



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

THE REV. DR. CATHY L. DEATS, RECTOR

NOVEMBER 2013

October 25, 2013

Dear Disciples,

This week, Detroit Tigers manager Jim Leyland resigned. "When it's time, it's time, and it's time to step down," he said.

It is also time for me. I am answering God's call and moving on in ministry, and will be leaving St. James'.

Over the past months, I have discerned that God is calling me *from* this place, although I am not certain what God is calling me *to*. I cannot preach that God is our guide, our teacher, and our true love, and not follow God's leading. Following consultation with the Bishop, my last Sunday with you will be December 8. It is my wish that you and I celebrate our ministry together in a service of the Holy Eucharist at 4 PM. That will be the single service of worship on that day.

We have been through so many joys, so many sorrows, and so many challenges. Blessedly, all have been undergirded by God's support and, yes, even joy. When I look back at my twelve years with you, I see your mission needing my guidance and vision, and my priesthood needing your challenge and encouragement. We have done so much together, but the role which gives me the most satisfaction is that of mentor. I have loved to simply point out to you, individually and as community, that "you are on the right track," or "you may want to ask this question," or "let's see how it goes and talk about it," or even, "*what were we thinking?*"

When asked what made him the proudest about his work with the Tigers, Jim Leyland said, "I came here to make talent a team. I think we did that." What I am proudest of is that we created solid, healthy leadership to do God's work in our corner of the world. I have no doubt that, through the grace of God, that will continue.

And there is one more thing: I am pretty sure you cannot even imagine how much I love you. When I look back at our twelve years together, sure, the building is amazing and our care of the sanctuary is to be commended. Yes, people in Hackettstown know who we are and what we do. But what I will go to most in my grief at the loss of you is this: I see the babies – and adults – baptized, the weddings and renewal of marriage vows, the bedside vigils, and the prayers over teens with drivers' licenses and middle school graduates. I see the early mornings with high school students and a "box o' joe," the hundreds of grocery bags full of food for children, the families warmed with winter coats. I see the community gathered week after week in prayer and song, touching each other, sharing the bread and wine, and going out strengthened. I hear the heartfelt prayers and the bells, the singing of children and the silence of the sanctuary in the face of the fire siren. I see the hands moving in sign language and the evidence that *someone* was doing *something* for *someone else* without the need for thanks.

This announcement may be the source of sadness, shock, anger, pain, or even relief. The rules of the Diocese state that I am to not have contact with you for a year following my departure. This will allow the St. James' community to focus on its mission and to bond with other leaders to work through the transition from my priestly leadership to that of another.

Please be assured you will be in my prayers in the days and months to come, and in my heart always.

Your sister in Christ,

Cathy+



From Your Vestry...

Vestry University

This year I attended the Vestry University- a series of workshops organized by the Diocese of Newark to give training to vestry members and others who are interested in what it means to be a member of the vestry or a church warden. This was the first time I had attended and I found the workshops to be very well done and conducted by knowledgeable leaders. Each attendee signed up to take 3 workshops and a talk by the Bishop. The day also included a sumptuous lunch. David Lacouture and Carol Novrit also attended the university, so between the three of us we were able to attend 9 of the 22 possible workshops.

The three workshops I attended were “What Makes Us Episcopalians,” “Episcopal Polity” and “How To Host Missional Conversations.” “What makes us Episcopalians” was a discussion of what Episcopalians believe and their approach to Christianity. As Episcopalians we believe what all other Christians believe; however, we temper our belief with reason and use the Book of Common Prayer, which acts as the guide for conducting our religious services. Some famous reasoning Episcopalians are Charles Darwin, T.S. Eliot, John Dunn, and George H. W. Bush. The section on “Episcopal Polity” clarified what the responsibilities of the vestry are. Some notable responsibilities are that the vestry is the legal representative of the parish and must act in the best interest of their congregation; the vestry is responsible for the maintenance of the church (physical and financial) and must take care of all leases, contracts and the payment of salaries. The vestry also has spiritual responsibilities. This was a particularly informative session for me as I was unaware of some of the responsibilities.

