

St. James'



Journal

The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats, Rector

March 2007

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

I love the poetry of these words but not the reality of them. I love the seasons of birth and planting and loving and laughing, but resist the seasons of dying, hating and crying. The problem is that all these things are realities of life in the world. My denial of the bad things doesn't make them go away. Cutting myself off from the painful parts of life also limits my appreciation of the better things. But it is so difficult to hold these opposites in tension and to live into the mystery of it all. Jesus gave us hints of this when he taught that to save our lives, we must lose them; that to be first is to be last; that to live, we must die.

In the past month, we have buried our beloved friend Jack Reade. In a liturgy of joy and sorrow, we heard the words of Jesus, the comfort of Job ("I know that my redeemer lives"), the Easter music of organ and song (*Ode to Joy*, "Morning has broken...") and the mournful tones of the bagpipes. Jack planned this service himself, and we did a good job of celebrating his life among us. Afterward, we shared a meal and stories of our brother whose most familiar facial expression was a wide smile and whose signature greeting was a warm hug.

The burial office is an Easter liturgy, just as the eucharist we celebrate every Sunday is an Easter liturgy. In the midst of death, we celebrate life. In the midst of Jesus' suffering and execution, we celebrate his resurrection. In the midst of the loss of Jack, we celebrate his life. We remember his most cherished vocation was living into his baptismal promises. We remember his joy in traveling, his love of laughter and his dedication to his work in the church. We remember his devotion to the eucharist, no matter where he found himself, whether hospital or rehab or at home. We remember his devotion to Frank over more than thirty years. We remember his dedication to helping other people through his work on the vestry and our ministry of outreach.

The day after we buried Jack, we celebrated the eucharist again. This time, it was in the context of the service of baptism, when we welcomed Emma Guidera into the household of faith. We were blessed with her family gathered round, her gentle dozing (until the water was poured on her head), and the newness of her life and her life among us.

Three days later, we knelt at the altar rail to receive the gritty, dirty ashes of Lent to remind us that we all will return to dust someday. Young and old and in-between were marked with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

These events collide in a strange and wonderful space. This strange and wonderful space is called *kairos* in the language of the New Testament. *Kairos* is time, God's time. It is contrasted with *chronos*, which is the time we live in, the 24 hour day, 7 day week, twelve month year. It is finite and measurable. But *kairos*, God's time, is time without bounds.

These times are all around us, God's holy times. They are big moments like baptism or marriage or beginning a new job or school. They are small moments like connecting with another person, the forgiving of an old grudge, the facing of a truth about ourselves. And in these holy times, these times of *kairos*, I think we are called to sit with them, to rest in them, to drink them in. We all know how quickly time passes; it seems like just yesterday my son was baptized, but it was almost 28 years ago. It seems like just yesterday that you may have stood before God and promised to love, honor and cherish, and now you have been married five or ten or thirty years. It seems like just yesterday that you were just starting out, and now you are well on the road. (Too bad it doesn't seem like just yesterday we began to dream of a barrier-free church...).

And when we ask, "What are we to do with this strange and wonderful place, this *kairos*?", my answer is, there are some things you don't need to *do* anything about. They are moments to be savored, events to be immersed in, times to be breathed in deeply. So let's settle into and take a deep breath of the *kairos* God blesses us with this day.

Yours in Christ,

Warden's Words – And Away We Go

We recently conducted our annual Vestry Retreat. St. James' has had a good year, and we have some interesting goals in mind for 2007. None loom larger to me than finally putting shovel to earth and kicking off new construction. The 19th century saw the construction of St. James' church. The 20th century opened with the building of the Mitcham House. We're just a few years past the turn of the century, and the new Parish Hall will enable important ministries in this new century.

I think we are good to go. (Note to reader: Given experience to date, I will look over my shoulder while writing this paragraph.) We have completed all the required documentation, paperwork and permits. We visited with Skylands and finalized construction financing. The Diocese has officially OK'd the project. Last, but certainly not least, the good people of Rochelle Construction are ready.

We expect the Town of Hackettstown to convene a Pre-construction Meeting in the next week or two (Note: I continue to look over my shoulder.) This venue will finalize planning with the affected town agencies, notably arranging for Moore Street to be closed at times to enable safe and timely demolition and construction work. We are a few weeks behind the schedule we had projected, but we still expect to complete this initial construction phase around Labor Day 2007.

Thank you to everyone who helped clean out the Parish Hall. Thank you in advance to the Construction Committee, who will inevitably deal with complication and consternation in the months ahead. And thank you to everyone who, over the last ten years, helped bring us to this point.

