

# St. James'



# Journal

*The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats, Rector*

*May 2006*

How beautiful is God's natural creation these days! I have uncovered warm earth in the garden by clearing out dead leaves and leftover foliage from last season. The daffodils came first, lighting up my path and appearing to say, "Spring is here!" even as they drooped in the night cold or awoke to a covering of snow. Now the green all around the garden is well established; not many blooms yet, but I can tell the shoots are getting ready, as if they have a secret. And one day I will arrive home from work to find a splash of pink color near the driveway.

It is the season of celebration in life as well as in the earth. It is the season of first communions, confirmations and graduations. In the Episcopal Church, it is also the season of ordinations. It is the season of new beginnings, milestones reached, futures anticipated.

Last week, an infant was brought into our midst and we promised that, with God's help, we would see that she would be "brought up in the Christian faith and life." This weekend, five young people and one adult made their own renewed commitment to Jesus Christ and life as his disciple in Christian community. . . Another adult took a new step in his Christian journey by, in effect, saying, "The Episcopal Church is the one I choose in which to live out my baptismal, and confirmation, promises." In about a month, we look forward to a woman's new vocational promise to God, also blessed by the church (that's us!) as we prepare for the ordination of Sheila Shuford as Deacon.

This is why we promise to "continue in the apostles' fellowship; in the breaking of the bread and the prayers": because as we nurture one another in Christian community, we witness the growth and struggle, the challenges and joys of each other's lives. We know the infant brought for baptism and her family because we see them each week at worship; we know the young people making confirmation because they participate in youth group or bell choir and before that, Sunday School. They fast for thirty hours to experience hunger, they are members of families who do continue in the apostles' fellowship, in worship and study and fun. (often accompanied by the breaking of bread!)

We know, or have met, the adults making new commitments – they worship and work in our midst, making gifts of themselves. And we know our Deacon Candidate, who gives herself to St. James' and the larger community in service: teaching us the language of sign, bringing the needs of the hard of hearing and Deaf to our awareness and for our action, teaching children in local schools about how to communicate with people somewhat different than themselves. At her ordination she will promise to "look for Christ in all others, being ready to help and serve those in need." We know that she has been living into this promise in all her time with us.

This is why in the midst of the "Prayers of the People," we pray for specific people. At times, we bring them in front of the community so we can all pray together for them and witness their new commitments to God, to each other and to the church. A baby is baptized, surrounded by family. We pray. Members of the congregation dedicate themselves to a new ministry: the care of the altar, the gift of music, the business of the vestry. We pray. An educational milestone is reached: graduation from high school or professional school or Education for Ministry. We pray. A couple will be married soon, a baby is born, two people who have shared their lives for ten or twenty years recommit themselves to each other, young people make an adult commitment We pray. A teenager begins to drive. We pray!

We will witness much celebration in the coming weeks. Most of it occurs in the Easter season, which is full of joy anyway. And so these glorious days of the season of resurrection are full of new commitment and milestones reached. Don't be surprised if you see new life about to burst forth like the wisteria: it is silent for a long while, and obviously strong through all manner of cold and wind. Its beauty is sudden and glorious, and its growth continues season after season.

Yours in the service of Christ,



## (Almost) Up On the Roof

The sanctuary looks beautiful now, but I think the choir is ready to sing the blues as they admire our new red carpeting from the vantage point of their rag-tag, multicolored, end-of-life carpeted balcony. We've been holding off on replacing that carpet, as well as repairing the balcony ceiling, until we fix those last leaks once and for all.

We spent a rainy Saturday doing church cleanup a few weeks ago. David Handville and I wandered up into the steeple to check out the water situation. The bad news is that we still have at least one leak. The good news is that we where it's coming from. I'll take that kind of progress anytime.

David ventured out onto the roof. I contented myself with the belfry tower – that's high enough, thank you. In the rain, it was apparent that it is time to replace the steeple roof. We also found water coming in under one of the belfry louvers – apparently the plywood sheathing in that area has been compromised. We know what to do next, and are planning to get some bids on these repairs.

