



ANNUAL REPORT

+ 2009 +



1859 - 2009

150 years of building community

St. James' Episcopal Church
Hackettstown, New Jersey

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Leadership of St. James' Church	Page 2
Minutes of 2008 Annual Parish Meeting	Page 3
Rector's Report	Page 4
Senior Warden's Report	Page 5
Junior Warden's Report	Page 5
Service Reports	
Mission Strategy	Page 6
Deaf Ministry	Page 6
United Thank Offering	Page 7
Hospitality / Special Events	Page 7
Coffee Hour	Page 8
Family Breakfast	Page 8
St. Fiacre's Guild	Page 8
Worship Reports	
Parish Life Committee	Page 9
Altar Guild	Page 9
Acolytes	Page 10
Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors	Page 10
Ushers	Page 10
Music Director	Page 11
Organist and Choir Accompanist	Page 11
Multigenerational Bell Choir	Page 12
Communication & Publicity Reports	
St. James' <u>Journal</u>	Page 12
St. James' Website	Page 13
Publicity Committee	Page 13
Education Reports	
Christian Education for Children	Page 14
Confirmation	Page 14
Youth Groups	Page 15
Education for Ministry (EFM)	Page 15
Nursery Care	Page 15
Pastoral Care Reports	
Prayer Ministry	Page 16
Lay Pastoral Visitors	Page 16
CARES Committee	Page 16
Stewardship Report	Page 16
Administration Reports	
Capital Campaign	Page 17
Finance Committee	Page 17
Fundraising Committee	Page 18
St. James' Sabbatical Committee	Page 18
Counters	Page 18
Facility Use	Page 19
Property Maintenance	Page 19
Parish Register	Page 20
Treasurer's Report and Budget	Page 20
Prayer for St. James' Church and Hymn	Back Cover

The Leadership of St. James' Church 2009

Vestry members:

Richard Ames
Ron Cipriani
Paula Van Clef
DJ Hoffman
David Lacouture
Brian Nolan
Martha Travostino
Barbara White
Russ Worthington

Senior Warden

Dawn Modugno

Junior Warden

Greg Malejko

Treasurer:

Penn Pixley

Bookkeeper

Ellen Infante

Clerk of the Vestry:

Linda Connors-Murray

Deacon:

The Rev. Sheila Shuford

Rector:

The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats

Bishop, Diocese of Newark:

The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith

Our Staff:

Linda Connors-Murray

Parish Administrator

Pam Laura

Music Director

Louise Olshan

Organist and Bell Choir

Director

Pauline Volkert

Sexton

**PRELIMINARY MINUTES
ST. JAMES' ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
January 25, 2009**

Prelude: "The Building Project 2008," a video slideshow was presented. Russ Worthington, Webmaster, provided technology.

Call to Order and Opening Prayer:

10:40 am: The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats called the annual meeting to order with prayer.

St. James' Journey 2008

Cathy Deats

The Rector's view of the past year was given through a video slide show. Copies of the CD were available for members.

Recognition of Outgoing Officers

Contributions of those officers completing terms were acknowledged:

- Jerry Sheard, Vestry Member
- Ron Cipriani, Vestry Member, completing unexpired term
- DJ Hoffman, Vestry Member, completing unexpired term
- Patti Worthington, Deputy to Diocesan Convention (attends this year)

The outstanding work of Ellen Infante, Bookkeeper, was also acknowledged

Nominating Committee Report

Dawn Modugno

Biographical information on candidates was provided to all in attendance.

Slate proposed by Nominating Committee:

- Vestry
 - Ron Cipriani (3 year term)
 - DJ Hoffman (3 year term)
 - Paula Van Clef (3 year term)
- Delegate to Diocesan Convention
 - Barbara White (3 year term)
- Alternate Delegate to Diocesan Convention
 - Wendie Germain (1 year term)

Elections

Russ Worthington

Nominating Committee slate was accepted and a unanimous vote was cast. Thanks to Nominating Committee Members Cathy Deats, Greg Malejko, Dawn Modugno, and Jerry Sheard.

Acceptance of Minutes

The Annual Meeting Minutes of 1/20/2008 were accepted without change.

Treasurer's Report

Penn Pixley

Penn Pixley gave a thorough and complete report of the 2008 activities and financial position. It is enclosed in the Annual Report.

Building Project Finance Report

Greg Malejko

Greg Malejko, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented a report of the finances of the Building Project.

Annual Budget

Greg Malejko

Greg Malejko, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the 2009 budget which was approved by the Vestry at its December 2008 meeting. Parish members affirmed the budget unanimously. Thanks were expressed to Finance Committee members Bob Ellis, Bill Critchley, Peg Pfaff and Maryanne Timmins.

Building Project

Dawn Modugno/Greg Malejko

In 2008, the Parish Hall came closer to completion.

The work completed included:

- outside of building, including all site work (fencing, landscaping, etc.)
- Moore Street entrance, including ramp to doorway
- accessible bathroom, ramped hallway to church, stairways to upper and lower levels, vesting room

- all electrical, HVAC and plumbing work for those areas
- church roof replaced at \$6,000 savings using same subcontractor and material as parish hall roof

Remaining work of entire project, following Phase I:

- upper level, including great hall, kitchen, two bathrooms
- lower level, including six classrooms and two bathrooms

Next steps:

- Phase II Building Committee to proceed with timeline and plans

Also ahead in 2009:

- 2009 is the celebration of 150 years for St. James' Parish
- A Planned Giving initiative is planned to ensure that the future generations will be able to complete payment of the mortgage.

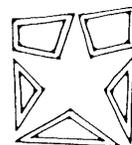
Questions / Remarks from the floor

Questions regarding process of building project were answered by Dawn Modugno and Greg Malejko.

Affirmation was given to the Treasurer and Finance Committee for the clarity and transparency of our financial position.

Closing Prayer and Hymn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm with prayer and song.



Rector's Report

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. – Ephesians 4:11-13

Do you remember those funny glasses you could buy to spy on your friends? They had clear lenses with which to look forward, and on either side there were tiny mirrors so you could see behind you. Those are the glasses we wore this year, 2009, as St. James' celebrated 150 years of building community. We have always been moving forward, with loving, excited, wistful glances into the past. At times, we took off the glasses and turned fully around to examine where we came from. We liked what we saw, and honored all that our forbears had done for us. We liked the good and the bad and the hilarious history of this place. It was a blast!

Just after we wrapped up this year-long celebration, we (you and I) celebrated our eight years together. We too have shared the good, the bad and the hilarious. We have baptized babies now getting ready for middle school and buried old friends, always too soon no matter their age. We built a spectacular building already a place of mission and a place of fun.

We are ready to pause and take another look at ourselves, and our relationship. My contract calls for a three-month sabbatical after five years of service. In preparation for that, a Sabbatical Committee of the Vestry prepared with me a proposal for a time of study and refreshment for both of us. The proposal was submitted to the Lilly Foundation, which granted awards of up to \$45,000 for up to four months of sabbatical for congregation and pastor. Our proposal was solid and good and innovative. With great numbers of submissions, the Foundation did not agree, and we were not chosen.

However, a time of sabbatical is still needed and this is the right time. So we have re-grouped. Holding fast to the essence of the study, we are creating a new proposal with a much smaller budget and use of some recently discovered resources that will help make this a reality in 2010.

