

St. James'



Journal

The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats, Rector

March 2006

Not many people have heard of Tulare, California. I had never heard of it prior to my son's engagement to his future bride. Now that they are married, they have made their home in Tulare. My husband and I visited there last week. It is a lovely town of cozy neighborhoods of ranch-style homes, most with small swimming pools in fenced-in backyards. Lawns are green and thick and palm trees are common choices in landscape design. Tulare is in the San Joaquin valley of California, a land with rich harvests of wheat and cotton. Tulare County is second in the nation in agricultural productivity. It is also dairy farm country. So farming is the major occupation of people in the area. Many farms, like the one begun by my daughter-in-law's great-great-grandfather, have been in families for generations.

It is no wonder then that Tulare is also home to the International Agricultural Farm Show, the largest show of its kind in the world. It attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world. And as luck would have it, the Farm Show was in town when we were visiting. Imagine acres of flat, dusty land sectioned by PVC pipes laid in a grid pattern, dividing displays of farm equipment, food tents, and exhibits. There were tractors larger than the Mitcham House (and more expensive!) and balers it would take a huge tractor to pull. There was a cotton-picking machine with giant teeth to pick and strip the cotton in one pass. John Deere and Bobcat salesmen tried to convince farmers and buyers to purchase the latest in technology and efficiency.

Among all the displays of tractors, balers, discers and mowers was a medium-sized tent with the words, "Calvary Baptist Church." Curiosity got the better of me, and I approached the tent, where out in front a man handed me a bag of pistachios (almonds and pistachios are big crops in the area) stapled to a tract entitled, "How to Farm Without Cussin'". The tract told me that "cussin'" was against the will of God, and used Bible verses to back up the claim: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Ephesians

4:29). Inside the tent were card tables with chairs and a counter with more people behind it. Signs said, "Free Coffee" and "Sit and take a break." The people who handed me the bag of nuts were smiling and greeting everyone. Some sat with those having coffee and talked.

Now that's what I call evangelism!

No one likes the word *evangelism* – we even call it "the E word" in polite Episcopalian company. But here was a perfect example of getting the word out in action. Who lives in Tulare? *farmers, mostly* Where can you find a bunch of farmers during the second week of February? *at the Farm Show* What do they need? *Well, we think they need Jesus Christ...and they need a place to sit, a cup of coffee, pistachios to munch on.* And thus, I am certain, was born this small green tent in the midst of acres and acres of shiny new equipment, but, let's face it...reminders of work. Maybe someone would wander into the tent who needed a listening ear or a kind word or a smile. Maybe no one would wander in, and in that case the people from the church could simply pray silently for each person who walked by, continue to smile and hand out tiny bags of nuts.

Your vestry gathered in retreat on a chilly weekend earlier this month. In the midst of the beauty of the mountains at Kirkridge, around a warm cast-iron stove, in shared meals and decision-making, work and laughter, they arrived at the same place those Calvary folks in Tulare did as they planned for the Farm Show. The talent and love, the compassion and welcome we share with each other and with visitors needs to be extended further into the community. We want not only to offer this community's strength and solace to each other and those who make their ways to our doors, we want to invite people in. We cannot afford to wait for people to find us; we will, through living out our promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, offer the bread that gives life to those we come in contact with.

Pistachios, anyone?

Faithfully yours,

Wardens' Words

Thanks to all for a memorable annual meeting. We accomplished a lot, and received some very positive comments. I was especially proud to present Penn Pixley's Treasurer's report, which very clearly explained our financial situation in his absence. All in all, our leadership was complimented on the "transparency" and clarity of our reports and discussions.

We are continuing our tradition of a strong vestry. It was clear from the annual meeting that our leadership is aligned with our congregation. Our bishop has challenged every church in the diocese to define its purpose and mission in their community. We are ahead of the curve on this, as we continue to work on justice issues and opening our doors to everyone.

We recently conducted our annual retreat, this year at the Kirkridge Retreat Center in Bangor, PA. This was the most productive retreat that I've attended. Cathy and the vestry tackled some difficult issues, and we have action plans in place to move out on. We remain financially in good shape, and plan to complete the year without a deficit (although we will still use income from our investments to cover some of our operating costs.) We will work to continue to make St. James' a more welcoming place, with some concrete goals and actions to grow our church family. We will be more visible in the world and use that visibility to deliver our message and invite new members to join us.

It is a pleasure to work with these special people. Our paid staff is just outstanding – we were happy to be able to finally authorize merit increases for them. Our volunteers are dedicated, hard-working people – this was epitomized by our recent carpet replacement project. It's all good.

