



St. James Matters

A Monthly Publication of St. James' Episcopal Church, Boardman, Ohio

Volume One, Issue Six

January 2009

The Rector's Whatnot

Father Kelly Marshall

“And so we come to 2009, the year in which our historic congregation celebrates the 200th anniversary of its recognition as a Parish of the Episcopal Church. Our records indicate that this happened on July 20, 1809 by action of Bishop Samuel Provoost of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. But a congregation of Episcopal Christians surely had been meeting for a number of years on this Ohio frontier, prior to this important date. The Boardman Family in 1907, for example, gave the parish an elaborately bound Altar Book on which was imprinted the founding date of 1807. Off and on, we’ve been working at our 200th Anniversary for nearly two years now. But this is the year of the “Official Big Deal Celebration.”

A Bicentennial Task Force has met since last summer to plan events for 2009. We’ll bring to the January Annual Parish Meeting a detailed report of what this Bicentennial Year will look like—and next month’s *St. James Matters* will review much of that report for those who weren’t in attendance at the January 18 meeting.

Until then, it’s enough to say that you and I are honored to be the here-and-now-representatives of St. James’ Episcopal Church in Boardman. It falls to us to celebrate the vision, mission and witness of those who petitioned the Bishop of New York to recognize them as a constituent part of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States. It remains our privileged honor to move our parish family into its third century as faithful Episcopal Christians.

*O God of Bethel, by whose hand
thy people still are fed;
who through this earthly pilgrimage
hast all our fathers led . . .*

My guess is that they sang this hymn (numbered 709 in our Hymnal) as we do, to the familiar tune *Dundee*. English-speaking Christians had been singing that particular melody since at least the 1630s, when it appeared in print in *The Psalmes of David in Prose and Meeter*. We’ll be sure to sing it when we gather on **Sunday, January 25 at 10:00** in our historic place of worship—the **St. James’ Meeting House in Boardman Park**. Will you plan now to join us there, as we keep the first Eucharist of our Bicentennial Year at Old St. James’ Church?

Your Rector and friend,

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At St. James' Episcopal Church
ALL Are Welcome!

A Sunday 8 a.m. Eucharist (no music) is celebrated in the Mary Magdalene Chapel each week. This is a way to encourage weekly Eucharistic devotion for those who cannot attend the 10:00 liturgy on any particular Sunday.

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS

Mary Ann Fees

Meet the Kastens



The Kasten family—Suzy, Dan, Julian (age 11) and James (age 9) moved from Dallas, Texas to Poland on October 30, because Dan got a job as the Advertising Director at *The Vindicator*. Suzy's most recent position was Administrative Assistant to the Dean at the Cathedral of St. Matthew. The Kastens have moved around quite a bit. Dan is from the St. Louis area, and Suzy was born and raised in the Denver-Boulder area. They have lived on Indian Rocks Beach, FL (near Clearwater), St. Louis, MO, Littleton, CO, and Dallas before moving to Poland. Suzy was very excited to move to the Youngstown area because she has aunts, an uncle, and cousins just across the PA border.

Suzy was raised Roman Catholic, and was received in the Episcopal Church in 2001. Dan is from a Jewish family. Suzy is presently prayerfully considering what ministries she may be called to at St. James.

Suzy says that starting on the first Sunday they attended St. James, everyone has been extremely friendly and welcoming. Julian and James were invited to holiday parties on the first day, and went. This is the first small parish that Suzy has joined and she is looking forward to learning how it all works as time goes by. Suzy thinks that St. James is a great community and a really good fit for the Kasten family. ∞



Membership at St. James' Episcopal Church

If you wish officially to become a member of our parish family and faith community, we encourage you to speak with Father Marshall, Father Wigle, or any member right away.

We will welcome our newest members on February 22 at the Festival Eucharist. An 8:45 breakfast for new members and their families is hosted by our Vestry and the Membership Ministry Team.

The Parochial Register



Awaiting Membership Transfer

Susan Kasten
James Kasten

**All Are Welcome
In This Place**



2009 ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY CANDLES

Sign-up sheets are located on the Parlor Table for any and all to donate Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles for 2009. You may choose **any Sunday** (except Christmas and Easter, when we have multiple gifts with donations made by anyone at the time). Flower donations are \$25.00, and the Sanctuary Candle is \$10.00.