In the service of the Ordination of a Priest, the charge to the priest is "to nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace." That is the "why" of sabbatical time for the priest; we need to learn again and again that it is God who gives the grace, not our energy, education, willpower, or even desire. And the sabbatical is not only for the priest, but for the community as well. The "why" for you is to see who you are as a community, separate from me as spiritual leader. Think of an old married couple, needing some separation to re-establish the individual identity and come together with new appreciation for each other.

In the case of priest and congregation, there is also often a clarification of vision. Just what we need for the next 150 years!

So stay tuned and join in as we plan our time of refreshment and study.

It will be a blast!

Your partner in Christ,

Cathy



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

2009 was an amazing year for St. James'. We finished the great hall and had our elevator installed. This was a tremendous accomplishment as we once again have a place for fellowship, coffee hour, Sunday school and special events. We continue to work on completing the parish hall kitchen and hope to see that done in the next few months. We also celebrated our 150th anniversary with a wonderful party marking the completion of our "Open Doors". This year we marched in the Hackettstown Memorial Day parade with our own float! We laughed and sleuthed our way through the Murder Mystery dinner at the Feast of St. James' celebration presented by Peter Huryk and Phyllis Heistand. It was tremendous fun and will hopefully become an annual event.

This year we also engaged Peter Saros as a consultant for parish development and had numerous events to help us learn more about one another and ways to grow our congregation. All our different committees: fundraising, publicity, host/hostess, spirituality/prayer, finance, events, altar guild, music etc., have done a wonderful job. It is these groups along with our Priest, Parish Administrator and Vestry that make St. James' shine. Despite our difficult financial year, we are still a healthy, vibrant and welcoming parish.

As I end my term as senior warden, I want to thank everyone for all their support and for giving me the chance to serve and help do God's work. Your confidence in me is humbling and appreciated. I have learned so much in the past four years working with our Rector Cathy, Linda Murray, David Olesen, Greg Malejko and the Vestry. They are an amazing group of caring, hard-working people and we are all fortunate to have their service. I will miss being in "the loop", but Cathy has promised she will find something else for me to do! There is much work ahead for 2010:

Cathy's sabbatical, parish growth, reduction in budget deficit, parish hall rental, continuation of the capital campaign, completion of the kitchen, preliminary plans for Phase III and more. I invite you once again to join in and share your own interests and talents to help support St. James'. You will get back much more than you give.

Dawn Modugno



JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

The year 2009 was a time that we at St. James' reflected on the church's history, concentrated on the present and planned for the future. It was a busy year, full of worship, fellowship, outreach, construction and planning.

As the church celebrated its 150th anniversary, we looked back at the long and storied history of the church. I've heard most, if not all, of St. James' history before but I find it intriguing nonetheless. I wonder if sometime in the far future the parishioners of St. James' will look back at the new Parish Hall and fully understand what it took to make it a reality. I'm sure they will hear of some struggles and sacrifices, but can they ever fully comprehend it all?

During 2009, we watched the second floor of the Parish Hall transform from an unfinished shell to a bright, modern space that will serve the church and Hackettstown community for generations. The Great Hall and bathrooms are finished and the kitchen is ready to be equipped! Many thanks to the volunteers that helped throughout the project; their assistance resulted in significant cost savings, allowing more construction to be completed. In 2010, keep an eye on the kitchen where some improvements are currently being planned!

Throughout the year, the Church remained busy on many fronts. We had a great visit by the Bishop and enjoyed events such as the golf outing, the Memorial Day Parade and the murder mystery. The church remained committed to its outreach ministry, sending a work crew to Appalachia, helping feed the hungry and providing Christmas gifts to families in need (just to name a few). The Fundraising

Committee continued their great work; what would we do without them? The church's musical groups (Adult Choir, Jr. Choir and Bell Choir) not only performed for the congregation, but also traveled to other local venues to showcase their talents. I even saw videos of their performances on YouTube! Great stuff!

A lot of effort was put towards parish development in 2009. Our parish development consultant (Peter Saros) guided us through the process of understanding who we are, helped organize some church committees, and assisted us in planning for the future (what do we want St. James to be?). I think we're off to a good start and I hope the parish development continues strong next year. This past year was a great one at St. James' and I look forward to another great year in 2010!

Greg Malejko



MISSION STRATEGY-OUTREACH REPORT

Mission Strategy is the committee that coordinates the outreach ministries of our parish. We seek to concentrate our efforts locally and to avoid duplicating outreach efforts that already exist in our community. We encourage parish members to identify areas of need that can either be addressed by a community program that needs our support or a new one that can be addressed by the committee. The activities of the committee are voluntary or primarily funded through the sale of Shop Rite gift cards. Shop Rite donates five percent of these sales to St. James'. This year our congregation bought over \$70,000 in cards which parishioners used for purchases at Shop Rite.

In 2009 we donated \$3,316 for outreach. Existing agencies or activities that we supported through 2009 included the United Way heating assistance program, Hackettstown Clergy Association, Project Homeless Connections, WCIHN Family Promise, Hackettstown PBA, and Seamens Church Institute. Members of our congregation volunteered to conduct craft activities at a local ARC group home, made monthly food donations to Trinity Methodist Food Pantry, and have begun participating in the United Way/NORWESCAP Backpack program.

We have added new activities this year, which reflect changing economic needs within Warren County. The WCIHN or Warren County Interfaith Hospitality Network Family Promise provides overnight accommodations, meals, and other services to families that have become homeless in Warren County. Project Homeless Connections is a semi-annual one-day event, sponsored by Catholic Charities that offers an opportunity for homeless families in Hackettstown and Phillipsburg to establish links to services provided by over 20 agencies. Lastly, the Backpack program is funded by the United Way and coordinated by NORWESCAP to supply backpacks of nutritious food over the weekend for children identified through the school lunch program to be in need. St James' provides volunteers to transport the backpacks to local schools for distribution to the children.

Within our own church-wide activities, we donated over 70 presents to children in two families at Christmas through our Giving Tree and provided \$1,250 in Shop-Rite gifts cards, along with food bags that were filled by our Sunday School children at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We also coordinated donations of \$875 in Shop Rite gift cards made to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, supported our parish participation in the Episcopal Appalachian Ministries and purchased room dividers for the Sunday School. Finally, \$2000 from the sale of Shop Rite gift cards was transferred to support the church's operating budget.

Input from parishioners about local areas of need are always welcome. Our Vestry member liaisons are Brian Nolan and Rick Ames. Please contact them with any suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Bartkus



DEAF MINISTRY

This year the Deaf Ministry mentored interpreter interns as well as our own Rebecca Murray, daughter of Parish Administrator Linda Connors Murray. Rebecca is a senior at Flagler College in Florida with a goal of teaching deaf students. Rebecca also returned during the Christmas season to interpret music during services. I also had the opportunity to mentor via computer, an Episcopal woman who was going through the concerns and decisions involved in her hearing loss and her future. I am a member of several community organizations and serve as a referral person for the Diocese of Newark. For the coming year, I hope to be able to reach out to the community, including scouting groups and

continuing care facilities, to offer deaf awareness presentations. Also this year, with sufficient interest, I will offer a class in basic communication signing.

Most people who are hard of hearing or deaf are not signers. A large proportion of our hard of hearing population are late deafened, meaning they spent most of their lives hearing and speaking, and most do not know sign language. For people who are hard of hearing, St. James' has a superior amplification system as well as assisted listening devices in our worship space. This system can be used by people with or without hearing aids as well as people with cochlear implants. The devices bring the sound through the microphones (on the ambo, the presider, and a wireless for announcements from the congregation) to the listener in the pews.

