

St. James'



Journal

The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats, Rector

February 2007

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 265)

When I was a child, the priest would invite us to the observance of “an holy Lent.” The old-fashioned wording appeals to me, in the same manner that the King James Version of the 23rd Psalm does. And as the words have changed over time, so has the meaning: what exactly *is* a “holy Lent”? There was a time when it was common to give up something for Lent – candy or smoking or talking back to your parents. We would joke about giving up broccoli or Brussels sprouts for Lent. “That is not the point,” the priest would point out. We were to give up something which we enjoyed in order to practice self-denial, remembering each time we wanted that piece of candy or to indulge our anger that God was all we needed, and that our self-indulgence was something to be denied as we learned to rely more and more on God alone. Then we entered a period in which we were encouraged to take something on rather than give something up: visiting the sick or studying the Bible.

Over the years, my own Lenten discipline has changed. As a child, I gave up the usual candy or cookies. As a teenager, I once gave up swearing (unfortunately, relapse does occur). In adult life, I went to Mass or Communion every day during Lent (most times in a Roman Catholic Church, since it is easier to find a church in that tradition where Mass is celebrated every day). Another year, I gave up lunch each day and gave the money I would have spent to The Salvation Army World Services (their version of the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund). Other years I “took on” something rather than giving up something: a Bible study, visiting a nursing home, making a retreat, or giving time to a food pantry.

Times and customs have changed. Our world is one, which moves much more quickly. The forty days of Lent are full of mid-term exams, Groundhog Day and plans for spring, and winter vacation. Multi-tasking is the order of the day. We are called upon to do more in less time. Technology allows us to do things faster, and so we can do more. We are expected to do more on the job, at home, and even at church. And no matter how fast we move, there always seems to be more to be done.

This Lent, I am making a new commitment; I invite you to join me in it if you too feel the pressure of too much to do in too little time, if no matter how good you get at multi-tasking, you still sometimes feel, as I do, that there has to be a better way. I am not sure there is a better way; but I am sure that I need to try something new. Here is the plan and my commitment: I will try this Lent to do one thing at a time. Sounds simple, but it is surprising how much multi-tasking I do. Here are some of the things I am guilty of:

- ☺ eating lunch in the car (nothing which requires too much attention or which is too messy)
- ☺ reading a book while drying my hair (all you need is something heavy to hold the pages open)
- ☺ reading a magazine while using the elliptical trainer (exercise can be so boring)
- ☺ working on the computer while watching TV (TV can be so boring)
- ☺ talking on the phone while preparing dinner (at least I am not eating it in the car!)

It isn't that I think these tasks are compromised by combining them, but maybe *I* am compromised by not giving my full attention to one thing. If ever I wondered why my mind wanders at prayer, this may hold some answer for me.

I know I am on the right track because when I think of doing one thing at a time, I break into a cold sweat. Feeling anxious about it and not wanting to do it is probably a good signal that I should at least try it. Doing one thing at a time sounds simple, but it may be too ambitious. Perhaps instead of promising to do one thing at a time during Lent I should say “one day a week” or “Monday Wednesday and Friday” during Lent. It may be that if I had some company in this experiment, I would feel more confident. We could talk about how it's going and compare notes.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent.

In God's Peace,

Vestry highlights

From the January 18 meeting

- Transition plans for coffee hour in the chapel were outlined.
- Plans were made to make the sacristy steps safer, and to find the best way to improve the access of the chapel steps during construction.
- The Columbarium letter to the parish will be sent in the next few weeks to invite members to participate in a special price for a pre-construction period.
- The Annual Meeting will take place in the Parish Hall following one service of Holy Eucharist on Sunday the 21st. We will move out the contents of the Parish Hall following the meeting.

Building Project Update

Moving day is past and we are approaching demolition day. There are final permits to be filed and financial arrangements to finalize. We are now operating only in the Church and Mitcham House for all programs, meetings and functions. Plans are in the works to hold future fellowship events off site. Keep up the prayers and watch for further news!

New meeting schedules

Sunday School all but first Sundays, 10 am,
2nd floor Mitcham House
Nursery all but first Sundays, 10 am,
2nd floor Mitcham House
Coffee Hour in the chapel following the 10 am
service

(See box on this page about 8 am service too!)

Education for Ministry (EFM) Tuesdays, 7-9:30 pm,
Classroom, 2nd floor, Mitcham House

Committee Meetings - please contact Linda Murray in the church office to schedule a meeting; there will be room for your meeting, but coordination is necessary! Calendar is posted in the Mitcham House Kitchen and on the website.