So 2006 is moving along – the sanctuary looks great, the vestry is looking forward, and Cathy continues to lead and help guide us. Help us welcome our future members. It's all good.

David Olesen

United Thank Offering

St. James' brought an offering of \$263.00 to the UTO Ingathering at the Diocesan Convention on January 27th. 54 parishes contributed a total of \$16,665.87.



This year's vestry retreat was held at Kirkridge Retreat Center in Pennsylvania. It is a beautiful, quiet and peaceful place. As it turned out, we had one of the smaller buildings all to ourselves. While enjoying delicious food (thanks to Dan Miller for the jambalaya and Candy Norris-Brewster for coordinating the rest), we got to know each other a little better. We talked about St. James and how we would like to see it grow.

First, we looked at some of the strengths and highlights of last year. There were many, including the new carpeting, the capital campaign, family breakfasts, Sunday school, etc. The biggest for me was the sense of fellowship at St. James and the ownership we have for each other and our buildings. I am amazed at how what needs doing just gets done. We also talked about some of our struggles and disappointments (not many). Finally, we discussed how we might attract new members and keep them coming back.

A lot was accomplished and I think there is a good sense of where we are heading. I look forward to the challenge of learning to be a junior warden and working with our wonderful leaders, Cathy and David to help St. James on our journey. This year's vestry is blessed with a cooperative, supportive spirit, many ideas and much energy. We are in good hands!

Dawn Modugno

Vestry Highlights

The February Vestry Meeting was held at the Vestry Retreat February 10-11 at Kirkridge. There was an abbreviated agenda, including:

- Penn Pixley was elected as Treasurer and Linda Connors Murray as Clerk for one-year terms.
- Parish Picnic site is the fully accessible "Field of Dreams" park in Independence Township. On Sunday, June 4th, we begin our picnic with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10 am.
- Improvements to the Karen Ann Quinlan office in the Mitcham House are in process: walls sheetrocked, lighting and fans replaced, as part of Home Depot community outreach. There is no cost to KAQ or St. James'.
- Due to an improved financial position, a 3% salary increase for all employees was approved.

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday March 1 7:00 AM – 12:00 NOON – 7:30 PM (choral)

The Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Wednesdays March 8, 15, 22, 29 7:30 PM at Christ Church, Budd Lake

District One Lenten Study

The Purpose Driven Life

Thursdays (year-round) 7:00 PM

Chapel Service

The Holy Eucharist and Laying on of Hands for Healing



Prayer for the good of the soul



Fasting for the good of the body



Alms giving for the good of our neighbor

March dates to remember

March 3 – 4 Confirmation Preparation Retreat • St. Peter's Morristown

March 5 Family Sunday • Family Breakfast between services

March 11 Lenten Quiet Morning with Jim Warnke 10 AM – 1 PM

March 16 Confirmation Class • Mitcham House 7:30 - 9:00 PM

March 18 Celebrating Creative Congregations

March 19 Forum • Parish Hall 11:30 - 1:00 PM

March 23 Vestry Meeting • Mitcham House 7:30 PM

Lenten meditation booklets

Lenten meditation booklets are available in the narthex, the Parish Hall and the Mitcham House. Entitled, "Seeking God's Perspective," the booklets were developed by Episcopal Relief and Development, the charitable / educational arm of the Episcopal Church in the US. The meditations encourage us to think about hunger, both physical and spiritual during the holy season of Lent. But what does it mean to "meditate"?

Lenten Quiet Morning with Jim Warnke

March 11, 10 AM to 1 PM

The Rev. James Warnke will lead us in a quiet morning on Saturday, March 11th in the church. Father Jim is the Curate at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Englewood, and has a private practice of psychotherapy. He is author of the book, Becoming an Everyday Mystic. Jim will gently lead us into the spiritual practice of meditation and call us away to the inner silence that we can learn as a Lenten discipline. A simple lunch will be served at the conclusion of our time together.

Lenten Study

District One churches (from Phillipsburg to Succasunna) are joining in a Lenten Study Group. "The Purpose Driven Life," the very popular book about how to live into the will of God through worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism. The study begins March 8 and continues for five weeks, ending April 5th, from 7:30 – 9:00 PM. Our host church is Christ Church, Budd Lake, at the corner of Smithtown and Sandshore Roads. The final session of the study will put the concepts of the book into the context of Anglican spirituality. Please buy a copy of The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren and prepare for the first session by reading the first seven (short!) chapters.

(Available at Shoprite, Wal-Mart and bookstores.)

