



# ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

REV. BETSY MYERS, SUPPLY PRIEST

MARCH 2014

## 2 Sundays in Lent

Soon after Jesus was baptized he took time to go off to a place where he could be alone with God to ponder just what it meant for him to be who he was and to at least begin to discern what was the nature of the ministry to which he was being called.

Our Vestry has set aside two Sunday mornings in Lent for us to come together as a parish and together seek to understand more deeply just who we are as a Body of the Christ and to what God is calling us in mission. On each of these two Sunday mornings, **March 30 and April 6**, we will have:

**One service of Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM** followed by

**A very tasty brunch** in the Great Hall followed by

**A two hour workshop** with a variety of interesting activities which will help us discern the nature of our gathered community and the gifts for ministry with which we have been entrusted.

**We will finish at 12:30** at which time the Bell Choir will rehearse, the counters will count, the Altar Guild will do its thing, and as many of the rest of us as possible will clean up after the brunch.

We hope that everyone will make every possible effort to share in these very special Sundays. Without you this Body of the Christ is incomplete and a vital member is missing. **Activities for children will be planned**, some of which will be very much tied into our discernment process. So please put **March 30** and **April 6** on your calendar and plan to be with us to share in the fun and new discoveries.

**Everyone is invited to take part in the planning for this.** The Parish Life Committee and all who are able, interested in and willing to join them in helping this to happen will meet in the Great Room at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 11.** Please join us!

Betsy Myers+

**All are invited to join**  
the  
**Parish Life Committee**  
as together we plan and prepare for  
**2 Sundays in Lent**  
at  
**7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 11**  
in the Great Room

## **The Rev. Elizabeth Myers to Serve as Supply Priest (Plus+)**

The Vestry is pleased to announce that the Rev. Elizabeth (Betsy) Myers will serve as St. James' Supply priest for the next few months. The agreement is unique in that Betsy will not only plan and provide two Sunday morning services but will also perform in an expanded role to support our mission and ministries beyond what is normally expected of a supply priest. Not only will she work with our various ministries to plan our liturgy through Lent, Easter, and afterwards, but she will also assist the Wardens and Vestry in providing support for various administrative functions. Betsy will also be responsible for providing pastoral care to the Parish, a role that is needed and much appreciated.

The Vestry and Wardens will still provide the foundation for leadership in the discernment steps necessary for clergy transition and address the church's financial health and future.

In the meantime, Betsy's skill, style, wisdom and experience as a priest with helping churches in transition will be of tremendous value to St. James' and we welcome her with open arms. Please look forward to some small changes in worship as Betsy brings her style and skills to enhance our spiritual journey. Please also join with us in a Lenten exploration of who we are as Parish and our dreams and vision for the future as Betsy leads activities on Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>.

The agreement currently is through June 30, 2014 but will be eligible for review later in the spring.

David Lacouture  
Senior Warden

## **From Your Vestry...**

As we are all learning, transition is an important time in the life of a parish. It can be a time of anxiety, uncertainty, and opportunity. Ensuring the good health of the parish and clergy so that this time is "life-giving and positive" is important. The Vestry is therefore seeking 4-8 persons who may want to serve as members of a "Transition Team" who would facilitate good communications among members of the church.

The Transition Team will serve exclusively during this time of transition. The Transition Team is not the Search Committee (this will be formed after the church's self-study process). Instead, the Transition Team will make themselves available to listen to concerns expressed by members of the church and serve as calming, empathetic voices. The Transition Team will help enhance and enable communications that encourage conversations and reach out to those who may have moved toward the margins or become disenfranchised. Through their listening, they serve to sense what needs to be addressed during the transition phase and channel this vital information back to the Vestry. The Transition Team may also work with the Search Committee in the gathering of self-study information. They may also assist the new rector and their family to become oriented to the community. A member of the Vestry may serve on the Team or a member of the Team will attend Vestry meetings to report on their work.

If you are interested in serving on this team or you want more information contact Dave Lacouture at 973-477-3604 or lockwood88@comcast.net.

