



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

THE REV. DR. CATHY L. DEATS, RECTOR

JULY - AUGUST 2012

GENERAL CONVENTION 2012



JUST THE FAQs:

The General Convention is the primary governing and legislative body of The Episcopal Church, which encompasses the United States of America. The Convention, which meets

every three years, is made up of two houses: the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. All bishops of the Episcopal Church, whether active or retired, have seat and vote in the House of Bishops. Each diocese of the Episcopal Church, as well as the Navajo land Area Mission and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, are entitled to representation in the House of Deputies by four clergy deputies and four lay deputies.

The convention is divided into committees which consider resolutions. Resolutions come from four different sources: "A" resolutions from interim bodies whose work is collected in what is referred to as the "Blue Book"; "B" resolutions which come from Bishops; "C" resolutions which come from diocesan conventions and "D" resolutions which originate from Deputies. Each properly submitted resolution is referred to a convention committee which makes its recommendation to the House. When one house has acted on the resolution it is sent to the other house for consideration. Both houses must approve resolutions in order for them to take effect.

GC 2012:

The Diocese of Indianapolis is our host. The Newark Deputation lodges close to the Convention Center at the Downtown Marriott Hotel. Days are full with legislative sessions, committee meetings, regional events (our Province II meeting, gatherings of seminary alumni, etc.), and daily deputation meetings. There is a large exhibit hall where resources and wares are displayed – one can learn about Education for

Ministry, Episcopal Relief and Development, buy clerical clothing or books, or support the work of many ministries through the purchase of coffee or handmade items.

It is the central work of Convention to determine the priorities, the mission, the ministry, and to set the direction for the Church for the coming three years. The deputies have prepared themselves through reading and study, as well as gathering regularly over the past year.

Among the myriad issues to be discussed and/or decided is the blessing of same gender unions. The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) has created a web page with resources related to this legislation, and the proposed rite with supporting materials also can be found on the General Convention website:

<http://houseofdeputies.org/blessingexcerpts>

MY PART:

I am part of the Newark Deputation and this is my second GC as an elected Deputy. My first GC was in Anaheim, CA, in 2009, where decisions great and small were made. Since it was my first GC, I did not have a role on a committee. For 2012, I was selected to serve on Legislative Committee #10, Social and Urban Concerns, and I have been assigned to the Health Sub-Committee. Committee work is demanding, but I am looking forward to it because it gives the opportunity to work in a smaller group. During GC 2009, I was a "hanger-on" to a similar committee as I observed and learned the ropes of the Convention. I found the most difficult things to be choosing the events and sessions (outside of required legislative session) to attend from the myriad of offerings, how to juggle meals with the varying schedules, and maintaining sufficient personal time (both for prayer and for solitude) to be an effective Deputy.

Please consider following my blog [cathydeatsatgc2012.blogspot.com] and please continue in prayer for this gathering.

Cathy +

Reflection on Ordination



I have always been intrigued by paradoxes. How time seems endless when I'm looking at the future, and yet when I look back it appears as if it was "only yesterday when;" how birth is the end of pregnancy and the beginning of childhood; and how graduation from Seminary was the end of a time of growth and study, and the beginning of

new discipline of continuous study and growth in a different environment.

On June 2, 2012, on the Feast of [St. Blandina](#) I faced yet another paradox; my ordination to the Diaconate. The culmination of a very long process, yet a new beginning; a major change in my life where the title The Rev., was placed in front of my name and yet, I still remain me, the child loved by God despite all of my shortfalls and imperfections, my parent's KID, Michelle's husband, my dog's servant and just the guy who loves, music, poetry, and kite flying (bet you didn't know I like to fly kites?)

I have to admit that between the wonderful grace of God that allowed me to arrive to that glorious day and my own nervousness and anxiety I don't clearly remember everything that happened. However, there are a few things that will be in my heart and my mind for ever: the smile that Michelle had, the presence and loving support of my presenters, and the people who have been an integral part of my growth and formation including my St. James' family; the hands of the Bishop upon my head, the vows I took that day, and the loud, sweet, and confident WE WILL of the CHURCH promising to uphold me in my ministry.

