



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 2014

REV. ELIZABETH MYERS, SUPPLY PRIEST

COME SEPTEMBER

Come September we return to enjoying our services in the church proper and to our bit more formal liturgies. Our 8:00 service will continue much as it has been in the recent past, primarily Rite 1. At 10:00 there will be some change from what some have experienced in the past.

Much of the Church calls this late in the season of Pentecost "Creation Season" and focuses attention on the beauty and wonder of the created order and our responsibility to care for it tenderly and carefully so that all members of it can enjoy an environment conducive to their health and to that of future generations. We will continue to use the Revised Common Lectionary for our lessons but our Eucharistic Prayer, taken from our church's supplemental liturgies and many of our hymns will reflect this emphasis. On Sunday, October 5, our 10:00 service will include a celebration of St. Francis, by whom creation was especially appreciated, with the blessing of animals as a part of that service.

Many among us appreciated our summer's emphasis on including an increased number of an increased variety of people in leadership roles in our services and have asked that it be continued into the Fall. We have split the role of what used to be called LEM, an abbreviation for Lay Eucharistic Minister and technically a name given to chalice bearers and now have a Worship Assistant who leads the Psalm, Creed and Prayers of the People; a separate reader for each of the two lessons and two people who come forward during the offertory to stand with those at the altar for the consecration and to administer a chalice. Please know that any of these roles are open to anyone who would like to and is able to give them a try. Let me know what you are interested in doing and know that coaching will be available to any who experiences

a need for it.

Your comments and question are always welcome about this and anything else by your Vestry and me so do feel very free to share your feelings, observations and questions about our shared worship.

Betsy Myers+

Vestry Hi-Lites

- † The Rev. Elizabeth Myers has been extended as Supply Priest until the end of 2014.
- † Wardens met with Paul Shackford, CFO from the Diocese.
- † A "Priest in Charge" will not be available until 2015.
- † Maintenance Morning set for 9/13.
- † Donations received to improve hot water in Great Hall kitchen.
- † Diocesan pledge lowered from 10% to 8% for 2014.
- † Mortgage Committee will continue to meet in the Fall.
- † Youth Group participating as readers during services.
- † New curriculum for Youth Group has been purchased.
- † Interviews for Parish Administrator have begun.

Journal Deadline

OCTOBER EDITION:

September 28th

THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE
to meet in the Great Room
7:00 PM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

All members are asked to make every possible effort to be present for an important agenda which includes:

- ◆ firming up the current October calendar
- ◆ planning for our Advent, Christmas and Epiphany worship and seasonal events
- ◆ setting the calendar through Ash Wednesday 2015

We need everyone's input so please save the date!
 Thanks and God bless!

Betsy Myers +

Prayer Ministry

St. James' has an active prayer ministry in which pray-ers lift up prayer request in their own personal devotions. They are open to receiving prayer requests and thanksgivings from anyone; the pray-ers hold your requests in confidence. Please forward requests to Barbara Olesen at olesen@comcast.net; you may also wish to join us as a pray-er; please speak with Barbara to get started.



HOMECOMING SUNDAY
YOUTH GROUP & SUNDAY SCHOOL
REGISTRATION

SEPTEMBER 14TH
AFTER THE 10:00 AM SERVICE

BREAKFAST SERVED!



BRING YOUR PETS AND OTHER FRIENDS!

To our Celebration of the Feast of St. Francis
on

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

At and after the 10:00 service

This year we will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis by inviting our pets of any and all varieties to join us at the 10:00 service after which we will with great joy bless them outside. We ask that all pets be leashed or in containers of some sort. Children without pets are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animals for a blessing.

All are encouraged to invite their friends and neighbors and their pets to join us. They too are welcome to join us in our service or, if for some reason they'd rather not do that, to meet us outside at about 11:15.

Refreshments for animals and humans
 will be provided!

Fundraising Report

The St. James' FRC meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6 PM in the Mitcham House. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 10th.

Scrip Pro - Next orders are due on September 14th. Think about using gift cards for back-to-school shopping, home improvement and the upcoming holidays!

Unfortunately, the FRC had to cancel the Tricky Tray for this year. We found donations for the event were not what they were last year at this time, and would not enable us to put on the quality event we had last year. We will re-group this year and prepare for another Tricky Tray in the Fall of 2015.