### **Journal Deadline**

**APRIL EDITION:**

**March 23rd**

## Fundraising Report

The St. James' FRC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6PM in the Mitcham House. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 12th at 6 PM.

Scrip Pro - Next orders are due on March 9th. Lord & Taylor Gift cards are now available!

Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner is scheduled for March 4th from 5-7PM in the Great Hall. Free will offerings accepted.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 16th from 5-7PM. \$10 will get you corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread, dessert and coffee and tea.

Gertrude Hawk— Order forms are in the back of the Parish Hall. All orders are due no later than March 23rd.

Thanks for your support in our fundraising efforts!  
St. James' FRC

## Gertrude Hawk Easter Candy

I will be taking orders for Gertrude Hawk Candy from 3/2/14 to 3/23/14. The books are in folders at the back of the Parish Hall – underneath the Gertrude Hawk poster.

This is a wonderful opportunity to pick up cute treats for Easter for your children, grandchildren, friends, or a special child who is helpful or special to you.

A little gift of kindness and appreciation is always welcome. There is a very large selection....so take your time to look through the catalog.....and hopefully you will find that special gift.

Hand in your orders to Ellen Infante no later than 3/23/14. All checks are to be made out to "St. James' FRC".

Respectfully yours,  
Ellen Infante

## Sunday School

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday school children went on their annual trip to the House of the Good Shepherd to deliver homemade Valentine's Day cards to the residents. Helen, the Recreation Director for the House of the Good Shepherd, guided us through the facility as the children went from room to room to make their deliveries. Helen was so happy to have us there and said that our visit made their day. The children truly enjoyed seeing the residents faces light up from their homemade cards.

~ Alicia & Jennifer



## Yarn Twisters

Happy New Year to all – I think I missed the deadline last month! I am hopeful that the Yarn Twisters can get back on

schedule and meet once a month when the weather improves – Saturday mornings seem to work best for most, so maybe we can aim for a date in March. I have a collection of hats and scarves at home and I know Louise and Phyllis are knitting and crocheting and that is much appreciated, but I do miss our chats in the parlor at the Mitcham House. If you are new to St. James and would like to join us, please contact me at 908-684-3566 or email me at [frlbailey1@comcast.net](mailto:frlbailey1@comcast.net).

The following items can also be collected during the year. There is a blue plastic barrel in the Great Hall for these donations:

- Unscented, Hypoallergenic Hand Lotion (2-4 oz bottles)
- Sealed Packages of Holiday Sweets
- Books or Activities like Sudoku, word searches, or playing cards
- Facial Tissue
- Microwave Popcorn
- Chewing Gum

Thank you,  
Linda Miller

## 30 Hour Famine Members Give Back to Community

The Sussex County Food Pantry was blessed to host the service project for the 30 Hour Famine once again this year. On Saturday, February 22, 2014, twelve teen and tween leaders and three adults volunteered 3 ½ hours of their time to lovingly pack bags, sort food and stock shelves, stock the reception area with bags, place items on the “free” table in the waiting room, and broom clean the pantry.

Many of the volunteers had been to the pantry two or three times. Others beamed with enthusiastic smiles as they saw the pantry. Their enthusiasm and focus was joyful and the effect on the volunteers was what we call “pantryitis”, defined as wanting to do more and more in the pantry. The pantry packs bags for people who cannot cook, singles or couples who can cook, and family boxes. Each bag was packed with care, ensuring that all the items on the list were placed into each bag. Bags were packed with items that included protein, noodles, soups, pasta sauce, rice or mashed potatoes mix, meals in a can, vegetables, crackers, cereal, and a snack.

The Sussex County Food Pantry gives special thanks and kudos to all of the volunteers that worked so tirelessly in the Food Pantry. Alex VanClef, Isaac Quelly, and Drew Lacouture and parents Kathy and Dave Lacouture represented St. James. Lisa Valentino and 9 tweens represented the Church of the Assumption.

The Sussex County Food Pantry provides emergency and on-going supplemental foods to all people and families that are hungry. No documentation or application is needed, a person only needs to say they are hungry and sign a form that proves that food was provided. The Pantry serves over 1,000 people monthly either by directly providing food or sharing food with other pantries in Sussex County.