Celebrating Creative Congregations

It is not too late to join in this smorgasbord of useful and fun workshops about our life in church community. Learn / try / be enlightened by topics like "Talk so kids can hear", "Communications and your budget" and "Bibliodrama"! Submit your registration form to the St. James' office no later than February 28th to save \$5! You can still register after that time to join us on March 18th at NJIT in Newark (workshops run between 9 AM and 3 PM; attend all or part of the day). Brochures are available in the narthex and the Parish Hall.



Mary Rankin Scholarship Applications are available in the church office.

The scholarship is open to high school seniors who (1) are members of an Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Newark, (2) have applied to an accredited institution of higher learning, like a college or trade or business school, (3) are involved in church, school and community activities.

The deadline for applications is April 1 and you will need a recommendation from the Rector. **Please contact the office no later than March 15.** Also needed are a one-page statement of the applicant about his/her future plans, a letter of recommendation from your school and a copy of the acceptance letter to the school of higher education

Episcopal Church 101 Forum - March 19

Did you know that The Book of Common Prayer is more than half Scripture? That there are prayers for courts of justice, church musicians, and grace at meals? That you can find when Easter is all the way until 2051? Come and learn more about the BCP (as we like to call it!), including how you can use it for daily prayer. Sunday, March 19, 11:30 -1:00. A light lunch will be served.

Confirmation / Reception news

Confirmation / Reception classes have begun for five young people and two adults. The young people are participating in the 30 Hour Famine and a retreat sponsored by the Diocese. They will attend Sunday Forums and a Hip-Hop Mass. We are planning a service project with an environmental center in Brewster, NY. Confirmation will be Saturday, May 6th at 3:00 PM at Christ Church in Budd Lake. We hope many of you will plan to join us as we support these persons in their life in Christ.

Lorraine Dughi to be ordained

The Rev (Deacon) Lorraine Dughi will be ordained into the Sacred Order of Priests on Saturday, March 25th (The Feast of the Annunciation), at 10 AM at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Clifton.

St. James, along with St. Peter's and Trinity Church, Kearny, will present Lorraine with a gift. If you wish to make a donation to this gift, please mark your donation to "Rector's Discretionary Fund - Dughi gift".

We rejoice that Lorraine's journey is taking such a joyous new direction!



Sunday School

Lenten and Easter themes will be the content of the Sunday School Lessons for the month of March. And on March 26th, the students will decorate baskets to eventually be filled with donated food from the parishioners for needy families in our community. Also, it would be helpful to have further donations of snack and juice for our weekly lessons as we have depleted our supply from the Fall. Thanks in advance for your assistance, and if you have any questions, see Eileen Malejko or any of the teachers: Sarah, Kathy and Dan.

March 5 Family Sunday No Sunday school
March 12 Faces of Easter 1-3
March 19 Faces of Easter 4-8
March 26 Easter Baskets Enrichment Lesson
Easter Eggs
April 2 Family Sunday No Sunday school

Kathy Lacouture

Junior Youth Group

We have a couple of students interested in participating in this year's Famine.

Meetings this month:

- March 12 Heavy Duty Love
- March 26 Giving God his Props

Thanks to Eileen Malejko for providing our class with a whiteboard, markers and eraser. We will use them!

Lori Pursel

Senior Youth Group

Youth Group continues to meet every second and fourth Sunday of the month during the 10 o'clock service. On February 24 and 25, a group of our young people participated in the 30-Hour Famine to raise money for world hunger. During their 30 hour fast, we did a little Bible study, some service work and of course had fun. The lesson for group that Sunday was also about world hunger and the group hosted coffee hour the following day. Questions and/or comments:

Dawn Modugno



Senior Choir News



March schedule:

Wednesday, March 1 – Ash Wednesday service at 7:30.
Choir meets at 6:45 to rehearse.

Thursday, March 9 - Senior Choir returns to its regular rehearsal schedule of Thursdays from 7:30 – 9 pm.

Thank you all for being so flexible during my winter coaching stint!

Junior Choir News

The Junior Choir is meeting on Tuesdays from 6 pm – 6:30 pm for the next few weeks to learn about the secret code of music! Rhythm games and cool flash cards will help unlock the code! The children will start rehearsing for their Holy Week piece in early March. Any young people ages 3 ½ - 12 who would like to join, just come on Tuesday evening or call Pam Laura at 908-850-8086!