You can sign up through Sunday, **January 18**. You may wish to pay in advance—it helps the Altar Guild and the Office Staff a lot; *however, this isn't necessary*. If you have any questions, please contact **Paula Ulicny**.

NOTE: If you had listed a specific date for 2008, it will be carried over **UNLESS** we hear from you. All dates are open, and others also may donate flowers or candles on that date.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Celebratory Service Planned for January 18

As you may know, the last service at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was celebrated on December 28 with Fr. Wigle officiating. Our friends at St. Andrew's are planning a celebratory service for Sunday, January 15 at 4 p.m., followed by a catered dinner. Details are still coming together. . . watch our Sunday bulletin for information about how you can make a reservation to attend this special liturgy and dinner.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR KIDS—Grades K-6

Barbara Wigle



The Christian Formation teaching teams are doing a great job.

The five teams are: Mary Ellen Maruschak and Louise Thorne; Michele DeRhodes; Gretchen Scheel and Jaimie Vanden Bosch; John and Barbara Wigle; and our newest team, Paul and Julie VanDevender. We are so thankful for their dedication and hard work. The children are wonderful and are studying the same Bible passage each week as their parents and grandparents during the church service.

This year, we added a couple of “fun” parties for the children. In October, a swim party was held at Liz Myer’s home (she has an indoor pool). The children loved it!! Many thanks Liz, and thanks, too, to the VanDevenders for supplying the refreshments.

A Taco Party was held on December 12 in Jones Hall. Julie VanDevender supplied taco fixings, Susan Kasten the drinks, and Barb Wigle the cupcakes. The children enjoyed the food, made Christmas ornaments and watched a video.

The Super Saturday event, originally scheduled for November, was postponed. A new date in February or March will be announced soon. The theme will be “Learning to Be Grateful and Generous.” The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 1:15 p.m. and will include storytelling, games, crafts, music and lunch. All children from kindergarten through grade 6 are invited. Ask your friends and neighbors if their children might like to come. It’s free! Call the church office (330-758-2727) to register.

Many thanks for all your support of the children’s Christian Formation ministries.☺

5th ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS’ DAY FESTIVAL

Ben VandenBosch

The weather outside was frightful, but the 5th annual St. Nicholas’ Day Festival was delightful! A special thank you to all who participated in this year’s event. Fr. Kelly offered a unique alternative to the usual festival services observed throughout the year featuring our young people’s many gifts and talents as readers, acolytes, and musicians.

The children’s choir made its debut under the direction of Julie Van Devender. A homily message designed to teach children about the roots of St. Nicholas’ ministry was presented with a special twist that only Zeke, our seminary intern, Bill Dick, and members of our youth group could pull off. One of the more memorable moments was Zeke dressed in a Santa suit kneeling at the communion rail accompanied by Jaimie in an elf hat and Rachael wearing reindeer antlers and a blinking red nose!

The St. Nicholas’ Day offering was split between Mr. Dick’s Ukrainian Mission and the Boardman “Shop with a Cop” program. Area F.O.P. Presidents Glenn Koontz and Darren Tallman were on hand to introduce this program, which teams up underprivileged children with local law enforcement to promote goodwill towards others and to foster a positive relationship with our safety services. Gifts of hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens were gratefully received by the Mahoning Valley Rescue Mission.

Refreshments followed in Jones Hall where children received gift bags, activity books, and had an opportunity to make a reindeer candy cane tree ornament. Kids and adults also had an opportunity



Pictured above with St. Nicholas, Olivia Van Devender and Judith Myer.

to have their picture taken with St. Nicholas. Thanks to members of the St. Nicholas Team—Dave Belvedere, Sharyn Fees, Kurt Hilderbrand, Patti Opsitnik, and Wendie Vanden Bosch—and to everyone who helped out in any way to make the event a success. Despite the nasty weather, a reporter and photographer from *The Vindicator* visited and reported on the event in Sunday’s paper

We missed some of our members this year due to scheduling conflicts and the inclement weather, but we welcomed many “first-timers” and appreciate all who came out on such a cold and snowy evening.

