

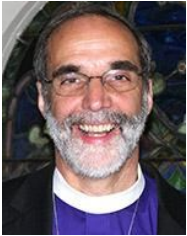


ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

APRIL 2015

REV. ROBERT SOLON, JR., SUPPLY PRIEST
THROUGH EASTER

REV. ARTHUR FOUTS, PRIEST-IN-CHARGE
BEGINNING APRIL 12TH



From the Episcopal Diocese of Newark Website:

The Easter story challenges us to "Get up and get moving"

Posted by Mark Beckwith on April 2, 2015

It was still dark when Mary went to the tomb, as recorded in this year's Easter Gospel. In truth, for Mary Magdalene, it had been dark since Friday when Jesus died on Calvary hill. When Jesus gave up his last breath, Mary's hope died, and darkness took over.

And what Mary saw at first was not hope but an empty tomb. Her first thought was that someone had stolen the body. Mary goes into the tomb. She sees the clothes, but unlike the disciples she sees two angels, and then a man who she takes to be the gardener. "Where have you taken him?" she wails. It's not the gardener. He calls her by name – "Mary." She is stunned – and responds "rabbouni," which is probably her pet name for Jesus. And in her excitement and relief – and this flood of hope – she does what any of us would do – she rushes to hug him.

"**Don't touch me,**" he commands, which is his unexpected, and disturbing, response. Jesus will give us his life – and through that life will give us more hope than we can absorb – but he will not let us cling to him – no matter how desperate we might want to do so. And that is also how it usually works – we want to hold on to him, to keep him in a special place; and manage his coming and going. And he won't have it. He keeps moving – from life to death – to life again, but new life in a new form. We can't capture him – in a tomb, or in our pocket – or in our carefully crafted theology.

Mary wants Jesus the way he was, which is a desire that we can all understand, and perhaps all share. And he won't have it. Jesus has risen into a new life. Light has come out of darkness; a savior is risen out of our disappointments. He keeps moving, and he wants us – not to cling, but to follow. Which means that we need to keep moving too. It is not that we need to keep hold of Jesus, but to develop confidence in his hold of us. And follow him into the world's darkness – again and again, armed only with the light of the resurrection. It is transforming work.

Several times during his remarkable three-year ministry Jesus stands in the face of reality as we know it and challenges people to get up and get a move on: to the centurion's daughter, he says "Little girl, I tell you, Arise"; to the paralytic he says, "Pick up your pallet and walk;" and to his dear, dead friend, Lazarus, he shouts, "Lazarus, come out. Unbind him, and let him go." With the Easter story, that challenge is given to all of us. Get up and get moving.

The purpose of the Resurrection is not to show what spectacular displays God can pull off – so we can festoon him in glory, but is an event that is meant to provide hope for the world. For that hope to take hold, we need to participate. We need to get moving by daring to find the Resurrection light in our own darkness – in the tombs of our disappointment, and then taking that light, that God-given light – into the world's garden and making it better. God gets it started, but you and I provide the increase. We provide the increase by planting and weeding and feeding – and caring and witnessing and advocating and reconciling.

That Resurrection light will probably go out – or at least it will seem that way, because we will forget where it came from, or the darkness will come over us again and blind us to everything but disappointment. Or we will lose interest in the light, or get fed up with the garden. God knows all that. And God keeps a hold on us through his son. And he will find us – in whatever tomb we have gotten stuck in, because he knows where we are, even though we may not know that ourselves. And keeps calling us – **by name**, out of the darkness into new life. And challenges us to get up – and get moving -- in the name of Christ.

Happy Easter.

Thanks for Your Service!

To The Rev. Robert Solon, Jr. who began worship with us on Ash Wednesday and concludes his Supply Priest service on Easter Sunday. “Bob” has lead St. James’ through the most Holy time of the church year with a passion and has delivered very memorable sermons. We hope to see more of him when we are in need of a supply priest!

To Patricia Brady-Danzig who truly enhanced the worship at St. James’ through the Lenten and Easter season. Her music was truly inspiring and beautiful! We hope to “hear” more from her as we look for substitute organists in the future.

Easter Food Bags Assembled

On Palm Sunday the Sunday School children sorted and assembled the food that was recently donated by our parish for some food-insecure families in our area. Miss Alicia and Miss Jeanette, our teachers, helped our girls and boys put together 21 bags of food so that others might enjoy an Easter meal. Each bag included a \$25 ShopRite grocery card that was also donated by members of our congregation. These could be used to buy a ham or another food. Thank you, St. James’ Sunday School and thank you to those who donated gift cards and grocery items!

