



Catholic Church  
of St. James

# Parish Newsletter



**51** rising kindergarten through grade 5 students arrived at 8 AM Saturday morning July 8, eager to attend the one-day Vacation Bible School Extravaganza called *Tracking Mary*. To carry out the theme, Maintenance Director, Earl Videan, and parishioners Larry Walbourne and Jennifer Orchard, along with Patrick Best, spent several days beforehand creating a huge choo-choo train, dubbed the *Queen of Heaven Express*.

Children began the day by coloring a picture of the Virgin Mary on their very own bags, which stored the craft projects they made throughout the day. After singing and dancing, led by Caitlyn Hinnerschitz, the children rotated in small groups, through different learning stations in which they learned about various apparitions of Mary and about praying the rosary.

Beginning with Our Lady of Lourdes, they heard the story of Mary's appearance to Bernadette in France, played active games related to it, made a replica of the grotto in Lourdes, and prayed the first decade of the rosary and discussed what it meant. After all this, they were hungry! The Knights of Columbus provided hotdogs, chips, cookies, and drinks for them and for the 26 teen and adult volunteers.

Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal, was the next stop. At one of the stations, children were told of the monthly appearances of Mary to three shepherd children from May through October 1917, during which Mary urged the children to pray the rosary daily, and that devotion to the rosary was the key to personal and world peace. Our children made sun-spinners at the craft station to commemorate the spectacular event called the Miracle of the Sun, which occurred around noon on October 13, 1917. That day, before a crowd of 70,000 people, the sun seemed to spin in the sky and change colors, before appearing to plunge towards the earth.

Our day concluded with activities about Our Lady of Knock. This apparition, unfamiliar to many, occurred on August 21, 1879, in Knock, Ireland. Our children heard of the eyewitness accounts of 15 people who saw the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, and St. John, the Evangelist, outside of the Chapel of Knock. To help our children remember this event, they each created their own holy water fonts, decorated with the image of Our Lady of Knock. They were also given holy water bottles so that they could fill their fonts when they got home. To conclude the day, the children again sang and danced to Marian songs. Then they were given sugar cookies baked by parishioner Chris Clarke, who had assembled them into the shape of a rosary.

It is impossible, in this short space, to mention all the activities in which the children participated at our VBS this year. Likewise, there is not room to name the many devoted volunteers who prepared and led the various stations. St. James is indeed blessed to have so many parishioners who willingly gave their time and talent that day, or the many who gave of their treasure by donating items, in stewardship, to make this day possible.

This was, indeed, a truly *Catholic* Vacation Bible School, centered on our Blessed Virgin Mary. May it help strengthen our children's faith and devotion to God, Mary, and praying the rosary, especially as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima.

Contributed by Paulette Flench  
Religious Education Coordinator

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**PEACE**  
**BE**  
**WITH**  
**YOU**

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## Interview with Deacon Jeff Mevissen

Jeff Mevissen has lived in Conway since 1987 and has been our deacon here at St. James since being ordained in 2002. He and Susan have five children and four grandchildren.

### **Tell me about your life before your “calling” to become a deacon.**

I was very shy when I was a young boy. I believe that the Holy Spirit helped me overcome that, and this is where my self-confidence comes from. I was one of five boys in my family, and my mother had always wanted a girl. So, they stopped trying at that point, but the upside of that was I learned how to sew and how to cook. And how to make beds with French corners. Very important life skills!

### **Tell us how your “calling” affected your education.**

I entered the diocesan seminary in St. Paul, Minneapolis, after high school. I did that for three years, and then left to join Glenmary Missioners with headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio. I did this through my third year of Theology. The advantage of those years was learning biblical studies, some Greek and some Latin, which were all important classic studies. In short, my educational path included St. Thomas Aquinas, in St. Paul, with a major in Philosophy, more undergraduate studies in 1978 at the University of Dayton, my undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Coastal Carolina University, and a master’s degree in Theology from Washington Theology Union, in Washington DC.

### **How did your family and friends react to your formation?**

Then I met Susan. We were friends for more than a year before I began to question my vocation. I went on a retreat at a center up in Canada for a week, and then decided to leave Glenmary Missioners. We were both 28, we got married, and soon after, made up for lost married time by having our five children over a span of eight years! Father ’Rick encouraged me to become a deacon. He had to ask me three times to do this. With my family, and a challenging career, it was not something I was anxious to delve into. But he made a very persuasive argument, and of course now, it seems like it was meant to be. And actually, those formation years, and I’m sure Tim and Jim would agree, were harder than the ministry. But when I talked to my children, they said, “Go for it, Dad.” And it meant some sacrifice for them, because it diverted my time. But Susan is the one who keeps reminding me that my first vocation is marriage, and she’s absolutely right. She is my conscience! One of the hardest things to do is to not get over-extended.

