



# ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2018

Rev. Dr. Franklin "Skip" Vilas—Supply Priest



## St. James Parish Stewardship Sunday Sermon

John A. McKinney, Jr.

October 28, 2018

To set the table, so to speak, for my comments this morning, please pull out the lectionary reading and look again at today's collect. *Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

I'm sure you heard the word charity in the collect. That's why, fortuitously, it's appropriate for today's stewardship sermon. So, let's address charity from a theological angle. Let's start with The Episcopal Catechism found in our Book of Common Prayer [at p. 860] - Q. What is required of us when we come to the Eucharist? That's a good question because we want to be prepared for the Eucharist. A. It is required that we should examine our lives, repent of our sins, and be in love and charity with all people. There's that word charity again. But our catechism is only an Outline for the Faith. In its briefness, it doesn't define charity. The much, much longer Roman Catholic Catechism defines charity as a theological virtue by which we love God above all things for God's own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. [No. 1822] It says charity is benevolence, friendship and communion. [No. 1829] I understand what friendship and

communion are. But in preparing this sermon, I wanted to look up benevolence to be sure of its definition. It is a kind act or gift or the doing of kind things for others. An example of benevolence is a gift of money.

Did you catch that, "a gift of money"? I'll say it again, a gift of money. Now, are you all braced for the annual Stewardship Sermon, a sermon that rightly, but perhaps more forcibly than you like, ties charitable scriptural references to giving? And not just giving but giving until it hurts!

Well, this year, I'm here to say that we should not give until it hurts. If you hurt, you can't be happy. Instead, we should give to be cheerful, knowing that our gift pleases God. And to do that, let's look at what should be the first step to consider in making our annual pledge.

I'd like to share with you a thought from Murray J. Harris, a Professor Emeritus of New Testament Exegesis and Theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. "All too often we regard stewardship simply as a matter of our giving to God, but this aspect is secondary. Before we can give, we must possess, and before we possess we must receive. Therefore, stewardship is, in the first place, receiving God's good and bounteous gifts."

What are those good and bounteous gifts in your life? Starting with God's gift of Jesus to humankind and his exaltation, how long would it take for you to list every one of those gifts? Could you ever? I don't think I could. Perhaps that's why, as with a bounteous harvest of corn, it's hard to focus on just one ear or just one gift. But each is a gift from God and we owe it to God and ourselves to focus on, understand and determine if we can share that gift with

others. And many of God's gifts, including God's grace, can and should be shared with others.

Murray Harris also wrote that, gifts received from God "are not to be used solely for our own good. They must also be used for the benefit of others, and ultimately for the glory of God the giver. The steward needs an open hand to receive from God and then an active hand to give to God and to others."

By the pledge and payments you make from the gifts God has given you and which you accepted, your gifts will be "used for the benefit of others, and ultimately for the glory of God." Each gift will benefit others in the St. James community, a community greater than just the worshippers here during a year. St. James is prized in the Hackettstown area for its charitable outreach efforts benefiting others. Our gifts will continue and even expand these efforts, efforts that glorify God.

Not only will each gift benefit the parish, they will honor and validate the gifts from past generations. I rarely enter this church without being grateful to prior parishioners who started this parish and built this wonderful building. We should never forget their faith in the future and their gifts to reclaim this church after losing it. Now is not the time to break faith with them and let this parish and its church home suffer from financial uncertainty. Our generous giving, coupled with our gifts of time and talent, enable us to be stewards of this property so that it may be passed on to future generations of Episcopalians.

God sees the heart of the giver, not the size of the gift. When you give to God, God gives to you. So don't give until it hurts. Knowing everything you have is a gift from God, and that by giving you show the charity God shows you, give the amount that makes you happy. After all, to quote the old truism, God loves a cheerful giver.



## Veteran's Day November 11, 2018



### LETTER TO ST. PETER

Let them in, Peter, they are very tired;  
Give them couches where the angels sleep.  
Let them wake whole again to new dawns fired  
With sun not war. And may their peace be deep.

Remember where the broken bodies lie...  
And give them things they like. Let them make noise  
God knows how young they were to have to die!  
Give swing bands, not gold harps, to these our boys.

Let them love, Peter,- they have had no time-  
Girls sweet as meadow wind, with flowering hair...  
They should have trees and bird song, hills to climb-  
The taste of summer in a ripened pear.

Tell them they are missed. Say not to fear;  
It's going to be all right with us down here.

Elma Dean 1942

Thanks to Meg Critchley for submitting.

### Fall Maintenance Morning

Many thanks to Peter and Millie Quelly, Jane Mutascio, Sam Wood, Kathy and David Lacouture for donating their time to come to the October 20 Maintenance morning at St. James'.

The weather cooperated and any lingering rain stopped so the tasks which were listed were all accomplished, both inside our buildings as well as in the surrounding gardens. (The grounds look so much neater!)

Thank you,  
Phyllis and Paul Bartkus



## St James' Green Team

David Lacouture

The St. James' Green Team continues to meet, conduct research and make plans for ways in which the congregation and people at home can better participate in good environmental stewardship.

The Team has shared recycling tips in the Journal and bulletin and will continue to do so. The Sunday School has also become involved.

Outdated hazardous chemicals and oil based paint from the Mitcham house basement were brought to the Warren County Hazardous material drop off day held in September. Old latex paint will be disposed of next. The Team plans to do further research in order to provide education and dispel myths about recycling. The team is finding that Warren and Morris County have slightly different procedures which will influence what people do back at their homes depending on their residency.

Meanwhile, inquiries will be made to other churches about "green" related programs and activities.

Activities are also being planned for next spring.

The Green Team is always accepting new members and ideas. Meetings are generally at 9 am in Snyder Hall. The date of the next meeting will be announced.

### Green Team Tips for November

Some information regarding recycling of aluminum:

- recycle aluminum cans, rinsed of any liquid
- aluminum pans should be washed before recycling
- aluminum foil can be recycled if wiped clean first (It can be bunched up into a ball.)

For Warren County recycling information go to:  
[pfcawc.com/recycling/](http://pfcawc.com/recycling/)

For Morris County recycling information go to:  
[mcmua.com](http://mcmua.com)

Thanks for reading and recycling!  
Phyllis Bartkus



## BUNCO Night At St James'

A huge shout out to Jayne Mutascio for organizing our Annual Bunco Night which was held on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>!! As always, many laughs, great prizes, and wonderful fellowship abounded that evening in Snyder Hall. To make the player tables even, Jesus (from the rocking chair in the back of the church) filled in and was a calming influence when needed. Make sure you put next year's game night on your calendar for a guaranteed fun time!!

Submitted by Kathy Lacouture

*THANKS!*

Thanks to The Rev. Joyce McGirr who was our supply celebrant on Sunday, October 21st. We enjoyed her visit with us and hope to see her again!



## Confirmation Class 2019

We are forming our next confirmation class. Youth in 8th grade or older are eligible. Classes will also be available for adults. Please contact Paul Bartkus if you wish further details.



The St. James' Fundraising Committee is selling Gertrude Hawk candies for the Christmas Holiday. Orders are due the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The candies make great gifts, stocking stuffers and hostess gifts. See brochures in the back of the church and Snyder Hall.

## In Gathering Dinner /Stewardship Season

The Annual Potluck Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 2018

~All Are Welcome~ Starts at 5:30pm

Bring dish or dessert according to your last name:

A to I :Dessert

J to O :Main Dish

P to Z: Side Dish

Beverages will be included



Activities available for kids and game by Pete Huryk with prizes!!!

Please contact Kathy Lacouture or Julie in the office if you have questions or would like transportation:

[lockwood88@comcast.net](mailto:lockwood88@comcast.net) OR [stjames214@comcast.net](mailto:stjames214@comcast.net)

Volunteers are needed to drive parishioners to dinner and home.

### Upcoming Events

- 11/4 All Saints Sunday
- Family Breakfast
- 11/11 Honoring Our Veterans
- 11/17 Stewardship Dinner 5:30 PM
- 11/18 Stewardship In-Gathering
- Thanksgiving Bags Due Back to be Packed
- Gertrude Hawk Candy Orders Due
- 11/22 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- 11/25 Tree of Giving
- Journal Articles Due
- Hackettstown Hymn Sing @ Gethsemane Lutheran Church 7 PM
- 11/30 Shop with Scrip Gift Card Orders Due

## Hackettstown Community Day:

Many thanks to the volunteers that came out to represent St. James' at the 2018 Hackettstown Community Day on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. We gave away dozens of colorful balloons to dozens of kids and had many people of all ages enjoy a fall-themed craft break. Our volunteer list this year included: Cindy Nolan, William Fleck, Nancy Miller, Jillian Martin, Jackson Martin, Peg Faust, Phyllis Bartkus, and Paul Bartkus. Thank you for all you did that day to make a bright spot for many on a gloomy day! What a lively crew! Check out our photos from that day.

Submitted by Kathy Lacouture



### Journal Deadline

December 2018/January 219 Edition  
November 25th

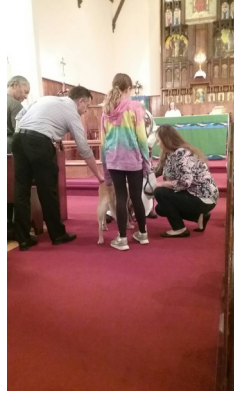
## The Gift of a Pig



Our Sunday School group is holding a year-long fundraising project to buy a pig for the Good Shepherd Home in Cameroon, Africa. Our goal is to raise \$120. The Good Shepherd Home is home to over 150 orphaned children. Every day, the children work hard to harvest and prepare food from a small farm at the Good Shepherd Home. Our first fundraising project will be a bake sale during Coffee Hour on November 18th.

Thank you for your support!  
St. James' Sunday School

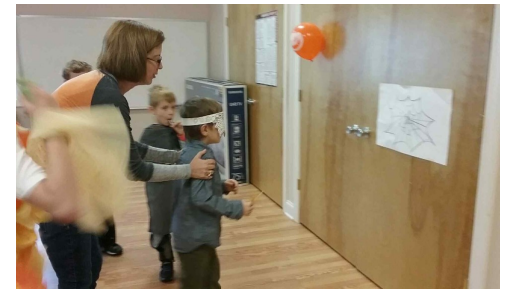
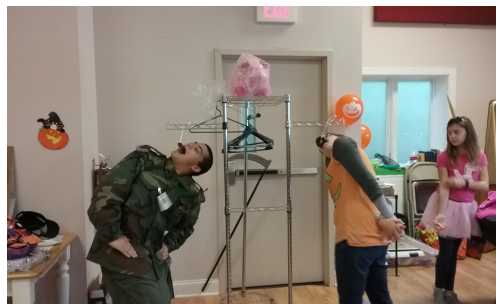
## Blessing of the Animals Sunday November 7th



Dogs were all very well behaved when they attended St. James' for a blessing by Rev. Vilas on October 7th.



## Sunday School Halloween

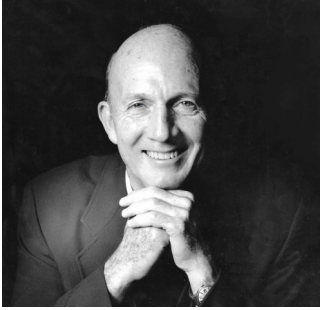


## Death in Our Diocesan Family

The Rev. Dr. Charles L. Rice

December 12, 1936 – October 8, 2018

(Editor's note: Rev. Rice has led several worship services at St. James' over the years including the Sunday after 9/11 and was loved by our congregation.)



With sadness we share the news of the death of the Rev. Dr. Charles Lynval Rice, 81, peacefully at home on October 8, 2018, surrounded by just some of the many people who loved him. A memorial service will be held on **Saturday, November 17, 11 AM** at St. Peter's Church in Morristown.

He received degrees from Baylor University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Union Theological Seminary, and Duke University. His published works include: *Interpretation and Imagination*, *Preaching the Story* and *The Embodied Word*. In 2017 his novel *Sea Camp* was reworked and published, after 35 years in a bottom drawer.

At the age of 19, Charles was ordained a Baptist minister in his grandparents' church in Chandler. He served as pastor of Iredell Baptist Church in the hill country of Texas from 1956 to 1959, while at the same time serving as a student pastor in Kentucky and New Jersey. While a graduate student at Duke, he became a minister of the United Church of Christ and served parishes in Chapel Hill and Durham, North Carolina.

After receiving a Ph.D. in religion at Duke, Charles served as chaplain and taught at Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina (1967-8), as a missionary teacher at the Federal Theological Seminary of Southern Africa (1968-69), and as Acting Dean of Students and visiting professor of American Christianity at Duke Divinity School (1969-70). In 1970 he joined the faculty of the Theological School of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, where he taught for 32 years. He retired as Professor of Homiletics in 2002.