My ministry at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital continues, where I am a part-time Chaplain to both deaf and hearing patients. The collection of Bibles and hardcover Dictionaries for my patients was much appreciated. The residents made good use of both! I was also privileged to share in presiding at the first worship service on Christmas Eve at the Hospital.

Sheila Shuford, Deacon



THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

The United Thank Offering program at St. James restarted in the early spring of 2003 with a PowerPoint presentation and literature. We asked that all who attend our church family, join together, and with a simple prayer and a few coins, recognize the many gifts we receive from God each day.

The UTO Mission: To expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve this mission, we encourage daily prayers, offerings, and awareness for the abundance of God's blessings.

UTO's Vision: To significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ's love. To achieve this vision we will focus particularly on projects that implement significant change toward alleviating profound human suffering and address the Millennium Development Goals address.

UTO's Values:

Thanksgiving: for joy, blessings and challenges

Generosity: UTO offerings are over and above

Mission: to expand the church

Ministry: to meet compelling human need

The donations received by UTO are used for domestic and international grants, which impact many in need, their families, and communities.

To see where 2009 grants were awarded and why they were awarded, go to the UTO website:
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto/>

Ellen Infante

UTO Chairperson



Hospitality & Special Events

The Special Events Committee was created out of our Parish Development program and what a great committee it is. Remember the night we were split up into our committee groups for the first time -- the energy that surrounded that little table over at Trinity House? The question, "what should we do to celebrate 150 years of St. James'?" was answered by endless ideas and the enthusiasm was energizing. Our first event/task was to plan the Dedication of the Open Doors Parish Hall on April 26th. We entertained the ideas of building a float and participating in the Hackettstown Memorial Day parade, someone suggested a murder mystery, a golf outing, something for the seniors, something for the youth group and something for the children. We were excited and committed to making this year special and to making St. James' (to steal a few words from the Ministry committee) "a place where God's love is visible to all who enter our doors."

Well folks: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

For the Dedication Celebration, Bishop inspired us with a message of equality, unity and inclusiveness. He then blessed our Open Doors Parish Hall, and with Moore Street closed, we celebrated with a feast of food and drink.

We then turned our attention to our next task, forming a golf outing committee and a Memorial Day float committee and before long these sub-committees were on their way, planning, organizing and executing those events. In July, we held a movie night including pizza and drink. We had a special 4 pm afternoon worship service followed by a cookout. In September, we held our First Annual Golf Outing. During November, we celebrated the Feast of St. James' with a dinner and a murder mystery. We had a special luncheon to celebrate the gifts of our seniors and hired a clown to entertain our children.

It was indeed a very busy year and I loved every minute of it and hope that you did too. I am excited about the future of St. James' and look forward to a continuing celebration of the many gifts that God has given us, sharing them with each other and with our community. Invite someone to Church! God Bless us All.

Barbara White



COFFEE HOUR

2009 was a year of changes. We moved around a lot: the Chapel, the front lawn, the Lobby on Moore Street, then into the new Parish Hall. The only working Kitchen was in the Mitcham House and coffee had to be carried from Mitcham House to wherever we were going to have Coffee Hour that week. But we did it!

Each week we provide snacks for about 40 people. A thank you to all individuals and committees who have brought in the goodies. Thank you.

We have a Sign Up page on the Web Site allowing interested parties to sign up online. The web site also had the Set Up and Clean Up procedures.

Anyone interested in celebrating a family event or a St. James' Committee event by hosting coffee hour should sign up. This will help continue this ministry in 2010. Feel free to contact me for more details.

Again, thank you to ALL who have volunteered to help with this important ministry in 2009.

Respectfully submitted:

Russ Worthington



FAMILY BREAKFAST

St. James' has a long-standing tradition of holding a family breakfast once a month where members from both the 8:00AM and 10:00 AM services can come together between the services for fellowship. During our construction period, we moved the family breakfast to the lobby of the Parish Hall and modified this event from a full breakfast to a continental breakfast.

When the upper level of new Parish Hall was ready for occupancy, we joyfully moved Family Breakfast into its new home in the Great Hall. As of now, the kitchen crew is preparing and heating food in the Mitcham House kitchen. Pancakes, bacon and scrambled eggs will have to wait until the new kitchen is finished!

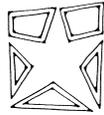
To help support this event, a basket is placed out during the breakfast and any donation that you can afford is surely welcome. If you would like to help with our family breakfast, or have any questions or suggestions, please speak with DJ Hoffman or Brian Nolan. .

Every member of the congregation is welcome and encouraged to attend the Family Breakfast on the first Sunday of each month from September through June.

ST. FIACRE'S GUILD



This group tends to the garden and general yard maintenance. With the completion of construction, we were able to re-beautify the grounds. Most of the gardens survived the construction very well because of the care given them, and we have added new plantings in front of the Open Doors Parish hall. We make good use of the beautiful sitting area between the Mitcham House and the church, and we enjoy our front porch with its own porch furniture. The guild assembles as needed during the seasons of spring through fall, and welcomes anyone who enjoys gardening.



PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Here at St. James', the Parish Life Committee is not only the coordinating arm for all our parish programs and events, but also functions as the liturgical advisory group to the Rector (most often called "Worship Committee" in church circles). We are careful and deliberate to make our worship reverent and meaningful and related to our life in Christ in this place, as well as in our individual lives. We also offer some variety in order to provide an opportunity to encounter God in various ways.

Members of the Parish Life Committee meet with the Rector, musicians and chairs of all groups which have an impact on liturgy. Since the liturgy is literally "the work of the people," almost every parish group is involved. We meet three times a year to plan in seasons: Advent through Epiphany, Lent through Easter, and the season of Pentecost. We know through our work that the whole is larger than the sum of its parts. New ideas for events and for innovative ways to work and celebrate come from this gathering.

This year saw the celebration of a variety of worship services: Taizé, with icons and candles, silence, chant, and guitar and piano; the Children's Sabbath, with our Sunday School children sharing their learning about caring for homeless families in our neighborhoods and leading parts of our worship. The Parish Picnic in June gives us an opportunity to worship outdoors, with the smell of coffee and the barbecue warming up as our incense. There is room to dance to the songs accompanied by Dave Heistand's guitar. Our Thursday evening chapel worship continues to be another sharing of Eucharist, evening prayer, and learning about the saints of the church following the calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts. Our worship life this year was enriched by the dedication of the Open Doors Parish Hall on the exact anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for the original church: April 26, 1859. The Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong, Bishop of Newark, retired, was our guest preacher. We concluded the celebration of 150 years of building community with the episcopal visitation of our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith.

Our summer service was the Holy Eucharist in the tradition of Native American worship, which emphasized the sacred circle of our prayer and our community. The music ministry was highlighted by our adult choir, multi-generational bell choir and children's choir. We believe in the sacramental nature of our lives and regularly bring to worship our graduates, couples who wish to renew marriage promises, families welcoming children, scouts earning "God and Church" awards to deepen their lives of faith, and teenagers who are beginning to drive.

We moved our Sunday fellowship of coffee hour and continental breakfast from the temporary quarters of the Moore Street lobby to the new Great Hall. Our Sunday School classes rejoiced to be in the Great Hall with more space for increased numbers of students.

Our life as a parish continues to weave itself into new patterns as each group practices its ministry and we find new ways to work as the body of Christ together.