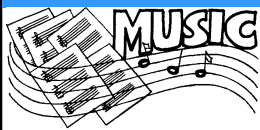
Mark your calendars now for our 6th annual St. Nicholas’ Day Festival—December 6, 2009.☺

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Julie Aromatorio

The youth group was thrilled to welcome its newest member, Julian Kasten, earlier this month. The group had a Christmas party at the home of Liz Myer and had a fantastic time eating, chatting, and playing board games. The party substituted for our monthly meeting, so we don’t have much recent news. But on behalf of the St. James’ Youth Group, Happy New Year!!☺

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER UPDATE



We welcomed an interim organist/choirmaster on the First Sunday of Christmas, December 28. **Matthew Mueller** is a 2005 graduate (*magna cum laude*) of the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, with a major in Sacred Music. He most recently served as Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia. Matt currently is seeking a full-time position in a parish church which hires musicians full time. He has agreed to work as our interim choirmaster and organist until such a position materializes for him or until we hire the part-time musician we're seeking. Our expectation, by the way, is that such a person will be in place no later than the beginning of Lent. Until then, we are privileged to get to know Matthew and to work with him in offering the very best music we can offer on Sunday mornings, to the glory of God. His first evening with the St. James' Choir will be Wednesday, January 7. ☞



The First Bicentennial Eucharist of Our Year of Celebration

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25
10 a.m.
St. James' Meeting House
(Boardman Park)

A day for the parish family to gather in our historic 1829 house of worship and give thanks to God for **200 Years of Ministry in Boardman.**

The 8:00 morning Eucharist will be celebrated in the Mary Magdalene Chapel, but there will be **no 10:00 liturgy** at St. James' Church (Glenwood Avenue) that day.

January Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 David Belvedere
- 2 Chuck Thorne
- Peg Howe
- 8 Jim Shurtleff
- 9 Rose Bissett
- 9 Tania Holtsford
- 12 Jeff Fees
- 14 Rex Leach
- 22 Florence Daggett
- 24 Marion Grahovsky
- 26 Jean Nelepka
- 28 Mark Scheel
- 28 Olivia Van Devender
- 29 Julian Kasten

Anniversaries

- 9 Craig & Janice Hardin
- 17 Harry & Sally Moldovan

NOMINATIONS FOR VESTRY POSITIONS

At the parish's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 18, members of the congregation will elect three persons to three-year terms, and another person to serve the one-year, unexpired term of Vestry member Rose Bissett, who has resigned from the Vestry with regrets, because of her husband's health. The Vestry's Nominating Team will present a slate of candidates for these four positions. Any communicant member of the parish family, however, may nominate **communicant members in good standing** for these open slots.

A communicant member in good standing is a member of the parish who participates actively in the life of the congregation, regularly giving her/his time, energy and resources to the mission of the Church. She or he must agree in advance of January 18 to serve on the Vestry. As a Vestry member s/he will be the liaison to one or more of our ministry areas. S/he must be willing to attend Vestry regular meetings as scheduled and special meetings as called. S/he must be able to attend the Diocesan Winter Convocation on February 6-7 in Perrysburg, along with other Vestry members and Ministry Coordinators. We invite your prayerful consideration concerning those members of the parish who will work closely with the Rector in providing vision and leadership into the next three years. ☞

DIRECTORY UPDATES



Please note the following additions/corrections to the recently published parish directory:

Addition:

Dan & Susan Kasten
James
Julian
74 Poland Manor
Poland, OH 44514
(330)757-3635
sqk@kasten.co.uk

AMBROSE THE CHURCHMOUSE



Dear church folks: I witnessed something pretty amazing one Sunday after church. I was waiting for folks to leave so that I could

check out what tasty morsels might be left from coffee hour. To my surprise, many church folks were scurrying around like—well, like little mice. Before long the Christmas tree in the parlor was decorated, the altar and sanctuary were adorned with beautiful evergreen wreaths, red and white flowers, and candles. I later discovered some people and animals had appeared where the baptismal font usually stands. I thought it would be nice for me to make them feel welcome, so I crawled up there to introduce myself. But they all stood very quietly and didn't say a word. Silly me...they aren't real, but they had me fooled for a bit.

