

St. James'



Journal

The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats, Rector

July/August 2006

"It's a girl!"

This pink button popped up at the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ohio last week. It could have been a joyous announcement of the two babies born in our community in the last several weeks. Instead, it was an announcement of the election of our new Presiding Bishop, primate of The Episcopal Church of the United States of America. In small print below the announcement, the button reads, Katharine Jefferts Schori – 18 June 2006.



The Episcopal Church, 30 years after it allowed women to become priests and bishops, has elected a woman as its Presiding Bishop. Katharine Jefferts Schori, 52, bishop of Nevada, will not only be our first woman primate (the term given to the chief bishop or archbishop of a province) but the first woman primate in the Anglican Communion. She is a former oceanographer, an airplane pilot, mother, wife, and priest. Her vision to lead the church includes a passion for mission and a strong commitment to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. One of her first responses to her election was to look forward to the challenge because, "If we're going to use the fullness of the gifts that we've been given, it means we have to continue to be stretched." (PBS interview 6.21.2006)

Those present for Bishop Jefferts Schori's election liken it to the rushing of the wind of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. No one really expected her election: a woman, ordained a scant 13 years, bishop of a small diocese, not very well known. Eminently qualified in non-traditional ways, chosen by her colleagues in the House of Bishops, her election was joyfully confirmed by the House of Deputies.

Almost immediately, there were rumblings heard from the Anglican Communion poised to watch this Convention for Episcopal Church's response to the

Windsor Report, a document written by the Lambeth Commission on Communion in response to the consecration of The Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson. Focused on how we would respond to the homosexuality debate, the Archbishop of Canterbury and our sister provinces seemed as surprised as we were by the result of the Presiding Bishop election. The ECUSA was then criticized, from within and without, for 'adding fuel to the fire' of controversy. It was as if the Episcopal Church had deliberately added insult to injury by electing a woman.

Although the Episcopal Church has ordained women to the priesthood since 1976, three Episcopal dioceses – Fort Worth, Texas; Quincy, Ill.; and San Joaquin, Calif. – currently do not allow women to be ordained as priests because they believe it is prohibited by Scripture. Only the United States, Canada and New Zealand currently have women bishops, and several of the 38 provinces in the Communion do not allow women to be ordained as priests, much less bishops.

It remains to be seen what happens now. At the next gathering of Bishops or Anglican Communion leaders, will ECUSA be included? What kind of conversation and communion will we be able to have? I am deeply committed to staying at the table. I believe people need to be and deserve to be respected and, at almost all times, listened to. But I am sure most of you share the frustrating experience of trying to allow a voice to be heard and realizing the voice belongs to someone who has stopped listening. At times there comes a point at which the listening is destructive. Are we at such a point now in the Anglican Communion? I honestly don't know. People with much more knowledge than I of the workings of the organization will continue the work at the table of meetings and conventions. I will continue my work at the table I have been called to here and now.

Continued on next page

One of the most attractive qualities of the Episcopal Church to me is its commitment to allowing disagreement while we work out our salvation with fear and trembling. I appreciate the ability to live in holy tension while we are in the only business God cares about, “to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.” As ECUSA and the Anglican Communion continue to struggle with theology and identity, with welcome and vocation, there may be only one thing to agree on for now: we must be the church. We *need* to be the church, for the sake of the world as well as for ourselves.

Wardens' Words

Duty

My son Eric gave me an unexpected Father's Day gift: the nonfiction book “Duty” by Bob Greene of Chicago Tribune fame. The book discusses fatherhood, the concept of duty and what service to your country means, or at least what it USED to mean. One of the central characters in the book is Paul Tibbets, who piloted the Enola Gay on its fateful journey to Japan. During a series of interviews with Greene, he said:

“I cannot communicate with people who are less than sixty years old. It's as if all of us in this country know the same words, but we don't use the words the same way. We speak different languages”. This really resonated with me.

I grew up in cynical times – the Vietnam War was dragging on and it seemed that the country was tearing itself apart. Chicago, Tet, Kent State, My Lai. The military, and in particular the returning veterans, were largely vilified by the public. In those times, I could not understand why anybody would enlist and *choose* to serve.

In the years since, I married into a family with a background of military service and read a lot of history along the way. I have the privilege of working with active duty and retired soldiers every day. And I understand them just a bit more than I once did.

