



# ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

THE REV. DR. CATHY L. DEATS, RECTOR

FEBRUARY 2013



Epiphany is winding down. We have rejoiced in the glory of God made human for us, learned how to be disciples, and shined our lights. In this short season (this time around), we have gathered the strength of each other as we prepare for Lent, which is, as Punxsutawney Phil predicted, "right around the corner."

Watch the sanctuary change from green to deep purple. See the emptiness of the flower vases, notice the silence of the procession, hear the minor key in the music. Listen to the story of Jesus, alone, driven by the Spirit into the wilderness for a time of solitude, testing and strengthening. We know he was hungry, tired and lonely in that time, especially since he was coming from the mountain of his transfiguration when his closest disciples saw him in all his glory.

Barbara Brown Taylor says in her book, Bread of Angels, that Jesus didn't have to wear a veil and no one was afraid of him because he looked "normal" when he came down from that mountain. "It is as if God took the glory ... off his face and tuck(ed) it inside him. God hid it there, to see if people could still discern the glory without the visual aid. Still, what happened on the mountain must have helped Jesus. It must have helped him to know what was inside him, even if it was not always visible. What we are asked to believe is that at certain breakthrough moments in time, the glory of God is certifiably visible... But seeing it may not be the most important thing because we are also asked to believe in it when we cannot see it."

As we enter the season of Lent, we are asked to take a long, hard look at ourselves. It is a time for self-examination, according to the direction of the church. While we may think of self-examination as a solitary act, it is something which may be even more valuable when done in the context of

community. No, it does not mean standing up in church and listing our sins. Confession and reconciliation are, however, acts which take place in the context of our lives as disciples. The church provides a sacrament for such acts; seeing ourselves as God sees us and making amends with brothers and sisters in Christ. The sacramental rite of Reconciliation is this act of confessing to a priest and receiving the absolution of God at his or her hand. Unlike the Roman Catholic church, this confession takes place not in a booth with a curtain, but in the sanctuary, chapel or office. The saying I have heard about confession in The Episcopal Church is "All may. Some should. None must." It is a powerful sacrament, one which I have found in my own life to be an important way to make a break with past sins.

At St. James', your priests are available for private confession in the form of the sacrament of Reconciliation. But if you in your own journey determine that this is not what God is calling you to do for self-examination, I encourage you to find a practice that will help you know that we are all sinners, we all need to see ourselves stripped of the things we have convinced ourselves make us worthy. It may be private conversations with a trusted spiritual advisor. It might be approaching a sister or brother in Christ and saying, "May I share with you the struggles I am having in my walk with God, and will you offer me assurance that God is still with me and give me encouragement for my journey?"

And then hear the Ash Wednesday call: "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Hear it the way God would have us hear it, knowing that God has taken God's own glory and 'tucked it inside' each one of us.

Believe it, even when you don't see it.

Faithfully yours,

*Cathy +*

## From the Wardens

For a long time I was “seasonally impatient”. That is to say I was never really satisfied with present season. When it was winter I wanted it to be spring. When it was spring, I wanted it be summer, and on and on. For some time, it was always either too hot, too cold, too rainy or not enough of something. And those “perfect, 10-best days”, well they were never perfect enough, usually because they happened on a workday. Rather than live in the moment and accept it, I was always looking for the next change.

Lately though, (call it getting a little older and wiser) I’ve learned to enjoy all the seasons for all they have to offer. I actually embrace the differences and appreciated them. I’ve been around long enough now to know the cycle will repeat itself so why not enjoy the moment. Really? Why not!?! Bring on the cold, the heat and the rain, it’s all part of a cycle. It’s really not a challenge. It’s a gift!

Over time I have learned to appreciate the church’s seasonal cycle as well. There is an ebb and flow and each season is special in its own way. The Parish Life calendar is an excellent example of this seasonal flow where the liturgy and the activities of the church spring to life thanks to the dedication of so many faithful people.

There is certainly anticipation for particularly significant points in the church calendar. Lent and the preparation for the Easter will be here shortly for example. But I have also found comfort in enjoying all the times in between as I listen to hear what God has to say. There is no need to rush. Be patient. The liturgical calendar is special; it is different from my work and family calendar. Each holy day, and all the days in between, are there for us to share and to celebrate.