If you were in church on Christmas Eve, during Fr. Kelly's sermon we were all reminded that Christmas is about love. God wants us all to

love each other. Some people (and creatures) are easy to love, but others we have to work a little harder to love. For instance, I love my momma and pappa mice and my grandma and grandpa mice. I have lots of fun hanging out with some of my cousin mice. Then there are these other creatures—like cats—that I have a hard time loving, especially since I know they'd probably like to make me into a meal! But...in the spirit of Christmas, I'm going to try really hard. So, to get things started, I'd like to introduce you to some feline friends of the parish. They belong to Patti Opsitnik and are affectionately known as "Boy Cat" and "Girl Cat." You can read more about them in the new column below called "Our Pampered Pets." If you'd like to tell the rest of the church folks about your pets, send your story to Patti or the church office.

Until next time, I'll be seeing you...but you probably won't see me.

~Ambrose

Help Send Zeke to RUSSIA! Really!

Will you consider a gift to help our *Seminary Intern Zeke Coughlin* continue his ministry preparation with other seminarians via a January trip to St. Petersburg, Russia?

If you'll contribute to this worthy opportunity for Zeke, please make your check payable to St. James' Church with "Rector's Fund—Zeke" in the memo line. Or mark your cash gift "Zeke—Rector's Fund."

WINTER VESTRY DAY

Saturday, January 17

9:30 to 1:00



A Day to Get Our Bearings
for the New Year!

PET TALES

Patti Opsitnik

Pet Tales is a new feature of our St. James' newsletter! From time to time we will feature one household's furry, feathered, or fin-y creatures. I'm sure church mice are not the only beasts associated with St. James! [no offense, Ambrose]

Meet *Mr. and Mrs. B. Kats*, a pair of lilac-point Siamese who command me. They are rumored to be 12 and 13 years old, but are actually ageless reincarnations of old souls. I read somewhere that the ultimate reincarnation was to come back as a temple cat because they are the most pampered of all animals, but these guys have them beat. Their proper names are *Boy* and *Girl*. In the win-



Boy Cat



Girl Cat

ter, they spend all of their time before the hot air register. In the summer, they enjoy sitting on the window ledge communing with nature and other, though inferior, cats. Their favorite recreation is shedding on my black coat!

I look forward to learning the stories of other pets associated with our parish family. Please send a brief description of your furry friends with a picture to: Patti Opsitnik at pop-sit@att.net. For the less computer literate (including me), hard copies may be sent to: 16 Deeringwood Drive, New Middletown, OH 44442 or dropped off at the church office. ☺

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Fr. John Wigle

Mark your calendar now for the following opportunities for adult Christian formation:

Semester 1

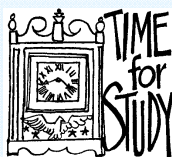
The Season of Light

“Passionate Practical Prayer”

Tuesdays—Jan. 13- Feb. 17

7—8:30 p.m.

John Hamel, world traveler, director of Christian ministries and seasoned student of meditation and prayer, will be our “guru.” Fresh from presenting this series at St. Luke’s, Niles with rave reviews, John will guide us to develop modern adaptations of ancient spiritual disciplines including Centering Prayer, Meditative Readings, Mantra, and Prayer of Imagination. Reach out—invite your friends and neighbors.



Semester 2

The Lenten Semester

“More of Nooma”

Tuesdays—March 3-31

7—8:30 p.m.

By special request, more of this series of short DVDs to stimulate discussions that change and challenge the way we experience spirituality. We will begin with a simple meal of soup and bread.

Semester 3

The Easter Semester

“The Bible from A to Z”

Tuesdays—April 14-May 26

7—8:30 p.m.

A spiritual journey through scripture guided by the delightful cartoons of Episcopal priest Jan Sidebotham. A humorous educational approach to The Bible.

Another exciting option. . .

The Adult Forum

Most Sundays from 8:45-9:30 beginning February 1

A “between the services” opportunity, our first series (three sessions), “The Birds and Bees of the Anglican Tradition: Where Episcopalians Come From,” will be led by our seminary intern, Zeke Coughlin.



St. James’ Book Club

Watch the Sunday bulletin for news about The St. James’ Book Club. The group recently read *Un-fraid*, the story of Mary by Francine Rivers (Lineage of Grace Series). Next up: *The Shack* by William Paul Young. The Book Club will meet to discuss *The Shack* on January 29 at 7 p.m. in the parlor.