### **Define formation, please.**

Let me say a few words about formation. We were lucky that the first two years, Monsignor Roth led the studies right here in Myrtle Beach, so that was very convenient. A deacon studies everything a priest studies, and it’s considered “seminary light.” But I think our training was very thorough. What a priest studies in a year’s period of time, the deacons study only for a five or six weeks’ session. Certainly, having an ecclesiology (theology of the church) and a Christology training is important so that the Church is not one of domination but one of service. The proper perspective of how the Holy Spirit works is very important. The reign of God is very active in the world today. I’ll be very happy to have Jim and Tim join our ranks of deacon at St. James because they are fine people and they will do very well.

### **How has the diaconate affected your life?**

The toughest thing is that your time is no longer just your own. In other words, you’re a public person. It makes demands on my time, which normally is fine, but when I juggle my job and my family and my ministry, normally it messes, but there are times when each one is challenging the other and it gets tough. The best part of it is being an ambassador of the Lord, and that is how I approach my ministry, letting the Lord speak through me. This is a great honor and a privilege. So, I just try to stay out of the way. I know Jesus wants to feed His people, and I know that the people are hungry for God’s Word. Therefore, I know that I can be the people’s conduit and thus I have done my job. Of course, being a part of St. James is a warm and generous community. I don’t know how you could find a more warm and generous people than those of the St. James community. It’s a blessing to be assigned here because you should know that it’s not a given that a deacon shall work in his own parish. So, it has worked out to this point.

## Deacon Jeff Interview (continued)

### **What kind of hobbies clear your mind and let you be the happy care-free Jeff Mevissen?**

Well, I love to kayak in tame rivers where speed boats aren't making waves, and I also enjoy biking, running, and cycle racing. I try to find tributaries where the water is calm and my thoughts run smoothly. I have my motorcycle, which I use infrequently, mostly to get to church most times during good weather. It's funny when I was in grade school, I loved to read non-fiction, and my teachers said, "Jeff, you should branch out somewhat and enjoy other forms of reading such as fiction."

Susan and I have four grandchildren, two by Chris in Houston and two in Conway with Beth. They usually come up for Christmas, and last year came here for Neil's wedding. We have three children nearby. Paul and Neil in Charlotte and Maria in Rock Hill, which is also near Charlotte. Susan and I have lived here in Conway for the past 30 years. It's been nice to have lived near the kid's grandparents (Susan's mom and dad) in Surfside while they were alive.

### **Do your homilies run from beginning to end just as you intended, or do they sometimes run on in ways you did not intend them to?**

Normally they are very scripted, mainly to keep me from venturing into an area or a topic that is unscripted, not part of the train of thought. The way that happens is about a week before I am due to deliver my homily five times during the weekend, I run it through Google translator into Spanish. Then I read it one hundred times, literally in Spanish, and by that time I pretty much know it by heart. And I like this system, because I am free from notes, and I no longer worried about remembering it. So, if I can remember it, the person in the pews can remember it. If I was using notes, I would tend to verbalize more because of the notes.

I want to add that the Spanish community have been very patient with me as I have been trying to grow in my Spanish fluency. They are very encouraging and I am very grateful for this, because if they were judgmental or impatient, that would be a real struggle for me. Sometimes I do a communion service on Tuesdays and I will give a short reflection in Spanish and the people are very warm and receptive. Very spiritual, very prayerful.

### **What's next for Jeff Mevissen?**

So, I'll probably work another six years until I reach full security age of 67, and I then would be able to start traveling with Susan to see the rest of our country that we haven't visited yet. We'll see if our finances will allow that. There's a lot more things I could do as far as ministries are concerned. I would love to work in a prison with Paula and the others, as well as the social ministries like Street Reach, and the others. But for now, we'll see, we'll have to see how that will develop.

### **Last question, how do you decide whether to grow a beard or goatee in the fall?**

Well, it usually starts on the autumnal equinox, the first day of fall, and it usually comes off on the first day of spring. And the reason I switched to a goatee was my brothers accused me of being Santa Claus!

Being a deacon has been a wonderful journey, and although it may seem that I entered this journey a bit reluctantly, it has turned out to be very fulfilling and a joy and has turned out to be just as it was meant to be.