Cathy Deats

ALTAR GUILD



In the early days of the church, priests and nuns were responsible for the care of the altar and sanctuary. Later these tasks were entrusted to a chosen group of women who became known as The Altar Guild. Because congregations vary in the degree of ceremony followed, our service ranges from simple to elaborate but is always grounded in faith and focused on detail and tradition that is offered to the glory of God.

St James' Altar Guild functions with four teams of two or more women (and sometimes men!) who prepare for the weekly Eucharist, care for the sacred vessels and linens, and serve the congregation by arranging for other liturgical services. Preparations for Easter and Christmas involve the joint efforts of all teams. A single member is responsible for the weekly Chapel service. A local dry cleaner donates his services to help clean and maintain the vestments, paraments, and frontals. One Altar Guild member washes and irons the linens used at the Weekly Eucharist.

The renovated sacristy has been completed. We are still re-organizing supplies and accessories to maximize our space and to help Altar Guild members find those infrequently used supplies more easily. Frontals are stored in a custom cabinet found in the rear closet of the new Parish Hall.

During the past year we have purchased a second fair linen, several new corporals, a parament specific for celebration of Baptism, and a white chalice veil and burse. In addition, a custom made chasuble in white was designed and purchased for the 150th celebration in April.

We anticipate retiring the white and gold frontal. Made of wool, it has shrunk after many years of cleaning and ironing and is now too small for the Altar. At one time it was used for all occasions requiring a white frontal (except for Christmas and Easter). The Altar Guild would like to purchase a simple pure white frontal made of a durable synthetic fabric during the coming year.

Altar Guild work is not just another church job. It requires dedication, attention to detail, and a cheerful willingness to respond to the needs of our Rector and congregation. It is my privilege to serve St James' with such a truly wonderful group of women (and men!).

Meg Critchley
Altar Guild Chairperson



ACOLYTES

The Acolyte ministry is one, which affects the worship life of everyone in liturgy. Acolytes, adults and children aged nine or older, are members of a liturgical team, which creates the reverent and joyful worship experience we enjoy at St. James'. Acolytes are thoroughly trained and serve with experienced members as they learn the various tasks: torchbearer (carrying the torches, or candles, in procession), crucifer (bearing the cross in procession) and server (assisting clergy at the altar).

We welcomed Mary Jo Elmo and Madeline Edens to the Acolytes this year. We welcome you, adults and children alike, to join in this deeply rewarding ministry.

Anyone who is interested in becoming an Acolyte, please contact Russ Worthington.



LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS and LECTORS

Lay Eucharistic Ministers are licensed to do one or both of the following: (1) administer the chalice at the Holy Eucharist; (2) directly following the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday, taking the sacrament consecrated at the celebration to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the celebration. They also may lead public worship, such as a chapel service or service at a nursing home or assisted living facility.

Lectors are persons trained in reading of the Word and appointed without license by the Rector to read lessons or lead prayers of the people. St. James' has twenty LEMs and Lectors. They serve on a rotating basis at the 8:00 AM and/or 10:00 AM Sunday services. All ages from teens through septuagenarians are represented, with many serving for the first time in liturgy at St. James'.

There are opportunities throughout the liturgical year to experiment with reading (Lessons and Carols, Tenebrae), and people may serve at other times on a trial basis to see if the ministry is a good fit for them.

In 2009, St. James' added Evening Prayer to its worship schedule for the season of Advent. Daily, Monday through Friday, LEMs led this service in the chapel. This discipline spoke to many, and there are plans to offer the Daily Office in other seasons throughout the church year.

Cathy Deats



USHERS

Ushers are normally the first people encountered by visitors and set the environment for their visit to St. James'. Ushers also assist in helping everyone feel part of the community throughout the service. Collecting the offering, assisting during communion, and preparing the church for the next service are just a few of the responsibilities of the ushers.

This year as part of our Parish Development efforts, nametags for all members and visitors are available as we strive to know each other by name.

Many thanks to those who assisted in this important ministry in 2009. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Jerry Sheard or the office.



MUSIC DIRECTOR

2009 was good year for music here at St James' although our choir size shrank a bit. Jiying (Jayne) took a leave to work with her daughter on a project and Cathy Kahl moved to Cicero, NY. We were delighted though, to welcome back Joyce Forman! We continued to be a little light on male voices overall with no bass section at all and only one regularly attending tenor. The Senior Choir again sang its usual robust schedule of regular Sundays, special Lenten and Holy Week services, Advent Lessons and Carols and two services each on Easter and Christmas Eve. Of course, there was our 150th Anniversary service with a choir augmented by some special visitors. We were also very fortunate to have Katie Lacouture and Sylvia and Tina Okoye join the Choir for Christmas Eve and we were once again treated to that trio's a capella version of O Holy Night.

This year we continued our approach of taking Youth Choir rehearsals to Sunday School for Advent/Christmas and for Easter. It was again very successful and the young singers did a fantastic job both at Port Morris and at our Christmas Eve service this year.

As always, Louise Olshan, our organist and Bell Choir Director provided us with a wonderful selection of preludes and postludes including another summer of themed preludes and postludes. In addition to all her work as our organist, Louise does wonderful things with the Bell Choir, which has also grown again this year. That group is almost at capacity now due to space constraints in the loft! We continue to be blessed to have Louise with all her talent and knowledge with us. So, all in all a pretty good year!

As I look forward into 2010, though, I see the Senior Choir numbers potentially dropping due to a retirement here, a move there, and a graduation. With such a small group to begin with, each person is crucial and it is possible that by the fall of 2010 we may have only three regular singers in the choir – by regular I mean singers who come just about every week. So please, think about making a commitment to your music program here at St. James' by joining the Choir. You don't have to commit to every Sunday, but of course, the more you can attend, the better! Coming to weekly rehearsals is important, though, so you are familiar with the music you will be singing.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Laura
Music Director



ORGANIST AND CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

During the school year the preludes and postludes are often based on hymns suggested in *The Episcopal Musician's Handbook*. During the summer I look for a theme and base the music on the theme. This summer the preludes and postludes were all composed by musicians marking milestone anniversaries. The year 2009 marked the 350th anniversary of the birth of Henry Purcell, the 250th anniversary of the death of George Frederick Handel, the 200th anniversary of the death of Franz Joseph Haydn and the 200th anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. I also played a piece based on *America, the Beautiful* as 2009 marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Katherine Lee Bates who wrote the words.

The organ required a small amount of maintenance this year with the volume pedal requiring a replacement part. This was tended to by the Allen Organ Company.

I continue to be a member of the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and also of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers.

I enjoy serving as accompanist to the Senior Choir and really enjoy the weekly rehearsals. It is a time to enter the sanctuary and be refreshed for the rest of the week ahead. But it is also a time to share fellowship with a very special group of dedicated singers and their director, Pam Laura.

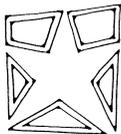
Louise Olshan

MULTI-GENERATIONAL BELL CHOIR

2009 was a very busy year for the St. James' Multi-Generational Bell Choir. The Bell Choir was asked to participate in two special services – The Celebration of the 150th Anniversary and Building Dedication and also the Visit from the Bishop. It was an honor to be asked to be a part of these special days.