BUDDY BLANKETS FOR KIDS

The Pastoral Ministry Team is sponsoring a program to make Buddy Blankets for children who are having surgery in a local hospital. Each child is given a fleece blanket to take into surgery and to take home. No sewing, knitting or crocheting is involved. All you have to know how to do is use a pair of scissors and tie a knot. The fabric will be provided. All ages are welcome! **Form a family or friends team to work on a blanket together.**

~SAVE THE DATE~

Saturday, January 10, 2009

11:00 a.m.

To sign up to sponsor a blanket and/or make a blanket, see any member of the Pastoral Ministry Team (Ann Sitler, Florence Hosler, Clare Julian, Mary Ellen Maruschak or Cindy Simerlink.) Or, contact the parish office by calling 330-758-2727, or emailing office@stjamesboardman.com. The cost of sponsorship is \$17.00 per blanket. Light refreshments will be served.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JAMES’ CHURCH Sunday, January 18 at 11:30 a.m.

A business meeting of the parish family to elect Vestry members and to receive reports, including the Rector’s report and the 2009 budget.

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY
MARTHA WRIGHT,
Diocesan Communications Staff Person,
concerning “How We Present Ourselves to Our
Community.”

!! IMPORTANT !!

If you are the coordinator of a ministry team, please submit your report via email to office@stjamesboardman.com
by January 5.

DID YOU KNOW???

Sharyn Fees



Did you know that the lovely, hand-painted nativity set that graces our sanctuary each Christmas season was

made by members of St. James' ECW, Millie Pollock and Sally Moldovan? The ECW paid for the greenware, paint and glazes, and Sally and Millie spent the summer of 1979 working in Millie's basement cleaning the greenware molds, painting and glazing each figure and animal. Millie painted the faces and Sally the bodies. Each piece had to be fired twice, and transporting the delicate pieces to The House of Ceramics for firing was difficult given the size of some, such as the camels. Millie has since relocated to Florida to be closer to her children. Sally still attends St. James, so the next time you see her won't you thank her for this labor of love that all of us enjoy each Christmas.~

BARNABAS BUNCH FORMED

Jeff Downey



Barnabas was a prominent member of the early church. Originally named Joseph, he received the name Barnabas from the Apostles. The name means "son of encouragement." Encouragement must have been part of Barnabas' ministry. When the Jerusalem church was nervous about accepting the newly-converted Paul into their midst, it

was Barnabas who vouched for him. Barnabas then became a traveling companion of Paul, accompanying him on his first missionary journeys. Barnabas must have made quite an impression on people. When the residents of Lystra mistook Paul and Barnabas for gods, they thought Barnabas was Zeus, the chief Greek god.

But we want to highlight one story about Barnabas. In the fourth chapter of Acts, it is reported that Barnabas sold a field, and laid the proceeds of the sale "at the Apostles' feet." This must have been an extraordinary act of generosity, to receive special mention in scripture. Barnabas gave up a material thing in order to support the mission of the church.

On a smaller scale, a group of people at St. James' Church are trying to do the same thing. We're calling ourselves "The Barnabas Bunch." You'll hear more about us in the near future.~

Gospel Readings for January

January 4
Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

January 6
Epiphany
Matthew 2:1-12

January 11
Mark 1:7-11

January 18
John 1:43-51

January 25
Mark 1:14-20



To access the week's Bible Readings online, go to <http://www.io.com/~kellywp/index.html>.

THE COOKS' CORNER

This recipe is from the kitchen of Wealthie Prince and is perfect for holiday gatherings and/or Super Bowl parties.

Party Cheese Ball

- 2 8 oz. pkgs. cream cheese
- 2 C. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 Tbsp. chopped pimienta
- 1 Tbsp. finely chopped onion
- 1 Tbsp. chopped green pepper
- 2 tsps. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- Finely chopped pecans

Combine softened cream cheese and cheddar cheese, mixing until well blended. Add next five ingredients, mix well. Chill. Shape into ball; roll in chopped nuts.





February Events

Singles & Couples
Hosted by Bev Hilderbrand
February 6, 7 p.m.

Diocesan Winter Convocation
For Vestry & Ministry Coordinators
Perrysburg, Ohio
February 6 & 7

Youth Ski Trip
February 13 & 14

Festival Eucharist
**End of Epiphany/
Reception of New Members**
February 22, 10 a.m.

“We always can afford to be generous. Always.”



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED