



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2016

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



This Month in Stewardship

In our fast paced modern world we are more likely tied to the 24/7 news cycle than the agrarian cycle of our ancestors. But, during fall we may be more likely than at other times to reconnect to themes of harvest, family gatherings and giving thanks. For Episcopalians fall is a season of ingathering and thanksgiving. Each fall we reenter the stewardship cycle of the year in our congregational and community life in which we give thanks for our blessings and prepare for Advent. This is also the season in which we review our pledges and commitments of time, talent and treasure to St. James' and its mission and ministries.

At our October vestry meeting our vestry members made commitments to our parish as its leaders to individually make a pledge of time, talent and treasure. The following resolution was passed unanimously:

"We, the vestry of St. James' Episcopal Church, Hackettstown, recognizing our role as good stewards, affirm our commitment to its mission and ministry by making a pledge of our time, talent, and treasure for the year 2017."

This leadership commitment means that our vestry members are not asking something of you that they are not willing to do. Your opportunity to make your pledge will be available this month in a pledge packet. Inside the packets are materials for your review about our ministry possibilities, proportional giving and a pledge card. The pledge card has two sides. One is for your pledge of treasure and the other is for time and talent. Although we are a small parish, we can accomplish mighty things, especially when we can muster the expanse of talents that we

possess. Remember that many hands make light work and that faith can move a mountain.

This month we have opportunities to participate in a variety of stewardship activities. November 19th is the date for our Fellowship/Stewardship Dinner. A sign up sheet is available in the parish hall for your pot-luck contributions to the dinner. This is a kid-friendly event. There will be balloons and a revival of last year's Family Feud/Match Game. (There may also be a car give away - rumors have it.) You can bring your completed pledge card this evening or the next day, when they will be presented at the altar.

Our Thanksgiving holiday food bag ingathering takes place on November 20. Please take a bag this week and return it with the suggested items on or before the 20th. Our Sunday Schoolers will be assembling bags for needy families from the contributions you bring in.

The dedication of the parish hall will take place on Sunday, November 20, after the 10 service. David Lacouture has been developing a program for the dedication highlighting Mr. Snyder's act of stewardship to St. James'. The Nolan family will be hosting the coffee hour, which guarantees lots of good eats. You may have noticed the "Watch this Space" sign by the door. The mystery about this will be revealed on this date. Be sure to stay for coffee hour and join in the festivities.

Finally, the Tree of Giving will be up on November 27th. We will again host two local families for Christmas gifts of clothing and toys. Please take a candy cane and return the gift indicated by December 18th.

As you can see, November is packed with stewardship activities. Each is an opportunity to share your gifts. When we enter into these activities as devotional exercises, they take on additional deeper meaning. This can help us to be a bit more aware of our gifts, more connected to the cycle of our church year and less to the news cycle. I'll vote for that!

Thank you for reading,
Paul Bartkus



The Four D's of Stewardship

David Lacouture

October 30, 2016

In my various roles at St. James' over the years, I have come to appreciate the notion that stewardship is not a destination but an ever evolving process. Stewardship encompasses a full range of activities, both individual and collective, over time.. It can change and take different forms as we travel along our personal faith journeys.

While thinking about stewardship at St. James', I came up with so many examples that I lost count. So I thought I would try to find a unifying concept that would best describe the stewardship process in a broader sense.

After a brief search I discovered "The Four D's of Stewardship" attributed to the Rev. Henry Wildeboer, a retired Christian Reformed priest. These four D's are as follows: Desire, Decision Discipline and Delight. I was unable to find an interpretation from Rev. Wildeboer but they seemed quite fitting to Stewardship as I have come to understand it.

As we enter into the stewardship season, I offer here my own interpretation of the four D's of Stewardship in the context of my experiences at St. James'

Desire

One may not link the concept of desire with stewardship but it indeed makes sense. It's what I call the "seed" of stewardship. It's a powerful idea and emotional word that embodies both feeling and action. It's personal, compelling and motivating. It lifts us up. It can result in prayer or a personal experience that has touched us in some way.

Desire inspires us and urges us to take on responsibility and/or contribute to issues and causes bigger and more significant than our own interests.

