

St. James'



Journal

The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats, Rector

May 2007

Half a dozen people stand in the rain at 7:28 am on Friday, April 27th, 2007. The street is blocked off. A police officer keeps watch nearby. The heavy machinery had arrived and there it stood, ready to strike. The diesel engine roars to life and Rocky moves the joysticks as if he were playing a video game. The giant claw moves into position and pauses for just one second; then it strikes the building, piercing its protective skin. The building project begins...again.

When did it really begin? With a vision of a more welcoming space in 1993? With the gift of an endowment in 1998? Did it begin in the collective mind of the community or in the expert drawings of the architect? Was it born in the vote of the congregation to stay in Hackettstown? Did the vision begin when the Historical Commission approved the plan, saying that where we had been and where we were going were in concert? Or was it when our appeal was granted after the Town Zoning Board denied our application after fourteen months of testimony, negotiation, re-drawing of plans, shadow study? Or did it really start when the parish said, "Go for it!" when asked if we should cut our losses or forge ahead? Was the beginning the Open Doors Capital Campaign, as each one pledged support personally and financially? Did it happen when the pre-construction meeting ended and we got the call saying, "The demo guy begins this Friday"?

Can something be born more than once, again and again? Look once more at the people gathered there that rainy morning. The meteorologist: "I could get better pictures if it weren't raining, but this front will be here all day." A Vestry Member: "Boy, would I like to be driving that thing!" The Administrator: "I wonder what this will cost...how long it will take...if they will find me curled up under my desk one Friday afternoon." The Webmaster: "Do I have enough pictures yet? How about a slide show?" A Parishioner who came to see whazzup: "It's a little bit sad, don't you think?" The

Senior Warden, "It's all good." The Rector: "After all this time and work, it seems so anticlimactic; I sure hope I am up to this."

The feeling I had as I watched that day and the days which followed is that of entering uncharted territory. This is not a new feeling for people involved in a building project, but as I stand on the site once occupied by a building full of life and memories and the stuff of fellowship, I grieve for the loss of that holy space. At the same time – maybe it's the dust playing tricks on me

– I see the vision of a space occupied by people with crutches or wheelchair, using white canes for mobility, or signing to each other. It is a place of welcome where what is most important is the heart rather than the body or the senses. It is a place in which everyone knows that God is present in person and community and, yes, in the bricks and mortar, in the elevator

and ramps, in the wood and sheetrock of the building.

As Rocky moved that giant chewing machine through the parish hall, from time to time he paused. The behemoth backed up, lifted and closed its giant jaws, and pounded down on the crunched wood. The sound of the splintering bones of the parish hall brought to mind Ezekiel and his encounter with God in the valley. When God said to Ezekiel, "Mortal, can these bones live?" he answered, "O Lord God, you know."

The answer is yes, these bones can live. Out of the death of the parish hall comes new life. This community is building the kingdom of God here in this tiny corner of God's earth. We know where our treasure lies and we are building this treasure in the living out of our baptismal promises: "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons...and respect the dignity of every human being?"

Our answer is, "We will, with God's help."

Yours in the service of Christ,

**Join us for the ceremonial
Groundbreaking
for the Open Doors Parish Hall**

Saturday, May 19, 2007, 12:30 pm
our guest is
The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith,
Bishop of the Diocese of Newark

Lunch will be served

Warden Words –

David's column is postponed until the next issue with many apologies but... thar she goes!



"Live from the Scene, an Eyewitness Report"

This was a message on The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats cell phone voice mail. "The last major event to be held in the Parish Hall at St. James". The message continued – Add a bunch of firefighters or "smoke eaters" to the hundreds of events, hundreds of adults who learned "something", hundreds of children who learned "something" in these hollowed halls. Our neighbors down Moore Street used the Parish Hall to teach some young firefighters how to do Search and Rescue in a "Smoke"-filled building. "There aren't many opportunities to use a commercial building to hold this type of drill." said the Fire Chief. There, in fact, may be one more time for them to train others to do search and rescue depending on when the building finally comes down.

A couple of folks from St. James' watched as the Parish Hall was used as a Classroom. The new fire engine gave us an awesome view of our property from a bird's-eye view. Ever look down on the Bell Tower? Or look down the chimney of Mitcham House? Our web site has pictures of what that looks like.

Another member from St. James' came running down the street, no coat on, cell phone and church directory in hand, having received a cell phone call from her daughter – "the fire department is at the parish hall".

