



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019

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



This Month in Stewardship

Giving Thanks

This is the time of year made for Hallmark cards. Can you imagine one with a 1950's Norman Rockwell -type picture of a family sitting around a Thanksgiving table? In such a setting each person might be asked what they are thankful for this year. So, in this spirit, I put my napkin down, push off from the table and offer the following thoughts about the blessings for which a warden might be thankful.

First and foremost, I am thankful for you. "You" takes many forms throughout the year. Let me try to describe some. I have often opined that many hands make light work and I am always thankful for the hands that help in our worship, ministries, fellowship and governance activities. You are those hands and with them- -we feed people.

Two of the most rewarding activities for which I am grateful are being an usher and a Lay Eucharistic Visitor. It fills my heart to see you receive communion at the altar rail each Sunday. This is a transformative experience and I am moved as the chalice bearer says your name while communicating you. I give thanks for the privilege in taking part in that, and also in being a member of a group that takes communion to people beyond our church walls and at Colonial Manor. We feed people - - - spiritually.

I am also thankful for you as you lend a hand with our outreach activities. We are currently having an in-

gathering for holiday food bags for Thanksgiving and Christmas, replacing candy canes from the Tree of Giving with presents for the children in three local families, and conducting our greatest ever purchase and distribution of coats for local kids and grown-ups in need, our Gift of Warmth program. Later in the year we will again gather food for families at Easter, followed by July when we will conduct our Summer BackPack supplemental food program for local children in need. I am grateful for the "Angel" who supports us in these activities. I am grateful for the Sunday School kids and parents who help with the in-gathering food bags, which you provide, and who organized enough money to buy a pig for the Good Shepherd Home in Cameroon, Africa. We feed people and - - help to keep them warm.

Who doesn't love a good party? As Episcopalians, we love to eat and I am so very thankful for your participation in our fellowship activities. These begin each Sunday as we gather to chat while enjoying "caffeine and carbohydrates" or juice and fruit, as you wish and our monthly Family Breakfasts, which offer more substantial proteins. But in addition to eating, we like to cook and I am thankful for our many good cooks. Through the year we have fun fellowship activities that include Bunco Night, the Stewardship Fall In-gathering Fellowship Dinner, the Epiphany Roast Pig Dinner, the St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner, and our Parish Picnic. Don't forget to include the Golf Outing and Dinner and the Miniature Golf Outing and Ice Cream Feast. We feed people and - - - have fun doing it.

Finally, I am thankful for the trust you have given me and the opportunity to be your senior warden and serve along with Pete Quelly, Rev. Vilas, our vestry members, Pauline, our sexton, Dmitry, our organist, and Julie, our

administrative assistant. As a former warden once reflected, "There is always something going on here." It was true then and is true now. With all that is going on, I am grateful for your cooperation and positive responses when I make a request of your time and talents. This includes our *Journal* (without which, you would not be reading this). Through you, we are able to continue as good stewards of our property and each other. I am grateful that we are able to share our buildings with groups who use them for their ministries. Our buildings may always present us with stewardship challenges, but we have a beautiful church and to pass it forward is why we are called to be good stewards. And this is why we are stewards and disciples because - - we feed people.

Happy Thanksgiving, Blessed Christmas, and

Thank You,
Paul



Christmas 2018 Services

December 23	One Service at 9 AM Lessons and Carols Greening of the Church Warden's Coffee Hour
December 24	4:30 PM Childrens Service 7:00 PM 11:00 PM
December 25	One Service w/Eucharist 10 AM



Christmas Season Scheduling

It is never too early to plan to volunteer for the all-important Christmas season.

We are asking for volunteers for the following:

* Sunday, December 23rd - Lessons & Carols - one service at 9 AM which includes nine readers. This will also be the day of the Wardens Coffee Hour and Greening of the Church

* Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve - There will be three services 4:30 PM, 7PM and 11PM

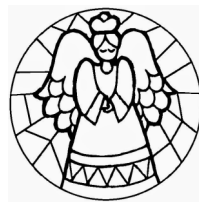
* Tuesday, December 24th - Christmas Day - Eucharistic Service at 10 AM

These services are listed in MSP and are available for sign up. Sign up sheets will also be available closer to the actual dates.

