

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Leigh Kaliss Joins Saint James as Director, Anchorage Breakfast Program – Adds Depth and Innovation to this Vital Community Ministry**

**Lancaster, PA – May 2, 2013** – Saint James Episcopal Church announces the appointment of Leigh Kaliss as Director of its Anchorage breakfast program – the only community meal program serving breakfast five days a week to Lancaster's at-risk population. The program has been running nearly 30 years, and the growth in numbers through the recession has yielded over 30,000 meals served annually by a band of 70 volunteers. Kaliss not only brings coordination and oversight to this vital community program, but she will exercise her creativity and passion for serving others to ensure that Anchorage continues to be responsive to its meal guests, and relevant as a service and ministry for many years to come.

Kaliss began her term last month as the program's new director. Father David Peck, Rector of Saint James, the church that hosts the program, said "Leigh and I along with others in the community have been frustrated by how hard it is to get fresher and healthier food for our guests who are some of the most nutritionally compromised people in the county, yet ironically they live in one of the most important agricultural centers of the country." Peck added, "It just makes no sense that the best we can serve in this land of plenty is day old baked goods. So Leigh will help us both keep the old connections but make the new ones we badly need for the sake of our whole community. Her role will take the program to a new level that actually equips guests to not merely get breakfast, but get skills and encouragement to eat and live in healthier ways both physically and emotionally."

One recent example of Kaliss' creativity took place earlier this year, where she reached out to the Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, one of many key supporters of the breakfast program, and partnered with them to coordinate a fundraiser that not only helped to raise money, but generated broad awareness for Anchorage and helped to further the message and importance of healthy, nutritious eating. Throughout the month of March, Iron Hill patrons who purchased this College Hill restaurant's delicious tomato basil soup, found that their appetites for great potage served to benefit the Anchorage program.

Iron Hill general manager Liz Cole commented, "Our soup is always a great choice for a good cause. It's really fun to be part of the community in this way. As our staff learns the challenges of how many people struggle to buy or even be served healthy nutritional food, it helps us sell more soup and help the program more."

Earlier this week, Kaliss met with Sean Greene, Iron Hill Assistant Manager, and was presented with a check for \$3,686 – the proceeds of the tomato basil soup fundraiser. "We are so glad Iron Hill is a partner of ours", said Kaliss. "This initiative will help us buy more fresh fruit and produce, and do some cookery and lifestyle teaching that we have wanted to do in the past, but until now have not had the necessary funds, time or networks to implement." Kaliss added, "I am so excited to now be leading the Anchorage program, because I can really make a positive impact in the community, and personally I get a tremendous amount of satisfaction out of serving others."



Leigh Kaliss (right), appointed as the first director of Anchorage Ministries, the city's largest community meal program based at Saint James Episcopal Church, Lancaster, PA with Sean Greene, Assistant Manager, Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, after having received the proceeds from a fund raiser that Iron Hill conducted earlier this year.

### **About Anchorage**

From its inception in 1985, the Anchorage ministry has offered more than breakfast. The homeless and at-risk populations that had frequented Lancaster Public Library for years were the impetus for Saint James Episcopal Church to begin this significant outreach ministry. Anchorage was created to provide safe and productive space for Lancaster's marginalized and those who faced major mental health challenges without sufficient familial, institutional or social agency support.

Today, as the city of Lancaster continues to rely heavily on faith-based institutions and other non-profit entities to render needed services to its most vulnerable residents, Saint James remains both ideally suited and steadfastly committed to playing a critical role. Volunteers from Saint James as well as the Society of Friends, local Jewish congregations, and other members of the local community including young people and those with special needs are dedicated to offering this ministry 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year. Presently, the Anchorage Breakfast program is focused primarily on providing a modestly nutritious breakfast to all guests without questions being asked. The majority of guests are men between ages 20 and 60, while a significant proportion are women, children, and the elderly. In 2012, Anchorage served an average of 120 guests per day, and a total of 31,519 meals.

For more information about Anchorage or Saint James, visit [saintjameslanaster.org](http://saintjameslanaster.org) or e-mail [anchorage@saintjameslanaster.org](mailto:anchorage@saintjameslanaster.org).

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