That was one cold and rainy day. Looking out from the bell tower, I saw a number of hooded angels working on the grounds. I don't see angels too often, and I guess I tend to look up instead of over or down, but there they were. Thanks all for helping to keep our church the beautiful landmark that it is.



We should have the new front steps completed by the time that you read this. There is something amusing (I KNOW that there is a message here SOMEWHERE) and frustrating about our inability to make our front entrance fully accessible, but it just can't be done without moving the entire

church back from the street. This just underscores the need to get our building project underway. We do have two construction bids in hand, with two more on the way. The Vestry has started analyzing the bids we have, and is preparing for the crunch of reviews and negotiations still to come.

So little by little, we will get there. And when we do, we'll be called to the next place. As for me, I'll find someone to go back up on the roof to see if they can spot that destination.

*David Olesen*

## Wardens' Words

When we first started coming to St. James, our youngest daughter, Amy, was about 5 years old. I didn't know she listened to sermons, but one particular Family Sunday, the homily was about how we can see the face of God in other people. A few minutes into the sermon, she poked me in the side, pointed to the priest and whispered, "I thought he was God." I smiled and whispered back that he just "worked" for God and was helping us learn about God. Amy nodded her head, but a few minutes later she poked me again, pointed to a picture on the reredos and asked, "How about him? Is that God?" Again I explained that it was just a picture and that no one really knew what God looked like.

Later we talked about all the different ways people "see" God. I gave what I felt were the right answers; how some people see God in other people, how some can feel God around them, and how we have God inside all of us. I told her God is love and God is always with us. I wasn't sure she really understood, but was soon to be reminded how perceptive children are.

A few months later, we invited my mother-in-law for dinner, but she declined. Amy was disappointed and didn't understand why Grandma wouldn't come. I explained that since Grandpa had died, she didn't like driving home alone at night. She gave me a puzzled look and said, "But she won't be alone. God and Jesus and Grandpa will all be with her! How's that for faith? The rest of us thought the car would be empty, but for Amy it would be full.

In today's world, it seems the more we know and learn, the more questions we have. However, there are some things we can know for sure: God is in the people around us, God is in us, God is love and God is always with us.

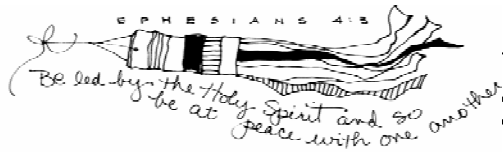
*Dawn Modugno*

## Vestry Highlights

From the April 27 meeting:

- ✦ The Vestry approved a request of the Fundraising Committee to hold a Tricky Tray in the fall.
- ✦ Vestry concurred with the Finance Committee recommendation to sell the following stocks held in the Snyder Memorial Fund: International Paper, Honeywell and AT&T
- ✦ Church steps replacement job was reviewed. This project will fully reveal the cornerstone (1859), provide accessible handrails and make the church entrance more inviting.





## May dates &

May 6 Confirmation  
 May 7 Family Breakfast Family Service  
 May 17-24 Rector's Vacation (week 1)  
 May 25 Vestry Meeting Chapel 7:30 PM  
 Columbarium Presentation- Chapel - 7:30 PM  
 (part of Vestry agenda)  
 May 29 Church Office Closed for Memorial Day

## June dates to keep in mind

June 3 Diaconal Ordination 10:00 AM  
 June 4 Parish Picnic  
 Independence "Field of Dreams" Park  
 June 11 Choir Recognition  
 June 18 Honoring our Graduates  
 June 25 Sending Tom Malejko forth with Godspeed

## Have you seen the new look of St. James'?

It seems as if a few projects we have worked on for years are being completed in (relatively) quick succession: pew cushions arrived in time for Easter, lending a soft glow to the new carpet installed in January. By publication time, the front steps may have been completely replaced and plans for new railings will be in the works. All was accomplished with hard work and expertise of the Vestry and Linda Murray, Parish Administrator and Vestry Clerk, under the direction of the Rector and Wardens. We are so grateful for your faithful donations to the Capital Improvement Fund (blue envelopes), which makes this work possible

## Columbarium Presentation

The vestry will hear a presentation from the Creter Vault Company representative, The Rev. Bill Robertson, at their regular monthly meeting, Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 PM. All interested people are invited to attend. We will hear how a columbarium can benefit St. James' by providing a place for burial of cremated remains in the Lady Chapel, maintaining the look and feel of the space, and giving people the choice to be interred in their church home. The meeting will be held in the chapel and is preceded by the Holy Eucharist at 7:00 PM.

