



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2015

REV. ELIZABETH MYERS, PRIEST

From David Lacouture—Senior Warden

I have to admit I have not been very consistent at submitting articles to the Journal in recent months. I have to apologize. I was hoping to provide more regular articles but the deadlines seemed to come and go so quickly. I can assure you that St. James' is always on my mind and on my schedule of things to do...and there are usually many.

It has been so impressive that the Journal has been published consistently and that so many good things have continued without interruption during our transition. When you think about it, we have hardly missed a beat. We have maintained our worship schedule, continued our outreach ministries, made building repairs and strengthened our office by hiring a new Parish Administrator (a key strength to any church). The Vestry worked hard to pass a budget, the youth group was re-energized, and our fellowship activities have continued. Sure there have been some changes and bumps but isn't that what life is about? We have our faith for these times and trust in it we can and must.

During this past year there has been a constant presence amidst the anxiety and that is the Rev. Elizabeth Myers. "Betsy" has served with passion and commitment as our Supply Priest Plus since January 2014. Betsy has truly looked out for all of us this past year. No topic or issue in front of us or on the horizon escaped her. She not only was an inspiring celebrant but was behind the scenes, attending Vestry meetings, expanding lay ministries and fundamentally helping the Warden sort out the changes and challenges of a church in transition.

As Betsy departs us for now, I want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for being a beacon in this fog of transition. Betsy is not only a priest but she is also a teacher. I think we can all

agree that Betsy brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to this phase of St James' and that we benefited from her wisdom and insight.

I will personally miss Betsy very much. I know for sure I will look back on this past year fondly and look forward to her return to join us at St James' as a worshiper. In the meantime I wish Betsy love, blessings, and many thanks for helping to guide us at St. James' this year. - David

**Please join us on Sunday, February 15th after
the 10:00 AM service for a luncheon to
honor Betsy's time with us at St. James'.**



**St. James' Altar
Christmas 2014**

THIS MONTH IN STEWARDSHIP

“Here I am. . .“

On the Second Sunday after Epiphany we heard the story of Samuel answering God’s call. He was at first a bit confused and responded within the context of his understanding; that Eli was calling him. With Eli’s help he discerned God’s call. We heard part of Jonah’s story last week. Remember Jonah went to great lengths to run away from God’s call. Unlike Jonah, Samuel said, “Here I am...”

An authentic understanding of our relationship with stewardship and discipleship takes listening and discernment. You may recall us saying to “prayerfully consider” a gift in many of our stewardship messages. Stewardship is about more than money. It is about wise use of our resources and how we prayerfully manage them. It is a mindful choice that is of importance. For example, time is very precious, but somehow seems the easiest to waste. Our time together at St. James’ is a treasure for which I am thankful and I think it has been spent well. Let’s look at how we have used some of our time recently.

In the time since our last Journal our congregation has had opportunities for worship, outreach and fellowship. Our parish has used its resources to continue weekly worship services. We also took time for “greening the sanctuary” for Christmas, and provided a schedule of services for Christmas. Our outreach activities included our Sunday School kids packing 50 bags with food and a \$25 ShopRite “turkey card” for families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Christmas Tree of Giving supported the children of three local families with clothing and toys, as well as gift cards for their parents. As the candy canes were taken from the tree, they were replaced by angels drawn by the Sunday School. We again gave the gift of warmth this winter through the distribution of coats for children in need. And our Sunday School has made preparations to assemble care packages for soldiers and college students. Our Yarn Twisters twisted yarn and knitted scarves for the seafarers through our association with the Seaman’s Church Institute in the Port of Newark. And, along with our weekly coffee hours and monthly family breakfasts, we celebrated the Boar’s Head Dinner for Epiphany.

But Wait! There’s more! In the background and behind the scenes, we hosted the Quinlan Bereavement Center, Adult Literacy, a satellite site for North Porch, the ministry to mothers and their infants, and provided weekend BackPacks to supplement food for local food-insecure school kids. AND, we are also planning services for Lent and Easter, a Rummage Sale, a Golf Outing, Spring Clean-up/Maintenance Mornings, a Parish Picnic and a food in-gathering for Easter.

AND, we are also gearing up for the Summer BackPack Program. The list goes on and I’m sure I have missed many things. After all, it takes a booklet at our Annual Meeting to recount all our ministries and activities of our parish life.

The common thread through the fabric of our congregational life is that someone stepped forward offering up the stewardship of their time and talent. Someone said, “Here I am.” Someone either volunteered to lead a ministry or to join-in to help. In order to expand shining our light in the world and expand our outreach, we need to expand our participation. We can always use more help. We need your help. The impact of our ministries grows exponentially with parish-wide participation. I invite you to listen for God’s voice and to answer, “Here I am.”