The "students" entered the smoke-filled parish hall looking for a lost firefighter. airpicks on, lights on, lines snaking through the hall, following a fire hose, following their classroom training. It was dark and they couldn't see more than a couple of feet in front of them, doing their drill. Five minutes later, a fire truck's horn went off, signing "eminent building collapse" and ending their search and rescue, returning empty handed.

The class re-grouped, reviewed what they had done, received a little feedback from the instructors. Like, "what is one of the most valuable tools you left on the fire truck?" Getting a chance to get some air (real air, not that from the tanks on their back), they re-entered.

This time the 'lost firefighter' was found. Again, a review of what they had done (or not done) was covered with the leaders of the drill.

So, once again our Parish Hall was used as a Classroom for those outside of our parish family. As our history has indicated, it has housed classrooms for the school down the street when they needed classroom space. This time it as a classroom for the Hackettstown fire department.

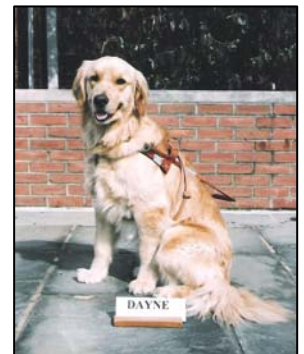
As this is written, there may be one more chapter to the learning experience taken from the parish hall. The fire chief wants to use the Parish Hall for another class (ed. - he did). He didn't want to break glass or to put holes in the roof of the Parish Hall for our safety. But, as the date of the demolition is establish, hopefully in a day or two, he wants to bring more trainees in to do more search and rescue and to use the roof as another type of class room. How often does our fire department, our neighbors, have a chance to 'poke holes' in a commercial building for a drill?

We certainly were thanked for the use of the Parish Hall for this classroom. Little will they know the work that got us to this place? "Thanks Joe", thanks to the leaders and St. James' family for this last event held in the old St. James' parish hall.

Puppy Update:

Many of you will remember Dayne, the golden retriever being raised by Amy Modugno. He went back to the Seeing Eye for formal instruction last year. After a year of training and maturing, the Seeing Eye has placed Dayne with a 56-year-old gentleman in Maine who is a technical writer. Dayne's new owner does a lot of hiking and walking. We know he will be happy in his new job. His trainer at the Seeing Eye described Dayne as a very energetic but loving dog who was always willing to work and always wanted to do the right thing. We are so proud of Dayne and remember the great time we had with him in the first year and a half of his life. Thank you to all at St. James' who support and tolerate the presence of a puppy in church. It really is a great learning and socializing experience for them.

Puppy Smiles to you all from the Modugno family.



Special Needs Presentation to Hackettstown Cub Pack 164

On the evening of March 23, 2007, Cub Scout Pack 164 held a meeting to learn more about special needs. The meeting was held at Trinity United Methodist Church. Russ Worthington joined me and gave me both communication help and support. I was setting up and waiting for the first Cubs to arrive when there arrived an onslaught of Cubs using crutches or wheel chairs. They whizzed by me. Cub master, Bob Trinner, assembled the meeting in the church proper.

Ed Modugno was present with his seeing eye dog in training, Merlin. Merlin, as all of us at St. James' know, is a very hard act to follow. I did the smart thing and introduced myself by signing and left the floor to the charm of Merlin. Russ and I set up our information and seating in another room. The Cubs, siblings and parents came in groups of about ten. I did some basic deaf awareness training and explained the variety of hearing loss needs. I taught some simple and fun signs and finger spelling. I showed them my CapTel phone and talked about ever-changing technology. Each child had the opportunity to finger spell his/her name for the group.

There are seven Dens ranked by age from the youngest Tigers to the oldest Webelos. I think we had a total of about sixty including the Cubs, siblings and parents in 6 to 8 groups. Halfway through the presentation, I was delighted when one mother identified herself as a former interpreting student. We asked her to join us and she was a big help at interpreting and both showing the group the skills of an interpreter and in helping me make a smoother presentation.

I thank Dave Lacouture for the invitation and I thank Russ for his talents. I would be pleased to do this sort of program for other Scouts or school groups and would welcome your invitations.

Sheila Shuford, Deacon

Mystery – Who are these well-dressed people?



Meet Sheila!



Sheila Shuford was born in New York City and grew up with her mother and stepfather in Ft. Pierce, FL. She spent summers with her father and stepmother and step/half brothers and sisters in Syosset, Oyster Bay or Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island. Sheila was the feature editor for her high school newspaper and the editor of the yearbook.