If you are available, please sign on to MSP or call or email the office.

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A Christmas Reflection

Walk softly, as you go through Christmas,
that each step may bring you
Down the starlit path, to the manger bed.
Talk quietly, as you Speak of Christmas
That you shall not drown out
The glorious songs of angels with idle Talk and
Merriment.
Kneel reverently as you Pause for Christmas,
That you may feel again The Spirit of the Navitiy,
rekindled in your soul.
Rise eagerly, after you have trod the Christmas Path,
that you may serve more fully, The One whose birth we
hail.

M.B. Moss

Thanks to Meg Critchley for submitting this!

From the Altar Guild

Advent is a time to ponder the meaning of Christ's coming into our world. Here at St James' we will set up the Tree of Giving, light the candles on the Advent wreath, and finally embrace the great Christian story through the Lessons and Carols.

The Altar Guild invites the congregation to join in making our worship space ready for Christmas with Greening of the Church on Sunday December 23, 2018. The Annual Wardens' Coffee will be held immediately after the 10 AM service on that date. It usually takes an hour to hang the wreaths and arrange the poinsettias.

And this year we will have at least one day to experience the peace that is available to anyone who believes in the story of a Saviour who was born in a manger.

Meg Critchley

Gift of Warmth

This year the gift of warmth program has taken on more requests than ever before. Thankfully the people of St. James' have risen to the challenge and we have helped 132 chilly citizens of our area with warm new coats. A special thank goes out to Paul Barktus for his help in making contacts with both those in need and our financial backers. The success we have had is also built on the labor of Sam Wood and his wife Jane Mutascio. We are continuing this mission now and hope to distribute another 100 coats before Christmas. A big thanks also goes out to Kohl's department store for the assistance and generosity with our mission.

Nancy Miller



The Tree of Giving 2018

Advent begins the new year of our church calendar and marks the season of anticipation and preparation. We begin a new church year and get ready to retell the story of the miracle of the birth of Jesus, of a poor family struggling to find a place to rest, of the wonderful gift given to us and later, the gifts brought by the Magi to honor the baby Jesus. And so, we prepare to celebrate our greatest gift by sharing presents with our families.

At St James' we have a tradition of preparation and giving. Our congregation portions out a bit of their time and treasure to share in giving to those who are facing difficulty providing gifts for their children at Christmas. For more than 20 years we have sponsored children from local families who are struggling due to economic circumstance by buying gifts suggested on the Tree of Giving.

Families are selected through counselors and school nurses at local schools and are anonymous to us. A wish list of toys and clothing is developed with help from parents and school staff and then we transform those wishes to gifts.

This year we will support seven children from three families. Candy canes with gifts tags have been hung on the Tree of Giving as of November 25th. We hope you will visit the tree, located in the upper lobby of the Moore Street entrance, and choose a tag to support these children. Complete directions are available by the tree and on the gift tag. The children of Sunday School will replace each tag with an angel.

If shopping is a challenge for you but you would like to participate, donations are being accepted to supplement the portion of the Tree of Giving that comes from Mission Strategy. You may donate to the Church Office or provide cash/check to Kathy or Dave Lacouture.

GIFTS ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 16TH –THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

Although we do not get to see the children's reactions as they open their presents, we do hear from the school staff who tell us how grateful the parents are and that we have made a difference for the families. Each year this ministry reminds us to give thanks for our many blessings, by giving a blessing to someone else.

Submitted by Kathy Lacouture

The Gift of a Pig

The Sunday School children would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraising project to buy a pig for the Good Shepherd Home in Cameroon, Africa. 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.