In “How to Host Missional Conversation” we were urged not to just conduct outreach since that only makes us church members, we should strive to go beyond outreach and become disciples in our communities. Being disciples turns outreach into a mission and becomes transformative. In other words, being a missional church means that we transform our communities by being disciples, not just by proselytizing, but by performing works that improve the lot of those located closest to us. We therefore need to discuss what our mission should be and how we can bring it to fruition. To keep our focus on the spirit we were also urged to start our vestry meetings with a mini bible study or a meditation on a Bible verse. This provides us with a reflective tone and makes us aware of how differently we each may see things.

Generally, I came away from the workshops with a feeling that St. James' is on the right path. It would, however, be helpful to the congregation if we had a manual that was more specific (and widely available) about the duties of the clergy, the wardens and the vestry. Also, more open and frequent communication with the vestry should be encouraged so that we can more efficiently address any concerns the congregation may have. Vestry University was a worthwhile activity and I encourage others to explore attending the Vestry University or some of the other workshops offered by the Diocese.

Please contact me or any other vestry members if you have any concerns or questions regarding St. James.

Chika Okoye

From the October Meeting

Vestry Hi-Lites

- † Janice Cipriani was elected Treasurer of St. James', and Peter Quelly was elected to an unexpired Vestry term, class of 2014. We welcomed these new, experienced leaders with thanksgiving for their gifts of time and skill!
- † The Vestry voted to withdraw the Amberjack solar contract from Standing Committee consideration due to further information revealed by an attorney review of the contract.
- † A committee has been formed to develop a policy for conflict resolution in the parish. Members are Carol Novrit, Ann Edens, Chika Okoye and Peter Gartelmann.

Advent is Coming—December 1st

Literally, advent *means* coming. It is a time of preparation for the incarnation of Jesus. You will see the sanctuary draped in blue, hear the minor keys of the more mysterious music, and experience more silence in liturgy - - even as the world outside spins into high gear of what they call the "Christmas Season," defined as the time from Hallowe'en through January post-holiday sales.

Our tradition is to pay attention to the warnings of Scripture to watch and pray; to wait with expectation for the coming of Jesus the Christ into the world. You will be encouraged to use an Advent learning tool on your family table -- a wreath with prayers which will be available at the end of November. Watch for it!

Fundraising Report

The St. James' FRC meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6PM in the Mitcham House. Dates for the remainder of the year are: November 13 and December 11.

Scrip Pro-The holidays are fast approaching. Think about how much gift card recipients would enjoy a dinner out or selecting their own clothing or merchandise with a gift card! The FRC Committee will be offering free Holiday Card Sleeves for gift-giving! The last 2 dates for ordering for this year are Nov 10 and Dec 8.

Spaghetti Dinner-The FRC raised \$250 and had a great night of fellowship. Thanks to all the volunteers and attendees who made this happen. Special thanks go to Peg Faust who cooked all of the sauces, meatballs and sausage and peppers – everything was delicious, Peg!

Lia Sophia-Linda DeLoreto will display her fashionable jewelry Sunday Nov 3rd during family breakfast and also at 11:30 AM. You can choose great gifts for yourself or others, and benefit St. James' mission and ministry!

Linda will donate 10% of her sales to St. James'. Another great example of personal stewardship! Please support Linda and St. James'. Check out her Facebook and Lia Sophia pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/Jewelrygiving>

<http://www.liasophia.com/jewelrygiving>

See's Candies-We will once again sell the popular chocolates that everyone loves. See the article written by Ellen Infante on See's Candies in the Journal!

Tricky Tray-Our event for the year has passed, but we never stop looking for opportunities to create baskets!

Look out for Holiday bargains that can be your contribution to the Tricky Tray for next year!

Thanks for your support in our fundraising efforts!

St. James' FRC

ShopRite and Weis Market Gift Cards Available

You can help with fundraising to support our church's mission and ministries by shopping with gift cards from either ShopRite or Weis Markets. We sell the cards at their face value and the supermarkets donate five percent to us. Paul Bartkus takes orders for any combination of \$25, \$50, or \$100 cards each month on the last weekend of the month and hands them out on the first weekend, when we have our family breakfast. You can also mix orders between the two supermarkets! Also, in November and December, we are taking orders for \$25 cards that will be added to the food bags packed by our Sunday School.