David Oleson

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Youth Group continues to meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month during the 10 o'clock service. In February, we talked about school pressures and cheating. We had the 30 Hour Famine and collected money for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Ed Modugno, Jr. was a guest speaker last Sunday and spoke about different world religions. We welcome anyone who has something to teach or share with the teens. Please contact Dawn Modugno or Lori Pursel

Deacon Sees Monkeys Sign

On February 5, I had the pleasure of speaking to 3 kindergarten classes in Franklin Lakes. The visit was arranged by Marie Warnke, who is one of the teachers and the wife of The Rev. Jim Warnke. Jim is well known to the member's of St. James'. The following is the thank you letter I received –

Dear Mrs. Shuford,

Thank you for coming to our school to teach us about signing and being deaf.

We are having fun learning to talk with our hands. We are glad you could know our names when we spelled them with our fingers.

We never saw a deaf telephone machine. Thank you for bringing it.

We liked singing 5 Little Monkeys for you in sign language. We are learning more songs in sign this year.

We liked how you could talk even though you could not hear us.

You are a special person to help us out.

We wished Matthew was not sick and could have come to see you. He wears a hearing aide, too, but he can hear us most of the time.

Thank you and we hope you can come again.

They were a very enthusiastic group and fun to be with. I would be delighted to be invited to a school or Scouts or Cubs. If you are a member of any group that you feel would benefit from deaf awareness, please contact me.

Peace,
Sheila Shuford

Lenten Quiet Morning with Jim Warnke

March 31, 10 am to 1 pm

Holy Week is the most dramatic and important week of the church year. But many of us have not experienced all the varied liturgies of that week and how they help to tell the story of Jesus' last week on earth. In our Lenten offering by The Rev. James Warnke, "Holy Week for Ordinary People," we will prepare for Easter by praying the journey of those seven days. Father Jim will lead us in a quiet morning on Saturday, March 31st in the church. He 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 in prayer, story and silence to a deeper experience of the resurrection. A simple lunch will be served at the conclusion of our time together.

Vestry Highlights

- Vestry retreat goals were reviewed. First to be addressed were plans for Estate Planning ideas to be presented to the vestry in preparation for presentation to the congregation. Then, transition plans for communication, including bulletin boards for the church and coordination of news between the church office, the website and the Journal.
- Building Project: a letter of credit has been received, builder's risk insurance was approved and appraisal of the buildings was completed for mortgage processing.
- Chapel railings have been installed. Railings on the left side of the stairs will be installed after access to the church is restored, as a ramp is planned for this door.
- The Fundraising Committee is working on a Candy sale fundraiser for Easter, a 4th of July Ice Cream Sale, the Harvest Festival and a Tricky Tray for October 20.
- The Columbarium letter to the parish was sent to invite members to participate in a special price for a pre-construction period and a presentation by The Rev. Bill Robertson of Creter Vault.

The 2006 St. James' Annual Report and St. James' Journey CD (2006) are 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. Inside the report, you will also find opportunities to serve and the 2007 budget. The CD is the Rector's view of 2006 in pictures and song, playable on your PC. Enjoy it!

Columbarium Presentation

The Rev. Bill Robertson, representative of the Creter Vault Company, will be our guest Sunday, March 4, at the 8 am and 10 am services. Following each service, he will display the proposed columbarium model and answer questions. Letters were sent to all households advising of our 60-day, pre-construction price and details for purchasing your 'right to inurnment' (columbarium-speak for reserving a niche in the columbarium). If you have not received a letter, contact the church office or pick one up in the narthex.

Additional information and a detailed Columbarium Policy for St. James' are available on our website.

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, rising 10th graders (if 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.

Coffee Hour and Family Sunday Continental Breakfast

We may not be able to host one of Jerry's famous breakfasts of bacon and eggs and 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 a time of fellowship in the sanctuary as we stay connected during our time without a parish hall. Our debut is Sunday, March 4th, and April 1 (Palm Sunday) will be next.

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.

Responses from College Packages Sent

Kyle Pursel – "Mom, Did you know I was getting a box from church? It was interesting and a surprise".

Laura Pursel – "Hey, mom. I got this cool box from church! It was fun to go thru and some of my dormmates came in to check it out. Thank them for me."