For the past seven years of the journey I have been growing, gathering experiences and tools in my backpack. As I take my first baby steps into ordained life, I realize that there are tools in there that I'm not quite sure how or when to use; and that as I work with other tools I'm clumsy with them, just like a small child is might be clumsy with the first building blocks that he or she touches.



The journey is just beginning, and I'm blessed that God has allowed me to take my first step in this loving, supportive and dedicated corner of The Kingdom, this community of St. James'.

Yours in Christ,

Rod

Youth Group: Heavenly Kickball

On Sunday June 3rd, 2012 St. James' Youth Group members helped lead the worship service at Independence Field of Dreams



during our annual Picnic. Daniel, Justin, Maddie, Ben, Drew and Matt helped us find a place to sit, gave us our worship booklets, and led us through the Lessons, Psalm and Prayers Of The People. Drew Lacoture was gracious and awesome when suddenly he was asked to improvise the role of Nicodemus in conversation with our Rector Cathy and with Jesus graciously represented by Jewels Quelly.

After worship, and a little or too much eating depending on each one of us, the youth invited us to play a game of kickball. Captains Drew Lacoture and Matthew DiMarzo selected two teams, and soon, young, younger and youngest filled with field with laughter, voices of encouragement and the sound of the ball being kicked far into the outfield.

As the joyful sounds grew more and more people joined each team, and more and more people gathered on the sidelines to laugh and watch with delight the incidences of the game. Before we knew it, we were all children of God sharing in the field, regardless of our age or gender everyone was engaged in one way or another in the fund and harmony of the moment.

At the end, I don't think anyone really knew which team won, or what the score was; but as I walked away from the field, feeling muscles in my body I didn't know existed I looked back at the joy, the smiles, felt an overwhelming sense of calm and peace, and thought: if kickball is played in heaven, it probably looks like this.

Rod

Episcopal Appalachian Ministries

This is the eleventh trip St. James' has made to the Episcopal Appalachian Ministries workcamp. Our crew will leave St. James' on Saturday, July 28th and will return a week later on the 4th of August. Our work this year will be a combination of repairs to walls and flooring, painting, insulation and siding. Workcampers Tina Okoye, Sylvia Okoye, April Karavani, Kasia Kanczewski, Barbara White and Cathy Deats head to St. Paul Virginia for another week of work, learning and the joy of service.

Also consider being especially generous this year (envelopes are provided in the Great Hall for your donations, or mark your check "EAM"). At Grace House, the bunkhouses were destroyed in a springtime fire and have not been rebuilt as of yet. Our campers will be sleeping on the floor in another building. In addition, the fee for camp has been increased by more than \$100 per person, and we would like St. James' to absorb that cost to enable our students to attend for the cost of last year (non-St. James' members will pay the full fee). The trip itself typically costs \$800-900 for gas, one night lodging and meals during travel. We receive a most generous donation from Louise and Sam Olshan – their awesome van, complete with satellite radio and comfy seats!

Remember to support our car wash too – it is July 7, 10 AM to 3 PM at the PNC Bank on Route 57 in Mansfield.

Please consider using this prayer in your daily devotions as the crew prepares for their work:

A Prayer for Appalachia

Gracious Creator God. We thank you for the rich texture of our land---for the hollows, rivers, tree covered mountains and rolling hills. We bring before You those who, for reasons of injustice cannot share in the riches and bounty You provide in these hills. Send your spirit to nourish, strengthen and guide us to be helpful companions with those who thirst for righteousness, justice and peace. Where we can find the way, with whom we can make a difference we seek your guidance. All this we ask through Jesus on whom Your spirit rested in all power to proclaim release for the captives, the recovery of sight for the blind, and freedom to the oppressed. And in all that is before us, help us to remember that this is the year of the Lord's favor. AMEN

Education For Ministry

Education for Ministry is a unique mix of guided study, genuine community, theological reflection, and transforming worship. If you want to examine your faith to find a deeper faith, consider joining our seminar group, September through May. Enrollment forms are due August 10th; please contact the mentors: Barbara White or Cathy Deats, or speak to a current student: Peg Faust, Linda DeLoreto, Michelle Perez-Vega, Carol Novrit or Linda Ayres. Applications can be secured from the church office stjames214@comcast.net or 908.852.3968.