"The St. James' Murder Mystery Game"

November 9th, 2013

**Please contact Linda Ayres, Parish
Administrator, to reserve your tickets!**

Don't make alibis!!! Make Your Reservations!!

Chinese Dinner Menu, Coffee, tea and soda will be served.

*You are invited to BYOB so you can
enjoy what you prefer to drink*

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service to be celebrated at The First Presbyterian Church in Hackettstown. Pause to say "thanks" to God for all your blessings -- 7 PM on Wednesday, November 27th. Bring non-perishable food donations for the local food pantries and cash / check



donations for the Hackettstown Clergy Association Emergency Fund, which assists those in need not covered by government programs. This past year, we housed one family for a short time in a motel when they were evicted from their apartment, gave Christmas toys and clothing to a family experiencing unemployment, and helped a mom and three children relocate from an abusive situation.

The United Thank Offering (UTO)

This is a program that originated in the late 1800's for the sole purpose of building our churches and helping others who needed help.

The basis for this program is not only to raise money for churches and families, but it is a way for us to give thanks for all the many blessings in each day, month and year.

I am proud to be a part of this program since childhood with the Mite boxes – now UTO boxes.

We have UTO boxes on the windowsills and in the back of the church as you come in. Envelopes are also available. This offering of "Thanks" will be given with love from our church family here at St. James'. Our next Ingathering will be November 17th at which time these boxes and envelopes will be collected. It will be taken to the General Convention as our donation.

Please help, if you can, with your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters.

Ellen Infante
United Thank Offering Coordinator



Veterans Day Service

On Sunday, November 10th we will continue the tradition of St. James' honoring our fallen soldiers on Veterans Day. The service will begin at 7am when we will begin reading the names of soldiers that have made the ultimate sacrifice for us and our country.

Names will be read from 7-7:45 in 10-15 minute segments and continued during the Prayers of the People at the 8 and 10 o'clock service. The reading of names will continue after the 10 o'clock service and end when all have been remembered.

A sign-up sheet will be on the piano at the front of the church. We also welcome the community and offer an opportunity to join in the reading of names.

Please join us for whatever time you are available.

Barbara White



Maintenance Morning

Maintenance leader Peter Gartelmann led the band of workers who removed air conditioners from windows, installed storm door, cleared the leaves from roof and gutters, and cleaned the mildew (which arrived this wet summer) from kneelers and books in the sanctuary (Pauline Volkert, our sexton, provided the magic formula for that!). We call it stewardship in action when folks take an hour or two from their busy weekends to care for our property and help our buildings remain in good repair.

Iglesia El Shaddai
Cordially invites you to
Pastor Appreciation Day
for Lic. Rosa Zelaya

Date: Nov 3, 2013

Place: St. James' Episcopal Church
214 Washington St.
Hackettstown NJ 07840

Time: 4:30 PM

HOPE TO SEE YOU

Note: The Church of El Shaddai is an Assembly of God congregation which meets at St. James' Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons for worship and study. Please help our brothers and sisters in Christ as they honor their Pastor!

Anglican Faith

in an Evangelical World

Sunday, November 17 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Did you know that most of the "Founding Fathers (and Mothers)" of our nation were Anglican, later to be called Episcopalians? Almost a quarter of the past Presidents of the nation have been Episcopalians. The Presidents' Church is an Episcopal Church, as is the Washington National Cathedral. If these things are true, then how did we Episcopalians lose our influence? How did Evangelicalism become synonymous with conservative politics and what is often called "The Religious Right?"

This Sunday's forum will gauge interest in a longer course. We'll trace the history of evangelicalism in America from the Colonial period to the present. We'll also examine the reasons why Episcopalians never grabbed a larger share of the religious marketplace.

Fr. Daniel C. Gunn will lead the class. He is the former rector of St. Stephen's pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, PA. His educational background includes studies in Bible, theology, philosophy and ethics. He is completing his dissertation at Drew in American Religious History.

