



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2016

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

This month in Stewardship - February

Our Epiphany Sunday scripture lessons discussed the body of Christ and spiritual gifts. I love to listen to the words as Paul projects the images of an eye talking to an ear, or of a person being only an eye or only an ear. How fun. The point being, that for the body of Christ to function, we need all the parts. We are the parts, and although we are all limited in some ways, we are gifted in others. BUT, when we join together we can make lighter work of seemingly impossible tasks. We are able to complement each other.

A few weeks ago we faced a challenging snow storm. Our Senior Warden shared with me that the task of removing all that snow around the St. James' property looked almost impossible to remove as he first gazed upon the expanse of drifts covering our sidewalks. BUT, we did. When, in my past life, when I was a Warden, I remember feeling that way a number of times. There were set-ups and clean-ups from rummage sales. Just so much stuff, I wondered how we could ever move it. BUT, we did. We mustered the many gifts of our congregation to master the challenge.

My mind is often drawn to the charges in the Baptism Liturgy. We are charged "to proclaim the good news of the Gospel. . . , seek and serve Christ in all persons . . . , and to strive for justice and peace . . ." The response to each of these charges is, "I will, with God's help."

Next month we will hold our annual meeting. Our progress through the past year will be reviewed, and our plans for this year will be discussed. There will be a report from each ministry group. Please read them and see if a group's activities interest you. If you have not yet made a stewardship pledge of your time, talent and treasure, please do so.

May we all strive to face the challenges of our parish life with God's help and the help of each other. Many eyes see the things that need to be done, many ears can hear the call for the directions of our ministries, and many hands make light work. Please prayerfully consider how you can lend an eye, ear, or hand as a stewardship offering to our parish.

Thank you,
Paul Bartkus

Ash Wednesday Services **Wednesday, February 10th**

7 AM

12 NOON

7 PM



Vestry Highlights

- † Preparing for Annual Meeting on March 6th.
- † Election slate for Annual Meeting announced.
- † Discussion of sponsoring Altar flowers by parishioners.
- † Approval for House of the Good Shepherd to use St. James' Bell when available.
- † Discussion of Easter worship schedule.
- † Need to begin discussing plans for upcoming Bishops visit on May 22nd.
- † Discussion on completing Diocesan Parochial Report March 1st.

Weather Closures

As the blizzard of January 2016 pressed on, it became evident that we would not be able to hold church services on Sunday. As a result, it was decided to announce our closure on WRNJ and to send out a Constant Contact email to all parishioners. If this situation happens again, please check the radio station and your email for information. We want everyone to be safe and not risk being on the roads in bag weather.



Journal Deadline

March EDITION:

February 28th

Greening and "Ungreening of the Church

The Altar Guild would like to thank the members of the congregation who participated in the Greening of the Church this Christmas. And a special thanks to those who helped "Ungreen" ...which we all know is not as exciting and even a bit depressing. Generous donations for Christmas altar flowers enabled us to purchase magnificent plants and wreaths again this year from Godlewsky's in Great Meadows.

I hope everyone was able to take a good look at the Crèche from Germany donated by Dan and Linda Miller set up in the Narthex during the Christmas season. Dan was able to locate a sturdy plastic tote with lid, so the Crèche has been safely packed away until next year.

And my personal thanks to the members of the Altar Guild who were alert to everyone's needs and dovetailed their own schedules together to insure that our worship space was always prepared for service.

Meg Critchley

Luncheon for the Huryks

As you may know, Pete and Gerri Huryk will be relocating to Maryland to live near two of their sons in the next month. To bid them a proper farewell and say thanks for the memories, we are planning a Luncheon on February 28th after the 10am service in the Parish Hall. Special Events will be hosting the event and all are invited to attend. Please see Kathy Lacouture (or email to lockwood88@comcast.net) to sign up if you would like to bring a salad to that event. If you have any memories of Pete and Gerri to share please forward your favorites to Pam Laura at plaura@verizon.net.



The Blizzard of 2016

Altar Flowers

Here at St James' we decorate our worship space with fresh flower arrangements. Flowers are a symbol of the beauty and fragility of creation and therefore, symbolic of the Resurrection. Prepared every week by Greenway Florist, our arrangements are made with seasonal flowers whenever possible and according to any liturgical guidelines...for example Advent flowers are blue except for the third Sunday when pink is used.