The 2006 St. James' Annual Report

is available! If you missed the annual meeting and want to see what has happened over the past year, please pick up a copy in the narthex. You will also find, inside the report, opportunities to serve and the 2007 budget.

The latest **St. James' Journey CD (2006)** will be available on February 10. This is the Rector's view of 2006 in pictures and song, playable on your PC. Enjoy it!

Report on Diocesan Convention

The St. James' Delegates (Val Hoskins, Brian Nolan and Patti Worthington), Clergy (Cathy Deats and Sheila Shuford) and Election Staff (Russ Worthington, Barbara White, Kathy Kahl and Barbara Olesen) will share their experience of the Convention held on January 20 with the parish on **Sunday, February 18th following the 8 am and 10 am services**. You will hear about the Convention from these many perspectives and learn about the direction our Diocese is taking in the context of the Anglican Communion, Northern New Jersey and in our Districts and congregations.

A note from the Elections Chair

A note of Thanks for Cathy Kahl (C2), Barbara Olesen (B1), and Barbara White (B2) for their help and support at the 133rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Newark. They served as Tellers for this convention. Above and beyond collecting ballots, this team of talented individuals helped to manually count the ballots. We had technical difficulties with the electronic system so a back up plan was developed and Team St. James' helped pull off the counting of 434 ballots.

Thank you ALL !!!

Russ Worthington



Coffee Hour and Family Sunday Continental Breakfast

We may not be able to host one of Jerry's famous breakfasts of bacon and eggs, pancakes and sausage, but we will continue our fellowship with a first Sunday of the month Continental Breakfast at 9:00 am. Served from the Chapel, you will enjoy bagels and other non-messy and non-crumbly treats, coffee and juice. We will have time of fellowship in the sanctuary as we stay connected during our time without a parish hall. ***Our debut will be Sunday, March 4th.***

We are also expanding coffee hour to include coffee and treats after both the 8:00 am and 10:00 am services. Please serve yourself in the chapel, and move into the sanctuary to enjoy that coffee or tea and fellowship.

Note: we know you will take special care of our carpets and pew cushions as you enjoy your treats, but accidents do happen. Rest assured we are ready for all kinds of emergency cleanup and ask only that you let our coffee hour hosts know about an accidental spill so we can take care of it immediately.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Parish Hall may be gone, but we still must eat! In the tradition of finishing up all the foods forbidden in Lent before Ash Wednesday, we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday with buttery, syrupy pancakes and sausages, hot coffee and milk for the kids! Our neighbors at Christ Episcopal Church in Budd Lake will join with us in this offering, with Jerry Sheard as chief chef -- so you know the pancakes will be yummy! Join us for a celebration of fellowship, which is not building-bound!

Tuesday, February 20
Serving 6:00 TO 8:30 PM
Christ Episcopal Church
Smithtown Rd and Sandshore Rd
Budd Lake (one block from Route 46)

Please contact Barbara White to sign up to help with setup and serving

barbarawhite_7@msn.com or 732.644.7499
Note underscore: barbarawhite_7



What is it like to be hungry? Youth of the parish will again fast for 30 hours in order to learn about hungry people around the world, experience a small "taste" of hunger, complete a service project for our community, and have some fun too. The Mitcham House is the scene of the action, beginning Friday, February 23

at 8:00 pm. Teens and chaperones will have fasted from 12 noon that day and continue to fast together throughout their activities, until 6:00 pm Saturday. Then they will be served a soup supper. You can help by pledging support to them. Their individual goals will be \$120 each. A donation of \$30 feeds a child for 30 days! Please watch for the young people after church and at coffee hour!



February 21

7:00 AM	Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes
12:00 NOON	Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes
7:30 PM	Choral Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes (with music)

Lent



Prayer for the good of the soul



Fasting for the good of the body



Alms giving for the good of our neighbor

Sunday School News

On January 14th, Sunday School classes began to meet in their temporary classrooms in the Mitchum House. So far everyone is comfortable and Godly Play lessons continue. The students are also enjoying the giant white board! Thanks to those who assisted in the move and made sure our altar made it safely to the Mitchum House.

In February, we will go on a Field Trip to the House of Good Shepherd to wish the residents a Happy Valentine's Day, by bringing greetings and cards made by the students.