Journal Deadline

DECEMBER/JANUARY EDITION:

November 17th

My Home at St. James'

I moved to Heath Village in July of 1992 and found it to be a perfectly wonderful place to live. Now it is time for me to prepare for another move and everything is just about in place to join the Columbarium Group (or shall I call it Society?).

I know that this is the right thing to do and I will be a small part of St. James' forever (but remember this – I shall keep my eye on you!).

Isabelle Simon

Isabelle recently purchased a niche in the St. James' Columbarium and will make St. James' her home for eternity.

Hackettstown Community Day

On Saturday, October 5th, St. James' was represented at Hackettstown Community Day, a family event, held in Lowe's Parking lot, sponsored by the local police department. It was a joint venture of St. James' Vestry, our Rector, Cathy Deats, Special Events Committee, Promotions Committee, and Sunday School. There were giveaways: balloons with St. James' information, cross necklaces, and an opportunity for kids to do some crafts. Some families just took a break from walking in the heat that day to just sit and relax a few minutes in our tent. Information about our Deaf Ministry was available and a display about Godly Play, our Christian Education curriculum, was on hand. Speaking of hands, it was all hands on deck and all of the volunteers who assisted that day, and helped behind the scenes with preparation deserve a hand: Cathy and Ted Deats, Linda Ayres, Anne Dutton, Barbara Olesen, Pam Laura, Linda and Nick DeLoreto, Ellen Infante, Scott Carson, Jenn Howlin (and children!), Dave and Drew Lacouture. It was a great opportunity to spread the word about who we are and what our mission is.

Thank you!!!

Kathy Lacouture

Coming Soon.....See's Candies Fund Raiser

I will be making an announcement soon regarding the sale of See's Candy for the holiday season. Many people were pleased to hear the news. If you are not familiar with See's Candies, I will tell you a little about them.

This company started in 1921 by Charles See, using his mother Mary's recipes in California. It is known for its excellent quality and freshness. They do not add preservatives to their products and they are known here and abroad by their reputation.

Buying See's Candies at Christmas time has been a tradition with me since 2003. The Christmas boxes are gift wrapped by See's....all you have to do is put a tag on it! A perfect gift would be See's candy and a Gift Card from Scrip Pro. I hope you try See's Candies for yourself and for your family and friends this holiday season.

As flyers and books come in, I will put them in the Parish Hall for your convenience. They should be arriving in approximately two weeks. The program will run from November 17th to December 8th.

Blessings to you all during this holiday season!

Ellen Infante, FRC

Yarn Twisters



Our monthly get togethers have not happened very often this year and I apologize for that. We are all so busy these days with our personal lives and other groups we are involved in as well as our jobs, but I do miss our times sitting in the Mitcham House doing our knitting or crocheting getting to know each other a little better. However, the good news is that a few of us have been knitting at home along with Bettie Rile and the ladies of the House of the Good Shepherd, and between us we were able to send a very large box of knitted/crocheted goodies and also a large box of assorted toiletries to the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) at Port Newark. Many thanks to Jerry Sheard for transporting these two boxes. We have a date set for Thursday, **November 7th at 6:30 p.m.** at the Mitcham House for our next get together. If you are new to St. James' and would like to join us, please contact me at 908-684-3566 or email me at frlbailey1@comcast.net

Jerry Sheard informed me that coats are no longer accepted at SCI, so maybe anyone with a coat to donate will be able to find another deserving home for it.

The following items can be collected during the year. There is a blue plastic barrel in the Great Hall for donations:

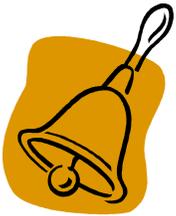
- * Unscented, Hypoallergenic Hand Lotion (2-4 oz bottles)
- * Sealed Packages of Holiday Sweets
- * Books
- * Activities like Sudoku, word searches, or playing cards
- * Facial Tissue
- * Microwave Popcorn
- * Chewing Gum

Thank you,

Linda Miller

.....
We are all affected by rising costs these days. Paper and postage are no exception! If you are able to take the St. James' Journal by email, please contact the office at stjames214@comcast.net and Linda Ayres will make sure you receive it electronically. Typically those receiving the Journal by email have it a day or two sooner than the printed version (and in color)! Thanks for your consideration!
.....