Decision

With the inspiration to take our desire to a point of contributing and supporting action, we then ask ourselves, "How can I contribute?" "How do I engage?" "What are my talents and gifts?" "How much time do I have to give?" "How much of my resources can I share?"

We are often led to prayer at this point and seek God's guidance on how we direct our desire and make it both real and tangible. This step is the decision phase of stewardship. It is a personal and important step. It is exactly what we do during Stewardship season when we

submit our pledge cards and proclaim we are prepared to joyfully commit our time, talent and treasure to God. It's time now to make the decision to commit to Stewardship.

Discipline

Without the discipline and follow through, desire and decision phase of Stewardship is worthless. Fortunately, there is plenty of stewardship discipline at St. James'. Our ability to sustain an active Episcopal faith community on the corner of Washington and Moore Streets for over 150 years is a testament to a strong and unwavering tradition of stewardship discipline.

Consider the discipline of the founders of St James' when, during the construction of the church in 1859, a summer storm destroyed the initial framing. Yet, equipped with their desire, decisions and incredible discipline, the church members started over again to complete the very same sanctuary structure we enjoy today.

Consider too the various capital campaigns over the years to expand and improve the infrastructure, or the commitment of search committees to call new priests, or all of the other lay ministries from Altar Guild, music, Vestry, fund raising, Sunday school, and the Back Pack program just to name a few.

We are here as the result of the stewardship discipline of hundreds of faithful St. James' members who preceded us. We continue that stewardship discipline today and we do it quite naturally.

Delight

Like desire, delight was not a word I would have previously associated with stewardship but upon further reflection it indeed makes sense. It is perhaps the most accurate word to describe a whole host of feelings such as satisfaction, pride, accomplishment and connection and the love of God and to one another. It is the stewardship investment "dividend" that one really needs or expects but it sure bring joy to our lives.

My personal delight is felt every week when we are celebrating the Holy Eucharist in our sanctuary. This is a gift I never take for granted. I know from my experience on the Vestry that this seemingly simple ceremony takes many aspects of stewardship to make possible and to sustain.

Other sources of delight are baptisms, weddings and other special occasions. I would include funerals since it is so important to provide a place of worship for families who have experienced a loss.

Delight also comes from fellowship gathering, mutual faith and support during tough times, not to mention our

outreach ministries like the Back Pack program and Giving Tree.

So delight truly does have a place in the Stewardship process.

The Cycle Continues

This leads to the next phase of the process which actually takes us back to the beginning as we start the process anew with renewed desire to contribute more than before. Whereas this seems like an academic study, we have all experienced this cycle to a certain degree in one form or another as members of St. James'. It's why we are all here and why will continue to be a part of the St. James' family.

Reflections on the Financial Life of the church

I thought I would take a few moments to share my perspective of the finances at St. James' from my experience as a pledger, vestry person, Warden, and finance committee member.

No matter how it's defined, Mission and Ministry required money to succeed and sustain. There is no doubt about it, it takes money to support our worship at St. James'. It really is quite obvious to all of us but sometimes it's honestly challenging for the Vestry to ensure we can maintain all the traditions we love.

I have said on many occasions how carefully the finances at St. James' are managed...and they have to be; there is little wiggle room. The Vestry and finance committee truly do an amazing job but funds can be tight in relation to what we expect.

As a Warden, one of my responsibilities was signing requisitions that approved the treasurer to write checks. Even though every requisition had supporting back-up documentation to justify the expense and I knew the expense was planned in the budget, sometimes the stack of the requisitions would be quite intimidating. The reality is simple, the bills need to be paid just like in our own households or else.....

With this in mind, the Stewardship Committee and Vestry is making a request that you consider increasing your 2017 pledge by 1%. Collectively, this small increase will help some of the challenges but not all. Of course you are welcome to increase your pledge by more if you can. Please give this request some thought and prayer as you consider your pledge.

The Dedication of Snyder Hall

The Parish Hall is an amazing example of stewardship. It is the tangible example of all the four D's of Stewardship working in harmony over

several years.