Parishioners have the opportunity to contribute flowers as a memorial to a departed loved one or to celebrate a joyous occasion (birthday, anniversary, graduation) or in thanksgiving for God's blessings. Greenway Florist bills St. James' directly for the weekly arrangements. Parishioners may sponsor flowers by signing the Altar Flower booklet in the Narthex. A separate check to St. James' marked "Altar Flowers" on the memo line can be placed in the offering plate. Donation of \$20 will cover the cost of flowers, but any amount would be appreciated.

Meg Critchley
Altar Guild

On Saturday, January 23 Hackettstown received over 20 inches of snow. It snowed without stopping until late in the evening. The next morning dawned with blue skies and bright sunshine and a blanket of deep snow. The sidewalks had to be cleared around the St. James property before Monday morning, an arduous task.

After clearing their own properties, a team of seven from the Lacouture, Critchley, and Bartkus families met at St. James' and shoveled, not only the public sidewalks, but the steps to the church, chapel, and Mitcham House, as well as all the connecting walkways.

A **BIG** thanks to Kevin Honigsberg, Meg Critchley, Paul and Phyllis Bartkus, and Kathy, Dave and Drew Lacouture. Kathy and Dave were scheduled to bring Drew back to school on Sunday, but were able to get him back on Monday. Thank the "snow angels" when you see them!



Once again many hands made light work - even with heavy snow.

Phyllis Bartkus



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

SHOP-RITE & WEIS GIFT CARDS

Order forms for gift cards will be distributed the 3rd Sunday of each month. The order forms must be returned by the 4th Sunday of the month and the gift cards will be distributed after the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services on the 1st Sunday of each month. See Paul Bartkus if you have any questions.

Boars Head Dinner



Another Epiphany season at St. James' was celebrated on January 9th in our Parish Hall with about 50 attendees this

year. The array of side dishes and desserts that accompanied the roasted pork was spectacular this year and as always many hands made light work in terms of planning and clean-up. The Sunday School reprised their pageant which was a treat for all to see and hear again. Full costumes and wonderful participation and this time more "up close and personal". Thanks to our piano players: Carol McKinney (a last minute addition) and Pam Laura who accompanied for the hymns. Pete Huryk developed another fun-filled game for the occasion which was clearly a huge hit, judging by the uproarious laughter heard throughout the hall. Thank you to the Special Events Committee and to all of you who stayed to restore the Parish Hall and Kitchen to its Coffee Hour-ready state.

Kathy Lacouture



Fundraising Report

The St. James' FRC meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is February 10th at 6:00 PM in the Mitcham House.

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 February 14th. **QUICK CHEK AND SPEEDWAY GAS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!**

We have a contact who sells items for St. James' on eBay! Please contact Barbara Olesen at olesen@comcast.net or (908)797-0515 if you have something to donate that you feel is sellable online.

We are planning on participating in the Townwide Rummage Sale again this year. More information to come, but you can start bringing in your new or gently used items. Please let Anne Dutton, Cheryl Perkins or Barbara Olesen know if you are making a delivery.

The Fundraising Committee will now be overseeing the "Ink Recycling" Program which Linda Miller has managed for almost 10 years. If there is anyone who is interested in handling this for us (maybe a youth member of the congregation), please let Barbara Olesen know.

Our annual Gertrude Hawk Easter Candy sale has started. Orders are due on February 21st. Catalogs and forms are in the back of the church and in the parish hall. You can also check out the website at:

<http://www.gertrudehawkchocolates.com/fund-raising/catalog>

Thanks for your support in our fundraising efforts!

St. James' Fundraising Committee

**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 Fellowship Dinner

On November 21st St. James' held its first Fellowship-Stewardship-In-Gathering Dinner. The evening featured a delicious food buffet, assembled from home-cooked pot-luck contributions of entrees, sides and dessert. (As Rachael Ray says, "Yummo.") After dinner we began a friendly competition with a Pete Huryk production of The Family Feud Match Game. One team emerged victorious and was awarded St. James' Flashlight Key Chains. Then the center-piece (with the theme of Thanks) from each table was given to one team member through a drawing. The much anticipated drawing for the car, albeit a mini-subcompact-Lilliputian model, was won by Cynthia Nolan. Wonder: is she getting better gas mileage than Father Guy?

A basket was available at the door for people to hand-in their pledges, which were then presented at our church's altar the next day.

Children in attendance enjoyed craft activities and got a balloon of their color choice (and a replacement for those that got away and found their way to the ceiling).

It was a fun evening with great food, fellowship and good-natured fun. Thank you to all who participated by planning the event (Kathy, Claudia, Gerri, Pete, and Paul), preparing the food, creating the great game (Pete, et. al.) and by attending. And a special thank you to Pauline who cares for our space and chased those errant balloons! In a season of thanks, we celebrate and give thanks for one another.