The work of the volunteers was extremely valuable. Their efforts will help change the lives of families by

### Highlights from the 30 hour Famine

As many of you recall, St. James' youth have been part of World Vision's 30 Hour Famine where youth, clergy, youth leaders, and parents come together for 30 hour period of fasting, fellowship, reflection, and service. Once again the youth of St. James' hosted youth from two area parishes: PVEM and Assumption Church totaling 12 youth participants. Here are my reflections:

1. The youth participants came well prepared, were comfortable with our building, and talked about the activities from prior years with such excitement.
2. The St. James' Youth were excellent role models and gave the participants a tour of St. James' with great story telling and a wonderful sense of pride. (Thanks, Isaac!).
3. Kids love Rock Music and enjoyed playing some "Rock Band" in the Parish Hall, along with Pastor Dave from PVEM. (Thanks, Drew!)
4. The youth rarely complained of hunger and were inspirational to the hungry adults to keep moving forward.
5. The "Spirit of Famines Past" was alive and well on the weekend, and kept us walking in the footsteps of Christ. (Thanks Cathy, Dawn, and Rod!)

Thanks for the support, and special appreciation to Carol Novrit for taking the time on Saturday AM to meet us at the Food Pantry and organize the work. Thanks to Meg Critchley for making two delicious soups! And thanks to Pauline Volkert for working around the schedule for her tasks.

You can still donate until March 2nd by getting us a check payable to World Vision or providing a cash donation. To date, we raised nearly \$500 for World Vision. If we miss you at church, please drop off at the office.

Kathy Lacouture

providing them supplemental nutrition. They epitomized the phrase “neighbor helping neighbor” through their selfless acts of helping.

Carol Novrit



## Bell Choir “Notes”

The Multi-Generation Bell Choir enjoyed a well-deserved vacation from rehearsals in January and early February. Rehearsals began again on February 16.

The choir is currently preparing music for a Sunday in Lent, March 16, and also for Palm Sunday, April 13. I am excited about these two selections and hope that the choir will enjoy ringing them and that the congregation will enjoy listening to them.

On Sunday, February 16, I had a meeting during Coffee Hour. The Bell Choir normally practices after Coffee Hour, starting around 11:30 – 11:45. Around 12:20 I had to go into the Great Hall to get my calendar and there were six Bell Choir members sitting and waiting for the rehearsal. Now that blew me away. My meeting actually went past 12:30 and these loyal ringers continued to wait. Well, actually they went to the balcony and set up the books, music and bells so as to be ready for the rehearsal. What a great group to work with. Thanks to Brian and Meredith Nolan, Chika Okoye, Amelia and Melissa Vitalos and, of course, my husband (who really was stuck waiting for me anyway) for waiting patiently. Drew Lacouture was off to celebrate his sister’s 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, Scott Carson was ill and Marge Schafetz was in warm and sunny Florida.

Are you looking for something to take on during Lent? In my tradition, Lent is not so much a time of giving something up, but a time to try something new within the church. Why not try Bell Choir? You can ring with us on one or both of the dates listed above. Just give me a call, send me an email, or see me at church. You can reach me at 732-807-3211 or lolshan@ccm.edu.

Louise Olshan  
Bell Choir Director



## Music Notes

### Senior Choir

Soon we will be entering the Lenten season and the choir is already working on music for that time. This year Betsy is shifting our Lenten approach to focus more on the grace we have with God’s forgiveness of our sins rather than on the penitential act itself.

To complement this approach she has selected service music which may surprise us as Lenten pieces but which are very appropriate to giving thanks for God’s continuing forgiveness and grace. Most of the music is familiar but we will be singing a setting of The Lord’s Prayer which will be new to all of us so we will learn it and grow with it together! The opening and closing hymns I’ve selected will also be more upbeat and uplifting instead of having a penitential tone as found in the more traditional Lenten hymns. We are also introducing a new Taizé piece for our Lenten communion hymn. Like most Taizé pieces, this one is simple and easy to learn. We think you’ll enjoy it.