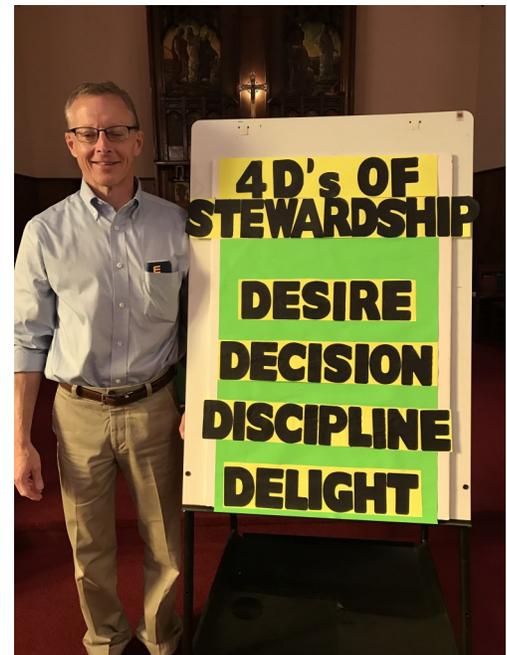
We have benefited and enjoyed the use of the Parish Hall for many years now. But the ability to pay the mortgage has been an overwhelming concern for the Vestry. As announced at the Annual meeting last March, the Vestry worked closely with the Bank and Diocese on a proposal to liquidate a portion of the assets in the Snyder Fund to significantly pay down the mortgage on the building.

So thanks to Mr. Snyder's past stewardship and his bequest made 20 years ago, St. James' has re-balanced its finances and we can continue to enjoy benefits in the Parish Hall now and in the future.

In our gratitude we will therefore dedicate the hall to Mr. Snyder and rename the space to **Snyder Hall** during a ceremony on Sunday Nov 20th after the 10 am service. Also at that time a plaque will be unveiled to commemorate Mr. Snyder's significant gift to St. James' future.

You too can show your stewardship and be a part of the special and historic event by making a donation to help support the cost of the plaque. Special envelopes are available if you choose to participate. Any amount will be gratefully appreciated and you too will part of something special

Thank you for all you do for St. James' Church



Ed. Note: The Warden's and Vestry of St. James' thank David Lacouture for his inspiring message of Stewardship during the homily on Sunday, October 30.

Fundraising Report

Shop With Scrip—Next order is due Sunday, November 13th. Please think about us for gift card needs for personal use, special occasions and the upcoming Holidays. After this, we have one more order before Christmas. One size fits all and they make great gifts!

Our **Christmas Candy** fundraiser is going strong. Orders are due on Sunday, November 20th in order to have the candy available in early December. Each person that orders will be entered into a drawing to win a chocolate gift basket donated by Gertrude Hawk!

We are also selling bracelets and necklaces from **Bead for Life**—these make interesting gifts with a story behind each creation.

New Fundraising Opportunities for St. James'

Amazon Smile

St. James' can now earn money by having a portion of eligible purchases donated to us by shopping at Amazon. Just log onto smile.amazon.com and designate St. James', Hackettstown, and a portion of your purchases will be added to our account. After that, continue to log onto this website (they offer you a bookmark), or if you log onto amazon.com, you will be prompted to redirect to the Amazon Smile website. Everything is the same and all promotions, coupons and Amazon Prime can be used just like your normal ordering process. Please pass this information to family and friends so they can help support St. James'!

Legacy Books

St. James' is now collecting books! We have a local Legacy Books location that will take donations of books. We earn 15% of book sales from our donations, and a check is sent to us each month. Keep in mind that eligible books should have a UPC code and ISBN number, usually found on the back of the book. There is a collection box inside the Moore St. entrance to place your donations. We will trial this for six months to see how this is working out for us!

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE FRC!



Sisters from St. John Baptist visited St. James' on October 23rd



Look for this sign in the Parish Hall!



St. James' booth at Community Day on October 1st.

Special Events Update



A Successful October Maintenance Morning

The weather was our friend on our October 8 maintenance morning. Volunteers, young and not so young, joined together to accomplish tasks both indoors and out after being fortified with warm bagels and coffee.

Among the chores completed were:

- A ballast was changed in the parish hall light fixture. (This has been vexing our sexton, Pauline, due to the light periodically going on and off on its own.)
- The grease trap in the kitchen sink was cleaned out for the first time, a stinky, nasty job. (It contained remnants of many fondly remembered fellowship gatherings.)
- The piano was moved back into the church and the bell spring in the bell tower was examined.
- Outdoors, gutters were cleaned out and slats in the fence were repaired. The gate latch was also fixed.
- Bushes and trees were pruned and perennials all around the property were cut back. Along the retaining wall, the area was weeded and roses were also pruned which is a huge job.
- After much coaxing and digging, a stubborn but dead boxwood was removed and mums planted in its place.
- The ever-invasive viny weeds between the church and Mitcham House were tackled and leaves were raked out between the shrubs along the Moore Street side.