Does anyone remember how long our Sunday School has done this? This is a ministry that St James’ has continued for many years. It would be interesting to learn just how long we have been doing this from someone with a good memory, who was either a Sunday School teacher, or had children in Sunday School, or who was a student way back when. Let us know. Let’s see who can remember back the farthest.

Paul and Phyllis Bartkus

Ed. Note: Thanks to Paul and Phyllis for leading the charge on food collection!



Welcome Rev. Arthur “Guy” Fouts Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Dr. Arthur “Guy” Fouts attended Seminary in Cambridge, England. He was ordained in 1981 at St. John’s, Greenhill, Harrow, Middlesex and priested in 1982 at St. Paul’s Cathedral, London. He was curate of St. James’, Alperton, Wembley, Middlesex from 1981-1983 and Rector of St. Helen’s, Pinxton, Derbyshire from 1983-1987. Guy has served as an interim at St. Patrick’s in Dublin, OH, St. Marks, Warren, RI, and St. Luke’s, Smethport, PA. He was also the rector of St. Mary Magdalene in Wheaton, MD. Since then, he has served as an interim and priest-in-charge at various parishes, currently coming to St. James’ from Grace Episcopal Church in Union City, NJ. He has 30+ years in orders.

Guy says he “likes people and is happy to be joining the saints in Hackettstown.” Please introduce yourself to him when he begins his 1-year service with us at St. James’ on April 12th!

Vestry Hi-Lites

- † Will meet with St. Dunstan’s regarding shared Ministry after Easter.
- † Transition Committee received 3 resumes for organists.
- † Wardens are working on Rev. Guy Fouts contract.
- † Discussion around June 14th picnic at Field of Dreams, Independence Twps.

This Month in Stewardship

Last week we observed The Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel explains to Mary that she will bear a son and is to name him Jesus. Mary's response, "Here I am. . ."

Also last weekend we gathered, as we do a couple of times during the year, to assess, tweak, and repair aspects of our church property. It is part of our stewardship duty to ensure that the legacy of the past is preserved and given forward, so that our property can provide a place of worship and ministry into the future. Remember, we do not have our property to have property, but have it to use for ministry in our community.

So, a determined band of ten met at 9:00 AM on Saturday and over a cup of coffee and a bagel or donut they reviewed the list of repairs that was compiled. First and foremost, several gardeners proceeded to tend the gardens. Despite the frigid wind, they did their best to rake leaves in half the beds, as a good portion of the garden was still under snow and ice. The rose bushes on the walls were trimmed back, the red maple was pruned of a broken branch, bulbs were fertilized and the worn and tired planter on the porch of Mitcham House were emptied and disassembled. Inside, the pews in the sanctuary needed to be stabilized and the brackets tightened. The wooden panel behind the cross on the reredos, which, it seems, is always out of place, needed to be re-adjusted. Some carpet in Mitcham needed a repair. The latches on the parish hall closet doors needed to be re-jiggered so the doors would stay closed. The toilet seat in the handicapped bathroom needed to be tightened. In the kitchen, the coffee maker was cleaned and some coffee cups were re-organized. The elevator, fire extinguishers and the emergency lights were inspected. Finally, an intrepid crew climbed the tower to assess the darkened bulb that lights the tower, only to reach the penultimate level and while surrounded by the bells (trivia alert: they are dated 1903) decided that it was a job best left to someone with a cherry picker.

Thank you Barbara, Barbara, Bill, Cheryl, Dave, Nancy, Pam, Pete, and Phyllis for braving what could have been a colder, wetter and windier morning. Also thank you Pauline and Julie for replacing the ceiling tiles in the Mitcham kitchen! Give it a look.

I have been heard to say that many hands make light work, I will add another: See something, say something. You may observe something that needs a tweak. It might be a loose hinge or a burned-out bulb. How about the hook on the door to the sanctuary? We will be

meeting again in May. The weather will be warmer (we hope) and more outside jobs can be tackled. We may organize a painting crew to spruce-up the hall way in the parish hall.

Oh, so why did I start off with The Annunciation? Because Mary said, "Here I am. . ." and we need parishioners to step forward and say, "Here I am. . . ." There are always plenty of chores and tasks to do. And there are always remarkable times of fellowship to be found while doing them. We gather to pray, eat and do God's work.

Remember: See something, say something and with many hands we will have light work.

Thanks,
Paul Bartkus



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



Maintenance Morning

Thanks to Paul and Phyllis Bartkus for coordinating our last Maintenance Morning on March 28th. Many hands made for accomplishing a lot! Please join us in May for our next Parish grounds clean-up and repair.

Saturday, May 9th

9 AM—12 PM

Coffee and goodies served!