So Tom Malejko's sendoff was special for us. His family, and the community of St James', has given him what he needs for the days ahead at the U.S Military Academy at West Point. It was inspiring to hear from the veterans on the altar. I got chills when the veterans in the congregation stepped forward to support Tom and see him off.

I am still this side of 60, but I get it. Thanks to all our veterans that call St James' their parish home. And thanks to Tom Malejko for stepping up to serve our country. Godspeed.

David Olesen

If we are confused about how to do that, we need only go back to our baptismal promises. Read them daily. Meditate on them. Ask God to show us how we are to live into them. That is how we can follow Jesus' command, “Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” (Mt 9:13)

Yours in the hope of Christ,

What is it about . . .

What is it about a puppy? They make us all smile and feel good without even trying.

Most of you know we welcomed Merlin, our fourth Seeing Eye puppy, into our house a few months ago. He is a male golden retriever, almost four months old, and has attended church twice already. He slept through both services and no one thought badly of him. How come we can't get away with that?

Puppies are born excited about life. They wake up joyful every day. They like everyone, love unconditionally and forgive quickly. Imagine if people were like that?

My father always says that every day we wake up is a good day. Puppies apparently know this. We have to get up very early to let the puppy out. None of us look forward this chore, but oddly enough, Merlin is so full of energy for a brand new day and so excited and happy to see whoever comes for him, that they inevitably "catch" the same spirit. So, what is it about a puppy that makes us happy? It doesn't really matter, we are glad to wake up smiling.

Dawn Modugno

Vestry Hi-Lites

- Handbell refurbishing approved.
- Handrails to be completed by end of July.
- Fundraising dinners are becoming known and attract out-of-town guests. Ham dinner receipts were \$620 (expenses not all in). A Holiday Concert is being planned, and Tricky Tray organizational meetings are underway.
- Sunday School survey indicates that timing of Sunday School during worship service, while not ideal, is preferred by parents and teachers presently.

Seek and serve Christ in all persons

Dates to remember in July and August

- July 2 One service at 9:00 AM followed by Fellowship on the front lawn
- July 8 Rain date for July 4th Celebration in Blirstown St. James' to sell ice cream
- July 27 Vestry Meeting Mitcham House 7:30 PM
- July 29 - August 5 Episcopal Appalachian Ministries
- Aug 20 Holy Baptism

Dates to remember in September

- September 3 Return to two Services at 8:00 & 10:00 AM
- September 10 Homecoming Sunday & Dedication of Front Steps
Sunday School Registration
- September 17 Sunday School Classes Begin



Summer Office Hours

Weds, Thurs, Fri: 8:00 – 12:00 Noon
Office Administrator on Vacation: July 1 – 15
phone messages and email monitored

July 4th Celebration in Blirstown postponed while field dries out! Rain date Saturday, July 8th

St. James' is to sell ice cream at the North Warren 4th of July Americana Celebration!

Exhibits of artists, farmers, health and wellness, and businesses are scheduled along with a "Patriotic Canine Contest"! Bring your pooch, dressed in Red, White and Blue to compete (winner announced 3 pm). Spirit of Americana Bake-Off (winner announced noon)! The day begins with a flag raising at 11 am, and runs until 5 pm. Let Barbara White (732-644-7499) know if you can help!

EAM Trip July 23rd – 29th

Plans are finalizing for our fifth Episcopal Appalachian Ministries Trip! Seven St. James' folks are ready to sheetrock, hammer and paint – Audrey Critchley, Bill Critchley, Mike Malejko, Brian Nolan, Jen Pixley, Russ Worthington and Cathy Deats. We send them off with a blessing July 23rd, but they actually depart from St. James' Saturday, July 29th at 9:30 am. Come for the send off if you are in the neighborhood!

Holy Baptism August 20th 9:00 AM

Our two newest members will be baptized in August - Briana Elise Corry, daughter of Adam and Angie Corry and Courtney Marisa Keane, daughter of Brian and Nicole Keane. We will joyfully welcome them into our fellowship, especially since they have been with us all along!

"For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb." – Psalms 139:13

Summer Liturgy

Our summer liturgy is taken from the Episcopal Church's Supplemental Liturgical Texts, a collection of liturgies for alternate use by churches. The text chosen has been modified in order to reflect a Native American worship flavor. Our Assistant Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Carol Gallagher, is the first (and only) Native American Woman Bishop in the Episcopal Church. She has brought to the Clergy of the Diocese of Newark not only prayers and different ways of worship, but also the sense which Native American worship has of the holiness of the earth and the oneness of creation.