Thanks so much to all who came out to help care for our lovely buildings and grounds. The familiar phrase bears repeating, “Many hand make light work!!”



Phyllis and Paul Bartkus

On October 1st, St James’ was represented with a table at Hackettstown Community Day. It was held this year on the grounds of Hackettstown Medical Center and despite the damp weather, many local families attended. Our table had balloons to give away to children and attracted both adults and children alike to make a fun fall craft. Information about Blessing of the Animals, about Northporch, and about our worship services was also available to interested folks. Many thanks for Barbara Olesen, Paul and Phyllis Bartkus, Jean Krauss, Wendy Germaine, Jayne Mutascio, Sam Wood, Pam Laura and Dave Lacouture for making time to represent our parish at this family friendly event.

Another fun night of Bunco (and wonderful prizes!) and BYO Pizza was held on Saturday October 22nd in the Great Hall for family game night. Jayne Mutascio led us once again for two rounds and many laughs of BUNCO. Figuring out what table to move to is the biggest challenge! Barbara and Dave Olesen won top prizes (beautiful large pumpkins and carving kits) and then passed along the prizes to other families to enjoy! And Jayne and Sam treated us all to delicious chocolate from a Pennsylvania chocolatier to take home as favors. Thank you to all who helped make it a very enjoyable night, especially Jayne and Sam!!!

Mark your calendars for an upcoming event on Saturday, November 19th at 5:30 PM. The In Gathering Potluck Fellowship Dinner will be held in Snyder Hall. Pete and Gerri Huryk will be heading “home” to challenge us in a round of family friendly games! See sign-up sheet for category sign up for dinner. Beverages will be provided, including wine. If you need a ride, please give a call to Kathy Lacouture at 908-850-9214.

2017 event: Epiphany Dinner on January 14th

Yarn Twisters



Today I was wondering what I could write for the November Journal and I had a phone message from Pat Taylor at Heath Village letting me know that she had dropped 24 items in the SCI bin this Sunday morning! What wonderful news! I am not exactly sure how many items Jerry Sheard will be taking to SCI, Port Newark, but will be letting you know in my December article. Many thanks to our knitters and crocheters both at St. James' and at Heath Village – because of these talented ladies, our items are growing by leaps and bounds.

Keep on knitting let's start a new box for 2017!! I am hoping to make some ditty bags next year, they are very simple to make. If you can sew a straight line, that's all it takes!

All 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, 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.

Thank you,
Linda Miller

Journal Deadline

December/January

Edition:

November 27th



Hello,

My name is Molly Szpakowski and I am a junior at Morris Catholic High School. Last year with your generous help I was able to collect 9,000 pill containers and ship them to the African nation of Malawi.

Thank you, I couldn't do it without you.

This year, I'm hoping that together we can make yet another difference!

In the world today nearly 153 million people experience poor vision. An alarming amount of 4 million pairs of eyeglasses are discarded each year in the U.S. alone. With your help we can put these to good use. I will be collecting **used and unwanted, prescription or non-prescription eyeglasses, as well as eyeglass cases.** Additionally, as there is an enormous need for sunglasses in countries near the equator, where UV rays can cause severe damage to the eyes I will also be accepting **sunglasses of any kind, as well as empty frames, demonstration glasses, children's glasses and sports glasses.**

The glasses are going to be sent to medical missions within our country as well as overseas to various third-world nations including Bolivia, China, Jamaica, Philippines, Thailand, and Kenya. By getting involved I can ensure that your glasses will be given to someone who needs it most. Your simple act of **charity and kindness** will impact many lives for years to come, so please look around your house and I bet you can find a pair or two of unwanted and long forgotten glasses that are of no use to you, but can make wonders for others!

This drive will run throughout the year. For any questions please email me at:

m.szapkowski@comcast.net

Thank you and have a wonderful day!

Molly Szpakowski



CALENDAR

ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2016

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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