*Dave Lacouture*

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

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

**Check out the new calendar!**

**Sign up for email news!**

## Lenten Study

*Teach us what we are to know, show us what we are to do, to be your disciples*

A Lenten study exploring the baptismal promises and discipleship.

**Five Thursdays in Lent, February 14, 28,**

**March 7, 14, 21 – 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

These are the promises we made ourselves, or others made on our behalf. What do they really mean for us in everyday life – at work, in the mall, in the doctor’s office, in the neighborhood? Each week we will explore one of these promises and how we live into them. We will close our time together with evening prayers.

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* I will, with God’s help.

*Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* I will, with God’s help.

*Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* I will, with God’s help.

*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* I will, with God’s help.

*Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* I will, with God’s help.

-- The Book of Common Prayer, Holy Baptism



# St. James' Episcopal Church

214 Washington Street + Hackettstown NJ 07840

The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats, Rector

Linda Ayres, Parish Administrator

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February 3, 2013

**To:** All members of St. James' Parish

**From:** Cathy L. Deats, Rector

Pursuant to the by-laws of St. James' Parish, you are hereby notified of the Annual Meeting and election of officers to take place **Sunday, February 10, at 10:30 am** in the Great Hall.

The meeting follows one service of The Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am.

This notice is to inform you of those nominated for office by the Nominating Committee. Other nominations may be made, by petition in writing, signed by five qualified voters of the parish. A qualified voter is one who is (1) baptized, (2) at least 16 years of age, (3) in regular attendance at the services of this parish for the past six months and (4) a regular financial contributor to this parish for the past six months. Forms for nomination are available in the church office or online at

<http://stjameshackettstown.org>

**They are due in the church office no later than February 8, 2013.**

Nominations for vestry (3 vacancies):

Ann Edens  
Chika Okoye  
Barbara Olesen

Nominations for Deputy to Diocesan Convention (1 vacancy):

Ellen Infante

Nominations for Alternate Deputy to Diocesan Convention (2 vacancies)

Linda Ayres  
Barbara White

I wish to thank the members of the nominating committee (the Wardens and the Vestry Members completing their terms) for their work: Barbara White, Dave Lacouture, Dave Handville, Dan Miller, and Peter Quelly. I also wish to thank all those willing to serve in the leadership positions of this parish, including those not on this list who may be nominated by petition.



## Music Notes

### Sr. Choir

After a busy Christmas season during which we had returning college singers at most of our Christmas Eve services and several visiting singers at the 11pm service as well, Epiphany has been a quiet time. With Helen Wise's illness, Nancy Miller's knee surgery, and the flu going around, we've been very low in numbers in January, sometimes only having 1 or 2 singers. However, since Louise was away with Sam on their annual cruise vacation (lucky them!), it worked out ok timing-wise. But it does point out just how important each choir member is every week. So, yes, we really still need more voices! If you'd like to join, we would love to have you! Rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 8:30 in the living room of the Mitcham House.

### Holy Week/Easter

Calling any returning college singers and "just-for-Easter" singers! Now is a great time to join us for one or more of our Holy Week dates! We have Palm Sunday on 3/24/13 at the 10AM service, Easter Vigil on 3/30/13 at 7:30pm (rehearsal is 6:30 or 6:45pm) and the 8am and/or the 10am services on Easter morning. Rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 8:30AM in the Mitcham House living room. If you are coming to sing for these special services, come around 8:45.

### Youth Choir

Our Youth Choir will again sing at the 10am Easter service. Rehearsals, which take place during Sunday School, will start soon!

### Birthday Hymns

Keep those Birthday Hymn requests coming! Forms are still in the back of the church.

*Pam Laura*



[St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown](#)

## Save Lives - Give Blood



On Sunday, February 24th, St. James' is sponsoring a blood drive in conjunction with The Blood Center of New Jersey from 9:00AM to 1:30PM. To schedule an appointment, please call 973- 676-4700, ext 151

or email [gtoscano@bloodnj.org](mailto:gtoscano@bloodnj.org) for more information. All are welcome, so come in and join us. This drive is being held in an effort to meet the urgency of the community's increasing need for blood for the patients who require life-saving transfusions.

