



# ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 2016

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

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## **This Month in Stewardship**

### **See You in September**

Can you recall a first day back to school when a teacher asked the class to write a "What I did over summer vacation" theme? This year my essay would be about going to a birthday party (well of sorts). August 25 was the 100th anniversary of the National Parks Service and we were in a National Park. A ranger showed a short movie with snippets of various animals singing the "Happy Birthday" song. This sounded a bit like the recording of the dogs barking "Jingle Bells", but with birds chirping, moose bellowing and wolves howling. The ranger then gave an engaging talk about the history of the Parks and key people who had a vision of setting aside portions of unspoiled land and wildlife for the enjoyment of future generations. This was an inspiring example of stewardship, saving something for our children's children and beyond.

Stewardship. My mind made a connection with our practice of stewardship here. A couple of years ago St. James' celebrated its 150th anniversary, which is similar to a birthday. We are older than the National Parks Service! Imagine that. We are older than Yellowstone as a National Park.

There are stewardship parallels here. The Park Service is the steward of our land and wildlife and we are the stewards of St. James' properties and traditions. Our wonderful National Park service takes great care to make sure beautiful areas of our country remain unspoiled and this takes work. We likewise must make efforts to care for our lovely church which sustains all of us. The cost of maintaining the parks is born through our tax system. Congress controls those allocations for us and we do not have to actively make

decisions about what to fix or what to finish in a park. In our parish we have a Vestry that makes decisions about repairs and such, but we must actively chose to make a stewardship commitment to enable those repairs to our structures and to keep the lights on. This is accomplished through our pledges and contributions of time, talent and treasure. The parks exist for our appreciation of nature's beauty. Our structures exist for our worship and ministry. Both the parks and our church are areas that are set apart from the everyday. They are set apart and separate because they are places of awe. Both are available for prayer, spiritual refreshment and provide an opportunity to give thanks for all the blessings of this life.

My essay would be one of thanks. I am grateful for having the opportunity to see the great expanses of God's gift of natural beauty and for our corner of earth at Washington and Moore. We are nourished each week through our worship which enables us to be good disciples, doing God's work. We need our parish's participation in order to accomplish this. Yes, we need resources to keep the lights on, but those lights are not only for those of us inside, but also to shine as a beacon to those outside who are welcomed to join us. We look forward to preserving our church for future generations. As the motel guy used to say in the commercials, "We'll keep a light on for you."

Paul Bartkus

**Journal Deadline**

**October Edition:**

**September 25th**

## **St. James Columbarium Program Grief Ministries**

More and more churches are offering memorialization services so that families and friends can grieve and visit their departed loved ones in familiar and comforting surroundings. The rising rate of cremation in the United States makes columbaria a natural choice.

At St. James our columbaria are located in the Lady Chapel located directly off of the main sanctuary. Services are held in the chapel on special occasions such as the Holy Thursday Vigil and marriages. It is an integral part of church life at St James, and a smaller but sacred space making it appropriate for interment.

### **Meeting your needs now and in the future**

Columbarium Memorial Systems and urns are designed to withstand the ravages of time while maintaining their beauty and integrity. Traditional materials are easily returned to a polished luster after decades of use. Niches are crafted of high quality materials with a polished finish and built for perpetual containment with memorial marker plates.

The church actually owns the columbarium where urns are placed. Niches are covered by memorial marker plates that are engraved with specific information regarding the people inurned in them.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is the cost of a columbarium niche?**

Prices vary dependent upon whether the purchase is pre-need and whether it is purchased by a church member. The Columbarium Committee members can discuss cost options on an individual basis.

#### **What happens to the columbaria if St. James is forced to close its doors or relocates?**

The columbarium system is designed to be easily moved to a new location.

#### **What are the benefits of this type of burial?**

- † Peace of mind
- † Minimizing stress on loved ones with the difficult decisions they will have to make when I am no longer there to help them
- † Making sure my wishes are carried out when I am gone

Please contact Sam Wood at 973-691-8796 or [woodrock89@aol.com](mailto:woodrock89@aol.com) if you would like more information or to discuss your personal needs.

### **Back Pack Program: Nourishing Our Community**

By Jewels Quelly

*Then they said to Him, Lord, always give us this bread. Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. John 6:34-35.*

This spring our parish approached an interesting crossroad on our journey of growth. Were we to continue our outreach ministry of the Back Pack Program? Despite the fact that feeding children in our community should be a “no-brainer”, especially because our ministry was funded by a foundation, there were some very real challenges that faced us. The program had become very large and intense for our smaller parish to execute and we were in need of different parishioners to organize it.

When the Parish Life Committee met in the spring, it was decided that the best way to attempt a “new” BPP was to take the program back to its humbler roots; that is to serve only the children/families in the immediate Hackettstown school districts. This boundary enabled our parish to continue this ministry in a much more manageable

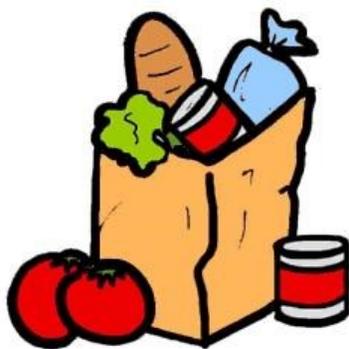
way and to nourish our community with a regained spirit of joy in giving.

It's safe to say that all involved felt our rebuilt program was a great success. Our average "pack" was 60 bags and took our volunteers (about 10-15 people) about an hour after Sunday Coffee Hour. Those bags fed 30 children twice per month. These statistics are only the tangible results.