Thanks for your support in our fundraising efforts!

St. James' FRC
 Barbara White, Ellen Infante,
 Ann Dutton, Barbara Olesen

Music “Notes”



What?!? Summer’s over already? Geez! Where did it go? With September upon us it must be time for choir! Rehearsals start Sunday, Sept. 7th as we prepare for Homecoming Sunday on 9/14. We need singers!! For now, we are rehearsing at 8:30am on Sunday mornings in the Mitcham House living room. If there is a time that might work better for more people, I am more than willing to consider a change!

The anthem for Homecoming Sunday will be “Gather Us In” which we sang two summers ago as our opening hymn for the summer services. This piece, from a Methodist supplemental hymnal and written by Marty Haugen, to me epitomizes St. James’. It talks about the young at the beginning of their lives and the elderly looking towards seeing God at the end of theirs, it talks about fears and dreams, rich and poor, humble and haughty, each of us seeking that servant’s heart through God. It is a lilting melody, simple yet full of love and hope.

On Sept. 21 the choir sings about coming to serve Christ when he calls our name in “The Summons”, also from the Methodist supplemental hymnal and written by John Bell. On Sept. 28, it is the strong “At the Name of Jesus Every Knee Shall Bow”, a well-known hymn with music by Ralph Vaughn Williams and words by Caroline Noel.

On Oct. 5, the choir sings “The Stars Declare His Glory” with a text that paraphrases Psalm 19 (the Psalm for the day) from which the famous chorus from Haydn’s “The Creation”, “The Heavens are telling the glory of God” was also taken.

Please speak to any choir member (Melissa Vitalos, Wendie Germain, and David Bernauer) or me about joining us! You don’t have to commit to every Sunday and you don’t have to robe and process if you’d rather not. You can simply come up to the balcony during the passing of the Peace and join us for the anthems! Help us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Youth Choir will be starting up in early October. The Youth Choir rehearses during Sunday School for 15-20 minutes every Sunday. The Youth Choir will be singing during Advent and at the family Christmas Eve service.

They who sing pray twice!

Pam Laura



Bell Choir “Notes”

The Bell Choir is preparing music for October 5, my final Sunday as organist and for November 23 which will be the Baptism of the child of bell ringers Brian and Meredith Nolan. We have also been invited back to Donaldson’s Farm Market where we hope to ring carols in December. If this does happen, watch for details on the date and time and come hear us in this venue. Last year it was great to see members of St. James’ come and support us in this endeavor.

I am so happy that the Bell Choir will be part of my last service as organist. I have selected a piece that should be fun for the ringers to prepare and also fun for the congregation to hear. It is *Canon of Grace* and incorporates the tunes of Pachelbel’s *Canon in D* and *Amazing Grace*. See if you can hear these two tunes as we are playing the piece.

For the Baptism the Bell Choir will be ringing *Jesus Loves Me*.

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!**

ALL ARE INVITED

To take a part in Administering the Chalice at the Holy Eucharist

One of the ways in which we make visible the fact that each of us is a Christ bearer to the other is to be one who offers Christ present in the Eucharistic wine to other members of the community. This has been a part of the role of LEMs (Lay Eucharistic Ministers) here at St. James' in recent years.

At my suggestion we are, at least for the next several months, limiting this role to just serving the wine and having this opportunity open to anyone who would like to experience it, after which I will apply for a license from the bishop for those who wish to do it on a regular basis.

A part of the reason for separating this out from the more extended ministry that our LEMS have been doing is that it opens this ministry to those who for one reason or another cannot read aloud other parts of the service. Maybe it is because you just get too anxious, maybe it is because you do not know how to read well, maybe because you have some speech impediment, maybe it is because you are not familiar enough with the English language. Whatever the reason, and certainly if you are also comfortable reading in public and enjoy taking part in the other ministries, you are invited to give this a try.

Just let me know. It will be open to anyone and everyone through mid October after which there will be some more extended training and application made to the bishop for a license for you.

Betsy Myers +

Maintenance Morning

Saturday, September 13th

9 AM—12 PM.

Come help us prepare the grounds and buildings for the Fall. There are many tasks to be done, both big and small, and outdoors and indoors!