Music changes in Lent

As we move into Lent, there will be several musical changes in our service music as we set a quieter, more reflective mood for our weekly worship. Instead of our usual sung processional, a Lenten Introit will be sung by the choir after the prelude is finished. The processional will be a silent one. The current Hymn of Praise, “Go, Tell It on the Mountain,” will be replaced by a setting of the Kyrie and an Agnus Dei will replace the current Fraction Anthem. These pieces and the Sanctus will all use the Merbecke setting as we’ve done for the past few Lenten seasons. We will also begin a new Communion chant chosen by our resident Taizé experts, Phyllis and Dave Heistand, to be in keeping with the Lenten theme.

Looking for a few ringers!

No, not Bell Choir – although I know Louise would love to have you. This is for the Steeple Bells that are rung after the Sunday services. I normally ring them after the Postlude is done but starting in mid-March and going through mid-May, there will be several Sundays when I will have to leave before the service is finished. This is a long-standing St James’ tradition and we would like to see it continue when I’m not available.

It’s very easy – the bells have numbered levers to push. The music is written in numbers, so if you can count from 1-5 you can probably ring these bells. They aren’t really heavy but you do have to be tall enough to be able to make a comfortable downward pressure on the levers. If you’re my height (5’5”) or taller, you’d do fine. I have spoken to a couple of people who are interested already but the more the merrier! If you’re interested please see me after church on any upcoming Sunday.

Pam Laura

Bell Choir “Notes”

The Multi-Generational Bell Choir played the Offertory Anthem at the 10:00 service on February 19. The piece was well received and there were several questions about one of the techniques used. It is called an echo and involves ringing a bell and then gently tapping the rim of the bell on the foam pad. The choir really enjoyed learning this piece and several members have asked if we can play it again. So, if you missed it the first time, you may be lucky enough to hear it in the future.

The choir is now working on the Introit for Lent. The Bell Choir hopes to accompany the choir and the congregation during the singing of this hymn at least one Sunday during Lent.

If you are free after the coffee hour following the 10:00 service, we would be happy to welcome you into the Bell Choir. Call Louise at 973-584-2061 if you have questions.

Louise Olsham



Altar Guild

Lent and Eastertide are very busy times for the Altar Guild with lots of special services and a kaleidoscope of liturgical colors. Altar Guild members will receive a written outline of events in the mail.

General cleaning in preparation for Easter will be held Saturday, April 8 at 10 AM. All teams will meet Holy Saturday, April 15 at 10 AM to arrange Easter flowers and set up for Easter services.

Anyone who would like to help with the work of the Altar Guild is welcome to join us on April 8 and/or April 15. As usual, there is no obligation to become a permanent part of our ministry.

Meg Critchley



**April Journal articles
due Monday, March 27, 2006**

Phyllis Heistand, Editor

Email pdheistand@comcast.net

Phone (908) 850-0372

Meet David Olesen-Incoming Senior Warden

David Olesen grew up in Karrsville, Mansfield Twsp, one of six children. He attended Warren Hills and learned to play guitar during his high school years. He followed local music and started playing in bands. At this time, he discovered his love of trains and photography.

He attended Lafayette College and earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. He received his master's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson and his MBA from NYU. He works as a program manager for BAE Systems (formerly Singer-Kearfott) in Wayne. He is celebrating his 30th year with the company this year.

David met Barbara in high school. They were married on December 18, 1976 and lived in Lake Lackawanna (Byram Twsp) for ten years before moving to Independence Twsp in 1988. They have two children, Alyssa, 27 and Eric, 22. Rounding out the family is Daisy, a three-year-old black lab.

David likes to spend his spare time modeling trains in his basement layout. He occasionally plays with his band "Oasis" on weekends.

David has just become Senior Warden at St James after a two-year term as Junior Warden. You can also find him counting and ushering and helping where needed.

Dave's brush with fame began when he was five. He and his parents were at Madison Square Garden and he was asked to appear onstage with Rin Tin Tin and Rusty. See him for the details!



Meet Dawn Modugno-Incoming Junior Warden

Dawn Modugno was born in Morristown and attended school in Mendham. She played field hockey in high school. She attended Cook College, Rutgers, with a degree in Agricultural Science. She later worked at a horse-breeding farm.

Dawn met Ed while camping. It seems that Dawn's mom and Ed's dad grew up as neighbors, so the families had known each other for some years. Dawn and Ed married, and moved to Washington Twsp, Morris County in 1987. They have four children: Ed, Jr., Thomas, Lindsay and Amy.

Dawn enjoys gardening and needlework and puzzles such as crossword, jigsaw and sudoku. She is also very much involved in the guide dog program her daughters are involved in.