Just a reminder: if you have not yet handed in your pledge card, it is not too late. There are some packages available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. I would welcome any opportunity to discuss stewardship, if you wish. Also, if you have not yet picked-up your collection envelopes, they are also in the back of the sanctuary. If you need assistance, an usher or greeter can help.

Thank you for reading this. Let me know your thoughts.

Paul Bartkus



Vestry Hi-Lites

- † Rev. Bob Solon will be our Supply Priest.
- † Chika Okoye met with St. Dunstan’s in Succasunna regarding Shared Ministry.
- † We will have a substitute organist from Feb 8 through April 6th
- † Paul Bartkus presented Pledge Report
- † Basement walls will be sealed - an offer to donate materials was accepted.

CHECK OUT “THE VOICE,” THE DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER FOR ALL THAT IS GOING ON IN THE DIOCESE OF NEWARK:

<http://www.dioceseofnewark.org/>

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Are you interested in having a member of St. James' congregation bring communion to your home if you are unable to attend services? Do you know someone (family member, friend, fellow parishioner) who would like a Eucharistic visit? Several new members have recently received training of this important lay ministry and would like to spread the word of the availability to visit those who are unable to attend services. The Reverend Betsy Myers generously provided the training to several new participants: Cheryl Perkins, Chika Okoye, and Kathy Lacouture. In addition, Meg Critchley, Paul Bartkus and Jerry Sheard are current LEV's. Please call the church office at 908-852-3968 or contact the office via email at stjames214@comcast.net to request a visit or notify the office of someone who may appreciate a visit. Thank you for your support.

Kathy Lacouture

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH AFTER

THE SERVICE

ONE SERVICE AT 9:00 AM

WATCH FOR YOUR ANNUAL MEETING

LETTER IN THE MAIL

Tree of Giving

Once again the people at St. James' made it possible for the children in three local families to celebrate Christmas. Approximately 60 gifts were purchased and wrapped by the people in the congregation and brought to church. The gifts were specifically chosen for each child with regard to their ages, sizes, color preferences, and wishes. The information was provided by staff at the local schools with input from the children's parents. All the names were confidential. As candy canes with the gift information were taken, those spaces on the tree were filled with angels lovingly made by our Sunday school children.

In addition, 25 bags containing food and other items were assembled by the Sunday school children and youth group members of our church. These were delivered to food -insecure families in the Hackettstown area in the hopes that they might have a brighter Christmas holiday.

Once again, thanks to the generosity of our congregation, the food was donated and Shop Rite gift cards were purchased to be included in each bag. You stepped forward saying, "Here I am, Lord." You shared your blessings and extended the spirit of giving from St. James' Church to people in need. Thank you!

Phyllis Bartkus

Journal Deadline

MAR 2015 EDITION:

February 22nd

Music Notes – Feb. 2015

Welcoming our long-term substitute Organist!

Starting on Sunday, Feb. 8th we welcome back Patricia Brady–Danzig. Patricia sub'd for me back in November when I'd hurt my arm and I am excited for her return! She will be with us through Easter.

Patricia will also be conducting **choir rehearsals** starting probably Feb. 25 preparing to sing at our Easter services so please let me know if you are interested in singing at either or both of the Easter services! Times are 8am and 10am. Rehearsals would be at 8:30 in the Mitcham House living room. We will sing downstairs with the piano so no robes are needed and there will be no stairs to climb!

Youth choir

Our Youth Choir will sing at the 10AM Easter morning service. Rehearsals will start on Feb 8^h during Sunday School.

Pam Laura

Bell Choir “Notes”

The Bell Choir had an abbreviated schedule in December, but did participate in the 10 AM service on December 14. On the same day some of the ringers went to Donaldson Farms and played carols for the customers from 1 – 3 PM. This year we rang in the greenhouses where the trees and decorations were being sold.

The Bell Choir has been rehearsing in January and will be participating in the 10 AM service on Sunday, February 1. The piece was written by Paul Sticha. Paul is the director of the Bell Choir in which my son and daughter-in-law play.

I am planning on having the bells ring again in May and/or June unless your new organist/choir director takes over as director. He/She will then plan the schedule.

Want to join us? Come to a rehearsal to see what we do and how we do it, give me a call and we can talk about ringing or speak with any member of the Bell Choir. We would love to have folks join us!