**Sheila Shuford  
will be ordained  
Saturday, June 3, 10 AM  
Trinity and St. Philip's Cathedral  
of The Diocese of Newark  
Newark NJ**

**Thanks be to God !  
Alleluia, alleluia !**

## Annual Picnic June 4 Independence, NJ 'Field of Dreams' Park

8:00 AM service at St. James' as usual; 10:00 AM service will be held at the park. Fully accessible park with paved walking trail, wheelchair accessible restrooms, sheltered pavilion for cooking out and plenty of space for fun and games! Bring your favorite side dish to share; burgers and dogs and drinks provided.

## Graduates to be honored Sunday, June 18

Is your name missing from this list? Here is the list of graduates we have assembled from your calls – please call the church office *immediately* if you are a graduate and your name is not here!

**College Graduates:** Michael Critchley, Eric Olesen

**High School:** Emily Stout, Jen Pixley, Laura Pursel,  
Tom Malejko, Lily Wang, Jasmine Wang  
Maureen Dutton, Justin Bach

**Education for Ministry:** Patti Worthington,  
Jerry Sheard

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Conor Brewster, Kevin Honigsber



## Notes from the Music Director Senior Choir News

You may have noticed a new face in the Senior Choir recently! That face belongs to Diana Grant, someone we've been trying to get into the Choir for some time now but her work schedule made it difficult. We're really glad she's here finally so please take a moment to welcome her when you see her! The Choir was quite busy over Holy Week singing at several weeknight services as well as both services on Easter Sunday. With a full group at Easter, they sounded terrific and I really want to thank them, and Louise, Sandy and Sandy's husband, for the extra time they all gave to provide us with wonderful musical enhancements to all those services!

As always, we welcome anyone to join us for Thursday evening rehearsals starting at 7:30 in the church and Sunday morning worship with rehearsal at 9 AM!

## Children's Choir News

This Easter season, due to many conflicts with sports and family travel, our Children's Choir was small. But, we had two very eager, very energetic, very brave and very committed young ones sing for us at the 10 AM Easter service. They did a fine job!! Not-quite-four-year-old Hayden Smith and just five-year old Xander Reyes did a wonderful job with "Angels, Roll the Stone Away"! I want to thank them and their parents for their commitment to rehearsals! They are a pleasure to work with! But, Xander and Hayden miss their old singing friends and hope that some more of our young ones will come to join them on Tuesday evenings from 6pm – 6:30 in the church as they prepare for their next singing date. Children ages 3 – 12 are welcome to join.

## Thank You

I can't say it too many times: thank you to Louise for her dedication and willing nature and for once again bringing to us her friend Sandy. Sandy not only blessed us with her wonderful trumpet skills again but this year also sang a very moving piece from the Hebrew service. With Sandy came her husband who was pretty willingly roped into singing with the choir on Easter Sunday!

### Choir Dates to Remember

Tuesdays 6:00 – 6:30:PM	Children's rehearsals
Thursdays 7:30 – 9:00 PM:	Senior. Choir rehearsals
Sunday May 14 or May 21:	Children's Choir
	Recognition Day
Sunday, June 11:	Senior. Choir Recognition Sunday

*Pam Laura*



## From the Organist and Bell Choir Director

## Thank You

Thank you to the participants in the 30-hour famine who polished the bells. It was great to open the bell cases on Sunday and see the sparkling bells! Thank you very much for a job well done.

Thank you to Candy Brewster for a delicious breakfast on April 30 for those of us who were at both services. We enjoyed doing the Taizé Music for both services and really appreciated the fine food. It was great to have time to eat, relax and talk.