As always, we do continue to look for more members. Our rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 8:30am and we meet in the Mitcham House living room. Attendance every Sunday is not required. The ability to read music is also not required – if everyone read music we’d hardly need to rehearse! Instead we try to have at least 4 rehearsals of a piece before we sing it so there’s time to learn the music. We can sing downstairs in the Church to accommodate those who cannot do the stairs to the choir loft –we’re very flexible!

If you’d like to consider singing with us just for Palm Sunday and/or Easter, that would be fine too! So, please consider joining us! We’re a great group!

### Youth Choir

Our Youth Choir is part of our Sunday School program. The children will be singing at the 10am Easter service and will start rehearsing for that in late February or early March.

### Other Music

Don't forget your Birthday Hymns! You can fill out a Birthday Hymn form and either give it to me or put it in the collection plate and it will get to me! I will try to get it into the music on a Sunday as close to your birthday as possible, as long as your hymn is liturgically correct for that date. If it's not, (e.g. a Christmas hymn but your birthday is in Lent), then I will include your hymn during its liturgical season.

**Lift your hearts up to the Lord.....with music!**

Pam Laura



### Why I Ride

(Ed. Note: the following is from Megan, a friend of Dave and Phyllis Heistand):

"I've registered for BP MS 150 to fulfill a personal challenge, and to help the National MS Society fund research, advocate for change, and help people with MS and their families lead powerful lives. I believe in the work they do and want to be an active part of it. I know I can count on your help.

Additionally, a wonderful woman from my childhood church passed away this year from MS. I will ride in her honor and memory.

"Rest in peace, Phyllis."

For more information or Megan's ride or to donate go to:

[http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/TXHBikeEvents?px=12750259&pg=personal&fr\\_id=22598](http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/TXHBikeEvents?px=12750259&pg=personal&fr_id=22598)

### A NOTE ABOUT COUNTING...

Counters must prepare a deposit ticket for each account (General Fund, Building/Capital Fund). It would be helpful if you could write separate checks for each account. It is difficult to take a single check written out for both accounts and split it correctly in order that you are credited for the proper fund. Please consider writing a check for each account you are donating to. Thanks for your consideration!

The Counter's of St. James'

### Prayer Ministry

St. James' has an active prayer ministry in which pray-ers lift up prayer request in their own personal devotions. They are open to receiving prayer requests and thanksgivings from anyone; the pray-ers hold your requests in confidence. Please forward requests Barbara Olesen at [Olesen@comcast.net](mailto:Olesen@comcast.net); you may also wish to join us as a pray-er; please speak with Barbara to get started.



**O GOD**, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



**[St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown](#)**



Dear Friends at St. James'  
Episcopal Church,

I would like to thank you for all of the love, friendship, prayers and support you gave my Mom this past year as she faced her toughest battle. Mom truly enjoyed being a part of St. James and a member of both the adult choir and the bell choir. Mom made many friends during her time here whom she treasured dearly.

In the days following my mother's passing, we were completely swept up in the hectic chaos of making all of the arrangements for her in a very short period of time: all while our hearts were breaking. I remember the day after she passed, it was a Wednesday, and I was checking my email on my phone. A message popped up with the subject line of "Repast for Helen Wise food needed". As the day went on, the replies to this e-mail just kept on pouring in with people offering to pay for sandwich platters, donate money, make salads and desserts for 75 people and others offering to assist with the set-up on Friday night! This planning and preparation was all taking place mid-week when people are busy with the hustle and bustle of their "normal" everyday lives. Yet here you were, taking care of us, Helen's family. I remember, later in the evening on that Wednesday, when I finally had an opportunity to sit after running errands all day, someone asked me how I was doing. My response was, "I feel blessed".

Thank you for the wonderful luncheon after Mom's funeral service. You all did a great job. Thank you Rev. Betsy Myers for conducting such a beautiful service for Mom and for supporting my family during our time of grief. We certainly appreciate it.

God called Mom at a young age to her heavenly rest. We know that she is now at peace.

On behalf of my family and I, we thank you.