ShopRite and Weis Market Gift Cards Available

You can help with fund raising 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!

Summer Bells

What makes a director happy? Well one thing for sure is when members of the choir ask to have additional practices and additional ringing events! And that happened this June at St. James'!

As we came to the end of the program year in June, Marge Schafetz asked if the Bell Choir could practice and ring in the summer. Several other ringers jumped right in and offered to participate also. What a joy for the director!

The bells were part of the worship service twice in August. On August 10 ringers were Scott Carson, Brian Nolan, Meredith Nolan, Chika Okoye and Marge Schafetz. On August 17 the ringers were David Bernauer, Scott Carson, Brian Nolan and Meredith Nolan.

Many thanks to these folks for their willingness to give of their time and talent to enhance the worship services in the summer.

Louise Olshan



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

Deaf Ministry

St. James' is experiencing an exciting and challenging time of growth and change as it looks to the best ways to meet the needs of the community and how to fund those needs. For nine years St. James' has offered the Deaf Ministry a spirit-filled home. I want to thank the Vestry, wardens and members who graciously opened their hearts to this ministry. I am going to share with you the history of the Deaf Ministry in the Diocese of Newark.

Over 30 years ago my family moved from North Carolina to Randolph, New Jersey. We became members of St. Dunstan's in Succasunna. In North Carolina I used the services of a phone relay which involved communication devices to use with the phone and human volunteers to transmit the calls. I complained so much about there being no way to make a call in this area that St. Dunstan's gave me space and volunteers to create the Deaf Contact Center (DCC). I was the founder and director, and we had dedicated volunteers both from the church and community as well as financial help from civic organizations. We became a Rotary project and I did a lot of public speaking. I needed an interpreter and met Cathy Deats who had recently graduated as a professional sign language interpreter. She volunteered her services. The DCC served the deaf community with an open door policy and the hearing community with education. We opened in 1980 and closed in 1993 when the federally mandated relays began.

Cathy Deats had heard her own call to ministry. She was working as a social worker and focusing on ordination. She was attending Education for Ministry (EFM) and knew I wanted to attend also. Cathy interpreted the whole four-year program for me while attending herself.

Cathy had two friends who were married to each other, John and Betsy Smylie, both priests. They had a baby boy named Nathan who was born deaf. The Smylie family turned to Cathy for counsel. As Nathan grew they looked for a way to help him understand God. I had moved to St. Peter's in Mountain Lakes to join another deaf family. St. Peter's was providing interpreted Sunday services. The Lake Side School of the Deaf is across the street from St. Peter's. Cathy and Betsy conceived the idea of The Bible Club for Deaf Children. I ran the Bible Club for 15 years. Karin Kasper who has been an interpreter here was one of the Bible Club volunteers.

The Diocese of Newark accepted the ministry of permanent deacons. Bishop Croneberger accepted me as a postulate and ordained me eight years ago. I came to St. James' nine years ago as a postulate to be trained by Cathy. My tasks as a deacon, given at ordination, are to read the Gospel, prepare the Eucharist at the holy table, turn the service book pages if the celebrant desires, help serve communion, clear the holy table and offer the dismissal. I was honored to do so. For nine years. Cathy trained me well.

St. James' has been the Deaf Ministry of the Diocese of Newark. We have served as speakers and an information and referral source for the Diocese. When I first came to St. James' I met a delightful gentleman. His name was Ed Billington who was deaf and blind. He used sign language and tactile signs. Barbara and David Olesen had been his church family, transporting and helping him understand the service and enjoy the coffee hour. Ed was the first person to benefit from church interpreters. Chuck Clark who was our first church interpreter, had been my support person and interpreter throughout my education for deacon. Chuck is one of the finest interpreters I have ever known. He and his wife bought a vacation home in the Pocono Mountains. He had to leave at 5 AM to get the St. Peter's in time. That is dedication! Karin Kasper also joined us at St. James'. Kathy Jacoby and her Jacoby-Duda family joined us as members of the church while Kathy became a valued interpreter. Kathy and Jim's marriage was blessed at St. James'. Pam Laura became interested in sign and taught the children's choir. Pam went to school to become more professional and now can interpret services and events. Rebecca Murray was my first sign student at church. She was a "natural" and has gone on to teach deaf children. The church offered the community a class in sign language. We had to cut off attendance at 25. Olivia Clark was standing on a street corner when our church walked by during a parade. Olivia and I signed "I love you" and she and family have attended St. James'. I taught the local boy scouts deaf education and we have had several sign/deaf education students benefit from attending our services. A top of the line hearing system has been installed which allows late deaf or hard of hearing persons to connect aides or cochlear implants to the system. I taught Deaf Ed and signs to our Sunday school. Every Sunday the interpreters served to provide communication for me and the awareness of inclusion for the congregation.