During his early years at Drew, Charles served as interim minister of Stanley Congregational Church in Chatham, New Jersey, and Union Congregational Church in Upper Montclair. He came to feel that his calling was with the Episcopal Church, into which he was confirmed in 1987, ordained deacon at the **Church of the Messiah in Chester**, and ordained to the priesthood in **Grace Church, Madison**, in 1988. Bishop John Shelby Spong confirmed and ordained him. He served at **St. Peter's Church in Morristown** as priest associate from 1988-96 and as interim rector from 1996-97.

In addition to his ministry at St. Peter's, Charles served as interim priest or priest-in-charge at **St. Luke's, Hope; Christ Church, Short Hills; St. Dunstan's, Succasunna; St. Thomas', Vernon;** and **St. Mark's, Mendham**. He also served at Trinity Church, Mt. Pocono, in the Diocese of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and The Church of All Saints -by-the-Sea in Maine. He served two terms on the Commission of Ministry of the Diocese of Newark. For 20 years he was a member of the Board of Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center, near his home in Bangor, and he continued to teach there after retirement. He also led groups of adults and young people to Taizé, the retreat center in France to which he had made a life-changing pilgrimage in 1984.

Over the years, Charles enjoyed his relationships with Union Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary, and the Chicago Association of Theological Schools, where he taught on various occasions and served as president of the Academy of Homiletics.

In 1975 Charles met Robert Barker, with whom he subsequently lived in Madison, New Jersey, Bangor, Pennsylvania, and most recently Tuscon, Arizona. Together they renovated two old houses and a barn, tended gardens, and enjoyed entertaining their many friends. In their 42nd year together, Charles and Bob were married in St. Peter's Church on Epiphany Day, January 6, 2014. Soon after, they moved to their new home in Tuscon, Arizona.

Charles is survived by his husband, Robert Barker, his brother Wayne, of Owen, Wisconsin, three nieces, five nephews, many grandnieces and nephews, and a host of friends.

<https://dioceseofnewark.org/content/death-our-diocesan-family-rev-dr-charles-l-rice>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> Articles due for October Journal 8:00 AM Eucharistic Service - Rite 1 10:00 AM Eucharistic Service Rite II 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM The Church EI Shaddai	<b>1</b> 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Literacy Tutoring	<b>3</b> 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM EI Shaddai Church	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM Communi- ty Day
<b>7</b> Blessing of the Animals Family Breakfast 8:00 AM Eucharistic Service - Rite 1 10:00 AM Eucharistic Service Rite II 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM The Church EI Shaddai	<b>8</b> 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Literacy Tutoring	<b>10</b> 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM EI Shaddai Church	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:00 AM Eucharistic Service - Rite 1 10:00 AM Eucharistic Service Rite II 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM The Church EI Shaddai	<b>15</b> 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM KAQ Bereavement Lunch 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Literacy Tutoring 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM Joseph T Quinlan Bereavement Coun- selling	<b>17</b> 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM EI Shaddai Church	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ 7:00 PM Finance Committee	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Maintenance Morn- ing 5:30 PM BUNCO
<b>21</b> Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale Begins UTO 8:00 AM Eucharistic Service - Rite 1 10:00 AM Eucharistic Service Rite II 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM The Church EI Shaddai	<b>22</b> 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Literacy Tutoring	<b>24</b> 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM EI Shaddai Church	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Private Party
<b>28</b> - Stewardship Sunday Articles due for November Journal Sunday School Halloween Parade 8:00 AM Eucharistic Service - Rite 1 10:00 AM Eucharistic Service Rite II 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM The Church EI Shaddai	<b>29</b> 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Literacy Tutoring 7:15 PM Special Events Meeting	<b>31</b> 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM EI Shaddai Church	<b>1</b> All Saints Day 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

# ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2018

## St. James' Staff & Vestry

Supply Priest	Rev. Dr. Franklin "Skip" Vilas
Rector Emeritus:	The Rev. Clarence Sickles
Parish Administrator:	Julie Mills
Organist	Dmitry Nikolaev
Sexton:	Pauline Volkert

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Senior Warden:	Paul Bartkus
Junior Warden:	Peter Quelly

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Nancy Miller	Gene Seiter	Kathy Erwood-Lacouture
David Olesen	Chika Okoye	Karina Hernandez

Vestry Clerk:	Pam Laura
Treasurer:	Janice Cipriani
Bookkeeper:	Barbara Olesen

## Barbara Olesen, Editor

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