In 2009 the Bell Choir participated in the following services:

- March 8 10:00 a.m. service
- March 29 10:00 a.m. service
- April 9 (Maundy Thursday) 7:30 p.m. service
- April 12 (Easter Day) 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services
- April 26 4:00 p.m. service
- Celebration of the 150th Anniversary and Building Dedication
- June 21(Choir Recognition) 10:00 a.m. service
- November 8 10:00 a.m. service
- Visit from Bishop Beckwith
- December 6 10:00 service
- December 24 (Christmas Eve) 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. services



This year the Bell Choir planned to go “on the road” twice. On December 6 the Bell Choir participated in the Eighth Annual Celebration of the Birth of Christ through the Arts at the Port Morris United Methodist Church. On December 13 the Bell Choir was scheduled to participate in a Service of Lessons and Carols at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Montclair. However, icy roads prevented the choir from traveling to Montclair.

During the year the Bell Choir members were: Meredith Firmin, Joyce Forman, Wendie Germain, Diana Grant, Katie Lacouture, Dawn Modugno, Brian Nolan, Chika Okoye, Sylvia Okoye, Tina Okoye, Sam Olshan, Helen Wise and Russ Worthington. The choir welcomed Meredith Firmin in September. Pam Laura and David Bernauer once again helped as our “permanent substitutes” and Steven Bernauer substituted on December 6 and on Christmas Eve.

Sylvia Okoye and Tina Okoye left for college in the fall. We thank both of them for being a part of the Bell Choir for many years and for sharing their time and talent with the Bell Choir. Both graciously substituted on Christmas Eve.

Because of a busy travel schedule, Joyce Forman left the Bell Choir at the end of December. We will miss her talent and thank her for her dedication to the choir.

St. James’ is blessed to have such a dedicated group of ringers. I hope that the efforts of all the members of the Bell Choir added to the worship experience at St. James’ this past year.

Louise Olshan
Director



ST. JAMES’ JOURNAL

The Journal serves to connect a wider readership to the life of St. James’ including shut-ins, friends and others beyond our community. The newsletter is distributed or mailed to more than 200 families or individuals.

In 2010, the Journal will be available by email if you would like to receive your copy in that format instead of a hard copy. This will save on postage and save a lot of paper (and trees). It will also have color photos. Watch for sign up information about direct delivery. The Journal will still be available in a hard copy to either pick up at church or receive by mail.

Ten monthly issues in 2009 featured pastoral letters from the Rector, Words from the Wardens, upcoming events or programs, parish life and outreach information. Journals featured articles and pictures about Phase II of our building program and all the great fundraising events. 2009 issues included all the special events celebrating St. James’ 150th Anniversary, beginning with the dedication of Open Doors Parish Hall and culminating with the Annual Feast of St. James’ and the Murder Mystery Dinner.

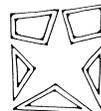
The Journal’s content and production depends on the contributions of many. My thanks go to all who contribute articles and information about our parish life. The articles highlight the dedicated and

ongoing service of everyone from Altar Guild to Choirs to Fundraisers to Sunday School teachers and Youth Group leaders (to name only a few). Cathy gave us another year's worth of inspiring front-page letters. Her message is often reflected in my choice of graphics throughout the pages. Cathy also provides the Journal with information about ongoing and upcoming programs. Barbara Olesen continues to feature new and not so new members of St. James' each month. Russ Worthington, Cathy, David and Kathy Lacouture, Barbara Olesen and Brian Nolan have provided photographs that are truly worth "a thousand words" on Journal pages. Thank you all!

My ongoing thanks to Dave Heistand for proofreading and printing the Journal pages. And many thanks to Marge Ames and her Heath Village team for assembling all those pages for distribution and mailing.

Please contribute to the Journal. Personal reflections in poetry or prose, milestones, information or reports on church life and photos are more than welcome. Do you have an idea for a new feature or any suggestions or comments? Please let me know!

Phyllis Heistand
Editor



ST. JAMES' WEBSITE

Our Website is one way to help communicate to our community what St. James' is doing around Hackettstown.

We continue to use the news4stjames@comcast.net email address to communicate all weekly announcements and all Journal (monthly newsletter) articles. This email address is really a distribution list so that the Office, the Journal, and the Webmaster receive these emails and use the information as appropriate. It also includes our Publicity Chair, Paula VanClef, who passes appropriate information to various news outlets.

The Web Site continues to have an ongoing fundraising "event" with the use of Good Search. If you add Good Search as your search vehicle on your Internet browser, St James' earns money. Since we started, we have received two checks. Please use Good Search.

A site map was added to the website to help in navigating around the website and a Google Search to search the website for information.

There have been a number of email lists established for groups within St. James'. Various committees are able to send an email to one email address and the email is sent to the committee members. If you are interested in participating in one of the various committees, you can be added to that email list.

The weekly announcements and the monthly newsletter (The Journal) have been online for a couple of years.

We changed the weekly eNewsletter format. The new format has been positively received. It is more secure, easier for each reader to control signing up or changing emails addresses. It also allows us to post event specific "post cards", pictures and all. All of the announcements that are in the Bulletin on Sunday are included in the eNewsletter. If you wish to sign up for the eNewsletter, there is a signup form on the website (at the bottom of the page).

Finally, the Webmaster wants to thank all who have contributed to the website, especially Linda Murray our Parish Administrator and Cathy our Rector, for providing the information for the website.

Keep your eyes open on the website as there is work being done to make some changes to the website.

Your webmaster is always interested in your feedback.

Respectfully Submitted:

Russ Worthington



PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

The ministry of the Publicity Committee includes sharing information about St. James' news and special events with the community through local media and the Internet. Publicity strives to keep the community informed about St. James' news and special events by maintaining communications with local newspapers, radio stations, cable television stations and through the Internet. St. James' advertises on a regular basis with twenty-one (21) newspapers, eight (8) radio stations, five (5) community Internet

calendars, three (3) cable television stations and one (1) nearby residential care facility. Publicity also maintains communications through the St. James' News and Publicity ListServes, the new St. James' eNewsletter and the St. James' Blog. Throughout the year Publicity works closely with committee chairpersons and the Parish Office to gather, review and approve the content for Press Releases for news and special events in time to meet various media deadlines.

Press Releases were sent out during 2009 about the Car Wash, Celebration of the 150th Anniversary and Building Dedication, Christmas Service Schedule, Episcopal Appalachian Ministries (EAM), Italian Night Dinner, Sunday School Classes, Tricky Tray, Veteran's Day Service and Youth Group Meetings. Most recently, the Publicity Committee was tasked with exploring local possibilities for advertising the availability of the new Parish Hall for rental.

Getting the word out about St. James' has truly been a team effort! Many thanks to Nelson Cardona, Janice Cipriani, Ron Cipriani, Sal Corino, Nicole Keane, Dave Lacouture, Barbara Olesen, David Olesen, Jewels Quelly, Mary Ann Simmons, Paul Whitney, and Russ Worthington who worked to promote St. James' news and special events during 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Van Clef- Publicity
Committee Chairperson



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

St. James' Sunday School continues to meet three of four Sundays a month at 10 am in the Parish Hall. A corner of the Parish Hall has been set aside for teaching Godly Play and the Sunday School altar is being utilized again. Supplies are in a nearby closet and artwork can remain displayed on movable dividers. Currently, there are 13 students, from Pre-K to 5th grade, enrolled in Sunday School and there are four volunteer teachers, Kathy Lacouture and Marie Niculcea, including 2 new volunteers, Phyllis Heistand and Lynn Bedell. On average, eight students attend each week.