Correction:

Last month my article welcomed a new bell choir ringer and I gave the incorrect last name. We welcome Diana Grant to the choir.

*Louise Olshan*

## Altar Guild

Holy Week and Eastertide are very busy times for the Altar Guild. Lots of set-up, changes in frontals and parameters, and all those flowers to arrange! My sincerest thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the Church look so beautiful and everything run smoothly.

Because change can be a good thing, we are interested in feedback from the members of the congregation regarding Easter flowers this year. Should we stick with the St. James traditional mix of lilies, hyacinths, and tulips? Should we try other plants (depending on the availability) or maybe a different color scheme? Do we need more or less plants or maybe use just a single variety? What worked and what was a distraction? Please email me at [wec@verizon.net](mailto:wec@verizon.net) with your suggestions.

On April 29, we welcomed Carol Homer, a member of the Diocesan Altar Guild and a parishioner at Church of the Messiah in Chester. She shared her expertise regarding tips for preserving the priest's vestments, as well as techniques for saving old embroidered linens by using these pieces to create our own purificators etc. Carol is a talented ecclesiastical artist and simply wowed us with samples of her own embroidery.

And finally there was the celebration of our ministry and rededication of the members at the 8 AM and 10 AM services on April 30.

*Meg Critchley*



## Holy Week...a reflection

From the procession on Palm Sunday to the Great Vigil of Easter to our glorious Easter Day, we reflected on the last week of Jesus' life on earth, his death and resurrection. We blessed the palms and were led through our neighborhood by cross and incense; some did stop to stare. As we entered the church, still in triumphal procession, the mood changed subtly, then more forcefully as the passion story was read. We heard the voices of the servant girl and Pilate coming from different parts of the sanctuary. On Wednesday, the liturgy of Tenebrae (a service of shadows) drew us into the darkness of the tomb, all the while assuring us of the light of the resurrection. The footwashing ceremony of the celebration of the Last Supper reminded us of our promise to "seek and serve Christ in all persons." The sanctuary was then transformed from the beauty and poignancy of the last Eucharist to the desolate emptiness of the garden.

We kept watch all night and until the moment Jesus was led away to die. His scream echoed in our hearts as he faced a tortured and lonely death. Late that night, we followed his footsteps again in the tradition of the church called the Stations of the Cross. On Holy Saturday we paused, just for a few moments, to pray and remember Jesus in the tomb even as we reverently prepared the sanctuary for the joy of resurrection. Darkness came again, and we struck new light. The light was brought into the space of worship as we recounted the story of our redemption. As the bells rang out, colored paper alleluias flew down from the balcony, showering us with joy. On Easter Day, the light of Christ shone brightly in the sun, which warms our earth. The sound of the trumpet, the voice of song, alleluias strong enough to overcome their absence in Lent – this was Easter.

**Alleluia; Christ is risen!  
The Lord is risen indeed; alleluia**

## A Walk Through Holy Week

On Good Friday, the Lacouture family had the good fortune of being able to attend the storytelling program at Panther Valley Ecumenical Church. We were greeted by a friendly pastor and families ready to tell the stories of Holy Week. They had props (toy donkeys, palms, pita bread, grape juice, and others), skits, and music they had prepared to "show and tell" all of us the journey of Christ in the final days before Good Friday.

All who attended enjoyed the program because it was relaxed, colorful, and even had some humor. St. James was invited to attend and PVEC plans to include us again next year. If you can spare the time, it is a family-friendly way to illustrate the events of Holy Week.

*Kathy Lacouture*

***Easter thank-you's*** may not be expected, but who could have missed the renewal of the sanctuary (vestry, wardens, administrator, sexton), beauty of the grounds (Candy Brewster and all our maintenance workers), music (Pam, Louise, ringers and singers of all ages, trumpet soloist Sandy Rosenfield, holy week and Easter "setting the scene" (Altar Guild under the direction of Meg Critchley, Liturgy coordinator Russ Worthington), devoted service at the altar in a very demanding time (Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes and Lectors) and all the behind the scenes work (Jerry and friends, providers of food for hungry musicians, Ushers and everyone who delivered flowers to our folks who cannot make it to church). The biggest thank-you goes to the unknown and/or unnamed people who just cleaned up, opened up or set up to make our Holy Week and Easter magnificent!