Phyllis Bartkus

Katie Lacouture

The Lacouture family is grateful that the members of St James' takes a moment to pray each Sunday for Katie Lacouture who is now serving our country with AmeriCorps. Her team is currently stationed in Oklahoma City building homes for Habitat for Humanity.

Her passion to help ensure a safe home for those in need began in High School when she participated in the annual Episcopal Appalachian Ministries summer trips sponsored by St. James' Church and later continued in college-sponsored projects in VA, FL and TX.

Last fall, her dedicated team of young adult AmeriCorps volunteers from all across the country constructed a therapy garden and greenhouse for a battered women's' shelter located in Albuquerque New Mexico.

Next, they will soon travel to an Indian Reservation in Oklahoma to assist with other building projects to fill a critical need.

Katie will serve with AmeriCorps until July 2016. Afterwards, Katie plans pursue a Master's degree in Social Work Administration to continue her professional goal to help others.

Your prayers each week for Katie and her team are so much appreciated.

We thank you,
Dave and Kathy Lacouture





Yarn Twisters

I would like to start 2016 with my thanks again to all who made our 2015 contribution to SCI so wonderful. We were able (with the help of Jerry Sheard) to send three boxes filled with goodies to the seafarers in the care of Port Newark. We are already off to a great beginning this year, with a wonderful accumulation of knitted and crocheted items in the container. I would like to thank the ladies from Heath Village, who will be contributing items to SCI along with the St. James Yarn Twisters. These ladies have already donated 16 scarves and 3 hats! I plan to purchase more yarn from Michael's when I have a coupon and then deliver some yarn to Heath Village and meet the ladies. Thanks also to Pat Taylor for bringing their completed items to St. James.

Also thanks to the person who left a bag full of beautiful yarn and several pairs of knitting needles, plus a couple of pattern books. This will help us to make some great items for the seafarers. We are always in need of yarn – please no pastels – Red Heart yarn is good, as it can be washed and keeps its shape.

I have sorted out the yarn bins and took several bags of yarn that was not either not the appropriate gauge or color to a local ladies group that knits for the community. There is still a good amount of yarn in the bin that can be used for our projects. Patterns and information can be found on the SCI website at www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea. This also gives an idea of what colors can and cannot be used, also no tassels or fringes. If you would like to knit/crochet for SCI and need more information, please

contact me at frlbailey1@comcast.net or call me at 908-684-3566. Winter is not yet over, so there is still time to snuggle up and knit/crochet!

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.

Thank you,

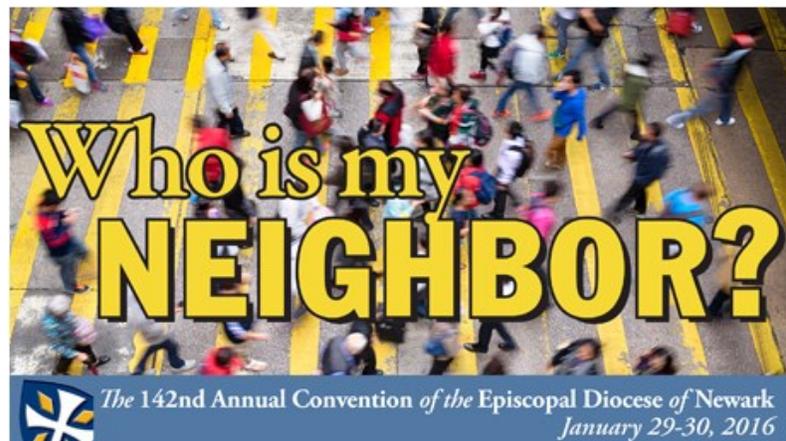
Linda Miller



Ink Cartridge Recycling/Fundraising Program

We are looking for a volunteer to handle the Ink Cartridge Recycling Program. This would be an excellent idea for a youth in our Parish or someone who is retired. Please see Barbara Olesen if you are interested in taking on this fundraising ministry!

Annual Diocesan Convention 2016



For information on the convention go to:

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

CALENDAR

ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2016

St. James' Staff & Vestry

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Priest in Charge | Rev. Arthur "Guy" Fouts |
| Rector Emeritus: | The Rev. Clarence Sickles |
| Parish Administrator: | Julie Mills |
| Organist | Dmitry Nikolaev |
| 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

All Journal submissions
should be sent to:

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