at the beginning of each month. Greenway would bill donors directly \$22 for the two floral arrangements.

A few years ago at the request of our Rector, I interviewed the five local florists to determine if we would change our floral supplier. No one could provide two arrangements for the \$22 currently charged; the new cost would have been \$40-50 for the weekly arrangements. And no florist would bill donors directly. Rather St James' would be billed monthly and then our Parish Administrator would have to collect from the donors. Or in one case, donors would have to supply the florist with their credit card numbers. At that time, the decision was made to continue with Greenway.

The Wardens and Altar Guild reviewed this new situation and determined that it would be pointless to re-interview local florists – their prices would probably not have come down, and the billing procedure would not have changed. Therefore, we will keep Greenway Florist as our weekly Altar flower supplier.

Procedure for flower donations will be as follows:

1. When congregants sign up as flower donors at the beginning of the year, please send a check made out to St James' Altar Guild for \$22 for each donation. This can be placed in the offering plate.
2. The counters will separate Altar Guild checks out for deposit in the Altar Guild account.
3. Altar Guild treasurer will pay Greenway monthly.
4. Checks can also be mailed to the Parish office.
5. Should Greenway increase its process for the arrangements, we will address this as needed.
6. Those congregants who would become delinquent regarding payments will be handled on an individual basis.
7. There is a list in the Narthex of Altar Flower donors for September 2010 through the end of the year. Members of St James' should review this list and send in checks accordingly.
8. Most important to remember...checks need to be paid to the order of the Altar Guild.

Many thanks as we work through this.

*Meg Critchley*

## Yarn Twisters

The St. James "Yarn Twisters" Knitting/Crocheting Group continues to meet twice monthly. We have gathered a wonderful collection of scarves, caps and vests for the "Christmas at Sea" program. We are hoping to personally deliver this collection sometime in early October. If you are interested in joining us as we knit and crochet and share fellowship, please call Linda Miller at 908-684-3566 or email [frlbailey1@comcast.net](mailto:frlbailey1@comcast.net). Our next get together will be Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We will be completing items and sorting them.

We are also collecting the items, listed below, to include in the package.

*Linda Miller*

## Seaman Center Institute Christmas Gifts

The centerpiece of SCI's Christmas gift for mariners, a hand knit scarf and hat, comes in a cheerful package containing a handwritten card, information detailing how mariners can reach us, and a variety of Christmas gifts. For the items that accompany the knitting, SCI relies on donations from individuals and groups from around the country.

Warm the hearts of mariners working away from home on Christmas Day with gifts of

- Unscented, Colorless Lip Balm
- Unscented, Hypoallergenic Hand Lotion (2-4 oz bottles)
- Sealed Packages of Holiday Sweets
- Books or Activities like Sudoku, word searches, or playing cards
- Facial Tissue
- Microwave Popcorn
- Chewing Gum
- Handmade Christmas Cards

*All items must be in new and unused condition and in their original packaging. We cannot accept items that are used or unsealed.*

Deposit donated items in the boxes marked "Seaman Center Institute Christmas Gifts", located in the narthex, the Moore Street entrance and in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Mitcham House/Parish Hall.

Thanks,

*Linda Miller*

"A little birdie told me that Linda Miller has been painting birdhouses and painted a custom one for St. James. Look in the St. James' gardens to find it!"

*Barbara Olesen*



## Backpack Program Extends Into the Summer

As the worship schedule returns to our customary two services, we can take a few moments to reflect on our summer as a one-service congregation. Although we usually attend one of two services, in the summer we meet as one congregation, share the same liturgy, sing, and this summer, joined together as members of the Mission Strategy Committee. We participated in a program coordinated by St. James that gave outreach to our community through our Mission Strategy volunteers by providing food for local children through the summer.

The school year Backpack Program, coordinated by Nicole Keane, organizes prepackaged weekend meals for approximately 50 children in the elementary schools in Hackettstown. The weekly participants are eligible because of food insecurity and receive either free or reduced priced lunches at school. Nicole and her volunteers deliver backpacks each Friday to the Hatchery Hill and Willow Grove Elementary Schools consisting of a breakfast, lunch, snack and drinks for the kids to take home for the two day weekend. Funding from the United Way of Warren County is used to purchase food packages supplied through NORWESCAP and given to St. James'.