Deacon Jeff Mevissen



## **Mission St. James in Honduras-2017**

On June 20, 2017, 25 members of the Mission St. James team departed on a nearly 20-hour-long journey to the town of Juticalpa, Olancho, Honduras: an impoverished town that takes pride in their faith, displaying the word of God on nearly every street corner, car, and market. The journey consisted of two flights and one three-hour bus ride from the country's capital of Tegucigalpa to the town of Juticalpa. The road was bumpy, but the views were incredible!

About a year before leaving for the mission, the team worked together to fund the trip which included food, housing, travel expenses, and the funding of our work-project. Our intended goal was \$50,000, and with the support of the St. James community, we raised just over \$43,000!!! Roughly \$6,000 went towards funding three work projects.

While in Juticalpa the team was hosted by the Olancho Aid Foundation. We lived in a compound that graciously lets the Foundation use an old nunnery to house missionaries over the summer months. The house has seven rooms with two or three bunk beds each. There is no air conditioning, drinkable running water (we drank from bottled water provided by the Foundation), or television; but somehow time seemed more enjoyable playing with the kids in the orphanage next door, walking to the bakery a few buildings over, or enjoying the mountainous views on the deck where we came together in the mornings to pray and the evenings to eat. You almost forget you are in a third world country when you take in all the beauty surrounding the mission house.

This year, the team was fortunate enough to work on a project that had been waiting for us for 5 years. The small, 500-person village of El Chaparro applied for assistance through the Olancho Aid Foundation nearly 5 years before the team arrived. Due to the high demand (and need) for the impoverished in Olancho, the foundation was unable to fulfill their request until this year. The village was located roughly thirty minutes from the mission house, which could be reached by taking the main highway and ending with a mile-long trek up a bumpy, unkept dirt road.

Our team of 25 missionaries worked tirelessly for ten days on a total of three projects. The first project was painting the water filtration building placed by the Olancho Aid foundation prior to our arrival. This building provides the village with clean drinking water, powered by solar panels. The second project was back on the main road, roughly a mile from the village, where the team helped to build steps leading to a church located on a small hill. The team ripped out the former steps, which consisted of old car batteries and tires, to put in new steps made of cinder block and concrete. The final project, which can be considered the main project, was renovating the village's church. Prior to the arrival of the team, the foundation hired local contractors to add several feet onto the small church. Even then, the church was just a bit smaller than the parish hall at St. James. The floor was bumpy and cracked, making it uncomfortable for the children without shoes to walk on. The grounds outside were covered with debris, trash, broken wood, roofing tiles, and piles of sand and dirt. It desperately needed a lot of TLC.

The team started by cleaning up the grounds, removing trash, and moving the roofing tiles to the building next door. This alone was a major improvement from what was once there. The next several days saw the team working on the new flooring while hired local contractors placed a brand-new roof over the church! To get the floor done, the team mixed cement without a cement mixer. The process went something like this: two bags of cement to three wheelbarrows full of dirt, mix together, use shovels to create volcano shape, add 2-3 buckets of water, mix water with the mixture, shovel into wheelbarrows, lay on the floor, smooth, repeat. For some of us gringos, this wasn't easy work!

At the end of the mission, the team had provided the church with a new roof, new floor, clean grounds, and a fresh coat of paint. But most importantly, the team provided the village with a place truly worthy of being called the house of God.

The experience of renovating a church hugely impacted the team. I think it is safe to say that despite language barriers, each one of us felt a deep appreciation from those in the community. It was a gentle reminder that we are all called to be the hands and feet of Christ, wherever He is calling us to be. Service is an experience which presents to us the universality of His love. What strives in the act of service is our ability to truly become brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter the distance or language barrier. It was extremely humbling to know that what the village couldn't do in five years, the team was able to accomplish in one. If this doesn't speak volumes on the poverty in Honduras, I'm not sure what does. I often hear people say how easy it would be to raise the money and send it down for the Hondurans to do themselves. But, the Olancho Aid Foundation encourages missionaries to be present in their work; interacting with the locals, playing with the children, and loving who God intended us to love. I think that's what makes this such a special mission; being able to build relationships with people you would probably have never met otherwise.

## **Mission St. James-2017 (continued from pg. 4)**

If you have ever considered joining the Mission St. James team, I highly recommend it. This was my third trip, and I can say that the experience is unparalleled. The next trip will be in the summer of 2019. If you would like to watch a short video on our 2017 trip please follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCzTyst7AcY>

There are not enough words to express our deepest gratitude for the St. James community and their support of this mission. We hope you all know that without your support, none of this would be possible.