Bell Choir “Notes”

It was an honor to be asked to be part of the Memorial Service for Phyllis Heistand. A very sincere thank you to the ringers who were available to play at that service. Phyllis had been a ringer and a director in a

Bell Choir in another church. She was always very supportive of the efforts of the St. James’ Bell Choir and very interested in the music we played.

Because of forums on September 29 and October 20 during the rehearsal time for the Bell Choir and my vacation Sundays, the Bell Choir has not been able to rehearse since September 22. So while we had planned to ring on October 27, we will be cancelling that date. In fact I will have to make some changes in the music selections also.

At this time the choir hopes to participate in the following:

Date	Time	Event
Nov 24	7 PM	Hackettstown Hymn Sing Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Dec 15	10 AM	Worship Service St. James’
Dec 15	5 PM	Lessons and Carols St. Luke’s, Montclair

I was really excited about the piece I had selected for October 27. But do not despair! The Bell Choir will most likely move that piece into the spring after Easter.

For the Hackettstown Hymn Sing the Bell Choir will be playing *Joyful Praise*. This piece is a lot of fun to play and hopefully will be fun to listen to also. Many different bell playing techniques are used. See if you can identify the different sounds that the bells can make while we play this piece. Since we play in front of the congregation at this event, you can even watch as the ringers use the different techniques.

Advent Meditation will be the selection for December 15, both at St. James’ and at St. Luke’s. It is a medley of three popular Advent tunes – *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, *Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* and *Watchman, Tell us of the Night*.

We are also currently determining when the Bell Choir will participate in the Christmas Eve service(s).

I hope the Bell Choir will have some fun preparing this music and that wherever we are playing the music enhances the listeners’ worship experiences.

We are always looking to include more members in our choir and encourage you to stop in at a rehearsal to see what we do and how we do it.

Louise Olshan
Bell Choir Director

The Giving Tree

Each year we put-up a Christmas tree (in Advent) laden with candy canes with suggestions for gifts that will go to the children in two families in our area. These families are anonymously chosen for us by school personnel aware of families in need. When the tradition of our tree was first established we called it “The Giving Tree”. The purpose was to give the gift as suggested by the tree, not to receive a gift.

Shel Silverstein wrote a book entitled, The Giving Tree. It is a story about unconditional love set in opposition to selfishness. The story follows a boy who through his life as he comes to the tree several times and takes from it: first its leaves, then its fruit, then its branches and finally its trunk. Each time, the tree volunteers to sacrifice itself to please the boy. In the end the boy has advanced in age and the tree has nothing left but a stump upon which the now elderly “boy” can sit.

In our tradition our tree gives gift suggestions to our congregation. When the candy canes are taken, their spaces are filled with paper angels made by our Sunday school students. The candy canes are symbols of St. Nicholas’s bishop’s crook and the angels are symbols of anticipation of the giving of the gifts.

In contrast to the tree in Silverstein’s story, our tree gives us an opportunity to share our gifts with those in need. It is a tree of ministry and of stewardship. Lest there be any confusion by those familiar with the Silverstein book, we are changing our name to: “A Tree of Giving”.

The Tree of Giving will be set up in the Parish Hall upper hallway on December 1st, the First Sunday in Advent. Please participate by taking a cane, filling in the name slip with your name, tearing it at the fold and depositing the slip in the red box on the little table. (This allows us to associate your name with the gift should the slip be lost or you have questions.) We will only have two weeks this year to purchase the presents. Because of school’s winter recess schedule, the presents must be returned no later than Sunday, December 15th.

Paul & Phyllis Bartkus
Mission Strategy



Music “Notes”

Senior Choir

Soon we will start looking towards Advent and Christmas, as well as continuing to work the piece we are singing at the 3rd annual Hackettstown Hymnfest on November 24!