The students have started work on a quilt that will be completed over the winter. The theme of the quilt is "What St. James' Means to Me" and students had an opportunity to make their own quilt block for the quilt. New Godly Play material, which focuses on the stories of the Saints, was purchased for Sunday School this year, and those lessons will begin this winter as well.

Sunday School students participate each year in sorting and bagging up the donated food for the Mission Strategy Committee at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Other plans for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year are: organizing packages for college students, making Valentine Cards for and visiting residents of House of Good Shepherd, Mother's Day plants, and a possible trip to another area parish to view a special Lenten project.

Respectfully submitted by
Kathy Lacouture



CONFIRMATION

Preparation for an adult commitment to Christ is an awesome responsibility for any Christian community. At St. James', young people and adults prepare for the Rite of Christian Confirmation through a program of education, worship and service. Members of the Confirmation Class attend liturgy at St. James' and other worship communities (Community of St. John Baptist, Temple Beth Shalom, among others), participate in the 30 hour famine to learn about and raise money for hunger, and participate in an outreach project, such as work to benefit the Seamen's Church Institute, Family Promise shelter, or local soup kitchen. They give service to the St. James' community through various projects and chores. They study the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible and ways to make them more real in their lives. In addition, the Diocese sponsors an overnight retreat for confirmands so they have a chance to meet with the Bishop and other young people in the Diocese of Newark.

Russ Worthington is the Catechist. Working in partnership with the Rector and Deacon, he has led our young people through the adult confirmation of faith. We also bring into our community those adults baptized and/or confirmed in other Christian communities by receiving them into the Episcopal Church at the time of Confirmation for others.

YOUTH GROUP



Youth Group includes youth grades 6-12. We usually meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month in the Mitcham House during the 10 o'clock service. We had about 8-12 young people who attended regularly. The discussion-based classes include current topics and interests of our youth and have corresponding Bible readings. The group participates in the 30 Hour Famine every February to raise money for world hunger. They also collect soup and money for the "Souper Bowl of Caring", host coffee hour occasionally and participate in Episcopal Appalachian Ministries.

Members of the parish may choose to lead a class, either sharing their own ministries with our young people, or leading a discussion on a topic provided by us. We have enjoyed hearing about going green, world religions, presidential inauguration, and other topics.

Dawn Modugno and Lori Pursel
Youth Leaders



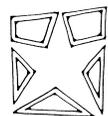
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM)

Education for Ministry, an extension program of the University of the South, is a four-year course of study in which students learn the disciplines of biblical exegesis and interpretation, church history, ethics, liturgics and theology. Each "year" is a nine-month cycle of study, with participants enrolling in one cycle at a time. The subjects are studied in a seminar setting known as a "community of learning," in which the events of each person's life may be examined in the light of the materials being studied. The seminar group, consisting of six to eleven participants and trained mentor(s), is the nucleus of the EFM program. The group meets weekly over the course of a nine-month academic year. These meetings are usually from two-and-a half to three hours in length, and require an equal amount of time of preparation.

While the academic material is substantial, the focus of the program is on life as ministry and understanding that ministry. EFM provides adult Christians with that basic skill which is the foundation of all Christian ministry -- theological reflection. We bring all our experiences together for reflection on the sources of our learning: culture, tradition (the Bible, church history), position (what I believe or think) and action (experience). Mentors are our guides in the learning process and they create the intellectual and emotional environment where insight as well as academic learning takes place.

If you think you may be interested in St. James' EFM group, which meets on Tuesday evenings and is open to members of other parishes as well as St. James', please contact the Rector, or a current EFM student: Linda Ayres, Meg Bottomley, Joshua Buck, Peg Faust, Ellen Infante, Eileen Malejko, or Barbara White. Graduates of the four-year program include: Phyllis Heistand, DJ Hoffman, Jerry Sheard, Sheila Shuford, Patti Worthington, and mentors, Barbara Olesen and Cathy Deats.

Cathy Deats and Barbara Olesen
EFM Mentors



NURSERY CARE

The St. James Nursery is located in a sunny corner room on the 2nd floor of the Mitcham House. Nursery care is available on Sundays during the 10:00 a.m. service from September to June, all Sundays except the first Sunday of each month, which is Family Sunday. Infants through preschoolers are welcome. The room is equipped with toys, books, games, coloring books and crayons.

Currently, there are 5 volunteers, two of them teenagers with babysitting experience. We recently welcomed Kerri Arbolino as a nursery care volunteer. Volunteers work on a rotating schedule, arriving St. James' at 9:45 am and waiting until 10:15 am for children to arrive. If there are no children by 10:15am, the volunteer can leave to join the church service.

We can always use more volunteers, or possibly someone who would be willing to act as a substitute caregiver as needed. If anyone is interested, please contact Chika Okoye or Linda Murray in the church office.



PRAYER MINISTRY

The Prayer Ministry is a group of parishioners who faithfully pray, each in our own way, wherever each of us lives or works, for people known or unknown to us when they are in need of prayer. Prayers might be requested for someone who is critically ill; for someone preparing to undergo surgery or in recovery; for those who mourn or for someone in hard times, a job loss, a family in crisis. We pray for the protection and care of loved ones.

The Rector initiates all requests for the Prayer Ministry. Many of the requests are confidential and we faithfully hold those people and their requests for prayer in our confidence. Members are notified by e-mail (or by phone if e-mail is unavailable).

Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of this ministry for others in need. Please speak to Cathy or Phyllis.

Phyllis Heistand



LAY PASTORAL VISITORS

The Lay Pastoral Visitors visit with parish members who are not able physically to be in communion with us on Sundays.

A list of members we visit is kept, and they are seen on a rotating basis for a friendly visit and delivery of the flowers from the altar. In addition, most weeks the bulletin and announcements are mailed to all. Sometimes a short note with a photo is also enclosed. At special seasons, like Christmas and Easter, all those at home are seen and poinsettias or lilies are delivered.

A group of parishioners also visits several households at Christmas to sing carols.

From time to time, we call on our members who have not "signed up" to be on the committee but are always willing to give us a helping hand with visits. We welcome you to take a regular part in this ministry if you feel so called.

If anyone knows of someone who could use a visit, please let the church office know so we can take action.

CARES



The CARES group acts on an "as needed" basis to address the needs of members of St. James' Community. The CARES group has helped out several parishioners this past year with meals. We provide meals to those in immediate need and try to arrange transportation for medical appointments when needed. Please see Barbara Olesen if you are interested in becoming a part of this important ministry.

Barbara Olesen



STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for coordinating the Stewardship message while emphasizing the importance of supporting St. James' through participation in the various ministries and with our financial resources throughout the year.

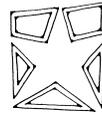
In January, we recommended to the Vestry that we hire Peter Saros as our Parish Development Consultant. Upon their approval, he helped us outline a plan that included fellowship opportunities where we were encouraged to recognize our talents, to get focused and energized and to develop some strategies for strengthening and growing our Church. These events were well attended and helped us to get to know each other better and have a better sense of where we want to be as a Parish.

As of 12/31/09, we have received a total of 62 pledges for a total of \$101,112 to the Operating Fund. This represents a decrease in the overall number of pledges, but includes 9 new pledges as well as 19 parishioners increasing their pledge amount. We also received 27 pledges to the Capital Improvement Fund for a total of \$19,580. This also represents a decrease in pledging units, but includes 5 new pledges with 9 parishioners increasing their amount.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Cipriani, Chair

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



The construction of the Open Doors Parish Hall and barrier free design for the church were accomplished through a Capital Campaign, which exceeded our goal. The Open Doors Capital Campaign began in 2005 and concluded in 2008.