Louise Olshan
Bell Choir Director

Fundraising Report

The St. James' FRC's next meeting is February 11th at 6:30. At our last meeting in January we outlined the following Fundraisers for 2015:

Feb 1 - Mar 1 - Gertrude Hawk Easter Candy
Mar 15 - St. Patrick's Day Dinner
April - Rummage Sale
May - IHOP Dinner
Jun 27 - EAM Carwash
Jun 29 - Golf Outing
Jul - Tricky Tray Preparation
Aug - Tricky Tray Preparation
Sep - Tricky Tray (TBD)
Oct - Possible Spaghetti Dinner
Nov - See's Christmas Candy

Our Scrip Pro Gift Card Program continues throughout the year with orders being due the 2nd Sunday of each month. Gift cards for just about any major retail, food or gas chain are available at face value. The Fundraising Committee receives a discount of anywhere between 2% and 17% on most cards. We are able to raise several hundred dollars a year with this program!

Welcome Cheryl Perkins to the Fundraising Committee! Anyone is welcome to join our meetings for planning. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 in the Mitcham House.

Thanks for your continued support!

Barbara White, Ellen Infante,
Ann Dutton, Cheryl Perkins & Barbara Olesen

**ST. JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Save the Date!!



**7TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015
1 PM SHOTGUN START
REGISTRATION@12 NOON**

**FARMSTEAD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
LAFAYETTE, NJ**

4-PERSON SCRAMBLE FORMAT

**\$125 / PERSON INCLUDES:
LUNCH AND BUFFET DINNER
GIFT BAG, CONTESTS & PRIZES**

**JOIN IN AS A TEAM OR INDIVIDUAL
REGISTRATION DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

**ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
214 WASHINGTON ST.
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ 07840**



Pajama Program Contribution Drive in Hackettstown

“Share your love with children in need.”

OPEN your heart!

A Pajama Program Contribution Drive will be held in Hackettstown, for the 6th year, to benefit the New Jersey Chapter of the Pajama Program, a 501©3 nonprofit that provides new, warm sleepwear & new, nurturing books to children in need. The drop off site is Trinity United Methodist Church, Main Street, from Sunday, February 8th, 2015, to Saturday, February 14th, 2015, during the hours of 11am to 6pm. Sizes needed range from newborn to adult medium, as the program serves children aged newborn through teens.

The Pajama Program has given more than 2 million pairs of pajamas to children in need. Last year Hackettstown collected more than 340 new pairs of pajamas & more than 410 new books for needy children in Warren County, New Jersey. Just a little reading before bedtime can make a significant difference for these children & help them to a brighter future.

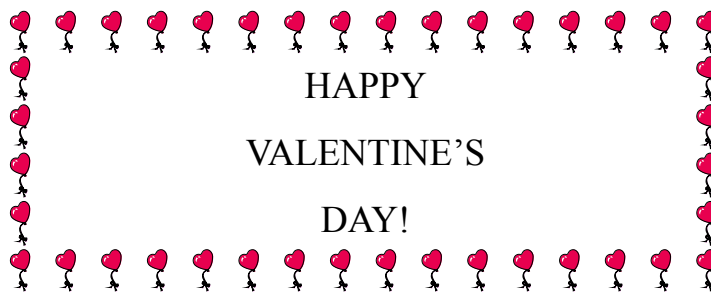
Since Valentine’s Day, February 14th, is a day of love, it seems appropriate to focus our local drive on this day. For these children, there is no better gift than a good night & a good book. Pajamas & books are on sale at clearance prices in many local retail stores, making it easy to give at this time of year.

This year the pajamas & books collected will be distributed to needy children in Warren County, NJ. Tax-deductible checks are also welcome, made payable to Pajama Program. (On the memo line, write NJ Chapter.) Individuals, families, groups, & organizations are encouraged to donate.

For more information, visit the Pajama Program international website www.pajamaprogram.org or call Shari Boggs at 908-684-8102.



[St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown](http://www.stjameshackettstown.org)



Claudia Scala and Peg Faust work on the Winter Coat Drive held at St. James' in December!



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!

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St. James' Staff & Vestry

Priest: The Rev. Elizabeth Myers
Rector Emeritus: The Rev. Clarence Sickles
Parish Administrator: Julie Mills
Substitute Organist: Patricia Brady-Danzig (Feb 8 - Apr 6)
Bell Choir Director: Louise Olshan
Sexton: Pauline Volkert

Vestry

Senior Warden: David Lacouture
Junior Warden: Barbara Olesen

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

Vestry Clerk: Claudia Scala
Treasurer: Janice Cipriani
Bookkeeper: Ellen Infante

Barbara Olesen, Editor

All Journal submissions
should be sent to:

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& olesen@comcast.net

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