February schedule:

- February 4 Family Sunday
- February 11 Trip to House of Good Shepherd
- February 18 Godly Play Lesson- Parable of Parables
- February 25 Godly Play Lesson- Lenten Puzzle

Kathy Lacouture



Youth Group

Youth group continues to meet upstairs in the Mitcham House on the second and fourth Sunday of the month during the 10:00 service. Our current topic is "School Struggles". We will collect money for the "Souper Bowl of Caring" on February 4, at the end of the Sunday services. This will go to the local food pantry. On February 23-24 we will participate in the 30-Hour Famine. Please support our teens in this effort. Last year we raised over \$1,000 for World Vision and world hunger.

Questions: *Dawn Modugno* or *Lori Pursel*

Episcopal Appalachian Ministries

It is not too early to make plans for this summer! Please consider a trip to Appalachia to help repair homes of folks who cannot afford to do so. Applications are now available in the office for the Appalachian Work Camp to be held July 29 – August 4. EAM is open to young people age 15 or over, or rising 10th graders (slightly younger; an exception may be made – speak to the Rector), and adults. This year EAM has expanded and we have 8 spots available. Think about it...pray about it...call for an application

March Journal articles due Monday, February 26, 2007

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Confirmation

The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith will visit District One (that's us!) for Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation on Saturday, May 19th at 10 am. The host church will be St. Dunstan's Church in Succasunna.

Confirmation class is forming with an exciting and varied schedule. Those who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation should contact the office immediately and make plans to attend the opening informational setting on **Thursday, February 15th at 7:00 pm in the Chapel** (regular chapel service at 7:00, meeting begins at 7:40.) Confirmation is the sacramental rite in which the candidates "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (BCP, p. 860). We ask that young people be ready to make this adult commitment, and be at least 13 or in 7th grade. (*Note: This is a benchmark which may not be appropriate for all young people, so please speak to the Rector if you have a question about your child.*)

We also welcome adults who wish to be received into the Episcopal Church and those who wish to reaffirm their baptismal vows when the Bishop is with us on May 19. Please make plans to be at the opening informational session February 15th. Those who were baptized at an early age and those baptized as adults without laying on of hands by a bishop may wish to make a mature public affirmation of their faith, recommit themselves to the responsibilities of their baptism and receive laying on of hands by a bishop (BCP, p. 412). Adults baptized with the laying on of hands by a bishop are considered to be confirmed.

Those who have returned from a time of religious inactivity to an active practice of faith may publicly reaffirm their baptismal vows. Others who have experienced a renewal of faith or desire to renew their Christian commitment may also reaffirm their baptismal vows. Reaffirmation may be repeated, depending on the pastoral needs of the person.

Please speak to the Rector or Catechist Russ Worthington regarding Reception or Reaffirmation, or if you have further questions about Confirmation.

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

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

Russ Worthington, Webmaster

Check out the latest slide shows!

Altar Guild

"Greening of the Church" is always a hectic event ...and this year just a bit more hectic as nothing could be done until after services on Christmas Eve morning. So there was little time to address any last minute omissions or snafus. Fortunately the Hallmark Gift Store in Mansfield had sufficient candles so that each of the pew candelabras could be lit for services. Many, many thanks to everyone who worked so hard setting up the Crèche, arranging flowers, hanging wreaths and roping, etc.

This year we did not use the usual red silk poinsettias on the Rededos. The new carpeting, seat cushions, and kneelers required that we rethink the traditional color scheme for the holiday decorations. Although I received many positive comments regarding the poinsettias, I am always open to suggestions. What about other varieties of seasonal plants? Should we consider more evergreens or perhaps Christmas trees? Would decorated wreaths be appropriate? A special thanks to the Scala Funeral Home who donated the two very large white poinsettias that graced either side of the Rededos.

As I mentioned in the Annual Report, there have been some problems with our regular floral vendor: flowers not delivered, colors incorrect for the liturgical season, and poor quality of arrangements. Although any one of the remaining four local florists have indicated that they would be happy to work with us, a change in our regular floral vendor would more than double the cost of the weekly arrangements and require a major change in the billing procedure. Two florists stated that they would require credit card information from flower donors and a third wanted to bill St. James' Church directly. Then our parish Administrator would have the task of collecting payment from the donor. At the request of our Rector, I will be working with Greenway Florist this year to insure that the floral arrangements add to the beauty of the liturgy.

Meg Critchley

Lenten Quiet Morning with The Rev. Jim Warnke, Curate at St. Paul's in Englewood, practicing psychotherapist and author of Becoming an Everyday Mystic.