Rev. Deats sought to extend this outreach effort through the summer months while school is in recess. Together with the United Way of Warren County, a plan was developed to provide supplemental nutrition for eleven weeks, from the end of June to the beginning of September. Participants were sought from the regular program with the cooperation of school personnel. The United Way of Warren County supplied the food stuffs

based on a combination of direct purchases and donations at drop-off boxes throughout the town at local merchants. These donations were stored and organized by the Skylands Bank and then delivered to St. James'. Each week, during the coffee hour, our congregation members were enlisted to pack bags with food. We used bags supplied by the United Way and filled them each with two days worth of breakfast cereal, a heatable lunch, fruit drink or Yoo-hoo, and various snacks such as pudding cups, fruit cups, apple sauce, gellcups with fruit and cookies or pretzels. Through the summer we assembled just over 700 bags. That translates to about 1400 meals.

Saturday was distribution day. Our parish volunteers, Nicole Keane, Courtney Keane, Rick Ames, Justin Simpson, Maryann Simpson, Phyllis Bartkus and community members: Mary Testerman, Christine Domanico and Anna Daniher alternated Saturdays to greet the participant children and their parents and distribute the packages, as well as information about community food pantries and services. Each child received three bags, or supplemental food for six days. These volunteers were able to see the happy children getting their food packs and to receive the thanks from the parents. They indicated that this extra help had made a difference for their children over the summer and extended their gratitude for our support. Our church's participation once again reflects that we are all members of the Mission Strategy Committee, providing outreach and support to our community.

Thanks,  
Paul Bartkus



Here is a note from a parent:

*A Note of Thanks  
To Everyone at Saint James'  
Who Donated,  
Volunteered  
And Shared  
Their Support  
In The Back Pack Program !!!  
Your Generosity  
Helped My Family  
Much  
And For That,  
I Am Grateful.  
We Thank You!!!*

# Summertime at St. James' and beyond



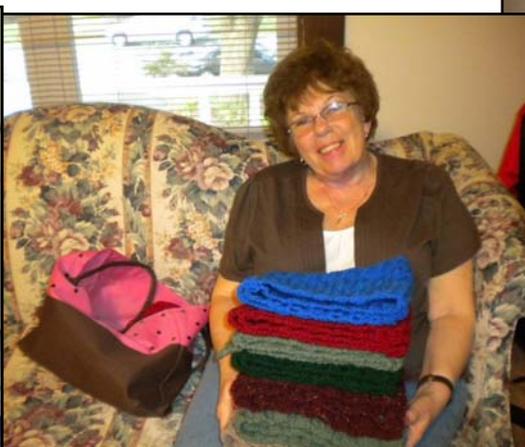
Left: Sheila & Sid Shuford with Cathy celebrate their wedding anniversary at Merry Heart in Succasunna



Clockwise: Annual Picnic; EAM fundraiser Car wash, Katie Lacouture & Sylvia Okoye welcome customers; EAM in Virginia: Cathy and crew on porch they repaired; Barbara White with circular saw; EAM crew: Cathy, Sylvia, Katie and Barbara



Afternoon Service and Barbeque: Two David's lead the singing



Yarn Twister Ellen Infante holding knitted gifts for the Seamans Institute



and Linda Miller knitting away

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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  
Senior Warden: Greg Malejko  
Junior Warden: Barbara White  
Treasurer: Penn Pixley  
Parish Administrator: Linda Murray  
Music Director: Pam Laura  
Organist: Louise Olshan  
Sexton: Pauline Volkert

### Vestry:

Richard Ames      Ron Cipriani  
Dave Handville      DJ Hoffman  
David Lacouture      Dan Miller  
Peter Quelly      Martha Travostino  
Paula Van Clef



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

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

**Check out the new format!**