



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 2015

REV. ARTHUR "GUY" FOUTS, PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

THIS MONTH IN STEWARDSHIP

A letter attributed to St. James (James 1: 17-27) was read last week, Proper 17. There were two passages that I thought related especially well to our topic of stewardship. The first was from the very opening, "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above. . ." The second passage that struck my ears was, "But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers. . ."

These could describe the nexus of stewardship and discipleship. Please recall the simple definition that stewardship is everything we do with everything we have. This includes applying our talent, treasure and time to our ministries and lives. Being a disciple is about hearing the word and following it.

Our Summer BackPack Program is one of our parish's most visible ministries. It provides supplemental nutrition to food insecure children and families through the summer while school-based nutrition programs are not available. Giving food to the hungry is indeed perfect. It allows us to be doers and not merely hearers. We make a space available for receiving, sorting, packing and distributing the food bags: our treasure. We provide the organization of pulling it all together: our talent. And finally, we pack the bags after church on Sundays and receive and distribute the food on Saturdays: our time.

As the summer concludes let us celebrate and give thanks to those in our congregation and beyond who not only heard the call, said, "Here I am, Lord" and generously gave the perfect gift of their participation.

Paul Bartkus



ST. JAMES' HOMECOMING

On Sunday, September 13th

St. James' will celebrate "Homecoming". At this time we return to 8 and 10 AM services as well as enjoy a light breakfast between two services. Sunday School registration and the first class takes place on this day. Please join us as we begin our journey into the fall season.

Hope to see you there!

FUNDRAISING REPORT

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 Sunday, May 13th. Please consider buying gift cards for Fall cleaning/repair/plantings from major home-improvement stores. And don't forget those Back to School needs! We sell cards for all major clothing retailers and Staples, Wal-Mart, and Target. And who doesn't need gas?

Preparing for the Rummage Sale had us looking over donations for items that might be of more value. We have a contact who sells items for St. James' on eBay! So far this year we have raised \$168 for items sold on the Internet. Some of those items were: Railroad lanterns, Kitchen Aid baking pan, Ravioli maker, Pyrex and Corning Ware cookery, Tupperware Canister, and Espresso cups and saucers. If you think you might have something of value that you no longer need, contact Barbara Olesen at olesen@comcast.net or (908)797-0515. You never know what people are looking for!

We will not be holding a Fall Rummage Sale this year. We were able to empty out the basement so please do not leave donations down there. We will most likely have another Rummage Sale in the Spring to coincide with the townwide sale. Please hold onto items until then if you can. Many of our leftovers from the last sale went to St. Mary's/St. Luke's Thrift Shop in Belvidere and I am sure they were happy for our donations.

Watch for details in November about our annual See's Christmas Candy sales. We did quite well with that last year and hope that you might consider purchasing these fine chocolates for gifts. It doesn't hurt to have a box or two on hand for last minutes gifts!

Thanks for your continued support!

The St. James' FRC

Journal Deadline

OCTOBER 2015 EDITION:

September 27th

PARISH LIFE MEETING

WED. SEPT. 9TH 7:30PM

IN THE GREAT HALL

Members from all ministries are welcome to attend but we particularly need representatives from Altar Guild (Meg is not available that day), Sunday School, Worship, Music, Fundraising, Special Events.. If the ministry head cannot attend please try to send a representative.

If you can't make it and can't get a representative, you can email any info, plans, ideas or questions you or your ministry have for the Fall, Advent, Christmas, and the post-Christmas seasons up to Easter to Pam Laura who is chairing this particular meeting. She'll include them in the meeting info. Pam's email address is:

plaura@verizon.net

Thank you!

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!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: CHAINS

Last edition of the Journal contained an article about our Bell Tower chains. You may remember that our five bells date back to 1903 and that a recent electrical repair had discovered that the chains were badly rusted and at risk of breaking.

Our tower houses five bells. The bells are actuated by a series of spring loaded levers and pulleys that carry chains to the bell clappers. The chains are attached to long wooden rods that run down (or up) through the tower to the five lever carillon behind the choir loft. When one of the levers is pushed down, it pulls a wooden rod that is attached to a chain that in turn is attached to the clapper. Then clapper then strikes the bell. Bong! Our carillon can play melodies using five tones. There are sheets of “music” above the levers which direct the player’s lever choices. Ingenious turn-of-the-century technology!

The picture below shows how rusted and worn some of the old chains had become, especially when compared to a new chain of galvanized metal.

Let me know if you would like to discuss the bells further or would like to see more pictures of our bells and how they work.



Thanks for reading,

Paul Bartkus

AUDIT TEAM

The 2014 Audit is about to start as required by the Diocese. This is really a case where many hands can make light work! Each team member will be given one (or more, if necessary) Checklist items. Each item looks at a certain type of document such as bank statements, Vestry Meeting minutes, or Counters reports. Each item has guidelines and information that tell you what you need to look for. It’s pretty easy work and all documents are in a binder in the church office, which must be kept on church premises. You report your findings to me via email and I assemble the feedback into the report. I will also be doing several of the items. The completed Audit Report gets reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Vestry, and is then sent to the Diocese. The Report is due very soon, so if you are willing to help please let Pam Laura know either at church or by email (plaura@verizon.net).

Thank you!



CONGRATULATIONS

LIZ AND VITO

Emily Elizabeth was born to Liz and Vito Soszynski on Monday, August 10th at 12:41 PM, weighing 7lbs 6oz and 20 1/4 inches long. Liz has been attending St. James’ recently and hopes to see us soon!

DREW LACOUTURE'S BSA TRIP

From Dave Lacouture: "The Pacific Coast via a 15+ year old paratransit mini bus. Who of us would have the courage to be responsible for such a trip!"



EMMANUEL CHURCH

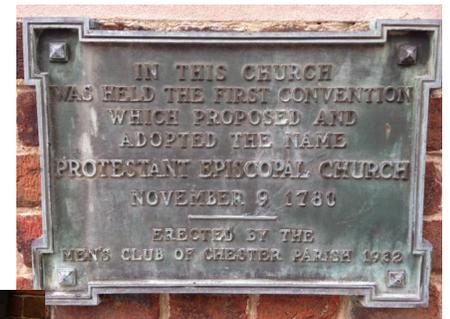
After saying our good-byes to Drew, we drove northwest through the amazing and beautiful Delmarva to Chestertown, MD. Along the way we saw many signs for Episcopal Churches which all caught my eye. When we arrived in Chestertown, near where we had lunch at a restaurant along the river, was this historic Church. It's has an amazing history and hosted a convention that made a significant proclamation to rename the American Church (see pic)

But it's not a "museum". Check-out the web page and I think you will find familiar programs that serve the community and similar worship goals we all strive for.

They even seem to be even heading into a transition phase, so I pray for them. I did not take an outside pic but the area around the church and the surrounding area were all stunning.

I know that many of you keep your eye out for Episcopal Churches in your travels and like to report back so I thought you might enjoy my little story.

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



Dave Lacouture

ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 2015

St. James' Staff & Vestry

Priest in Charge	Rev. Arthur "Guy" Fouts
Rector Emeritus:	The Rev. Clarence Sickles
Parish Administrator:	Julie Mills
Organist	
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:	Claudia Scala

Barbara Olesen, Editor

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