St. James' is going through a required evaluation of all outreach programs. I feel that this transition time is the right time to release the church commitment to the Deaf Ministry. I can step back and hear the voice from above saying "well done my good and faithful servant." So many people have added their good will and grace to this ministry. If I have left you out you are still in my heart. I applaud the wardens, Vestry and members of St. James'. Hands in air, fingers wiggling! My wish is for St. James' to prosper and reach and include many populations with the grace shown to the Deaf Ministry. I leave you with the most important sign of all, ILU.

Your Deacon, The Rev. Sheila Shuford

A Request from the Retiring Organist

Sunday, October 5 will be my last Sunday playing as organist at St. James'. I hope that my playing has enhanced the worship experience at St. James'. It has been a pleasure to serve the members of St. James'.

Your welcome to my family and me on my first Sunday (February, 2003) was very much appreciated. I have enjoyed meeting so many of the members of St. James' and sharing many joyful and sorrowful events with you. Your support at the time of my mother's death was overwhelming- from folks, who sent cards, spoke to me in church, came to the funeral home and those who attended her funeral or played in the Bell Choir at her service. Donations in her memory helped with the purchase of the third octave of bells.

I personally invite everyone to **worship on October 5 at the 10 AM service** so that we can share a service together and have an opportunity to say farewell.

I thank the congregation of St. James' for giving me the opportunity to serve as organist.

I will continue my position as volunteer Bell Choir Director as well as attending worship at St. James'.

Louise Olshan

We Miss You!

As part of their preparation for calling a Priest in Charge, the Vestry had to do a church attendance count for this year and last year. It turns out that attendance, "bodies in the pews", is down since the beginning of the year, compared to last year. Where are the missing people and why are they not in church?

A church congregation is a family. When family members are missing the family loses some of its spark and energy because each family member brings a talent, a part of themselves, to the family. When big changes occur in a family, as they have in our parish family since last year, it can be upsetting. Some people react to changes like this by withdrawing for a while. But as a family we need to help each other to deal with the current changes and prepare for the next set of changes while working hard to preserve who we are as St James'.

So, who are we? We aren't any one minister. St James' is what all of the ministers who have guided us and served with us have helped us to become and to stop being. St. James' is to let those ministers and ourselves down. We are every one of us – young, old, in between; single, married, widowed, divorced, re-married; families, empty nesters, single people. We are people who believe that saying "Alleluia, alleluia" after the dismissal is an affirming and joyous way to end our service. We are people who rejoice at seeing more of our family take part in the service each Sunday. We feed people. We are all of us and we need all of us to continue moving through this challenging time in our parish life. If we aren't all here in church, working together, talking to each other, and keeping St. James' going, we will not be ready to call a permanent minister any time soon.

Don't be confused. This isn't about money. This is about missing people. This is about "all hands on deck"! This is about 'many hands make light work.' This is about needing our parish family to be as whole as it can be, now more than ever. This is about missing those of you who have perhaps withdrawn. This is about being St. James'.

Pam Laura

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St. James' Staff & Vestry

Supply Priest: The Rev. Elizabeth Myers
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: David Lacouture
Junior Warden: Carol Novrit

Paul Bartkus	Peter Quelly	Ann Edens
Peter Gartelmann	David Handville	Bill Critchley
Barbara Olesen	Chika Okoye	Ellen Infante

Vestry Clerk:	Jayne Mutascio
Treasurer:	Janice Cipriani
Asst. Treasurer:	Ricky Okoye
Bookkeeper:	Ellen Infante

Barbara Olesen, Editor

Linda Ayres, Production

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