Sheila attended the Tob'e Coburn School for Fashion in NYC. She went through the Macy's training squad and became Assistant Fashion Coordinator. Sheila has a son who lives in Los Angeles. She also has two Spaniels named Martha and Mamie (think first ladies!) who she adores. They are the current members of her canine family which numbers seven on earth and in Heaven.

Sheila first met Cathy Deats when Cathy became a professional interpreter. At the time, Sheila was the executive director of The Deaf Contact Center, housed at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Succasunna. That organization was replaced by the current telephone relay service, now required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (Sheila was always a pioneer!). Cathy interpreted for Sheila at Rotary Clubs and church events. They attended EFM together and, as you know, the rest is history.

Last year, Sheila was ordained a Deacon. She is the president of the NJ Chapter of ALDA (Association of Late Deafened Adults). She taught a sign language class at St James' and has taught the junior choir how to sign hymns. You can find her either blessing animals for us or attending many of our functions.

It's hard to picture Sheila as a clown, but she informs me that she marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade as one! Ask her about that experience!

May dates to remember

- May 6-11 - Rector's Educational Leave
- May 8 - AA District Mtg - Mitcham House - 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
- May 13 - Mother's Day
- May 18 - Italian Night/Trinity United Methodist Church/6:00-8:30 PM
- May 15 - DARC Mtg - Mitcham House - 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
- May 16 - Parish Life Committee Meeting/Chapel - 7:30 PM
- May 19 - Groundbreaking Ceremony - 12:30 PM
- May 23 - KAQ Tea & Tour - Mitcham House -10:30 AM - 2:00 PM
- May 24 - Vestry Meeting - Mitcham House - 7:30 PM
- May 27 - Holy Baptism - 10:00 AM
- June 3 - Parish Picnic - Independence Field of Dreams
- June 4-12 - Rector's Vacation
- June 9 - Argyle Fish & Chips Dinner - Christ Church
- June 10 - (Tentative) Choir Recognition
- June 12 - AA District Mtg - Mitcham House - 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
- June 17 - Honoring our Graduates/10:00 AM Service
- June 21 - Vestry Meeting/Mitcham House - 7:30 PM
- June 25 - July 2 - Administrator's Vacation

From the Sunday School

April Godly Play lessons concluded with preparation for Mother's Day. There will be two more weeks of Sunday School in May. Thanks to all of the parents for the consistent attendance this year, especially during our transition to our new classrooms.

We are being given a special opportunity by Cathy Deats on May 20th to come to church at the beginning of the service and stay through the sermon. The students will ask Dr. Deats questions about the church, the Bible and related topics. Parents - Please encourage your children to jot down some questions and bring them on the 13th or 20th, so we can organize them. Please call me if you have any questions: 850-9214

The May schedule is as follows:

- May 6th - Family Sunday (Students in church)
- May 13th - Mother's Day (plant distribution/prepare questions for next week)
- May 20th - Students begin in church/Questions for Cathy Deats during the sermon/End of year celebration

Kathy Lacouture

A Big Welcome!

We welcome Erin Eliza Corry, daughter of Adam and Angie Corry, born April 26th. Mom, dad, sister Briana doing fine as they welcome Erin (8 lbs 4 oz) home! *Note from the Rector: see you on Mother's Day?*

Scholarships to graduates

Each year, the vestry makes a monetary gift to each of our high school graduates. The amount of the gift varies from year to year, as the source of these funds is the contributions received for Spiritual Bouquet (remembrance of one's friends and family each week). If you would like to honor our graduates with a contribution to this fund, please make your donation payable to St. James' and mark it "Graduates."

Do You Have a Crest?

Tom Malejko's West Point plebe class has just released its crest. Mom Eileen says she cannot believe how far they have come in such a short time. Go see the class of 2010 crest on the web at

http://ozark.west-point.org/family/mem2010/images/crest_2010.jpg

The class crest signifies "our willingness to support the hallowed institution of the Army, ...and our loyalty." Included in the crest is the American eagle, "fiercely flying overhead with its wings sprawled open, ensuring America is protected from all enemies. In its beak the eagle is carrying the olive branch which is the hope and offering of peace."

We at St. James' pray always for the safety of our troops, for those who have lost their lives in war, and most of all for peace. We salute the Class of 2010 as they work toward peace.

Youth Group

At our last meeting, the Okoye family led our Youth Group in a discussion about the year Tina, Sylvia and Ricky spent in Africa. Chika Okoye (Mom) provided our group with historic and cultural details while the teens filled us in how the experience affected them. It was very interesting and we thank Chika, Tina and Rick for sharing with us. In May we will have our final two meetings for the school year. For the first meeting we will "Get To Know The Bible" and May 27th will be our spring game and party. Youth grades 6-12 please join us. Special welcome to new member, Justin Simmons. Questions or comments: Dawn Modugno and Lori Pursel

Bell Choir "Notes"

The Bell Choir began rehearsing again on April 29, after a well-deserved break following participation in services on March 18, Palm Sunday and Easter. We had fun (I hope) preparing those pieces and we hope that our offerings enhanced the worship experience for those hearing the results of our work.