Over the summers, we have worshipped in the Celtic tradition, we have followed the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer, and have used other Supplemental Texts. We hope you will find some new way to see God this summer, which will enhance your worship experience.

Maintenance Morning

This was our **to do** list on June 24th. Plan to join us next time!

*Paul and Phyllis
Bartkus
David Olesen,
Candy Brewster,
Barbara White,
Cathy Kahl
Ted and Cathy
Deats*

To do

- ✓ fixed the front Mitcham House Door
- ✓ cleaned out upper room in Mitcham (take a look!)
- ✓ load of trash to the dump via Candy
- ✓ refrigerator in Parish Hall cleaned out
- ✓ Parish Hall cleaned out
- ✓ flowers planted
- ✓ weeds removed

Altar Guild

Summertime presents the perfect opportunity for anyone who would like to try out the ministry of Altar Guild. The single, 9 AM service means no one has to dash down early or double back to clean up. Liturgical colors usually stay in Green; there is little searching for and packing away of frontals. And there's the cool drinks and good fellowship on the Mitcham house porch when the work is done! Feel free to stop in the Sacristy and join us.

We have found a dry cleaners that is not afraid to take on the task of cleaning our vestments, frontals and paraments. **THE CLEANERS** (yes, that's the name) on Route 24 in Chester has graciously cleaned anything we have brought in to them since January including the huge white Jacobean frontal used at Christmas and Easter, as well as vintage vestments. The management of this business donates its services to churches as a way to minister to all congregations. I know that we at St James' have been truly blessed by their skills and generosity.

Meg Critchley

Penicillin for the Spirit?

When the book, The Sewing Room; Uncommon Reflections on Life, Love and Work by Barbara Cawthorn Crafton (Morehouse Publishing), landed in my hands, I was expecting a reading experience totally different than the one I got.

Perhaps because Crafton is a female Episcopal priest and because of the book's seemingly feminine title, I expected a sing-songy, rainbows and butterflies, Chicken-Soup-for-the-Soul-type of book.

In reality, I found the themes to be more Penicillin for the Spirit in that they didn't always go down easy and some readers may have an adverse reaction. But in the end, it was good for what ailed me.

Crafton's writing style is smooth and her outlook is very real - two attributes that make reading a pleasure in today's fluffy-lit world. Like life's journey, the stories aren't always sewn up with happy endings. Another benefit of reading this book is that I found I could put it down. The stories in essay form allowed me to pick up the book whenever I had a moment without losing my place in a complicated story.

Continue in the breaking of the bread and the prayers

Summer Flowers

In the June Journal: *We know we have wonderful gardeners in the congregation as well as folks who just happen to grow lovely flowers! If you are one of these individuals or families, please consider bringing a bouquet to church for display at the baptismal font.*

Zola Mills is one of those gardeners with two green thumbs. We thank her for the exquisite bouquets on two Sundays in June.

And worth repeating: *Please bring your offering any summer Sunday morning. Glass vases are available in the sacristy and can also be found on the back porch of Mitcham, in case you want to arrange your gift at home. We will post a sign-up sheet at the sacristy door, but often flower blooming cannot be accurately predicted! Should we be graced by multiple bouquets, be assured we will find a place for them. All flowers will be brought to our folks unable to be at church or given to someone celebrating a special day.*



Although hard to choose a favorite amongst her offerings, To Be or Not to Be, which revolved around the value of life even when the quality is radically diminished, deeply affected me. Crafton, former vicar of the Seaman's Church Institute, is also effective through several of her stories at putting a face on mariners. Lucky timing considering the gift of listening to our recent guest, Reverend Girard from the very same institute.

Bottom line: The book is thought provoking and gets a thumb's up. Recommended Readers: Women and Men, 25 and over.

If you have a spiritual book you'd like to see reviewed or a secular read to recommend, let me know.

Jewels Quelly

Editor's note: Not that Jewels isn't already busy enough with family and her catering. She said yes when I asked if she would lend her love of reading and her writing skills to reviewing books that might be of interest to Journal readers. You'll be seeing her reviews on a regular basis. I'll repeat her invitation to recommend books for review.

Strive for justice and peace among all people

Refurbishing the Handbells

Let's keep the bells of St. James' ringing! During this past year, members of the Bell Choir have increasingly experienced difficulty in getting some of the bells to ring properly. While Sam and I have done some adjustments, these changes do not last very long and may be lost even by the end of a rehearsal.