St. James' embarked on the present Capital Campaign in our 150th year, 2009. With a goal of \$125,000 to continue our gift to our children with funds to pay down the mortgage, this 150th Capital Campaign was kicked off in May with leadership pledges.

The leaders of St. James' (22 households) have pledged a total of \$65,085. To complete the gift phase of our campaign, congregational pledges will be sought early in 2010.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your continued support!

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Cipriani, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE



The Finance Committee meets quarterly to review the finances of St. James' and to make recommendations to the Vestry. Meetings are typically held quarterly, except for the end of the year when they are held more frequently as income and expenses are reviewed and the proposed annual budget is prepared for the Vestry. St James has several investment accounts, as outlined below:

The **Snyder Memorial Fund** is an endowment which is invested in a portfolio of stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit and cash (money market). The main goals of this fund, which is managed by Fulton Financial (financial advisors), are to grow the principal while maintaining a low risk and to generate income to be used for reinvestment and operating the church. Early in 2009, this fund took some losses but it recovered nicely as the year continued. By the end of the year it had a value about 1% larger than it had at the beginning of the year (\$537,500 vs. \$532,000). Some investments were sold during the year because our financial advisors felt they posed too much risk. Most of these investments were high-yielding securities, so their sale resulted in the portfolio having less dividend income. In 2009 the Snyder Fund produced roughly \$21,000 in income which is down substantially from previous years. Since the church relies on this income for operation, the decrease had a negative effect on the 2009 financial position and will also affect the budget in 2009 and future years.

The **Building Fund** was established years ago in anticipation of building the new Parish Hall. While a significant amount of the fund was used during Phase I of the building construction, a substantial balance was left untouched to pay the mortgage on the building. The Building Fund is managed by Fulton Financial and is invested conservatively in bonds, mutual funds and cash (money market) with the investment philosophy of preserving capital and generating income with low risk. The current balance is approximately \$237,000 and all of monies (except for one potential bill that remains from Phase I) are to be used to pay the mortgage. To date, fifteen mortgage payments have been made and the outstanding balance on the loan is \$734,600.

The **Capital Improvement Fund** is for major repairs and improvements of our buildings. This fund is invested entirely in certificates of deposit, savings accounts and a checking account. In 2009, there were no major expenditures and the total expenses for the year were about \$3,000. The total income for the year was just over \$19,000. At the end of 2009, the Capital Improvement Fund had total assets of \$47,000, although \$40,000 of that has been used (both in 2009 and previous years) to help pay for the operation of the church and is not currently available for repairs or improvements.

Anyone that has any questions about the budget or our investments please free to contact any member of the Finance Committee. We're always interested in adding members, so please contact us if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Greg Malejko, chair

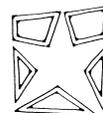
Bob Ellis

Peg Pfaff

David Olesen

Mary Ann Timmins-Schwing

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



The fundraising efforts at St. James' have once again proven to be very successful. In 2009, a tough year all around, we raised \$10,314.23. Your continued support of the fundraising effort is very much appreciated.

I would like to thank everyone that supported the many events. Special thanks to Nicole Keane for organizing the Lia Sophia jewelry sale and donating her commission and to Roberta Brandt for her continued support in the sale of Longaberger products and the donation of her commission. We look forward to putting both of these events on our calendar again this coming year. We were also successful with Yankee Candles, Scentsy Flameless Candles, Innisbrook Wrapping, St. James' pens and the St. James' sweat shirts and t-shirts. Thanks to everyone that participated in the planning and organizing of the Golf Event and to those that played or joined us for dinner. We are looking forward to our 2nd Annual Golf Outing in the spring. The Tricky Tray is our biggest event of the year and this is truly a parish event. Many hands in many tasks make this fundraiser an event the community looks forward to. Thanks to everyone who donated gifts, monies and time.

We hope that in the year ahead we will conduct more events in the Parish Hall. We are already planning the Corned Beef and Cabbage St. Patrick's Dinner for Sunday, March 14th. Keep an eye out for additional information.

Reminder: GoodSearch is a search engine that donates 50 percent of its revenues to non-profits. Every time you do a search, St. James' gets a donation. It is so easy. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and put "St James Episcopal Church – Hackettstown" in the space for the charity you want to support.

Barbara White



ST. JAMES' SABBATICAL COMMITTEE

The Sabbatical Committee was formed in Spring 2009 as the first step in preparation for planning of the sabbatical for our priest. Members of the committee included Cathy Deats, Martha Travastino and Paula Van Clef. Various funding possibilities were discussed and the Committee was tasked with meeting with the parish to gather feedback in preparation for the grant application process of the Lily Foundation. At the April 1, 2009 Parish Dinner, the Committee and Vestry discussed sabbatical planning with the congregation. Our priest provided the congregation with a brief overview of sabbatical which is a time for study, rest and reflection. Printed copies of key questions were distributed at the dinner to gather responses. Members of the Vestry took notes and facilitated the discussion at each dinner table with congregation members.

Overall, the feedback received regarding why is it a good time for our priest to participate in a sabbatical was very positive. Through its responses the congregation provided its full commitment and support for the sabbatical proposal. After the dinner, the sabbatical committee collected the notes for review and follow-up discussion.

Late in October, we were notified that St. James' was not selected to receive a grant from the Lilly Foundation.

A follow-up article on sabbatical was published by Cathy Deats in the *St. James' Journal* and there was further discussion by the Vestry. Communication with the parish and Vestry will continue throughout the months leading up to the sabbatical.

Paula Van Clef, and Martha Travostino
Sabbatical Committee



COUNTERS

Our counters are a very dedicated group who volunteer their time on Sunday after the 10AM service. Currently there are six teams (two per team), with another team in the process of being trained. Once they are "on board", each team will be scheduled every seven weeks on a rotating basis.

Volunteers are trained and can observe an experienced team until they feel confident to complete the process on their own. Scheduling is done by our Parish Administrator, who takes into consideration the other ministries in which the person may be involved.

The reason we count after the 10 AM service is because the “count” is from both the 8 AM and 10 AM services. Typically the process takes about an hour.

If you are interested in being part of this important ministry, please contact me or our Parish Administrator.

Thank you to our conscientious volunteers!

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Cipriani, Chair



FACILITY USE

St. James’ facilities are available to both our parishioners and outside organizations. Guidelines for use of the buildings and donations have recently been revised. A Building Use Application should be completed and approved by the Rector prior to using the facilities. Please call the church office and speak with Linda Murray if you are interested in using St. James’ facilities.

The Rector’s and Administrator’s offices are located in the Mitcham House, along with the Karen Ann Quinlan Bereavement Center. In addition, monthly Vestry Meetings, weekly EFM meetings, Fundraising meetings, and Literacy Volunteers of Sussex County meet in the Mitcham House.

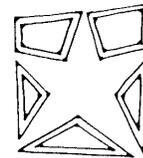
The Publicity Committee is currently researching avenues to advertise the availability of our parish hall to non-profit organizations and individuals. It is the goal of the Publicity and Building Use Committees to generate additional income for the mission of St. James’ through use of the Great Hall.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Maintenance mornings are great times of work and fellowship at St. James’. Seasonally, on a Saturday morning, parishioners gather to perform routine maintenance and minor repairs. We save money, learn more about our properties, and have some fun too.