I do not think that "All work and no play" is a very good way to treat Bell Choir volunteers. So after rehearsal on April 29, some of us ventured to the lovely Thai/Indonesian restaurant on Moore Street, the Pandan Room, for a relaxing lunch of Dim Sum. We all had fun sharing the choices and trying new foods and spices. The deserts were really great!!

After lunch, Wendie Germain, Diana Grant and Sam and Louise Olshan traveled to Westminster Choir College in Princeton for a performance by the Westminster Concert Bell Choir. We heard phenomenal music on 8 octaves of bells and 6 octaves of chimes. The members of the choir practice for 4 1/2 hours a week and must spend additional time working individually on their own difficult sections. The music they played ranged from levels 2 – 6. (Our own Multi-Generational Bell Choir has begun playing level two music.)

The choir is now preparing music for Choir Recognition Sunday, June 10. The piece is really fun to play and should also be interesting to listen to, using several different techniques of bell playing. It is a special piece for Sam and me as it is one of the pieces that my former Bell Choir played at our wedding. It really is nice to hear it again and the St. James' choir did a great job of sight-reading the piece. It should sound wonderful by June!

Louise Olshan

Meet Cappy!



Cappy Gottfried was born and raised in Montclair, NJ. She attended Montclair High School and secretarial school. She tells me that growing up, she was a member of a very similar and loving church as St James' is. Her minister and mother were the ones that gave her a deep sense of faith. She always loved to sing and was in the church choir.

Cappy married and had 4 children, 1 daughter and 3 sons. She lost one son to leukemia when he was 24 and tells me that he was so loved that they received over 300 condolences. Cappy was married for 54 years and lived in Whippany at the time. Her husband, Phil, passed away about two years ago. That was when Cappy happily moved to Heath Village and started attending St James' (she says Cathy Deats is a doll!).

Cappy is retired from the Morris County Prosecutors Office. She has 5 wonderful grandchildren. She volunteers at the Heath Village library and is on several committees there. She is also a very active member of the St James' Fundraising Committee and is a lay visitor. Several weekends ago she spent the entire day at the St James' Rummage Sale and brought in many residents of Heath Village to the What in the World fundraiser the following day after church. She was also an important part of our Tricky Tray last year. She never misses a fundraising meeting. What energy!

If you know Cappy, you know she loves to laugh and tell jokes. She plays Bridge at Heath Village and also loves to read. Ask Cappy about the 28 years she spent singing with the Sweet Adelines! Cappy loves all kinds of music such as classical, jazz and big band.

We will honor graduates on Sunday, June 17th

Please contact the church office if there is a graduate in your family – 8th grade, High School, College, Professional School or other program. Our church family would like to celebrate graduation milestones with your family. Coffee Hour on that day will be hosted by the Education for Ministry (EFM) Class, which has two graduates who have completed the four-year program this year.

Church Communications in April

By now, folks who are connected to the Internet have seen one step to help improve communications at St. James'. Communications was a high priority project from the most recent Vestry Retreat. The Weekly 'eNewsletter' delivered via email was introduced towards the end of April. The Weekly eNewsletter is an electronic version of the weekly bulletin. That bulletin has already been made available on our website. A way to deliver the Announcements to your email Inbox was found requiring only a little extra work by anyone who wants to receive it. Everyone we know who has an email address was sent an email invitation to complete a subscription to the Weekly eNewsletter. The first edition sent to those who had already subscribed was sent out on Saturday, April 21st. The Weekly eNewsletter will be sent to all subscribers on or about Friday of each week as part of the bulletin preparation. The bulletin is created (typed one time) but is now distributed electronically to the Weekly eNewsletter and to the web site.

This Weekly eNewsletter is a one-way communications – The church office to you. Please note that there are a couple of printed characters that may appear in the Weekly eNewsletter as strange or looking weird. One of these, the apostrophe, will NOT show up in the electronic announcements. If you are looking at the name, St. James' Episcopal Church, it will show as St. James Episcopal Church (as long as we remember to remove it).