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

30 HOUR FAMINE

On March 27th and 28th three youth from our parish, Nick DeLoreto, Alex Van Clef, and Drew Lacouture participated in the 30 Hour Famine. This is an activity that Youth Group has been participating in at St. James' for approximately 10 years and raises awareness about hunger in the world as well as raises funds for an organization called World Vision. Fasting for 30 hours is recommended during the time frame. Part of the weekend was spent learning about challenges in third world countries of food shortages and also local economic issues and how food is dispersed to families in need. Once again, Carol Novrit hosted the group at the Sussex County Food Pantry and many chores were accomplished there. And back at St James' for the afternoon, the youth assisted Julie Mills with a sorting/organizational project. Nick, Alex and Drew enjoyed some games as well, and broke the fast with their parents with some homemade soup on Saturday evening. If you would like to sponsor our St James' youth in this activity, please see any of them at church, or mail a check to the church addressing check to World Vision. We also have a team on line at worldvision.org. Our fundraising goal is \$425 (the cost of feeding a child for a year). Thank you!

Kathy Lacouture

Ed Note: Special thanks to Dave and Kathy Lacouture for taking on the 30 Hour Famine each year!

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Lay Eucharistic Visitors are available to provide communion in home most Sundays after church or at another time if preferred. Please call the church office at 908-852-3968 or email stjames214@comast.net to make this request.

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

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

Journal Deadline

MAY 2015 EDITION:

April 26th

Fundraising Report

The St. James' FRC meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is April 8th at 6:00 PM in the Mitcham House.

We are planning a rummage sale on April 24th and 25th. WE ARE IN NEED OF HELP! Our plan is to set up on Thursday April 23rd beginning at 4:00 PM. We will be sorting rummage sale items in the Parish Hall basement on the following Saturdays from 9-11 AM: April 11th and April 18th. We also need help during the rummage sale from 9-3 PM on Friday and Saturday and clean up after the event. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help out with this fundraiser. We are also taking donations of new or gently used items. No books or electronics, please.

Our Scrip Pro Gift Card Program continues throughout the year with orders being due the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next order date is April 12th. 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. Please consider buying gift cards for spring cleaning/repair from major home-improvement stores. And don't forget those Spring/Summer fashions....we sell cards for all major clothing retailers!

Thanks for your continued support!

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

**Congratulations to Julie Mills,
Our Parish Administrator!**

The following excerpt is taken from the March 29th online edition of the “Daily Record.” The article was written by Joan Taylor, Bowling Columnist:

“While you are used to reading about 300 games and 800 series frequently here, let us not forget the “regular” bowlers who reach pinnacles of their own.

Such is the case of Julie Mills, wife of County Hall of Famer Les Mills. On a 163 average she rolled her first 600 series, an even 600 on games of 195, 195, and 210 in the Oakwood Lanes Misfits League. She is now eligible for membership in the county, state and national 600 clubs and their tournaments thereof. She wasn’t nervous, as she had not done the math and her husband didn’t imply that she would need a big third game either.”

For more on Julie Mills and her amazing story, please visit the following website:

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/story/sports/columnists/joan-taylor/2015/03/29/bowling-column-mills-just-regular-bowler-joins-club/70621654/>

**Christ Victorious,
Rising Glorious,
ALLELUIA!**



**The Hackettstown Library
Now Accepting Book
Donations**

The Hackettstown Library is now accepting book donations! New and gently used books, DVDs and music CDs will gladly be accepted at the library front desk. The library will sell the donated items at the annual book sale in the spring. Donations can be dropped off any time during library hours, but we ask that donations not be left on the library steps or in the book drop. All proceeds from the donations and book sale will be used to support library programs.

The Hackettstown Public Library is located at 110 Church Street and is open Monday through Friday 9 AM to 8 PM, Saturday 9 AM to noon. For further information, please contact the library at (908) 852-4936 or visit www.hackettstownlibrary.org

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

The annual church picnic will be held on June 14th at the Field of Dreams in Independence Twps. Watch for more details!



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**

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APRIL 2015

St. James' Staff & Vestry

Supply Priest:	Rev. Robert Solon, Jr (through April 5th)
Priest in Charge	Rev. Arthur "Guy" Fouts
Rector Emeritus:	The Rev. Clarence Sickles
Parish Administrator:	Julie Mills
Substitute Organist	Patricia Brady-Danzig (through Apr 5th)
Bell Choir Director:	Louise Olshan
Sexton:	Pauline Volkert

Vestry

Senior Warden:	David Lacouture
Junior Warden:	Barbara Olesen

Paul Bartkus	Peter Quelly	Bill Critchley
Nancy Miller	Chris Krauss	Claudia Scala
	Chika Okoye	Janice Cipriani

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

Barbara Olesen, Editor

All Journal submissions
should be sent to:

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