



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

MAY 2016

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

This Month in Stewardship

Slogans

It is fascinating to listen to what is said in our world and how it is packaged. Many times messages are compacted into a slogan so that people can more easily remember them. Remember, "They melt in your mouth. . . ." or "Wonder where the yellow went. . . ." "Sometimes a community's culture is captured by a slogan. A friend who worked at BASF told me that their corporate slogan was, "We don't make things. We make things better." And, I'm sure you can recall either an advertising rhyme or jingle that sparks memories of a location or time in life.

How about, "Follow me." It is simple, direct and easy to remember. (I don't know about putting it to a jingle or tune, but I'm sure someone with a more substantial knowledge of the hymns sung at 10:00 could tell me if it has.) How about, "Faith without works is dead." What does this have to do with slogans and stewardship? Well, we are called to be the good stewards of our inheritance. Through this we progress from being believers to disciples. This is the expression of faith through action. At St. James' we practice our discipleship in several ways. All of these, I will contend, are also examples of stewardship. Of course, we have the Summer Backpack Program that gives supplemental food to food-insecure children over the summer. We have the Tree of Giving and the holiday food bags that are assembled by our Sunday School. As our web page says, "We feed people." But, we also have a ministry of sharing our space.

Meg Critchley was out weeding the other day and a lady came up to her and commented about how busy our church was. She observed that there seemed to be a lot of activity around it. This is

reflected when Wardens in the past have said, "How hard can this be?" or "Many hands make light work." or "There is a lot that goes on here." All these little slogans are rooted in action. That's us! We provide ministries and also actively share our space with ministries in the community (even though we may not directly execute them). We don't have a food pantry, but have collected food for a local pantry. We don't provide counseling but provide space for the Joseph Quinlen Bereavement Center. It is the same for Literacy Volunteers instruction, and for North Porch (supporting new mothers and infants). In the past we provided English as a Second Language instruction, provided income tax preparation assistance and opened our doors during Sandy.

In order to keep opening our doors and expressing our faith through the action of sharing our space, we must do upkeep on this space. Every so often we hold a maintenance Saturday morning. We scratch up the soil, attack the weeds and tend the flowers. We also hammer a nail, or turn a screw, polish a sink, change an air filter and brush a little paint. Over the next couple of Saturday mornings we will be rolling a bit of paint on the Parish Hall. Sharing our space does take a toll and some parts of the Hall are in need of some paint and TLC. That's what we'll do. We'll spruce things up and make things neat and tidy. Join us as we follow Him and express our faith through action.

Paul Bartkus
Senior Warden

**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!**

Bishops' Visit

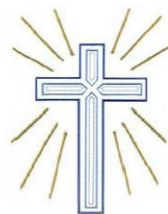


St. James' is honored to host The Rt. Rev. Mark M. Beckwith on his visit May 22nd. We will be celebrating one service at 9 AM. Bishop Beckwith will include the children of the parish in his homily, so all children are encouraged to attend. After the service there will be a reception in the Parish Hall. The Vestry will meet privately with the Bishop at noon.

St. James' is preparing for the visit with painting and repairs on Saturday May 7th and 14th. Please email Paul Bartkus if you are available to help. The Special Events Committee will meet on May 15th at 11:15 AM to prepare for the reception. All are invited to participate.

Vestry Highlights

- † Rev. Guy Fouts contract extended as "Priest-in-Residence.
- † Mortgage paydown occurred April 22nd.
- † Exploring Ward. J. Herbert grant for Mitcham House roof repair.
- † St. James' Vestry will be dedicated on May 1st during the 10 AM service.
- † Julie Mills, parish administrator, has assembled necessary paperwork for the 2015 Internal Audit; Pam Laura to lead with help from the Audit Committee.



Rest In Peace

Gloria Sheplin

A long-time member of St. James', Gloria Sheplin, passed away on Thursday morning, April 28th. Gloria was the wife of Bernard Sheplin, and aunt to Anne Dutton. The tentative date for a memorial service to celebrate Gloria's life is Monday, May 9th at noon at St. James'. Please watch for more details.

Sunday School

The last day of Sunday school this year will be May 15th. On that day, the kids will celebrate Pentecost with a lesson and a craft, and we will be having an end of the year celebration with ice cream sundaes.

Also, the kids will be continuing the tradition of handing out flowers for Mother's Day - May 8 this year.

The Bishop wants to include the children in the service (perhaps with a children's sermon) on May 22nd. We will share any more details as we find out.