We do have a new member to welcome, though! Karina Contreras has joined us and we hope with her help to be able to introduce some Advent or Christmas pieces that have a Latin American flavor.

We do continue to look for more members. Our rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 8:30am and we meet in the Mitcham House living room. Attendance every Sunday is not required. The ability to read music is also not required – if everyone read music we’d hardly need to rehearse! Instead we try to have at least 4 rehearsals of a piece before we sing it so there’s time to learn the music. We can sing downstairs in the Church to accommodate those who cannot do the stairs to the choir loft –we’re very flexible! So, please consider joining us! We’re a great group!

Youth Choir

Our Youth Choir is part of our Sunday School program. The children are rehearsing their Christmas piece which they’ll perform in Port Morris at the annual Story of the Nativity thru the Arts program at the Port Morris United Methodist Church in early December and again on Christmas Eve.

Other Music

Don’t forget your Birthday Hymns! You can fill out a Birthday Hymn form and either give it to me or put it in the collection plate and it will get to me! I will try to get it into the music on a Sunday as close to your birthday as possible, as long as your hymn is liturgically correct for that date. If it’s not, (e.g. a Christmas hymn but your birthday is in Lent), then I will include your hymn during its liturgical season.

Lift your hearts up to the Lord.....with music!

Pam Laura

Looking for work? Neighbors helping Neighbors (NhN) is a cost-free network of volunteers helping the unemployed get back to work. Please see the flyer posted in the Parish Hall and look for the article on this fine organization from John Harry (a St. James’ Summer Backpack volunteer) in the next Journal!



The St. James’ Library

Whispers from the Library...

Recently Cathy made reference in a journal entry to the Society of Saint John the Evangelist. Since I was unfamiliar with this group I decided to explore, and what a wonderful treasure I found.

The SSJE is an Anglican religious order for men. The members make monastic vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience. The SSJE was founded in 1866 in Cowley, Oxford, England by Fr. Richard Meux Benson, an Anglican priest and Fr. Oliver Prescott, formerly the Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Rowan County, North Carolina.

Known as the "Cowley Fathers," the society was the first religious community of men established in the Anglican Communion since the Reformation.

In 1870 the society came to Boston, Massachusetts where it became part of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States. Today the members of the congregation live at a monastery near Harvard Square and operate a retreat center, Emery House, in West Newbury, Massachusetts.

The SSJE publishes a quarterly publication called the "Cowley" which contains inspirational articles as well as retreat schedules and updates on the important work of the members in the world community.

You can find the latest edition of the "Cowley" in our Library. In addition you will find the 2013 catalog of Cowley Publications. You can learn more about this devoted and inspirational community at www.SSJE.org

They are a worth getting to know!

Peace.

Jim Simmons

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!

Stewardship: My Story

by Ann Edens

Good morning. My name is Ann Edens. I am here this morning to talk about stewardship. I am a new member of the Vestry, and I although I know most of you by face, I don't necessarily have a name to go with that face. When I started preparing for today, I put some real thought into why that was. I thought a brief history of my journey might shed some light.

My parents were atheists, or at least my father was and is. Interestingly, although I understand not uncommon, my Grandfather (my dad's dad) was a Minister. Unfortunately, he lived in another state and died when I was young. My mother always said he and I would have become very close and were very much alike.

My brother and I were adopted as infants. My brother is 3 years older than me. He was and is extraordinarily brilliant. At three he was playing the piano and reading the stock pages. Although he peculiar in some respects he was the pride of my father, who was a physicist. Then, when my brother was 5 he was diagnosed as "brain damaged" when he started kindergarten and crawled under his desk and refused to come out. This was around 1959. It wasn't until he was in his 50s that we discovered the real diagnosis - Asperger's syndrome.

I'm sure you're wondering where this is going, but it ties into my relationship with the church and my thoughts on stewardship. Caring for my brother was demanding, and my mother was the ultimate advocate for him. However, nothing, or very little was known about his disease in those days. I was left with little parental guidance, and, although I didn't recognize it then, no spiritual guidance.