March and April dates to remember

Sunday, March 4	Family Sunday and Continental Breakfast, 9:00 am Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, March 11	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Tuesday, March 13	AA District Group Meeting, 8:00 pm
Thursday, March 22	Vestry Meeting, 7:30 pm
Saturday, March 31	Lenten Quiet Morning with The Rev. Jim Warnke 10:00 am to 1:00 pm followed by a light lunch
Bell Choir Rehearsals - March 4, 18 and 25 (no practice March 11)	
Sunday, April 1	Palm Sunday
Holy Week Services:	
Thursday, April 5	Maundy Thursday, 7:30 pm
Friday, April 6	Good Friday Ecumenical, Noon Good Friday Stations of the Cross, 7:30 pm
Saturday, April 7	Easter Vigil, 7:30 pm
SUNDAY, April 8	Easter Day, 8:00 am and 10:00 am
Saturday, October 20	Tricky Tray

St. James' Coat Drive Collects 100 Coats

St. James' and neighbors collected 100 coats during this year's Cub Scout Pack 164 Annual Coat Drive held last December. Although the Pack did not receive the coveted "Golden Hanger Award" this year, the Cub Scouts delivered a total of 450 coats to NJ Cares for distribution to needy families across N.J.

In addition to NJ Cares, some of the coats collected at St. James' were delivered to the Seamen's Institute, Strengthen Our Sisters, and the Hackettstown Middle School.

AA Thank You Letter

February 6, 2007

Dear Cathy,

On behalf of the Monday and Friday night AA Group, I want to thank you for all the support you and the parishioners have given us over the years. I'm sure that some of us will stop by occasionally to see how the building project is progressing. Please, if at any time anyone may be in need of the services of AA at St. James', give me or any member a call.

On a personal note, my thanks to Linda for all the emails she needed to send me. To Jerry, for the help he often gave, and to you, Cathy, for not only your support, but also your friendship.

Sincerely,
Frank D.

Sunday School News

Godly Play Lessons continue in the Mitcham House for students in grades Pre-K to 5th. Good weather enabled students, teachers and parents to deliver handmade Valentine Cards on February 11th to residents of the House of Good Shepherd, a longstanding St. James' Sunday School tradition. It is always one of the highlights during the year. Lenten lessons have started and will continue into March to prepare for the Mystery Of Easter.

Schedule for March:

- March 4th - Family Sunday
- March 11th - Mystery Of Easter: I – III
- March 18th - Mystery of Easter: IV-VI
- March 25th - Mystery of Easter: VII plus Preparation of Easter Baskets

Additional donations of juice and snacks are needed to replenish our supply.

Thank you.
Kathy Lacouture

30-Hour Famine

Our youth and their friends (16 in all) recently completed their 30-hour fast for world hunger. They were led by Dawn Modugno and Lori Pursel, with assistance from Chika Okoye (transportation manager) and Patti Worthington (cook for the fast-breaking meal). They spent the night in the Mitcham House with The Rev. (Deacon) Diane Riley leading them in activities to teach about hunger in the United States and around the world. Deacon Riley was our guest preacher on the Sunday following the fast. She brought to us her experience of ministry working to end hunger – Diane works for Feed the Solution, a ministry of the Apostle’s House in Newark.

Here are some comments by our participants - quotes from Famine Survivors:

Joey “It was good!, It was Good, I’m Hungry.”

Amy “I was surprised to learn the number of hungry people in our own country.”

Tonya “It was really cool at the soup kitchen that a little community was helping out so much.”

Rachel “It was hard!”

Tim “It wasn’t so bad.”

Lindsey “The stuff we did Friday night was good. It was very organized.”

On the Saturday of the fast, the young people prepared and served lunch at Bea’s Kitchen, a soup kitchen housed at Church of the Good Shepherd in Wantage. Here is what Grace MacDonald said about them:

I know I can speak for all, we really enjoyed the kids. They were so ready and able to do anything that I asked them to do. A couple of the guests pulled me aside after they left and asked about their fasting. One man, I think it's safe to say, had tears starting in his eyes.

Thank you for this wonderful experience. I'd love to have them again.

Grace

Our thanks to our young people with the enthusiastic ways they live out the faith.

Sierra Agens
Joey Ayres
Michelle Banas
Timothy Barnes
Amy Modugno
Lindsay Modugno
Rachelle Nestman
Christina Okoye
Ricky Okoye
Sylvia Okoye
Catherine Organes
Mark Spratley
Ashley Taylor
Charlie Thieringer
Sawyer Thieringer
Tanya Volkert

Youth Group

Wow. We had fifteen youth participate in this year’s 30-Hour Famine. I am so proud of all of them! Deacon Diane Riley spent part of Friday night with us. She does education and outreach around hunger and we participated in various activities she planned. It was very enlightening and we had fun. Saturday morning, we went to Bea’s Kitchen and worked with Grace MacDonald who runs the soup kitchen. She really let our youth take over and they set-up, prepared food and did the serving and clean-up. It was a great experience (but very hard to do when you’re hungry)! We came back and talked about our experiences, got some shredding done for the church and ended our fast with a soup and bread meal provided by Russ and Patti. (Thanks for feeding our starving selves with your delicious homemade soup!) Thanks to Cathy, Deacon Diane, and Dawn Modugno for organizing everything. I had a great time and our youth group would like to go back and help out in Bea’s Kitchen again (when we are not fasting)! It was a great experience. Please ask our “famine survivors” to tell you about it.

