



St. James' Journal

December 2014/January 2015

Rev. Elizabeth Myers, Priest

This Month In Stewardship - December

It is Advent (Happy New Year!) Last week was In-Gathering Sunday, when all the pledges that have been returned were presented at the altar and when the Sunday School assembled 22 bags of food from the food along with \$25 "turkey cards" you donated for families in need. **Thank you** to everyone who donated groceries and who returned their pledge cards.

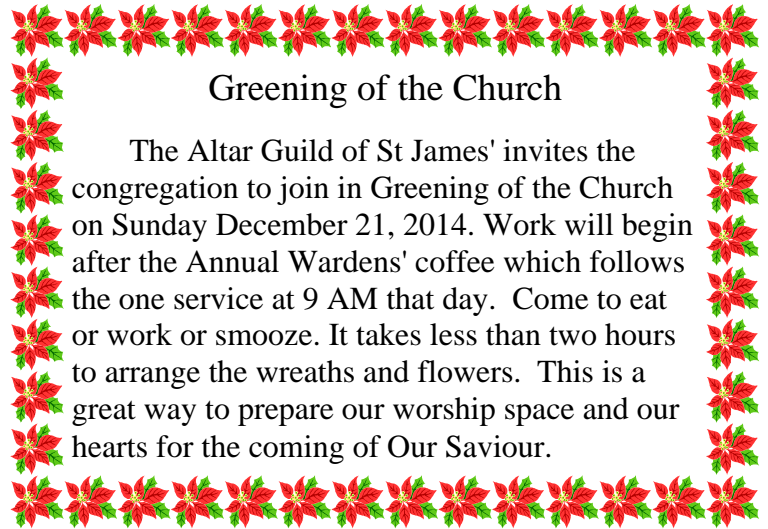
If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. It is not too late. Be sure to consider both sides of the card: the side for Time and Talent and the side for Treasure. This is information that the Wardens and Vestry need for planning for next year. This includes planning for both our finances and the organization of our committees or groups.

For the three remaining Sundays in Advent there will be candy canes with gift requests for local families who are in need on the Tree of Giving. Some presents have been pre-purchased and can be retrieved from Paul Bartkus. If you pick one of these it will have "(See Paul)" on it. If you select one of these candy cane gifts, please see Paul about purchasing, wrapping and returning it. In any case, all presents must be returned by December 21st so that they can be transported to the schools for collection by the children's parents.

We will also be collecting food for our families for Christmas. The grocery bags with a suggested menu attached will be available in church and the parish hall for you to take. Please consider purchasing some of the items listed on the menu and returning them on or before December 21st so that the Sunday School students can sort the food and assemble the bags for our families. The \$25 "turkey cards" will also be included in the bags.

Thank you, again, for your support in helping St. James' fulfill its mission and ministry,

Paul Bartkus



Greening of the Church

The Altar Guild of St James' invites the congregation to join in Greening of the Church on Sunday December 21, 2014. Work will begin after the Annual Wardens' coffee which follows the one service at 9 AM that day. Come to eat or work or smooze. It takes less than two hours to arrange the wreaths and flowers. This is a great way to prepare our worship space and our hearts for the coming of Our Saviour.



Christmas Services at St. James'

December 21 (one service):

9:00 AM-Lessons and Carols

December 24th:

4:30 PM

7:00 PM

11:00 PM

December 25th:

No services

December 28th:

8:00 AM

10:00 AM



Vestry Hi-Lites

- † Congregational meeting with Colleen Hintz, transition consultant, being held Sunday December 14th at 8:45.
- † Vestry meeting with Canon Greg Jacobs on December 18th.
- † Porch steps have been repaired.
- † Plans for Epiphany Dinner on January 10th are underway.
- † 22 Thanksgiving baskets given out.
- † Tree of Giving is supporting 3 families this year.
- † Junior Warden, Carol Novrit, submitted her resignation effective January 1st.
- † 32 Pledges have been returned.