So I did some research and found that the bells we are using were manufactured in 1983 and purchased used by St. James'. There is no record at the manufacturer of any maintenance having been done on these bells throughout the years.

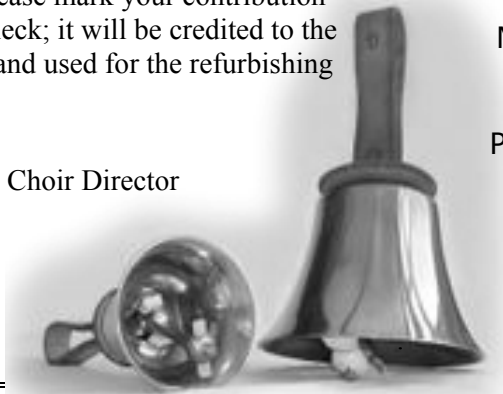
I submitted a proposal to the Vestry of St. James' to refurbish, clean, upgrade and adjust the bells. The proposal is for the Schulmerich Bell Company in Pennsylvania, a manufacturer of handbells, as well as carillon and other cast bells. The cost for refurbishing the bells will be \$1875 (a new set of bells lists for \$5025).

The good news is that the proposal was approved! The Vestry affirmed the value and beauty of the bell choir, as well as the hard work of the ringers. They are concerned with the maintenance of our investment in our musical instruments. The Vestry also noted in its approval that due to the many projects utilizing the Capital Improvement Fund this year, they wished to open an appeal (!) to the congregation for funds to defray this expense. (I will deliver and pick up the bells from the manufacturer in Pennsylvania so there will be no shipping charges.)

A member of our Vestry, Dr. Jane Eager, has made a generous special donation to the Capital Improvement Fund; the cost of more than half the contract is now in hand. This means that the work can begin sooner, and the bells may be ready for the fall season. A very sincere thank you to Jane for this wonderful gift! The members of the bell choir are all very thankful and appreciative of this support and are asking members of the congregation to donate *any* amount so that the bells can continue to add to the worship experience at St. James' while we continue to do the work necessary to improve all our property. Please mark your contribution "BELLS" on envelope or check; it will be credited to the Capital Improvement Fund and used for the refurbishing of the bells.

Louise Olshan

Multi-Generational Bell Choir Director



Bell Choir "Notes"

Many, many thanks to the members of the Multi-Generational Bell Choir for a wonderful year. I have enjoyed our rehearsals and really enjoyed the music that we were able to produce. I hope that our playing added to the worship experience of the congregation.

We ended the year on June 11 with two pieces. Since the names of the pieces were not in the bulletin, I will include them here. The prelude was *Soliloquy* from the Second Suite for Handbells by Michael Helman. If that sounds familiar, it is. The choir played this piece in February, but the choir members liked doing the piece so much (it uses a nice technique called echo) that they actually asked to play it again. Talk about making a director happy! Choir Recognition Sunday seemed like an appropriate time. The second piece was *Bread of the World in Mercy Broken* arranged by Michael Ryan.

St. James' Church is blessed to have such a dedicated group of musicians, willing to share their time and talent. Members for the 2005-2006 year were Joey Ayres, Wendie Germain, Chika Okoye, Sylvia Okoye, Tina Okoye, Sam Olshan, Brian Rolstad, Helen Wise and Russ Worthington. Joey and Brian joined us in November. Joey played with us through March and we hope he will rejoin us next year. Diana Grant joined us for one rehearsal and we hope she will join us in the fall. St. James' is also fortunate to have substitutes for the Bell Choir who can help out on short notice. Many thanks to Pam Laura for stepping in several times when a regular ringer was unable to attend or when more hands were needed. Thanks also to my sons, Steven and David Bernauer, who helped out during the year.

As organist and Bell Choir director I want to thank both Cathy and Pam for all their support and encouragement during the year. It is great to work with the two of them.

Louise Olshan

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Musicians...offer your gifts to our liturgy!
Do you play an instrument?
Sing solo or with others?
Please contact Pam Laura (908.850.8086)
to set up your musical offering.
We are looking for people to play / sing
all Sundays,
June 25 (10 am) and
July 2 - August 27 (9 am).