How does Dawn get involved at St James? In addition to being the new Junior Warden, she has served on the Vestry in the past. Dawn is the leader of the Youth Group and coordinates many activities for them. She supports many of St James' events. She and Ed can always be found repairing the church. The Modugno Family is responsible for the construction of the accessibility ramp on the outside of the Parish Hall.

Need caning or rushing done? Need to know what that is? Ask Dawn, as she does that in her spare time!



Meet Paul Bartkus-Outgoing Senior Warden

Paul Bartkus was born in Kearny, NJ and attended Kearny High School. He grew up Episcopalian, attending Christ Church in Harrison. As a teenager, he was an acolyte at the 8 o'clock service there (he's still an 8 o'clocker!).

Paul's mom, Dorothy Bartkus (also a member of St James) provided Paul with a strong music background. Paul was involved with choir and orchestra in high school and was a member of the New Jersey All State Choir. Paul met Phyllis in junior high when both were playing violin.

Paul graduated from Gettysburg College and attended Kean College, earning his masters in Educational Psychology and his Professional Diploma in School Psychology. He is employed at Blairstown Elementary School, first as a school psychologist and currently working as Director of Special Services.



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Paul and Phyllis were married on December 26, 1970. They are avid golfers. Their love is their black lab, named Sam. They base their vacations on dog-friendly activities and accommodations.

Paul gets involved in St James in so many ways. He was active on the Vestry as well as just rotating off as the Vestry's Senior Warden. He is a member of the Mission Strategy Committee (think Shop-Rite gift certificates), the Building Committee, Stewardship Committee, Worship Committee and Finance Committee. You can always find him doing something around the church, whether it is grounds maintenance, clean up and repair of the church, or adjusting the heat (that's a college degree in itself!). He and Phyllis are always cooking for church dinners and helping with the Rummage Sale and other church events.

Ask Paul where to find the best pizza in the country. He and Phyllis drove three hours in order to stand in line for another hour to sample

Roving Reporter and Photographer Barbara Olesen

Prayer Ministry – a reflection

A friend writes, "When my sister's oncologist messed up her chemo and wiped out white cells and everything else, the nurses were talking to me about Do Not Resuscitate. That was a number of years ago and since then she has worked a month in Azerbaijan, next to a conflict zone. ... My sister said that [when she was sick] she was aware of the dozens of people who were praying for her even though she can't remember much else about that time."

My friend and I are among the many who were praying for a critically ill and dearly loved member of a religious community. After several days when we didn't know if he would live or not, he began to recover. Weeks later he wrote, "Thank you for all of your prayers and all of the prayers of the people you got going for me. There were lots and lots of prayers. It seems I was really just this side of the Burial Office. God was good to me because I was so far out of it. I think I had the easiest time of anyone. I really didn't know what was happening to me, by the Grace of God."

Later, I'm talking with someone who doubts that prayer has much of anything to do with my friend's or anyone's well being. I ask, "How do you know you're not being prayed for by someone else?" She stops, without a word rushing to immediately reply, then slowly says, "I've never thought that people might be praying for me..." and opens her self to the possibility.



Three years ago, a few members felt called to begin a prayer ministry at St. James'. We would respond to requests from the rector on behalf of someone, and often their families, in immediate need of prayer support. Our own experience had revealed the great strength and comfort in knowing that others were praying for us or for loved ones. Now this ministry has twenty members, each one praying in his or her way and place, in response to someone's need.

Prayers have been requested for those about to have, during and recovering from surgery, or awaiting a diagnosis, for the protection of loved ones in the military, for those who have died and those who mourn, for families in crisis, for the unemployed; prayers of thanksgivings for healing, for births and weddings, and, any cause for celebrations.

There is no age, gender, physical or geographical restriction to joining the Prayer Ministry. Members are contacted by Email or by phone if Email isn't available. Please join in a communion of pray-ers.

Contact Cathy or Phyllis Heistand at 908.850.0372 or pdheistand@comcast.net.

Looking ahead to Holy Week:

Wednesday	April 12	Tenebrae	7:30 PM
Maundy Thursday	April 13	The Holy Eucharist	7:30 PM
Maundy Thursday	April 13-14	Vigil	9 PM to 12 NOON
Good Friday	April 14	Good Friday Liturgy (Hackettstown Community Service)	12 NOON
		Stations of the Cross	7:30 PM
Holy Saturday	April 15	Prayer	10:00 AM
Easter Eve	April 15	The Great Vigil of Easter	7:30 PM
Easter Day	April 16	Celebration of the Resurrection	8 AM and 10 AM