Sixteen year olds can now donate blood in the state of New Jersey with parental/guardian consent. The consent forms will be available at the blood drive. Donors must weigh at least 120 pounds and be in general good health. There is no upper age limit for donors provided they meet health requirements. Donors should bring a signed or picture form of identification and know their S.S. #. Please eat a meal one hour before donating and drink plenty of water.

Blood center officials note that each unit of blood donated is broken down into several components including platelets, plasma, and red cells so one donation can save up to three lives.

The donation process is safe and simple. Donors are first asked medical history questions and given a mini-health check, including pulse, blood pressure, and iron level. The actual donation of blood takes just 5 to 7 minutes, and then the donor is given a snack and juice. The entire process generally takes under one hour. Donors will receive a free cholesterol screening.

People with a fever or sore throat should wait until they are feeling better before donating, and there is a 24-hour deferral for teeth cleanings and fillings.

For those who have recently traveled outside of the United States and for other eligibility questions,



## **BELL CHOIR "NOTES"**

The St. James' Multi-Generational Bell Choir will begin rehearsals again on Sunday, February 3rd. Rehearsals are held after the Coffee Hour following the 10:00 service. The bell choir will be participating in the 10:00 service on Sunday, February 10th. The Bell Choir will also participate in the service on April 7th when the Bishop is in attendance.

While the Christmas 2012 season seems very far away already, I must thank everyone who helped out on Christmas Eve. The bells along with the organ were able to play the Introit at all three services and also rang an anthem at both the 7 PM and 11 PM services. Since regular members of the Bell Choir were not always able to participate, many thanks go to our "substitutes" who made it possible for bells to ring at all these services.

Our very capable substitutes were Katie Lacouture, Sylvia Okoye, Tina Okoye, Steven Bernauer and Lori Mattison. Thank you for helping out. We enjoyed having each of you ring with us again.

Regular members of the St. James' Multi-Generational Bell Choir are David Bernauer, Scott Carson, Meredith Firmin, Drew Lacouture, Pam Laura, Brian Nolan, Chika Okoye, Sam Olshan, Marge Schafetz, Amelia Vitalos and Helen Wise. Thank you to each of you for your dedication and commitment to the Bell Choir.

*Louise Olshan*

## **Where Did Time Go?**

As I looked at the calendar, I realized that I have completed ten years as organist, choir accompanist and volunteer Bell Choir Director. When I first came to St. James', I thought I might stay for five years. I thought I would be old by then! When we moved to Ocean Grove four years ago, I thought I would continue to serve at St. James' until the trip became too much. Here it is ten years and I continue to enjoy serving at St. James'.

On my first Sunday at St. James' Cathy was on retreat and the clergyperson asked if I was nervous. Oh, yes, I was nervous! He said to remember that I was working in a place all about forgiveness. That settled me down. I think about those words often

with a different meaning to them. Oh, yes, it is wonderful to be employed at a place all about forgiveness and grace and to play (no pun intended) a part in helping to share the message of God's love and grace. As Bell Choir Director we have even taken that message out into the community.

My mother enjoyed family breakfast that first Sunday with the Hall-Brooks. They were so very welcoming to her. She attended services at St. James' about once a month. If she was "absent" for a while, Jean Garthwaite or Dorothy Bartkus would inquire if she was o.k. Thank you for welcoming my mother. When my mother passed away, Pam Laura and Russ Worthington traveled on very treacherous roads to rings bells at her church and Cathy participated in serving communion.

You not only welcomed my son, David Bernauer, but you put him to work! He is in the Bell Choir, the senior choir, a counter and on vestry. Thank you for welcoming him also. And there is my Jewish husband Sam who has been ringing bells faithfully all these years. You have all welcomed him and EFM members have even attended events at his Temple.

I want to thank the congregation for supporting me these many years. To all the singers and ringers that I have worked with, a big THANK YOU for letting me be a part of your service and lives. We have shared good times and bad times together. Thank you to Cathy and Pam for their continuing support over all these years.

*Louise Olshan*

### **Lectors Needed at House of the Good Shepherd**

- every Sunday afternoon at 2pm the Rev. Deacon Jeanette Hile holds a Chapel Service for the residents at the House. St James' has been providing Lectors for this service for a few years now but we only have 3 serving currently and could use some more! The service is barely 45 minutes long and we read the Lessons and lead the residents in reading the Psalm and several prayers. This is a wonderful ministry and is hugely appreciated by the residents. If you would like to help out please let Pam Laura know and she will get your information to Russ Worthington, who coordinates this ministry for Jeanette.

# SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

in the Great Hall

Suggested donation: \$10

Kids under 10 eat free!



Pictured (from left) are: Community volunteer Marta Perales, West Morris Central High School student Julianne Bisner, United Way Chief Professional Officer Sarah Brelvi, Kohl's employee Sharon Hutkowsk and community volunteer Patti Byrne.

## St. James partners with United Way to help struggling families

United Way of Northern New Jersey and St. James' Episcopal Church in Hackettstown, have teamed up during the holiday season to address the needs of area families struggling to make ends meet this winter. With the help of community volunteers, some 70 new winter coats and 100 grocery gift cards were distributed to local families in need. United Way will continue to accept grocery gift cards for individuals and families facing food insecurity.

The distribution took place at St.

### DONATIONS

With the help of community volunteers, some 70 new winter coats and 100 grocery gift cards were distributed to local families in need.

James' Episcopal Church, which also partners with United Way to provide these same families with supplemental food for their children during the summer.

Helping to make this event possible

was West Morris Central High School student Julianne Birsner who donated \$400 from her 16th birthday to support these children in need. In addition, Kohl's Cares Associates in Action provided a \$500 grant to purchase additional coats and Sam's Club in Mount Olive provided a discount on coats purchased. St. James' volunteer and Wallkill Valley Regional High School English teacher Mary Ann Simmons also coordinated a hat, scarf and glove collection.

Warren Reporter, Jan 18, 2013

# Life at St. James'

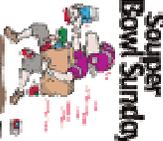


**Committed  
to Worship  
and Building  
community**



**In Christ's Name**

# FEBRUARY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL 9:00 AM Forum on Diocesan Convention 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM Forum on Diocesan Convention</p>	<p>28 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center</p>	<p>29 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 6:45 PM PRAYING THE BOX 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY</p>	<p>30 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM PARISH LIFE MEETING</p>	<p>31 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service</p>	<p>1 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3  <b>Supper Bowl Sunday</b> SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>4 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center</p>	<p>5 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 6:30 PM FUNDRAISING MEETING 6:45 PM PRAYING THE BOX 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY</p>	<p>6 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center</p>	<p>7 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service</p>	<p>8 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10  <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> 8:00 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL 8:20 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM ANNUAL MEETING</p>	<p>11 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center</p>	<p>12 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 4:00 PM SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER 6:45 PM PRAYING THE BOX 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY</p>	<p>13 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7:00 AM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:00 AM ASHES TO GO 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 12:00 PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:30 PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</p>	<p>14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Disciples Study</p>	<p>15 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>18 <b>Presidents' Day</b> 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center</p>	<p>19 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 6:45 PM PRAYING THE BOX 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY</p>	<p>20 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Special Events Committee Meeting</p>	<p>21 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service 7:30 PM VESTRY MEETING</p>	<p>22  <b>Prayer and Fasting</b> 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 8:00 PM 30 HOUR FAMINE</p>	<p>23 8:00 AM 30 HOUR FAMINE</p>
<p>24 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL 9:00 AM BLOOD DRIVE 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>25 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center</p>	<p>26 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 6:45 PM PRAYING THE BOX 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY</p>	<p>27 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center</p>	<p>28 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Disciples Study</p>	<p>1 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center</p>	<p>2</p>



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FEBRUARY 2013

## St. James' Staff & Vestry

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats  
Deacon: The Rev. Sheila Shuford  
Curate: The Rev. Rod Perez-Vega  
Rector Emeritus: The Rev. Clarence Sickles  
Parish Administrator: Linda Ayres  
Music Director: Pam Laura  
Organist/Bell Choir Director: Louise Olshan  
Sexton: Pauline Volkert

### Vestry

Senior Warden: Barbara White  
Junior Warden: David Lacouture

David Bernauer	Carol Novrit	Peter Quelly
Peter Gartelmann	David Jenkins	Roy Smith
David Handville	Dan Miller	Ellen Infante
Vestry Clerk:	Barbara Olesen	
Treasurer:		
Asst. Treasurer:	Carol Novrit	
Bookkeeper:	Ellen Infante	

*Phyllis Heistand,  
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