Summer Preludes and Postludes

From September through June, I am very careful to try to align my Preludes and Postludes with the hymns suggested for use in the all-important and very valuable book, *The Episcopal Musician's Handbook*. However, in the summer I take some liberty and develop a "theme" for the preludes and postludes. For example, two years ago I played several pieces from the Shaker tradition of worship

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the death of Johann Pachelbel. While there was much fanfare in January surrounding the 250th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, I have heard nothing concerning the Pachelbel anniversary. So this summer my "theme" will be to play music of Pachelbel for the preludes and postludes.

Johann Pachelbel was born in Nuremberg, Germany in 1653. He was an organist in several German Lutheran churches during his lifetime and considered to be one of the greatest organ masters of the generation before Johann Sebastian Bach. While working in Erfurt, one of his pupils was Johann

Christoph Bach, the older brother and guardian of Johann Sebastian Bach. Johann Sebastian Bach's son, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, stated that his father very much admired the works of Pachelbel.

While Pachelbel's church music was written for the Protestant tradition, he was familiar with the Catholic forms of music popular in Vienna and Italy. He is famous for his many organ chorales based on well-known Lutheran hymn tunes among other organ works. He is also well known as the composer of the much-recorded and popular Canon in D.

I will begin the summer theme with a version of the Canon in D for the prelude on July 2 and end with another version as the postlude on August 27. In between there will be several chorale preludes and fugues written by Johann Pachelbel.

Happy listening!

Louise Olshan
Organist



Education for Ministry – a graduate's reflection

How time has flown by with this four-year course of study. I could not have done it without all of my "classmates" (you know who you are) and our fabulous mentor (everyone knows who she is) and of course Russ who convinced me to take the course. However, that is putting the "cart before the horse".

A little over four years ago, I asked Cathy if there were any classes someone could take to learn more about the Episcopal Church since I was a recent "convert" and wanted to learn more about it. Cathy suggested Education for Ministry aka EFM. Russ whole-heartedly agreed. My brain was going "whoa, wait a minute here...I want to learn about the church, not become a priest or some other ordained person". As you can see, my background in religion gives rise to the idea that only ordained persons have a ministry. WRONG! I keep forgetting about the Baptismal covenant and confirmation.

I have learned many things these past four years. I have enjoyed the experience of being confronted by beliefs that are different than mine. I have enjoyed the "awakening of my inner-most being" to know that it is okay to believe differently, to be different, but also

to allow these same rights to others. I have enjoyed the fun, food (they don't call it Eating for Ministry for nothing!), and the study and learning.

I have appreciated everything my fellow classmates have brought to my studies. It has been wonderful to hear others studying the years I have already completed because it has given me a different perspective on those years. What I have most appreciated is the way my classmates and mentor have helped me to grow and learn and accept myself. My thanks to all of them.

For those who are thinking of taking EFM, I don't feel you can go wrong with doing so. Yes, it is a lot of time spent studying but the rewards are well worth it.

Education for Ministry....EFM....Eating for Ministry.... To me it is actually Equality for Ministry because we all start out equally with promises made at baptism and confirmation. Some just take that extra step to ordination. My ministry with Christ is important too and that is something I learned in EFM.

Patti Worthington



Meet Laura Pursel

Laura grew up playing soccer until 8th grade. She was a cheerleader and played basketball as well. In high school, Laura joined the fencing team. She is attending Cornell University in the fall, seeking an Animal Science Prevet degree. She hopes to one day have her own practice as a veterinarian. Laura loves the outdoors, and hiking and swimming are her favorites.

In case you haven't noticed, Laura and Tom Malejko have been dating for about seven months. We know they will miss each other as they begin their academic and military careers!

Meet Tom Malejko

Tom grew up in Allamuchy and loves playing sports, especially football and baseball. In high school, he joined the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the USAF, at Pictatinny Arsenal. He loves hiking, watching and participating in sports, and hanging out with his friends. He will be leaving NJ on June 26th for a 4-year appointment to the US Military Academy at West Point. He hopes his military career will point to engineering. After West Point, he will have 5 years of active duty and 3 years of reserve.

Ask Tom about his experience with sinking boats when you next see him home on leave!

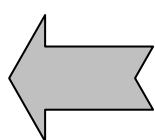
Roving Reporter & Photographer Barbara Olesen



High School Graduates honored at St. James' on June 18th



Cathy with high school graduates Maureen Dutton, Justin Bach, Laura Pursel, Tom Malejko, Jasmine Wang, Emily Stout, Lilly Wang, Jen Pixley



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

Continue in the apostles' teaching

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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

September Journal articles due Monday, August 28

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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

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Jerry Sheard

Russ Worthington