We have also set up another email list to be used only when absolutely needed to we reach all parishioners and friends of St. James, a Parish-wide email list. There have been several times when a message that needs to go out to all. One example is a Sunday this last winter when there was not going to be a worship service due to snow and everyone with email could have been notified in this way. As we expand this effort to improve communication, we will have the capability to generate mailing labels for those without Email.

The website and email are only two ways of communicating. Our intent is to reach everyone, but keeping our expenses on budget. The next step will be an option to have the St. James' Journal delivered electronically OR by normal postal mail service. It is also on the St. James' website and will continue to be, but you will have the option to have it arrive in your electronic Inbox.

Joseph T. Quinlan Bereavement Center

The Joseph T. Quinlan Bereavement Center located on the 2nd floor of the Mitcham House of St. James' Church will hold a Tea and Tour on Wednesday, May 23rd from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served. A slide show and sample materials will be available during the Open House.

This tour will be conducted for Karen Ann Quinlan employees, Board Members and Volunteers. The Bereavement Center has recently completed a renovation of their office space in the Mitcham House and this will be an opportunity to see their renovated office and learn more about the Bereavement Center and Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice and Home Care.

Fundraising News

See's Candy Sale

Another great effort by the community of St. James'. Through your support, we were able to sell \$990.15 worth of See's Candy giving us a profit of \$549.85.

Rummage Sale

What a day we had! The weather was just perfect and the entire community of Hackettstown was very busy, going from place to place looking for treasures. Many found them on our front lawn thanks to your donations. We raised \$602.00 to support the Ministries and Missions of St. James'. We could not have done it without your support. Thank you!

What in the World Coffee Hour

What in the World is right. This suggestion, brought to us by a couple of our very own parishioners, turned into a *great fundraiser* and a wonderful opportunity for us to gather together for fellowship. Many of you found the perfect little something, from Turtles to Dolphins, Candles to Clothing. It was a lot of fun and the turnout was spectacular. A special thank you to Al and Vicki Kopaca, owners of What in the World. Al and Vicki's donation of \$1040.00 from your purchases will go far in support of our efforts at St. James'.

Parish Picnic is a Comin'

When: Sunday, June 3

8:00 am service at St. James' as usual; 10:00 am service will be held at the park - Followed by food and fun. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks provided. Bring a dish to share
Bring lawn chairs (including an extra if you have one!) or blanket to sit on the grass.

Where: Independence Field of Dreams

Fully accessible park with paved walking trail, wheelchair accessible restrooms, playground for kids, sheltered pavilion for cooking out and plenty of space for fun and games! Bring your bats and gloves for a softball game.

Episcopal Appalachian Ministries (EAM)

Trip Applications for the Episcopal Appalachian Ministries are available from the church office and online. Trip dates: July 28 - August 5, 2007

Vestry Highlights from April 26, 2007

- St. James' has been awarded a grant for \$7,725 from the Diocese of Newark Ward J Herbert fund to pay for half of the repairs to the steeple roof.
- The Fundraising Committee raised \$1,040 at the "What in the World" sale, \$602 at the yard sale and \$550 from the candy sale. The vestry approved their upcoming expenses of \$355.78 for signage for the next two events and additional seed money (\$500) for deposits.
- Deaf Ministry received a grant of \$3,600 from the ACTS/VIM fund of the Diocese of Newark. The request was for \$ 9,500, and so plans will be made to fund or modify this ministry.
- Russ Worthington presented a Communications Plan to the vestry in response to the goal set at the Vestry Retreat. St. James' now has a news email address, an e-newsletter, the ability to contact all parish members who have email addresses on file, and enhanced website. *(If you have not seen the website lately, go visit, and be sure to check out the slide shows!)*
- The Rector thanked grants committee members Candy Brewster, Phyllis Heistand and Dawn Modugno for their work on researching grant opportunities for the building project, specifically for the elevator. Thirteen letters of intent were sent to foundations this month in hopes of receiving invitations to make full proposals.

Finance Update

This is a summary of Income and Expense for the General Operating Fund for the year 2006. A more detailed report is provided to the vestry monthly and is available to you on request from the church office.

	YTD ACTUAL 12/31/2006	BUDGET 2006 12/31/2006	YTD ACTUAL 12/31/2005
Pledges and Contributions	133,786	130,891	123,724
Investment Income	36,128	36,500	36,392
Other Income	21,190	14,850	9,070
Total Income	191,104	182,241	169,186
Wages and Benefits	129,255	127,201	129,313
Administration	28,355	28,260	29,031
Ministries	25,782	26,780	23,753
Total Expense	183,392	182,241	182,097
Difference	7712	0	(12,911)

(Amounts rounded to nearest dollar)