Eventually, I left home at age 16. I found a job, lied on an application for an apartment, and finished high school. Times were hard and money scarce. I learned young to take care of myself and count on no one. This has been a hard lesson to "unlearn". I thank my husband and children for that.

Fast forward through working, college and law school and finding a wonderful man and getting married. As it turned out, I could not get pregnant, and we turned to adoption, exactly as my parents did. Our children, Madeleine and Benjamin are the crowning joys of our lives. We promised their birth parents we would raise them Christian. I figured I would find a church, send them to Sunday School (since I certainly had no background with which to guide them) and that would be that.

After attending several churches, one Sunday we found ourselves sitting in St. James. The minute Cathy finished her sermon I knew I was home. I did not go out looking for a church for me, but that is exactly what I found. However, my lack of religious knowledge left me feeling still a bit like the dream we've all had at one time - I was at a final exam and was the only one in the class who hadn't studied. I was happy to sit in the back and soak everything. That, I realize now, is why I recognize faces but not names. However, as Garrison Keillor said, "Anyone who thinks sitting in a church can make you a Christian must also think that sitting in a garage can make you a car."

Our children started Sunday School. In a quirk of fate, they had both been baptized as babies into the Episcopalian Church, as my cousin's partner is an Episcopalian Priest. Madeleine was baptized on the beach in Cape Cod and Ben in Reverend DeNaro's church in Spanish Harlem. Inevitably, my kids began asking me why I wasn't baptized, when they both were. Time to come a little bit out of my shell (or back pew). I talked to Cathy and she embraced the idea. I was baptized at St. James in 2007 and retreated again to the back of the church.

So how did I end up on the Vestry? How did I end up standing up here today? Well, I think everyone here would agree that Cathy is a force of nature. I am honored to be chosen for both. Although I still feel a bit like the only one who hasn't studied, and often out of my comfort zone, my short time on the Vestry has been both amazing and extremely gratifying. I am in awe of my fellow Vestry members, and the dedication and talent that keeps this church running.

Which brings me to the topic of the morning- stewardship. First, a quote from Mitch Albom, "Faith is about doing. You are how you act, not just how you believe." That got me really thinking about how I could act to help St. James. I am a lawyer. I own a practice Chester. The bulk of our work is family law. We also prepare Wills, Powers of Attorneys and Health Care Directives.

One thing family law has taught me is the concept of pay it forward. There is much misery in the world, and I do my best to help one at a time. For every domestic violence action that prevails in court, I know I will have two more next week. Today's Gospel especially hit home "Jesus told the disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart". The widow who constantly pestered the judge in some ways feels like what I do. It brings up all sorts of questions- how do we find justice? –how much control do we really have? – the sense of needing to persevere and be heard. This speaks to me in my job and in my quest for stewardship.

So what does investing in the church look like? It's different for all of us. We do need to "pray and not lose heart". I urge each of us to look inside and ask the hard questions- what can your commitment be? What drives each of us to invest in St. James?

I am amazed and proud of what St. James' mission and ministry does now: The Backpack Program, Education for Ministries, the Deaf Ministry; Episcopal Appalachian Ministries, the Youth Group's 30 hour famine, to name a few. We have amazing fundraising events: the Tricky Tray, the Golf Outing, car wash and rummage sale. Not to mention maintenance Saturdays. All of these events take both time and/or money. I urge you to jump in and do what you can.

I have decided to offer my services as an attorney to the congregation in the preparation of Wills, Powers of Attorneys and Health Care Directives. I will prepare any or all of these documents at your request. We can meet right here at the church if it is more convenient for you. I return, I am asking that the fee for these documents, which will be at your discretion (I will let all know what my firm charges as a guide) be donated to St. James. This money will go a long way towards paying our monthly mortgage, as well as all the ministries and work in the community done by St. James.

Stewardship comes in all shapes and sizes. I encourage you to find your fit and throw yourself into it with an open, loving and faithful heart.