Here are some things accomplished in 2009 which are fairly typical of our jobs:

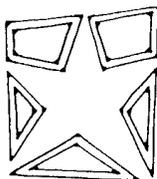
- Install door screens in Mitcham House
- Repair threshold between kitchen and hallway
- Install air conditioners in Mitcham House
- Move administrator’s furniture in office
- Find place for altar guild cabinet (currently in Mitcham house)
- Bring remaining parlor furniture down from attic
- Clean out drains on roof between MH and Parish Hall (by the sacristy entrance)
- Cut back/down bush outside administrator’s office window
- Bring chair rack up from basement of MH and store in PH closet
- Remove window air conditioners from office, front parlor and vestry room
- Store away all altar guild items in cabinets in sacristy
- Install bulletin board in sacristy
- Top soil/seed on Washington & Moore Street along curbs
- Clean out gutters on Parish Hall
- Cut back all over-hanging branches from neighboring properties
- Clean-up flower beds (mulch/weed)
- Dust/clean-up upper level of Parish Hall
- Paint Upper Level of Parish Hall
- Install step at emergency exit of Parish Hall.
- Clean basement of Parish Hall
- Install bulletin board in hallway
- Put fans in basement of Parish Hall to move air
- Turn on heat in Parish Hall to ensure it is operating properly and check scheduled times to come on and off
- Remove/replace broken tile in Parish Hall entrance foyer



Watch the calendar and announcements for our next date!

THE PARISH REGISTER

Transfers In:	0
Transfers Out:	1 person
Baptisms:	5
Weddings:	1
Confirmations:	3
Received:	0
Reaffirmations:	0
Burials:	5



TREASURER'S REPORT

As each year ends, I think everybody knows the kind of accounting system we have here at St. James'. Then I look around the pews in December and see new faces. So to those that have heard this before, I apologize, and to the rest, here is the explanation. We operate a financial system of four major funds. The Operating Fund is focused on our day to day operations, the Capital Improvement fund provides money to make significant improvements to our existing buildings, the Building fund is a special fund to finance the new parish hall and, finally, the Snyder family endowment fund is an income generating investment account that the vestry can assign the income to various purposes. In recent years, that income has been used to support our Operating Fund.

Focusing on the Operating Fund income, there are some notable figures in 2009. To begin, we budgeted \$165,500 at last year's annual meeting that was later revised to \$156,100 when we realized the Snyder Fund would not generate the income needed to achieve the original amount. By year-end, our total actual income was \$174,210. This major improvement came from our Pledged Subscriptions that were over budget by almost \$10,000 and a far cry from 2008 when pledges were down 13% below budget. 2009 turned around a two-year trend when pledges were below budget. The other major event for our income came late in December from another and final Foster Bequest that was entered on our Other Income Line as a memorial.

Having presented all this positive information, I do need to inform you that our income in 2008 was \$181,400, so doing the math you see that our income was \$7000 less than the previous year. Additionally, our very well run Fund Raising committee, with very strong efforts, tried to overpower the economy and provided \$11,600 even though they had hoped to do better. Let's hope 2010 will be kinder. As I mentioned above, the Snyder fund income was projected down during the year and we lowered our monthly draw of funds from that account accordingly. We ultimately took \$22,000 from that fund. Unfortunately, the fund earned about \$20,600 during the year, after adjustments for the sales of the fund's securities, meaning we cut into the principal by about \$1,400. That situation prevents us from taking the January draw, which we hope will restore that lost principal.

Many of you will remember that since 2005 I have been talking about borrowing money from the right pocket to feed the left pocket. Well I am not sure that message is the best message because both pockets are in the same pants. You see it is not about pockets or to which fund we contribute money, it's about this church, on a mission, or if fact many missions, and that we have been able to gather and do the work we all think is so valuable. So therefore I am going to tell you the good news about how we kept our day-to-day operations moving forward.

If you remember, the budget set for 2009 contained a short fall of \$29,254. We all knew, in our hearts, that the short fall would have to be met with money in our Capital Improvement fund but none of us verbalized that. And if you think about what I said a minute ago, when we revised downward the available dollars from the Snyder Fund, you realized that shortfall projection turned even worse. This was a tough year for the Vestry and they had to make tough decisions. The spending budget for 2009 was a total of \$194,700 and most all the various line items like Occupancy, Administration, Christian Education, Outreach, Staff Expenses and Parochial expense ended up very close to budget. The major deviation fell in one line item, the Diocesan Pledge, and this was a tough decision for the Vestry. Ultimately they notified the Diocese and we fell short of our pledge by close to \$12,000, which brought

our actual total expenditures to \$184,800. I do think it is important to note the diocese was informed of our intention and could then make and, as I noted, came from our own “pants”, meaning that we did not have to issue bonds or get a loan like our government. We have not placed the burden of today on the backs of our children. We supported this church and it’s mission no matter which pocket the money came from.

The Capital Improvement fund does not get a budget so we will just hit the highlights. The fund had a \$19,300 income, down, from 2008’s \$27,900. The income came mostly from pledges of \$18,000 with the rest spread out between non-pledge subscriptions, prior year pledges and investment income. Expenses drawn on this fund came to \$2,960, and were focused on stained glass repairs, bells and tree trimming.

The Building Fund also does not have a budget but here is a summary of the income. Pledges equaled \$26,400, non-pledged was \$7,000, capital campaign donations were \$800 and investment income was \$19,000. Our construction costs have slowed down and were mostly involved with the elevator, finishing the restrooms, drywall, electrical and starting the kitchen to a total of \$108,700. Our mortgage interest was \$44,800 and the mortgage principal was reduced by \$9,400.

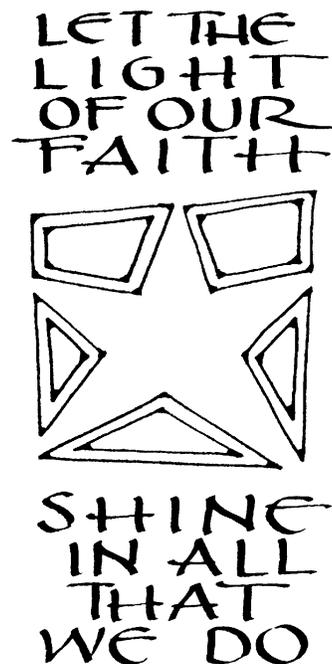
As most all of you know, we left AG Edwards in 2007 and moved to Fulton Financial with our Snyder Fund and Building Fund investments. Fulton is considered a “wealth management” company and will follow guidelines and goals we established rather than Fulton calling us for approval before each transaction. That continues to be a great value to us in 2009 and our interaction with them remains solid.

Before I close this report, I would like to note contributions to our Operating Fund made by a few of our ministries. I think we are all aware of the efforts by Mission Strategy throughout the year to fund their activities with Shop Rite cards and to turn over the excess to the church. In 2009, they contributed \$2,000, \$400 more than last year. Due to cash flow restrictions, over the last few years, both the Rector’s Discretionary and Altar Guild funds have not received their full distribution. They have been very careful with their spending and patient with the required money transfer.

Thank you,

Penn L. Pixley

Treasurer, St. James Episcopal Church



Prayer for St. James' Church

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within you holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Hymn

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea,
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee,
Yet possessing every blessing,
If our God our Father be.

Savior, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
All our weakness thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us;
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Yet unfearing, persevering;
To thy passion thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
Love with every passion blending
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.