*Cathy +*

## Behind the scenes on Maintenance Morning – "Singin' in the Rain"



Cathy

Spring maintenance morning began in a light drizzle but soon outdoor workers were drenched! However, spirits were not dampened as the garden beds were cleaned and prepared for planting and beautified for Easter, air conditioners and screens were re-installed. The brass was polished, palms arranged and the sanctuary was prepared for Holy Week. Prep work for the Rummage Sale was also tackled. You might have spotted Marie Garcia, David Handville, David Olesen, Barbara White, Meg Critchley, Barbara Olesen, Ted and Cathy Deats, Ellen Infante, Candy Brewster, Claudia Scala, wielding various tools of renewal (i.e., rakes, polishing cloths, screwdrivers.)



Ted

## Sunday School News

- May 7 Family Sunday No Sunday school  
May 14 Mothers Day Children in church;  
plants to be distributed  
May 21 Parable Story  
May 28 Last day of Sunday school Party

The last week of Sunday School will take place over Memorial Day weekend and we will celebrate all that we have learned! This Sunday School year has been very rewarding for the teachers, thanks to support provided by the clergy, the consistency from the parents, and the enthusiasm of the students. We have had excellent attendance and we are confident that Godly Play is "sinking in" after three years of this curriculum. Please consider becoming a teacher next year. Thanks to everyone for making this year and we will see you in September!

*Kathy Lacouture*

## Junior Youth Group

We are winding down and ended the month of April with a talk about Smart Living and Special Mothers. Due to Family Breakfast and ten Mother's Day in May, we have only one regularly scheduled meeting for May 21. We will discuss when to talk or not to talk and plan our end of the year party, which will be on May 28.

The year has passed by quickly and it's been my pleasure!

*Lori Jo Pursel*

## Youth Group News

Youth Group will finish up the school year this month with a discussion May 14, on "Eco-Christianity". We will talk about how we, as good Christians can help take better care of the world God has given us. We will have our spring game and party on either May 21 or May 28 depending on attendance. Check the calendar in the parish hall for details.

We will break for the summer from June-untill September. Questions or comments? See *Dawn Modugno*

## New member of Modugno household

Although Dayne has graduated from the Modugno household and returned to The Seeing Eye in Morristown (for assignment as a dog guide for a blind person), a new puppy has arrived to be loved into shape!! Please welcome Merlin (but please ask before greeting him!

## The Adult Forum for April

DJ Hoffman shared his love of serving others through his presentation about personal finance and stewardship. DJ, who spent several years as a Resident Advisor on university campuses, has found a new vocation in assisting people with financial planning. He especially likes working with young families, and helped us all understand the "rule of 72" (ask him about it!) and how to balance giving with financial realities of life. Most helpful was his emphasis that we all have a normal fear of not having 'enough', and there are ways to use that anxiety to help us come to terms with our financial life. *Thank you, DJ!*

## Fundraising Events

Our newest committee is producing great results and having some fun doing so!

You are welcome to join the Fundraising Committee, either as a member (meetings are regular, and short and to the point!) or perhaps you have an idea for a fundraiser or a way to contribute to the fundraising effort (a la Roberta Brandt and her Longabarger Basket fundraiser). See Tom Kimpland or Barbara White.

The vestry had set a challenging goal for the budget for 2006 -- \$8,000. Some of this budget line item comes from regular sales of ShopRite gift cards. – In 2005, \$1385.75 was raised for the general operating fund. The ShopRite gift card effort first funds the Mission Strategy (outreach) Committee (in the amount of \$500, which is our income from selling \$10,000 worth of cards). Mission Strategy recently announced the meeting of this goal in April, so all proceeds for the rest of 2006 go to our operating fund. (*Keep buying those cards, which cost you nothing!*)

The Fundraising Committee recently reported to the Vestry that as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, a total net of \$3977.30 has been raised through the Rummage Sale (see report on page 7), Pizza Card Sales, Spaghetti Dinner, sales of Mother's Day Corsages, and any designated donations (money given specifically for this line item).