THE TREE OF GIVING - INSTRUCTIONS

Pick a Candy Cane with Gift Request from the Tree

Tear **Colored Strip** at Fold

Sign Strip and Place in **Red Box**

Purchase Gift - or **See** Paul Bartkus*

Return Gift Wrapped & with Tag, by December 21st

*Some gifts have been pre-purchased and need to be retrieved from Paul.

MUSIC NOTES

Youth Choir

Our Youth Choir will again participate in the Port Morris UMC's annual Story of the Nativity through the Arts program on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 5pm.

Singers need to be at the Port Morris UMC by 4pm.

The Youth Choir will also sing (and sign) here at St. James' at the 4:30 Christmas Eve service.

Senior Choir

As we head towards Christmas, we are in need of additional singers! If you would like to join the choir just for Advent Lessons & Carols (Dec. 21) and/or Christmas Eve at the 7pm and/or 11pm services, we'd love to have you! Join our Sunday rehearsals at 9am in the Mitcham House!

Pam Laura

Choir Director

Fundraising Report

The St. James' FRC's next meeting is January 14th. At that time we will decide which fundraising events we will hold in 2015. We are open to new ideas, so let us know if you have any or please join us!

Scrip Pro - Next orders are due on December 14.

This is our last order before Christmas and we would welcome your support as you plan your gift giving. Gift cards are a great way to give someone a gift they will love!

Our See's Candies Christmas sale was very successful. We raised a few hundred dollars. Thanks to all who chose to order these fine candies for gifts or yourself!

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from your St. James FRC!**

Barbara White, Ellen Infante,
Ann Dutton, Barbara Olesen

Journal Deadline

FEB 2015 EDITION:

January 25th

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



YARN TWISTERS

Many thanks to Jerry Sheard for delivering our knitted and crocheted items to SCI during the month of November. There will be many heads and necks kept warm by the 21 hats and 21 scarves we were able to send (the number increased after my last article in the November journal). Thanks to my Elves – Louise Olshan, Phyllis Bartkus, and Pat Taylor for their hard work throughout the year and thanks to Barbara Olsen for her donation of toiletry items, books, etc.

There is plenty of yarn in the bins in the closet in the Great Hall and patterns can be downloaded from the SCI website at:

www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea. If you need any information, please get in touch with me at frlbailey1@comcast.net or call me at 908-684-3566. I would love to see some new people onboard in the Yarn Twisters, it is so important to continue this group, so please contact me if you would like to join the Yarn Twisters – you can either complete items at home, or hopefully we can begin to meet once a month again at the Mitcham House.

Jerry did inform me that the SCI is no longer accepting coats, so if you have coats to donate, please ask in the office as to where you can donate them.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy Holiday Season.

Thank you,

Linda Miller



MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

GAME NIGHT



Laughter, delicious dishes, and great fellowship emanated from the Great Hall at Game Night on November

22nd. Jayne Mutascio led a rollicking game of Bunco for all to enjoy (elementary age kids to retirees) which even included prizes. From biggest winners to biggest losers a good time was had by all!



Kathy Lacouture



Brian Nolan III makes his first appearance at St. James' with mom and dad Brian and Meredith Nolan.



GOLD'S GYM

Time to get healthy and help the church while you do it!

For anyone that joins Gold's Gym from our church in the month of December, \$50 will come back to us!

Gold's Gym in Hackettstown and Flanders will be cutting checks in January!

Call Dena at 908-887-2231 @ Gold's with any questions.

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St. James' Staff & Vestry

Priest:	The Rev. Elizabeth Myers
Rector Emeritus:	The Rev. Clarence Sickles
Parish Administrator:	Julie Mills
Music Director:	Pam Laura
Bell Choir Director:	Louise Olshan
Sexton:	Pauline Volkert

Vestry

Senior Warden:	David Lacouture
Junior Warden:	Carol Novrit

Paul Bartkus	Peter Quelly	Bill Critchley
Peter Gartelmann	Ellen Infante	Claudia Scala
Barbara Olesen	Chika Okoye	Janice Cipriani

Vestry Clerk:	Claudia Scala
Treasurer:	Janice Cipriani
Asst. Treasurer:	Ricky Okoye
Bookkeeper:	Ellen Infante

Barbara Olesen, Editor

All Journal submissions
should be sent to:

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