With Love - Jennifer Howlin

## Hello from Western Pennsylvania!

I know that there are exciting things happening at St. James' and I look forward to coming home in May to rejoin the St. James family (and to enjoy Mom's cooking).



College has been a blur with challenging coursework and participating in both Cross Country and Track but I feel really blessed to be in a solidly Christian environment here at Waynesburg University and I am thoroughly enjoying it.

I have just learned that I have been chosen to join with 27 other members of the Waynesburg University track team to travel to Wilmington, North Carolina during Spring Break in March to work with a local church group in assisting with the housing needs of elderly and handicapped persons. We will compete at Coastal Carolina University and train at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington but we will also devote time to helping in the community.

One of the most important things I learned at St. James' was the importance of serving...serving God, our congregation, and our community. I feel so blessed that the same spirit is here at Waynesburg University and that I will have an opportunity to help others.

Please know that you are in my prayers and I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Peace.  
Justin Simmons

**For Weekly Announcements and what's happening at St. James' visit our webpage: [stjameshackettstown.org](http://stjameshackettstown.org)  
Check out the new calendar!  
Sign up for email news!**

## Tree of Giving - The Movie

**Lights - Camera - Action:**

**Cue Music** - Carly Simon's, "Anticipation"

-Anticipation, An—ti—ci—pay—ya—tion  
— is making me wait.....

**Cue:** Advent

**Screen:** Time-lapse of St. James' Tree of Giving candy canes being taken by parishioners.

**Fade to:** Still picture of candy canes remaining on tree

**Cue** background audio of weather report - SNOW

**Screen:** Time-lapse of St. James' parishioners coming back to take more candy canes.

**Cue** Sunday School: picture montage of kids coloring angels and putting them on Tree of Giving

**Split Screen** of shoppers picking out and buying gifts at stores

Double screen

Double screen

Double screen

Etc.

**Screen:** Picture montage of parishioners wrapping gifts

**Screen:** Time-lapse parishioners putting gifts under tree.

**Cue** background audio of weather report - SNOW

**Screen:** Time-lapse parishioners putting gifts under tree.

**Screen:** Parishioners on phone, calling to arrange delivery of gifts past deadline.....

**Screen:** A parking lot of a school.

A mother says, "Thank you for giving my children a wonderful Christmas. ", as tears well up.

**Fade to credits;**

**Roll Credits:**

Insert your name here: \_\_\_\_\_

Etc.

**Roll Title:** (Wait for it.....)

For it is in giving that we receive—(St. Francis of Assisi)-

**Cue Christmas**....(Okay, now cue Christmas Carols)

Paul & Phyllis Bartkus

Boars Head Dinner—January 11, 2014

St. James' Church hosted Epiphany Fellowship Dinners in the 1990s that included the serving of a roast pig, songs and prayers in the tradition of the Boar's Head Dinner. This evening was a revival of those dinners.







# ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

MARCH 2014

## St. James' Staff & Vestry

Supply Priest: Rev. Betsy Myers  
Deacon: The Rev. Sheila Shuford  
Rector Emeritus: The Rev. Clarence Sickles D.D.  
Parish Administrator: Linda Ayres  
Music Director: Pam Laura  
Organist/Bell Choir Director: Louise Olshan  
Sexton: Pauline Volkert

### Vestry

Senior Warden: David Lacouture  
Junior Warden: Carol Novrit

Paul Bartkus	Peter Quelly	Ann Edens
Peter Gartelmann	David Handville	Bill Critchley
Barbara Olesen	Chika Okoye	Ellen Infante

Vestry Clerk:	Jayne Mutascio
Treasurer:	Janice Cipriani
Asst. Treasurer:	Ricky Okoye
Bookkeeper:	Ellen Infante

**Barbara Olesen, Editor**

**Linda Ayres, Production**

All Journal submissions  
should be sent to:

[stjames214@comcast.net](mailto:stjames214@comcast.net)  
& [olesen@comcast.net](mailto:olesen@comcast.net)

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
214 WASHINGTON STREET  
HACKETTSTOWN NJ 07840