Thanks to all the parents and everyone at St. James for all the support you've given Sunday School this year!

Alicia LaForge

Calling All Graduates

If you or someone you know is graduating from elementary school, middle school, high school, college, military or any other program, please contact the church office. St. James' likes to honor those who are transitioning in their educational and service life.



Easter Flowers

The Altar Guild wishes to thank the members of the congregation who made donations toward the flowers for this Easter. Thanks to your generosity the church looked truly beautiful.

Meg Critchley



Special Events

Next meeting of Special Events will be on 5/15 at 11:15, at Coffee Hour, not 5/18.

Special Events is requesting that members of the parish bring a quiche (any type is fine) or a coffee cake for coffee hour on 5/22 during the Bishop's visit/reception (you likely have a better word for it) A sign up sheet is in the Parish Hall and I can be the contact person: lockwood88@comast.net or 908-850-9214.

Fundraising Report

The St. James' FRC meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 11th at 6 PM.

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 8th. Please think about us for gift card needs for graduations, weddings, birthdays or spring home and garden maintenance.

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. A recent donation of lanterns brought us \$37!

Our participation in the town-wide rummage sale brought us \$450! Thanks to all who donated time, talent and treasure to make this happen.

Thanks for your support in our fundraising efforts!
St. James' Fundraising Committee



Check out the St. James' Library in the Parish Hall for inspirational and educational readings!

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.

Facing an election, and a need for reconciliation

Posted by Mark Beckwith on April 19, 2016 (Episcopal Diocese of Newark Website)

On November 9, the quadrennial presidential election marathon, which has consumed more space in the media and in the psyche than any time I can remember, will be over. A winner will be declared and a loser will concede defeat. And no matter how it turns out, millions of people will be hopping mad.

They will be mad because their candidate lost, and by extension they, too, will feel like losers. Many on the winning side will want to rub it in, and will do so in infuriating and demeaning ways. Taunting is a flagrant foul in sports, but there does not seem to be much consequence for it in the public arena – aside from making angry people even angrier.

For the next six and a half months, most of the country's energy will be focused on winning – who will win, how can they win, what are the unique geographic and demographic pockets where winning is possible. All that is important, and indeed it is critical to our future. That said, we also need to be paying some attention to the aftermath on November 9, because if there are vast swaths of the populace that are angry now, they are going to be even angrier in the wake of a lost election.

We live in a culture that seems to be more and more devoted to the binary dynamic of winners and losers. It feels good to win, and we get pressure to win – be it a good grade, job, place to live or relationship. And if winning doesn't come the way we want or expect, we often declare ourselves winners by making sure someone else loses – so that we somehow end up on top, or ahead, of someone else.

All of this reinforces distance between people, which is already a significant issue in our country today. In 2008, journalist Bill Bishop wrote *The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded American is Tearing Us Apart*. Bishop demonstrates that, for several decades now, people have been clustering themselves geographically, politically and economically. It is increasingly the case that people live, eat, work, worship and play with people who tend to look at the world in the same way. We are becoming a society of silos, which means there are fewer places where people have the opportunity to share different perspectives. And when such a meeting does happen, more often than not an exchange of perspectives devolves into a nasty competition to see who will win.

This is a problem, and our election season merely

deepens it. And this is where we as people of faith come in – which is where Jesus came in. Jesus' economy was not about winners or losers, but about blessing. And the blessing Jesus offered was brought about, in large measure, through reconciliation. He particularly offered blessings and reconciliation to people whom the rest of the world thought were losers. As members of the Jesus movement, we are invited to follow his lead.

We can start by listening. Listening is the first step in reconciliation. The cultural anger that has broken through the carapace of civility is rooted in fear. Fear of change. Fear of losing. The despair of feeling that one has lost. We need to listen – and to create space and trust so people's fears can emerge, a relationship can be formed and differences can be honored rather than fought.

Reconciliation is an ongoing journey of transformation toward a deeper friendship with God and people. Acts of reconciliation requires patience, given that the process requires space and time. If we are unable to find space and time for reconciliation, we need to create it. Which means we need to listen more. The world certainly needs our witness; and we are graced by the fact that our scriptural and liturgical tradition provides a deep grounding for us to be reconcilers.

Going Local, a congregation-based process which we have been about as a diocese for two years, is really about reconciliation. The process begins with listening: listening to scripture, listening to our neighbors – both the neighbors in church and in the community. What participants in the congregations involved the *Going Local* process are learning is that listening moves us out of the polarizing dynamic of winners and losers and into the realm of blessing. Listening invites deeper relationship – within the parish, with the community and with the living Christ.