Lori Jo Pursel

PS: Some of us were so inspired we would like to start our own soup kitchen when our new building is done.

Fundraising Notes:

The Fundraising Committee is very busy making many plans for this year. Finding a place to hold our events has proved a little more difficult than we thought but it is finally coming together. Of course, we are always looking for volunteers willing to give up some time and talent to help us plan and execute these activities. If you see something you're interested in, give me a call, shoot me an email or even better, join us for a meeting. We meet once a month on Thursday nights, after the St. James' Chapel service at 7pm, gathering in the Mitcham House for planning and discussions. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2007. Would love to see you there!!

We are planning a dinner in the near future – watch your bulletins for more details. Also, keep an eye out for news of the Easter Candy Sale and a Plant Sale in the Spring.

We will participate in the “Fourth of July Spirit of Americana Celebration” in Blairstown again this year. Last year we sold water and ice cream during this event. There were also food vendors, a Patriotic Canine contest, Pie eating contest, a Bake Off and many children's activities available. Footbridge Park in Blairstown was the setting, offering plenty of shade for a hot July afternoon and fireworks were close by at the high school later that evening.

In August, our Choir will sing the “National Anthem” during a baseball game at the Sussex County Skyhawks Baseball Field. This is a special day at the park as you will be allowed to bring your canine friends to the game with you. We will be selling tickets for that game and again watch the bulletin or check out the online calendar.

In the fall, we have our annual “Bake Sale and Blessing of the Animals” during the Hackettstown Fall Festival. Last year our Youth Group made bandanas for the animals and they loved them. And then last but not least, our biggest event of the year, The Tricky Tray will once again be held at the Budd Lake Firehouse on Saturday, October 20, 2007. Soon we will begin forming our committee teams and sending out letters for support of all kinds. By the way, we were so successful last year that we have had calls from other Parishes in the Diocese asking for tips.

These are just a few of the events that we hope to plan this year. In addition, we hope to host a Yankee Candle Sale and a Wrapping Paper Sale later in the year and possibly a Jewelry Show. Our intent is to schedule events that will interest the parishioners of St. James' and introduce and welcome the public at the same time. The suggestion box for ideas will be in the Lady Chapel this Sunday. Please feel free to offer any suggestion you may have and I would love to hear any comments you may have regarding past or future events.

WAY TO GO ST. JAMES'

A “Special Thanks” goes out to Russ Worthington and Phyllis Heistand for their efforts in making this information available to us all – To Russ, our very own web-master who places all this information on our website for anyone to see. He works very diligently to keep our website up to date and organized. I invite you to check out his slide shows for past events and information about upcoming events. It is proving to be another very useful tool for getting the word out and keeping us organized. And to Phyllis, the Editor of the Journal who has to nudge most of us every month to get our articles to her, thank you for patience. We remember you in our prayers and miss you very much. Get well soon!!

Barbara White

Bell Choir “Notes”

After a very relaxing month of January and only having rehearsals during February, the Bell Choir is getting ready for a few very busy weeks ahead. The Bell Choir will participate in the 10:00 services on March 18 and April 1. For March 18 we will be playing an arrangement of “What Wondrous Love is This” – a quiet and fitting piece for Lent. On Palm Sunday, the bells will be playing a medley of three Palm Sunday hymns – “All Glory, Laud and Honor”, “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” and “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”. This is a very joyful piece and uses several different techniques of playing bells. The Bell Choir will also participate in both services on Easter Sunday, April 8. We are preparing a short (but musically more difficult to play) piece based on the Easter hymn, “Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”. We hope that you will enjoy all the music we have been preparing.

If you would like to try ringing bells, why not join us after Easter for a few weeks. Just let me know and I will be sure to give you a bell to play, usually just one at the beginning. Please call me at 973-584-2061.

Louise Olshan

New Meeting Schedules

- Sunday School – all but first Sundays, 10:00 am, 2nd floor Mitcham House
- Nursery – all but first Sundays, 10:00 am, 2nd floor Mitcham House
- Coffee Hour – in the chapel following the 10:00 am service (watch for news about 8:00 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.

ⓘ DON'T FORGET!