The 2012-2013 Seminar begins September 18th.

Mission Team comes to St. James'!

The Youth of St. Alban's, Oakland NJ, have organized a local mission trip to benefit parishes in the diocese. They are coming to St. James' on July 16 and 18 (Monday and Wednesday) in order to paint the church and learn about our Backpack Program. There will be six teens and two adults present. They are staying at Crossroads Camp and working here and at St. Luke's Hope during that week.

Here is what we need, so that you may respond to him and to the church office regarding how you can help:

- we need St. James' adults present to support the team from St. Alban's, including helping to paint
- we need people to plan and execute lunch for them both days; there is a budget for this and we are thinking simple, like subs or something similar (teenage food")

Dave Handville is coordinating supplies, including ladders, and the paint. A man from the Sherwin Williams store is coming to give us a quick painting lesson on Monday morning. We plan to work from 9 to 3 each of the two days, scraping the siding and applying two coats of paint to the sides of the church.

Justin Simmons will work with the young people on Monday the 16th and give them a presentation on the Backpack Program. If there are tasks they can do for us with that program, they can be with us for another half day.

Get involved! Call the church office 908.852.3968 or stjames214@comcast.net

BELL CHOIR "NOTES"

The Bell Choir will be having a well-deserved rest during June, July and August.

Rehearsals will begin in September. Please watch the next journal for the exact starting date. Announcements will also be made in church. The Bell Choir will be participating in the Winds of Change Tower Concert on Sunday, October 28 at 4 PM. One piece that the choir will be ringing is Somewhere Over the Rainbow. At this time I am busy selecting another appropriate piece.

If you are looking for something interesting to do in the fall, why not consider joining the Bell Choir. We would all be happy to have you join us. The rehearsals are after the Coffee Hour after the 10:00 service. I try to accommodate the schedules of the members. So even if you cannot be with us for all the rehearsals or each time we ring, let me know that you are interested in being part of the group. No need to read music, just be able to count to four.

The Bell Choir is very sad to be saying farewell to Dawn Modugno. Dawn has been a member of the choir for several years and moved from ringing one bell to three bells and is great with rhythm. We wish Dawn and her family wonderful days ahead in Tennessee. We will miss her at St James' - not just as a member of the Bell Choir, but because of her many contributions to the church.

Wishing everyone a summer that is safe, relaxing and rejuvenating.



Louise Olshan

For Weekly Announcements and what's happening at St. James' visit our webpage:

stjameshackettstown.org

Check out the new calendar!

Sign up for email news!

Volunteers Needed for Summer Backpack Program



It is summer and time again for our Summer Backpack program with the United Way of Northern NJ. Every summer we all pack and deliver healthy food to children (grades pre K-12) in need every two weeks from mid-June through Labor Day weekend. This great program helps meet the needs of hungry children in the greater Hackettstown are when their families have no other resources available to them.

We need volunteers to:

Collect food donations

Pack food bags

Call client families (Spanish knowledge a plus)

Drivers to deliver food

Carriers to help carry food to close homes

Carriers to help carry food to cars

Greeters to welcome our client families

Please call the church office: 908 852 3968 or contact Linda DeLoreto at:

linda.deloreto@gmail.com

You're
Invited..



BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at St. James' on Sunday, August 12th from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Give the gift of life this summer – blood supplies are always low in the summer months, and you can help. Generally, people in good health are eligible to donate. Blood donors must be 16 years of age or older. There are no upper age limits provided all health requirements are met. To make an appointment, please call the Blood Center of NJ directly:

1-800-NJBLOOD

Yarn Twisters



The Yarn Twisters group has been relatively quiet this year, so many activities going on. However, even though we are a small group these days, we continue to meet when schedules allow and are adding to the bin in the closet slowly and steadily. We do not have dates set for July and August, so please watch the calendar

or if you are interested in attending a Yarn Twister session, either email me at frlbailey1@comcast.net or call me at 908-684-3566 for dates. New patterns are available on the Christmas at Sea website ... www.seamenschurch.org - check them out!

The following items can be collected during the year. There is a blue plastic barrel in the Great Hall for donations. Thank you to those donating – the Barrel is quite full!

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

Thank you,

Linda Miller

Child of God

I had been searching for my raincoat everywhere. It is not your average raincoat. Its manufacturer's retail price was set at over \$200 and I purchased it for about half that price. That is a lot of money for me to spend on a raincoat, or almost any piece of clothing, for that matter. I justified the cost, however, with the fact that at the time I was working in the outdoors teaching Environmental Ed, rain or shine. I needed a good garment to protect me and protect me, it did. Because of its ideal weight, I took the coat to every state I traveled to.

And then I couldn't find it. This was a troublesome turn of events. Eventually, I started to reason that the coat was eight years old and maybe I had to

spring for a new one. Still, I searched my memory for the places I could have left it. I interrogated friends and dug through disgusting lost and found boxes. It didn't feel lost to me, just, well... missing. I could envision it, I could feel it, I just couldn't lay my hands on it.

This Sunday, on my way to Coffee Hour, I dashed back into the Vesting room at St. James with an impulsive question for our deacon, Rod, and there was my coat. On the peg. Just where I left it. Months ago. Oh, the joy!

I equate the journey of my coat with my experience as a member of a faith community and the shifts and turns that my own religious beliefs take. To the spectator, I am an adult woman, moderately involved in a rich, Christian community. On the inside, I am a child, in a large family of folks who get together quite regularly. At these family meetings, my family members talk about ideas that make sense (or don't), share philosophies that I agree with (or don't), and through this all, they come together to form a colorful mosaic of a tiny corner of the world as I know it.

Just like any child, I can be petulant. At times, I wish to separate from my family, strike out on my own. As I age, I learn and I question. Sometimes it feels like I am growing in love, yet other times it feels like my faith and my belief system is failing the adult in me and the child in me gets mad and throws a tantrum. When I'm done flailing and crying, I come out of the dark place to search for my spirit and my faith. And where do I start looking? With my faith family, of course. They know me pretty well.

I take one of my usual spots at St. James'; in the pew or at Jesus' dinner table. I never have to elbow for room. There's a spot for everyone here. In this safe and sacred place, I see familiar smiles, meet new family members and I feel the warm embrace that every child needs when they feel alone. Silently, I ask my family members, "Have you seen my spirit? I think I may have lost it!" And in the love, I hear the answer. "Naaah, it's not lost. It's been here all along. Just where you left it."

Jewels Quelly





THE REV. ROD PEREZ-VEGA is now a deacon in The Episcopal Church, and will soon be ordained priest, God willing and the people consenting. Normally a transitional deacon's future is temporary and uncertain. However, through a generous gift from the Diocese through the Bishop's office, Rod will remain at St. James' from July 1 to June 30, 2013 on a quarter-time basis. Rod's title will be Curate, a lesser-used traditional title which means one whose work is the "cure" of souls. The meaning of the word *cure* here is "care." From our roots in England, a curate is a member of the clergy employed to assist a rector or vicar. Please continue your embrace of Rod and his ministry among us. He will continue his work as Chaplain at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown. His work among us will focus on the youth, parish development and our continuing mission work of feeding people.