Reconciliation requires an investment in hope – which is believing in spite of the evidence, and then watching the evidence change. The current political landscape might suggest that reconciliation is not possible. But our faith invites us to a vision of reconciliation and blessing. And those who are involved in intentional listening and reconciliation are beginning to see the evidence change.



You Are Never too Old to Learn Something New!

Eight women, all 90+ years old, are living proof of that! They are the members of the newly formed bell choir at The House of the Good Shepherd and almost all of them have no prior musical experience. We do have two members who rang “back in the day” but both of them claim to not read music. We have one woman who was a musician. Her challenge is seeing the music as she is now legally blind. But what all of these women have is a desire to learn and to make music!

The choir came about when one of the regular attendees at Sunday afternoon Chapel Services, where I am the accompanist, asked about starting a bell choir. She had rung in one in the past and thought it would be a good activity for the residents. She had some money she was willing to donate to purchase equipment if there was interest. The Rev. Deacon Jeanette Hile, who leads the Chapel services every week, wasn't that familiar with hand bells and asked me if I thought I could direct the group. I said that I could – I've learned a lot from taking hand bell classes in the past at Westminster Choir College and from watching and listening to Louise as she directs our Bell Choir here at St. James'. I also thought we could borrow some of the bells from St. James' since at the time they weren't being used much.

With the help of St. James', the members of the House of the Good Shepherd bell choir are learning about ringing, damping, and counting! We have been loaning an octave of bells (plus 1 extra bell) and our extra music holders to the new choir since February and on Easter Sunday they rang the tune of the well-known Easter hymn “Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain” and the look on their faces when they finished said it all! They were all smiles!

We are on a break now and will be starting up again in May. We are researching bells or chimes and figuring out what we can purchase with the donation we have. Our choir needs are a little different since many of our members cannot stand long enough to play a piece standing and have some challenges with vision and/or wrist mobility. So, we can't use table pads since that makes the music stands too high for the seated members, some of whom are in wheelchairs. There will be no martellato'ing in this bell choir! Instead, we are doing adaptive bell ringing, accommodating wrist issues and making large print music.

Most importantly, we have a great time learning about music notation and making music! We are very grateful to the Vestry at St. James' for allowing us to borrow the bells to get the group started!

Pam Laura



"The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities."

- Night Prayer, New Zealand Prayer Book

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SAVE THE DATE!!

8th Annual St. James' Golf Outing

Monday, June 27

Mark your calendars now for the 8th Annual St. James' Golf Outing. The Outing will be held at Farmstead Golf & Country Club on Monday, June 27. As in previous years, the event will feature a snack lunch, golf, prizes, and a scrumptious buffet dinner. Look for more details and registration information in the coming weeks. The organizing committee (Dan Miller, Phyllis & Paul Bartkus, Meg & Bill Critchley and Barbara Olesen) welcome those who can volunteer on the day of the event by helping out with registrations, as well as 50/50 and raffle ticket sales. This year, we are adding a putting contest as a new feature of our event.

We count on the generous donations from many of the merchants and restaurants in the Hackettstown area. When you visit them, let them know you are from St. James' and appreciate their support in years past for the golf outing.

For more information, contact any of the committee members and watch for the flyers coming soon!



Annual Church Picnic

St. James' will be holding it's Annual Church Picnic on June 12th at the Field of Dreams Pavilion in Independence Township. There will be one service at 10:00 AM that day. Transportation will be provided for Heath Village residents or anyone that needs a ride. Please watch for details coming soon!

Ministry Scheduler Pro Now

Available as a Mobile App!

If you are an usher, counter, Altar Guild member, or serve on the altar, you can now download Ministry Scheduler Pro to your mobile device. Now you can check your schedule anywhere you go!

Journal Deadline

MAY EDITION:

May 29th



St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown

CALENDAR

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St. James' Staff & Vestry

Priest-in-Residence	Rev. Arthur "Guy" Fouts
Rector Emeritus:	The Rev. Clarence Sickles
Parish Administrator:	Julie Mills
Organist	Dmitry Nikolaev
Sexton:	Pauline Volkert

Vestry

Senior Warden:	Paul Bartkus
Junior Warden:	Barbara Olesen

Peter Quelly	Bill Critchley	Janice Cipriani
Nancy Miller	Chris Krauss	Claudia Scala
Pam Laura	Sam Wood	

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

Barbara Olesen, Editor

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