Contributed by Taylor Monahan  
Mission St. James 2017



### **Resisting Happiness Book Discussion**

**I**t is finally here. The book discussion on *Resisting Happiness* is a great way to kick off the fall season. The discussion is divided into six sessions and will run from September 20 – October 25 on Wednesday evenings from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Are you overwhelmed? Do you procrastinate? Do you sometimes feel like you are your own worst enemy? Are you ignoring your dreams? Have you lost the courage to truly be yourself? Do you feel like your life lacks meaning and purpose? Do you find yourself avoiding the real issues in your life and focusing on the superficial?

*Resisting Happiness* is a deeply personal, disarmingly transparent look at why we sabotage our own happiness and what we can do about it. There are also a limited number of books available if you did not get one from the church this past Christmas. Hope to see everyone on Wednesday, September 20, to begin our journey together.

Please contact Tami Hinnerschitz to register call (843) 331-3111  
or email: [tamitaxlady@gmail.com](mailto:tamitaxlady@gmail.com).



## The Next Generation of Catholics

**M**y name is Caitlyn Hinnerschitz, and I have lived in the Myrtle Beach area for the past nine years. I moved to South Carolina from Beacon, NY. I am nineteen years old. I have been dancing since the age of three, so I guess you can say that is one of my passions! Another passion is helping others grow and flourish, which is why I am studying Elementary Education at Coastal as a Teaching Fellow for the state of South Carolina. Teaching Fellows is a branch of CERRA, being a Teaching Fellows mean that I get hands on experience in classrooms and professional developments that are not offered to other education students.

My parents and I have been attending St. James for quite some time now. I have volunteered at VBS each summer, and the past three summers I have been the dance instructor as the summer camp. For the past two years, I have also been involved in the RCIA program at St. James. I was an assistant teacher with Mrs. Lisa Mockus for the 2015-2016 academic year. I loved helping the children dive into their faith so much that I was a co-teacher with Libby Close this past school year.

I am currently a sophomore at Coastal Carolina on a full scholarship. My freshmen year at CCU was filled with so many experiences that I will not forget for a long, long time. The year started off with a bang by being named the CCU Big Read Essay Contest for 2016 out of all the other freshmen on campus. The first semester went by smoothly and I received a 4.0 GPA and made the President's List. After the university saw how I was blossoming at Coastal, I was then invited to be a part of the Honors Program at CCU, proceeding that I was inducted into the university's Honors Society. Then in mid-January I was named the CCU Featured/Spotlight student of the week. For this accomplishment, I was given the opportunity to go to a photo shoot and share my experiences about my first semester at Coastal. Then a few weeks later I was invited to speak on behalf of the Education Department to be a part of Coastal's Donor Appreciation Video for the 2016-2017 school year. I was flabbergasted and of course said yes to the opportunity! The Dean of the Education Department then suggested me to be the Spadoni College of Education Featured Student in the Endowment Campaign brochure for the year. The moment was surreal and I was honored to have my hard work recognized. Overall my freshmen year at coastal ended with a myriad of opportunities and a 4.0 GPA for both semesters!

I was raised a strong Roman Catholic; in fact, my father is becoming a deacon in the Catholic Church. Since the beginning of his journey through the diaconate process, I have seen how much this has made an impact on his level of faith, and now I aspire to reach the level of understanding that he now has for Catholicism. I went to St. Mary's Catholic school from kindergarten through fifth grade. It was a rough transition from going to a Catholic school to a South Carolina public middle school. I went from being in an educational environment that revolved around Catholicism, to feeling like an outcast in my religious endeavors when comparing it to others in my school. So what got me through that time of feeling different? My church family and finally making the sacrament of Confirmation in my ninth grade year. My gift that I chose to receive from the Holy Spirit was courage. Over the years I have witnessed and other can attest that my courage has grown courageously in my faith. I am no longer afraid to stand up fearlessly in my religion and will gladly tell anyone about any aspect of Catholicism, no matter if they look at me like I have three heads.

Through past relationships, especially those that have failed, I have learned to trust in God even deeper. That even when I am alone in this moral world that metaphysically I have the God of Angel Armies fighting for me by my side. My life verse is Psalm 37: 4 "Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart."

Other faiths do not get to receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ or are offered any of the sacraments; therefore, they are not getting the chance to obtain the fullness of Jesus or have the strong relationship with our Lord, like we Catholics do. I believe that under our Pope Francis that our religion is heading into a new modern era that will make our faith even stronger.