Newer efforts include recycling of ink cartridges (computer printers only!) and cell phones (phones only; no adaptors, accessories), and participation in igive.com (do you shop online at all? be sure to join igive.com before you do – St. James' receives a percentage of sales at no cost to you).





## Meet Catherine Norris Brewster

“Candy” was born in Queens and grew up in Monmouth County. She loved swimming and was on the swim team as well as a lifeguard and swimming teacher. She attended school at the University of Southern California (USC) and graduated with a degree in psychology. After college graduation, she taught kindergarten.

Candy has three boys, Brian, Kevin and Connor who she co-parents with Towney Brewster. They attend events and vacation together. Brian is attending UC Santa Barbara, Kevin is attending Drexel, and Connor attends Warren Hills Middle School.

Candy works in Social Services. Currently, she is a youth services consultant for the Warren County Human Services Department.

In her spare time, Candy loves to garden swim, run and read. She runs the St. Fiacre’s Guild (the beautiful gardens around St. James’) as well as the Hospitality Committee. She is a current and past member of the Vestry and supports many other church ministries and events.

Love drama? Ask Candy about her acting stint in college dramas!

*Roving Reporter & Photographer Barbara Olesen*



## Meet Peg Faust

Peg was born in Kearny, NJ and moved to Lake Hopatcong when she was five years old. Growing up, Peg loved playing sports. In addition, she was a cheerleader for four years at Roxbury High School.

After graduation, Peg attended Presbyterian School of Nursing in Newark. She married, and she and her husband adopted two children. After nine years of marriage, Peg was divorced and later married to Harry Faust, who had five children. They then had a child together, thus bringing the total of children in the family to eight!

Peg finished her Masters in 1984. She is currently working on her Doctorate at Drew University.

When asked what she likes to do in her spare time, she said she loves to go to rummage and yard sales (no surprise there!). Not needing anything for herself, she buys for others, such as the seniors in the nursing home where she works. She considers herself a soldier ant, and it is therapy for her and Harry.

Peg has been a member of the St. James’ Vestry and has run the Rummage Sale for a number of years. Her wisdom and guidance have helped make this year’s sale such a success. You can see Peg and Harry supporting various St. James’ activities.

Peg told me that her father took her and her sister to Scotland and Ireland when they were young to show them where he grew up. Talk to her about it!

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## Spring Rummage and Bake Sale

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On Friday April 21st and Saturday April 22nd, St. James' held a Spring Rummage and Bake Sale in the Parish Hall. We were able to raise **\$2,462.50** through the time, talent and treasures of those supporting the sale. We would like to thank those inside and outside of our parish, family and friends, that donated merchandise or baked goods, helped to set up and pack up, worked at the sale selling our goods, and donations of money to the sale.

Special thanks go to Peg Faust for guiding us through our first time at doing this. Also, thanks to Cathy Deats and Ron Aloisio for print and radio

advertising, and Phyllis Heistand for designing the town flyers. We're already planning to make the next sale as successful as this one!

*Barbara Olesen & Barbara White*



Our fearless leaders & Dame Peg of Rubbish

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**For Weekly Announcements and what's  
happening now at St. James',  
visit our Webpage:**

<http://saint.james.church.home.comcast.net>

**Russ Worthington, Webmaster**

### June Journal articles due Tuesday, May 30

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Jr. Warden: Dawn Modugno  
Treasurer: Penn Pixley  
Parish Administrator: Linda Murray  
Music Director: Pam Laura  
Organist: Louise Olshan  
Sexton: Pauline Volkert  
Vestry: Candy Norris Brewster

Cheryl Crisp  
Jane Eager  
Ellen Infante  
Tom Kimpland  
David Lacouture  
Dan Miller  
Jerry Sheard  
Russ Worthington



*Happy  
Mother's Day*