GREETINGS FROM ENGLAND were received from **The Reverend Rosemary Bragg of St. Michael's, Lyme Regis, thanking us for including her in our Parish Picnic celebration. "Rev Rosie" celebrated the Eucharist at the Field of Dreams and Cathy and Rod assisted. It was a grand day!**

EDITOR RETURNS FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Phyllis Heistand will be back to be editor in chief of the September issue of the Journal! Put these dates on your calendar now: **final deadline for the September issue is August 26th** and we urge you to put in your calendar the date of **August 19th** for those articles which can be crafted early. Send submissions to the editor and the church office: pdheistand@comcast.net and stjames214@comcast.net, with JOURNAL in the subject line. We especially would like your reflections on the happenings around here: worship in the parish hall, the Backpack Program, Theology and a cold Drink, as well as our regular reports from our groups. Welcome back, Phyllis!

A GIFT THAT FEEDS CHILDREN



At her recent wedding, April Messer Karavani and husband Michael Rudolph Maffei sent an invitation which read: "In lieu of gifts you are invited to make a donation to feed hungry children through the Summer Backpack Program of the St. James' Episcopal Church." The wedding date was June 23rd, and already gifts of over \$500 have been received. Thank you, congratulations, *mazel tov* and many blessings to April and Michael! We (and the children) are so blessed by this generous gift.



REMEMBER THAT TWO SERVICES RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 9th!

Theology and a Cold Drink



In a constantly and rapidly changing world, have you ever asked yourself "am I the only one who thinks this way?"; or wondered what other people think and feel, without a cell phone, a television or a computer screen filtering their thoughts and their presence.

Theology and a Cold drink is a unique opportunity for people of all faith backgrounds to share in a face to face, open and sincere dialogue. It is a space for fellowship and discovery of how others feel and think about the issues we face in our modern world.

Come join us every Thursday starting July 5 from 7 pm to 8 pm at St. James' Great Hall, and be part of dialogue where sharing each other's thoughts and opinions enriches the landscape for all.



**To benefit Appalachia Ministries Trip
10AM-3PM in the PNC parking lot in
front of Home Depot on Rte 57,
Mansfield
COME AND SUPPORT OUR
APPALACHIAN MINISTRIES
WORKERS!**

**To volunteer, contact Barbara White at
908.798.0928 or
barbarawhite_7@msn.com right away!**



PIZZA AND MOVIE NIGHT

a great time to share a hot summer night in cool St. James', on Friday night July 20th at 6:30 PM. We will have "make your own pizza" and then adults will assemble in groups to

continue our Parish Development work while the kids enjoy a movie (with popcorn!)

Please RSVP to the Church Office at stjames214@comcast.net or 908-852-3968



Life at St. James'








**Committed
to Worship
and Building**




In Christ's Name

JULY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Office Closed 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	RECTOR AT GC 2012 Summer Office Hours 9:00-12:00 THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH GENERAL CONVENTION 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	Office Closed for 4th Of July RECTOR AT GC 2012 Summer Office Hours 9:00-12:00 THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH GENERAL CONVENTION 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	RECTOR AT GC 2012 Summer Office Hours 9:00-12:00 THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH GENERAL CONVENTION 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Theology & A Cold Drink	RECTOR AT GC 2012 Summer Office Hours 9:00-12:00 THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH GENERAL CONVENTION 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	CAR WASH FUNDRAISER RECTOR AT GC 2012 THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH GENERAL CONVENTION 
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AUGUST 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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19 10:30 AM BLOOD BANK	20 Office Closed 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	21 Summer Office Hours 9:00-12:00 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy/ Tutoring	22 Summer Office Hours 9:00-12:00 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	23 Summer Office Hours 9:00-12:00 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Theology & A Cold Drink 7:30 PM VESTRY MEETING	24 Summer Office Hours 9:00-12:00 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	25 10:00 AM SUMMER BACKPACK PROGRAM PICKUP
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St. James' Staff & Vestry

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