I have been to three types of schools: a private school (elementary), a public school (middle school), a charter school (high school), and now a university. I have been blessed to have the opportunity to be educated in different types of schools that teach in different ways. I believe that by attending different types/models of schools that I was better equipped for what was asked for me at the collegiate level. Children deserve the best education that can be given to them, no matter what. In the words of Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Upon graduation from Coastal Carolina University, I plan to teach in the State of South Carolina in a Title 1 school teaching second or third grade. After teaching for a while, I aspire to be a superintendent of a school district. My dream is to one day be the Secretary of Education for the United States of America.

Written by Caitlyn Hinnerschitz

## A Little-Known Fact About Golf Balls

According to Golf World Magazine, “the average golfer loses two golf balls per round for a worldwide total of approximately 2,465,752 every day. Worried about running out? Don't be. Companies like Titleist are working hard to ensure that never happens. Titleist makes 1.2 million golf balls each day!” Here's a thought from the same magazine:

*"In My Hand I Hold a Ball, White and Dimpled, Rather Small.  
Oh, How Bland It Does Appear, This Harmless Looking Little Sphere.  
By Its Size I Could Not Guess, The Awesome Strength It Does Possess.  
But Since I Fell Beneath Its Spell, I've Wandered Through The Fires Of Hell.  
My Life Has Not Been Quite the Same, Since I Chose to Play This Stupid Game.  
It Rules My Mind for Hours on End, A Fortune It Has Made Me Spend.  
It Has Made Me Yell, Curse, and Cry, I Loathe It, And Want it to Die.  
It Promises a Thing Called Par, If I Can Hit It Straight and Far.  
To Master Such a Tiny Ball, Should Not Be Very Hard at All.  
But My Desires the Ball Refuses, And Does Exactly as It Chooses.  
It Hooks and Slices, Dribbles and Flies, And Even Disappears Before My Eyes.  
Often It Will Have a Whim, To Hit a Tree or Take A Swim.  
With Miles of Grass on Which to Land, It Finds a Tiny Patch of Sand.  
Then Has Me Offering Up My Soul, If Only It Would Find the Hole.  
It's Made Me Whimper Like a Pup, And Swear That I Will Give It Up.  
And Take to Drink to Ease My Sorrow, But the Ball Knows ... I'll Be Back Tomorrow."*

“Stand proud you noble swingers of clubs and losers of balls. A recent study found the average golfer walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of refreshments a year. That means, on average, golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon. Kind of makes you proud. You're kind of like.... a hybrid!”

Article contributed by James Blosser, golfer  
Massillon, Ohio , visitor to Conway

## Personal Space with Our Lord

Many of us have routines where *personal space* is just that, *personal*: time on the computer, texting on our cell phone, reading a book, doing a crossword puzzle, having a late-night snack before bed. The list is endless. *Personal space*. A real slice of heaven.

I've found my slice of heaven right here on planet Earth. Right here in Conway, South Carolina. Right here at St. James Catholic Church. Right here in the chapel. My *personal space*, my slice of heaven, is Eucharistic Adoration. No charge, no dress code, no mandatory time allotment, no additional paraphernalia needed. And most importantly, no talking!

When it's just me and Jesus in the room, adoration takes on a whole new meaning. It becomes quality time spent with the most important person in my life. It's a chance to thank Him for all the great opportunities He has given me, to ask Him about the challenges He has led me through, and to apologize for my shortcomings that I will promise to improve upon. It's also my time to let Him know how much I love Him and admire the sacrifice He went through for all of humanity.

Adoration is my time to reflect on how I am living my life and to ask myself if I am meeting God's expectations. I know that the Holy Spirit is always with me no matter where I am or what I am doing, and this thought alone is very comforting. The decisions I make are my responsibilities and I must live with them. Adoration is my time to ask Jesus how I'm doing as a person, as a husband, as a father, and as a friend. The best part of adoration is that Jesus provides me with the answers to these questions in subtle ways. For example, when I pray for someone's health because of whatever they are suffering with, I can now understand the difference between life and death. The choice is not ours, it is God's. *Understanding* God's answers to our prayers is one of God's greatest gifts to each and every one of us.

Eucharistic Adoration is the most important way I have found to let God the Father, and Jesus, and the Holy Spirit know just how much they mean to me. It is the best way I have found to strengthen my faith and to do God's will. It is my best example of *personal space*.

Contributed by Tom Flench  
Newsletter ministry

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phone: 843-347-5168

fax: 843-347-1212

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[www.stjamesconway.org](http://www.stjamesconway.org)

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email:  
[stjames@stjamesconway.org](mailto:stjames@stjamesconway.org)

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