Fr. Warnke will be with us on March 31st from 10 am to 1 pm. He will lead us in "Holy Week for Ordinary People." Take a few hours in this season of quiet and meditation to experience holy week in a new way. A light lunch of soup and bread will be served at 1:00, and you may enjoy informal conversation with Fr. Warnke.



A treasure lay hidden away and forgotten in the Mitcham House attic. That's where Barbara White discovered this cross as she worked to prepare the way and the space to store Parish Hall boxes, tables and chairs. After Barbara used an abundance of "elbow grease" to scrub off the long-accumulated grime, followed by vigorous polishing, a beautiful cross, inscribed with a 1907 date, was finally revealed.

Read it: The Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children

By Wendy Mogel, Ph.D.

This book touts itself as a guide to raising self-reliant children but it's more of a study in raising effective parents. Mogel's philosophy is geared towards parents of children who fall into that very wide spectrum of normal and the generalizations made in this particular review concur with her that there are certain behaviors that are clearly unacceptable. This book does not address disordered behavior.

Mogel explains that rabbis teach that children don't naturally behave in a civilized fashion. It's those behavior problems, most of which fall into gray areas that have so many moms and dads in a tizzy since each parent has a different threshold of anger, concern, alarm or propriety. The point is reinforced in my favorite chapter in a quote from pediatrician and psychoanalyst D. W. Winnicott that "a normal child...tries out his powers to disrupt, to destroy, to frighten, to wear down, to waste, to wangle and to appropriate." Wow. So good to know it's not just going on in my house!

Mogel's answer to that challenge is that parents need to teach their child how to control the energy of his yetzer hara (evil impulse). The worst side of your kid is also his best side, his source of all passion and creativity. Discipline means not only enforcing a set of rules but also accepting your offspring's temperament, respecting his limitations, and shoring up his strength. She offers practical, gentle successful answers to improving the family dynamic.

This book gets two cookies and a gold star from me. I recommend it for parents with children aged newborn to "still living under my roof".

Jewels Quelly



Bell Choir "Notes"



The Multi-Generational Bell Choir enjoyed a few weeks of rest following a very busy December. Rehearsals, held after the Coffee Hour following the 10:00 service, begin again on January 28. The choir will be preparing music for Lent and Palm Sunday.

If you would like to add some joy to the dull winter months, why not join Bell Choir?

Louise Olshan

Senior Choir



The Senior Choir continues to meet on Wednesdays through Wednesday, February 21. After that week, we will go back to our regular Thursday night rehearsals. Rehearsal times are unchanged, though, always 7:30 - 9pm!

We're planning on lots of 'Alleluias' for Sunday, February 18, which is the last Sunday before Lent and then we'll be looking to the Lenten season starting with Ash Wednesday on February 21.

Also, we waved a fond but temporary farewell to Joyce Forman early in January as she left for nice, warm Florida on her annual winter visit to her timeshare. She'll return in March and the choir will return to 2-part singing then!

Pam Laura

Senior Choir Goes to Prison

Our choir might have sounded a little ragged on Christmas Eve. It was all Pam Laura's doing. She sent us to jail the Thursday before Christmas so, of course, we didn't have choir rehearsal! You might be wondering why she did that.

It was actually an outreach trip made in conjunction with Grace Church in Madison. Pam had mentioned that Tim Evans of Grace Church was looking for singers to go to the North Bergen Correctional Facility to participate in a Lessons and Carols Service for the prisoners. The group from Grace has been doing this for the past nine years. Pam had gone in the past and found it to be a unique and moving experience, so Joyce Forman, Wendie Germain, and Helen Wise opted to miss the last practice before Christmas and join Tim's group at the jail.

I've always heard that it is difficult to get out of prison, but it isn't very easy to get in, either. There are some background and security checks that get done beforehand. However, we three were cleared and on Thursday, December 14, we traveled to Grace Church to join Tim and his group for the trip to Kearny.

Part of this outreach program is providing Christmas presents for the inmates' children since many of them

struggle financially when a parent is in jail. A young girl from Grace Church had even asked for presents for this purpose instead of gifts for herself at her birthday party! There were so many presents there almost wasn't room for us in the car-pooling vans. When we drove up to the door of the facility and unloaded, a guard asked what all those presents were and told us the gifts couldn't go into the prison because they couldn't see what the packages contained. Fortunately, the prison chaplain arrived on the scene and he took the presents in his van to a secured location for screening and distribution at a later time.

Once inside the building, we had to hand over our driver's licenses or other picture identification, and we were handed visitor passes to wear. Of course, they inspected the contents our pocket books. All communication devices had to be left at the desk, so Joyce had to leave her cell phone behind.

Finally, our group started to move into the facility itself. By this time we had been joined by others who were also participating in the program, bringing our number up to about fifteen. All of us, along with our keyboard, had to move in one group from the lobby through a locked door into a small room. Once we were all in that room the door behind us was locked. Only then was the door at the other end unlocked. It was like going through the lock of a canal.

Then we went down a long narrow hall smelling of disinfectant and into the gymnasium. Many chairs had been set up for the inmates facing the "stage" where we would be singing. This placed us on the other side of the room from the door going out! No easy escape for us! We got everything set up and went to another room to get ready.

Tim started the service for about seventy prisoners, many of whom had Bibles that they used to follow the readings. Lessons were read and carols were sung – some as sing-along with the inmates and some as "choir-only" pieces. There was a sermon given by a visiting priest, Bob Drake, followed by an "intermission" during which the choir members were able to meet the inmates to wish them a blessed Christmas and to hear some of their stories.

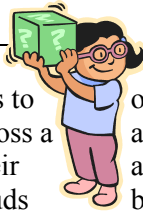
Shortly after we resumed the service, I noticed some of the guards stationed around the room looking a little uneasy. Then they started to move up slowly behind the prisoners. That made me a little uneasy, too!

Finally, they interrupted the service to say that the inmates had to go back to their cells. Once the prisoners had left the room, we picked up our things and went back through the series of locked rooms. We handed in our passes, collected our IDs, cell phones, etc., and walked out into the parking lot. Our mission was over.

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Moving Day



I don't know if I've ever met anyone who likes to pack up and move. Have you ever seen the look cross a friend's face when approached to help? Even if their answer is yes, the fog of trepidation and dread clouds their eyes, they breathe a sigh of hesitation and then, out of love and helpfulness, they break down, "Yeah, okay, I'll be there."

As "destruction day" (as my toddler calls it) looms near, there was little of that dreadful attitude evident on moving day held January 21 directly after St. James' Annual Parish Meeting. A large amount of work had already been accomplished in the form of packing boxes and emptying the kitchen cupboards, but there was still work to be done moving boxes to the attic, combining the kitchens and sorting through those bits and pieces that nobody really wants to deal with.

I spent my time in the kitchen. I knew that Jerry Sheard and I would be the best of friends when our particular styles were identified early on and they matched! "Are you a saver or a trasher?" I asked. "Ohhh, I'm a trasher," he replied confidently.

A few more antique altar treasures were unearthed from the basement and I had the pleasure of seeing Barbara White's excitement, even though she's been the patient soul who seems elected to polish them to their near-original splendor. We had a strong volunteer turnout and we all really got to know each other better simply working side by side doing a bittersweet job that nobody really likes doing but everybody did so well.

Jewels Quelly

and the stairs went up... and up... and up

It was time. The worship service was over and so was the annual meeting. We'd had our coffee and goodies. It was time to MOVE. All those things in the parish hall that need to go up into the Micham House, all the way up to the attic.

I grabbed three folding chairs (someone wisecracked about "Is that all you're carrying?") and followed others through the Micham House back door, through the kitchen and to the stairway. That's when it hit me – we were really supposed to carry these chairs all the way up. Deep breath and on we go. I joined the parade up the steps to the second floor. Kids and our marvelous teachers were still milling around there. Another breath and on around the spiral to the mysterious attic. I had never been up there. Steep angles of the roof in four directions, windowed triangles of wall (and they were bricked?) under the rough pitches of the roof, and old worn floorboards (some broken – had to watch

out for those) – quite a place. Felt like some stereotyped artist garret. The chairs went into their leaning stacks and it was back down to the parish hall. Hustle and bustle and watch your step, not to mention the others in this highly organized unorganized gang.

What was next? Ah, Eddy Modugno was grabbing up a table. So was Greg Malejko, by himself. Not for this kid (kid? Hah!). I found a partner, don't remember who, and we picked up each end of a table. We were off, maneuvering ours out the door, across the asphalt, through the back door, the kitchen and to the bottom of the stairs. And... ahh... will this work? It's a good thing the tables were reasonably short. It was amazing how people worked out a sort of spiraling flow, step by step around the corners and up and up. Yes, there were pauses but the parade kept moving into that attic to stack their tables into place against a wall. Nobody sat down and organized this – we all just did it, encouraging each other, joking along the way, looking out for each other. Of course, a real mob accumulated in that attic for a while since the road was pretty one-way as the tables came up. Ed Modugno was checking out how the attic was built. He too had noticed that the walls between the roof pitches were bricked between the wall studs. Big mystery there – why did the builders do that, we both wondered. And were all the walls down to the ground bricked up, also. Hmmm.

Oh, the one-way stairway was clear? Then, let's go, let's go, more tables, don't stop the flow. I did another table with a partner and, this time, on the way down, we paraded with the old green pew cushions to be stacked downstairs.

That was it for me – we had to get home. But the parade continued with boxes, everyone just doing it until the job was done. Bless the spirit, y'all.

Dave Heistand



Senior Choir Goes to Prison continued from page 6

This was a new experience for the St. James' choir members because none of us had ever been to a prison before. I now realize how much it means to be able to do what I want when I want. I like my freedom! On the whole, we felt it had been a worthwhile experience and hope that even though Christmas is a busy time, we will be able to do it again next year. If necessary, we could even shift the choir rehearsal so the church music will sound great, too.

Wendie Germain



Deacon's Eye View of the Consecration of The Reverend Mark M. Beckwith

Members of the Deacon community were asked to serve through out the New Jersey Performing Arts Center for the ordination and consecration of The Reverend Mark M. Beckwith on January 27, 2007. Many were active in communion stations throughout the auditorium on all the levels of tiers. I was among four Deacons assigned to escort the Bishops in the procession. My job was simply to process in front of them, and lead them to the Bishop's chairs. I was also allowed to serve communion to the participants on the stage.

There was a huge choir group made up of many choirs including children. The choral group formed a musical arch across the back of the stage. There were 2500 spectators watching this splendid celebration of the Holy Spirit on stage. Bishop Croneberger, Bishop Spong, Bishop Gallagher and Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori were among the participating Bishops.

Bishop Jefferts Schoris' sermon spoke of Martin Luther King and St. John Chrysostom (who's Feast Day is January 27). She said that Bishop Beckwith would also endeavor to allow us to become the people God means us to be. Bishop Jefferts Schori spoke of our Episcopal roots being important to us but that we all must be open to grow towards the future.



Meet Cynthia Amerman

Cynthia, one of the newest members of St James, grew up in Pittsburgh, PA during World War II. Her public school was about 90% Jewish, and she sometimes went to Temple with her friends. She also attended Ellis, a girl's day school. She studied at Allegheny College, and went to Quito Ecuador for four years, where she taught at Colegio Americano.

Cynthia's mother, two brothers and sister continue to live in Pittsburgh. She and her husband live at Blair Academy, where he is a Presbyterian minister. She has a daughter, Evelyn Brabant who lives in Tucson, AZ with Cynthia's 3-year old granddaughter. Her son Alex is attending graduate school at Columbia.

Cynthia has been setting up study programs and internships for Gallaudet University in Guatemala. She worked at a school for deaf children there in 2003 before graduating from Gallaudet with a Social Work degree. She likes to read, walk with friends and swim.

The Examination and the Consecration were marked by humor and affection. The communion service was long because of the large crowd. The beauty and pomp of the celebration was breathtaking and the clergy in red moved around the stage with the choir as a background. I felt that having Bishop Jefferts Schoris present added honor to a very special day and support to the call of the Diocese of Newark.

At the end of the service, all participants from the stage were to process out down the aisle through the auditorium. Everyone got up and processed but the Bishops who were left on the stage with no escort. I was delighted at the unplanned opportunity given to me to lead the Bishops off the stage and through the crowd. The Bishops were lined up. I stood in front of them and gave the universal sign for "come on" and they all followed me. It was a once in a lifetime experience!

By the time I changed clothes and went to the reception, all 2500 people had picked the buffets clean. As I exited the NJPA Center, the door was held open from the outside by Bishop Gallagher. She was in her civilian clothes, talking into her cell phone and recognized by few. That was a charming ending to a spectacular and memorable day in the Diocese of Newark.

Sheila Shuford, Deacon

Visit St. James' Webpage to view a slide show of Bishop Beckwith's ordination and consecration.

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



Cynthia travels a lot, but has found time to attend services at St James from time to time. She would like to be more involved in St James activities since joining our congregation last month.

Bet you didn't know that Cynthia and her brother took a two-day boat ride down the Mekong River. They arrived at the capital of Laos, Luang Prabang, and walked up a long marble staircase from the river to the town. There they found a gorgeous small city with young Buddhist monks bouncing on a trampoline! See Cynthia for more details!

Barbara Olesen