What those numbers of success don't show are the lessons we learned and the spiritual nourishment we received as the St. James' Family. Discussions amongst us ensued and stories were shared about how our Lord God provides in time of need. At times, we were worried that we had little past planning information and we wouldn't be able to pull it off. (We did, with very little stress.) Volunteers were always available to show up, pitch in, pinch hit, and commune together. We had more than enough fishes and loaves and love with which to feed our community. We made new friends, cemented current relationships and gave in faith and glory as Jesus would have us do.

Thank you for whatever role you played in nourishing our community with joy.

*'He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'*  
*Revelation 2:7*



# **HOME COMING** **SUNDAY** **SEPTEMBER 11TH**

- + RETURN TO TWO SERVICES  
8 & 10 AM
- + FAMILY BREAKFAST BETWEEN SERVICES
- + SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

**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!

## Jackson Martin

Dear friends at St. James. This is just a small thank for all of your prayers for my grandson Jackson. As you may remember he was in Goryeb Children's Hospital this month with a very severe flare up of his pediatric ulcerative colitis. We have him home and he is eating again and starting to chafe at the enforced semi-isolation. They have suppressed his immune system with strong steroids and IV infusions. But he is improving as you can see from his picture below. A vast improvement over his last portrait. I know that he joins me and his family in thanking you for your continued support. Hopefully he will get to see you in September after school starts.

Nancy Miller



Editors note: If you would like to be a part of the St. James' Prayer Ministry, please contact Barbara Olesen at (908)797-0515 or [olesen@comcast.net](mailto:olesen@comcast.net).



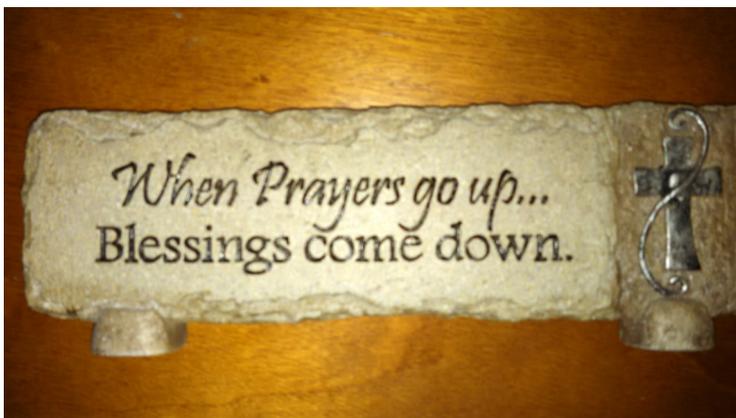
A Mini Golf Outing was held on Friday July 15th at Farmview Mini Golf in Hackettstown. A good time was had by all!



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

## SHOP-RITE & WEIS GIFT CARDS

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



## Fundraising Report

The St. James' FRC's next meeting is Wednesday, September 14th at 6 PM. We will be discussing the Rummage Sale, Gertrude Hawk Candy fundraiser for Christmas and possible other fundraising activities.

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, September 11th. Please think about us for gift card needs for personal use, special occasions and purchases from garden centers for Fall cleanup.

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

Thanks for your support in our fundraising efforts!

St. James' Fundraising Committee



**Saturday, September 24th**

**9 AM—3 PM**

We are looking for donations of new and gently used items. Also, please save plastic shopping bags for us. Donations can be dropped off in the rummage sale area of the basement.

We will also be looking for volunteers to help set up, work during the sale, and help with clean-up. Please contact Barbara Olesen at [olesen@comcast.net](mailto:olesen@comcast.net) or (908)797-0515 if you can help.

We sold \$450 of merchandise at our Spring Rummage Sale—help us reach another \$550 in sales for our annual goal of \$1000 to add to the operating fund!

## Tanya Volkert

Tanya Volkert has been officially sworn into the Peace Corps and has moved to her permanent home in Africa! The picture attached is of her group after the ceremony. Tanya is the tall, redhead girl in the back row, second from the right. Thanks to Pauline Volkert for keeping us up to date!



## Life Lesson

A Reflection from Paul Bartkus

Life does not happen in the viewfinder of a camera. Period.

While on vacation I was so intent on “getting” that perfect picture that I was at risk of missing the whole context of the big picture. I am not a good photographer. Luckily my camera has an autofocus feature. It also has a hocus-pocus feature that can be set to various conditions. But amid all that thinking about taking a picture, I looked up and saw how beautiful an animal or a mountain or my spouse was. Real life is bigger than a viewfinder and more greatly to be enjoyed.

Editors note: If you would like to submit a “Life Lesson” for the October Journal, please send to [Olesen@comcast.net](mailto:Olesen@comcast.net)



# HACKETTSTOWN **POLICE**

**10th ANNUAL HACKETTSTOWN COMMUNITY DAY**  
**Saturday - October 1st, 2016 - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Hackettstown Medical Center (Rear Parking Lot)**  
**657 Willow Grove St. - Hackettstown, NJ 07840**

**St. James' will be participating in this event.**  
**Please watch for more information.**



## **Joining Jesus on the Journey:**

### **A river-to-river pilgrimage**

On July 25th, walkers from the Diocese of Newark began their six-day pilgrimage across New Jersey. Pictured top left is Barbara Olesen with Rev. John Mennell, rector at St. Luke's, Montclair and one of the organizers of the event. Below left, is Bishop Beckwith with more walkers. Special thanks to Barbara White who was able to welcome the walkers at our church for a brief stop before continuing on to the House of the Good Shepherd.

For more on this event and other information from the diocese, please visit:

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

# 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

All Journal submissions  
should be sent to:

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& [olesen@comcast.net](mailto:olesen@comcast.net)

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