You've all heard it, but it bears repeating. "St. James Stewardship: We believe that every good thing we have and every good thing we are is a gift from God. Therefore, we believe that the appropriate way to make our commitment to God's work at St. James' is to give in proportion to our income, that is, in proportion to what we have. Stewardship is not only the foundation of our financial giving, but the foundation for our giving of our time and talent as well. As we each seek God's guidance in our financial giving, we recognize that the tithe (10%) is the goal we strive toward. All financial gifts are a spiritual matter between the giver and God, so all gifts are welcomed. We ask those who are committed to our community and our ministry to make an annual pledge as a way to help them honor God's leading in their financial life."

I would like to leave you with one last quote, "The fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose."

– Hada Bejar

Amen.

Note: This is the sermon that Ann presented to the congregation of St. James' on Stewardship Sunday, October 20th.



Cathy Deats and Jim Warnke at October's Clergy Conference, above. The annual conference is for clergy education, meetings with the Bishop, and refreshment of the clergy.

Right, The St. James' Bowling Team—Thanks Scott Carson for organizing the event!



Two essential repairs were recently completed at St. James'. The Yankee gutter repair and replacement was completed thanks to several factors: the diligence of the Vestry in researching and securing estimates, the Ward J Herbert Fund of the Diocese of Newark (funding half the project), and the support of Linda Ayres who made sure the contract payments were processed and the workers were given what they needed to do the job. The front steps of the church, having suffered over the years from normal wear and tear of snow and salt, have been repointed to prevent deterioration and will be sealed at the next opportunity for temperatures over 50 degrees. Both projects were possible only because of your generosity in donations to the Capital Improvement Fund -- in 2014 becoming the Building / Capital Fund -- to keep all of our buildings in good repair and our debt service continuing to decrease.

*Please remember this as you prepare to
return your pledges for 2014 on November 17th*



Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
27 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 4:30 PM El Shaddai Church	28 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	29 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	30 8:30 AM BACKPACK PROGRAM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church	31 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM CHAPEL SERVICE	1 All Saints Day 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	2 8:30 AM BREAKFAST CLUB BIBLE STUDY	3 Daylight-Saving Time Ends 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL 9:00 AM FAMILY BREAK-FAST 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 4:30 PM El Shaddai Church	4 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	5 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	6 8:30 AM BACKPACK PROGRAM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church	7 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM CHAPEL SERVICE	8 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	9  6:00 PM MURDER MYSTERY
10 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 4:30 PM El Shaddai Church	11 Veterans Day 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	12 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	13 8:30 AM BACKPACK PROGRAM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 6:00 PM FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church	14 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM CHAPEL SERVICE	15 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	16 8:30 AM BREAKFAST CLUB BIBLE STUDY	17 JOURNAL DEADLINE! STEWARDSHIP GIFTS GATHERING 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 4:30 PM El Shaddai Church	18 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	19 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	20 8:30 AM BACKPACK PROGRAM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church	21 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM CHAPEL SERVICE 7:30 PM VESTRY MEETING	22 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	23
24 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 4:30 PM El Shaddai Church 7:00 PM HYMN FEST @GETHESEMANE LUTHERAN	25 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	26 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	27 8:30 AM BACKPACK PROGRAM 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM THANKSGIVING ECUMENICAL SERVICE 7:30 PM El Shaddai Church	28  Thanksgiving Day	29 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	30 8:30 AM BREAKFAST CLUB BIBLE STUDY							

ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2013

St. James' Staff & Vestry

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats
Deacon: The Rev. Sheila Shuford
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: "Position Vacant"
Junior Warden: David Lacouture

David Bernauer	Carol Novrit	Ann Edens
Peter Gartelmann	David Jenkins	Roy Smith
Barbara Olesen	Chika Okoye	Ellen Infante
	Peter Quelly	

Vestry Clerk: Jayne Mutascio
Treasurer: Janice Cipriani
Asst. Treasurer: Carol Novrit
Bookkeeper: Ellen Infante

Barbara Olesen, Editor

Linda Ayres, Production

All Journal submissions
should be sent to:

stjames214@comcast.net
& olesen@comcast.net

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
214 WASHINGTON STREET
HACKETTSTOWN NJ 07840