**Saturday, March 10th before you go to bed,
set your clocks ahead one hour! ☺
Don't be late for church! ☺**

Sr. Choir Notes:

Change in rehearsal day! Sr. Choir rehearsals move back to Thursday nights starting on March 1. Rehearsal time remains 7:30 – 9:00 pm. Come join us in the church!

Big News!! Our Choirs – Senior and Children's, supplemented by any other available singing voices from our parish – have signed up to sing the National Anthem at a Sussex Skyhawks baseball game on Sunday afternoon, August 12! We know it sounds like a long way off but mark your calendars now so you don't miss it! We have gotten 50 reserved seat tickets at a group rate. This will be one of the many fundraiser activities going on this year, so support your parish singers and have a great day at the ballpark at the same time! It's also Dog Day so you can bring your favorite dog, too! If you want to borrow a dog, I have 2 or 3 available! There will be more from Barbara White on the fundraiser aspect of this outing in the months to come.

Children's Choir Notes:

Children's Choir starts up again on Thursday, March 1. Rehearsal time is 6:15 – 6:45 pm in the Mitcham House. Our young singers will be singing and signing at the 10:00 am Easter service. They will also sing again on Youth Sunday (date TBD). If you have an interested young singer but won't be available for Easter, please let me know. We won't be starting the Youth Sunday piece right away, so your singer can join us when we start rehearsing that piece!

Also, as mentioned in the Sr. Choir Notes, I'd like our young singers to participate in the choir singing the National Anthem at the ball game. Over the next few months, please let me know if your young one is available that day (8/12/07).

By the way – listen for the Mutigenerational Bell Choir to be playing several times during Lent and Holy Week. Bell Choir Director Louise has them working hard on some beautiful pieces.

Praise the Lord with singing!
Pam

**Read It:
For One More Day by Mitch Albom**

When I held this book for the first time, I was in Costco with a friend. I read the inner jacket and told my friend, "I can feel a lump in my throat already." That's because Albom's first non-fiction book, Tuesdays with Morrie, and his first novel, The Five People You Meet in Heaven, have proven that his words are bound to jerk at least a few of the reader's tears. Don't mistake his work for complete sentimental sap – he does offer sound story lines. I am a real fan.

For One More Day is the story of what happens when alcoholic and has-been, Chick Benetto, bottoms out and decides to attempt suicide. To do the dirty deed, he travels to his childhood home at Pepperville Beach. There he finds his mother, cooking and telling stories, even though she passed away 10 years ago.

Understanding comes to Chick through the conversations he has with his mother's spirit. They visit both his and her past. Chick learns that once someone is in your heart, they are never gone for long. The message of the story is not necessarily original or even told in a completely unique way, but it's a good read nonetheless. If you're new to Albom's work, read this book first, followed by Morrie and finish up with the most poignant, Five People.

Jewels Quelly

COUNTING 1, 2, 3.....

I realize that not everyone likes numbers and enjoys counting money, but there are still at least three ways in which you can help the Counters on Sunday morning.

1. Please use an envelope. Even if you don't want to use a church envelope, you can use a plain white envelope or even a welcome envelope from the pew. Otherwise, all loose checks need to be recorded by writing the person's name and address, amount of the check and purpose of the check on a separate paper to have a back up for our deposit. This takes time.
2. Please issue a separate check for each account (like Operating Fund, Capital Improvement Fund). If you issue one check and ask that it be split between two or three different accounts, the counters need to actually cash your check and be sure that the deposit tickets reflect the proper amounts. One person doing this is not critical, but when several do, it becomes very confusing and time-consuming for the counters.
3. Please issue one check for several weeks. If you were not in church for several weeks, it is not necessary to use an envelope or a separate check for each week you were away. One envelope/one check will be posted to your account and you will get the proper credit.

Any or all of the above suggestions would be most helpful to our Counters and would certainly cut down on the time needed to balance the deposits. I thank you, and I'm sure they will thank you as well.

Janice Cipriani,
Chair

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Wednesday	April 4	Tenebrae	7:30 pm
Maundy Thursday	April 5	The Holy Eucharist	7:30 pm
Maundy Thursday	April 5-6	Vigil	9 PM to 12 Noon
Good Friday	April 6	Good Friday Liturgy (Hackettstown Community Service)	12 Noon
		Stations of the Cross	7:30 pm
Holy Saturday	April 7	Prayer	10 am
Easter Eve	April 7	The Great Vigil of Easter	7:30 pm
Easter Day	April 8	Celebration of the Resurrection	8 am and 10 am

Valentines at House of the Good Shepherd



Bea's Kitchen



Shredding



A College Goody Package



FIRST FOOD! After the 30-Hour Famine