On November 18th, Sunday School held a bake sale to raise money for the pig, and it was a wonderful success! We exceeded our goal of \$120 and are looking to extend this project to further help the Good Shepherd Home.



Thank you again!
Alicia and Jeanette

Thank You St. James'!

On November 18 the St. James' Sunday School children packed 20 tote bags filled to the tops with groceries donated by our congregation. Each bag contained non-perishable foods as well as a \$25 Shop Rite gift card. The bags were delivered to families in need in the Hackettstown area by Jerry Sheard in time for Thanksgiving. Thank you to St. James' parishioners for your generosity in supporting this outreach ministry, and Sunday School class for a job well-done!

Phyllis and Paul Bartkus



Get Well Party for Jackson Martin

The Sunday School held a Get Well Party for Jackson Martin for his upcoming surgery on November 27th. Jackson is doing well and we hope to see him at church soon!



Stewardship In-gathering Dinner

On November 17 members of the St. James' congregation were treated to delicious food and fun at our annual Stewardship dinner. Everyone brought a pot-luck dish to share and then played Match Game-Family Feud, created and hosted by Pete Huryk who travelled from Maryland to be with us that night. Children in attendance were given balloons, one of which was retrieved by Pete Quelly as it floated to the ceiling. Some folks brought their pledge cards which were presented at the altar the next day.

Thank you to all,
Phyllis Bartkus



Upcoming Events

- 12/2 Family Breakfast Between Services
Christmas Food Bags Distributed
- 12/11 Special Events 7:15 PM
- 12/13 7:00 PM
Finance Committee
- 12/16 Holiday Foods
Bags to be Returned
Tree of Giving Gifts to be Returned
- 12/ 23 One Service at 9 AM
Lessons and Carols
Greening of the Church
Warden's Coffee Hour
- 12/24 4:30 PM Childrens Service
7:00 PM
11:00 PM
- 12/ 25 One Service w/Eucharist 10 AM
- 12/27 Vestry Meeting 7:00 PM
- 1/16 Bishops Visit
- 1/12 Epiphany Dinner 5:30 PM
- 1/16 Special Events 7:15 PM
- 1/17 Finance Committee 7:00 PM
- 1/24 Vestry Meeting 7:00 PM



Journal Deadline

February 2019 Edition

January 27th

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.



Calling all hands. . .

Breakfast is served between the two services, starting at nine. We are fortunate that the Quellys will be making these wonderful breakfasts possible, but they need our help.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Snyder Hall asking for parishioners to help out either by setting up for the breakfasts, helping the Quelly's prepare the food, or by helping to clean up afterward.

We need to lend a hand, as well as eat these delicious meals.

Please look for the sign-up sheet in the Snyder Hall and volunteer.

Thank you,
Phyllis Bartkus



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Tree of Giving 8:00 AM Euchristic Service - Rite 1 10:00 AM Euchristic Service Rite II 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM The Church El Shaddai 7:00 PM Hackettstown Hymn Sing @ Gethsemane Lutheran Church	26 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	27 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Literacy Tutoring	28 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM El Shaddai Church	29 Vestry Meeting 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	30 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM El Shaddai Practice	1 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Fun Night
2 Articles due for Dec/Jan Journal Christmas Food Bags pick up Family Breakfast 8:00 AM Euchristic Service - Rite 1 10:00 AM Euchristic Service Rite II 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM The Church El Shaddai	3 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	4 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Literacy Tutoring	5 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM El Shaddai Church	6 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	7 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM El Shaddai Practice	8
9 8:00 AM Euchristic Service - Rite 1 10:00 AM Euchristic Service Rite II 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM The Church El Shaddai	10 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	11 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Literacy Tutoring 7:15 PM Special Events Committee	12 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM El Shaddai Church	13 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ 7:00 PM Finance Committee	14 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM El Shaddai Practice	15
16 Holiday Food Bags Returned Tree of Giving Gifts returned 8:00 AM Euchristic Service - Rite 1 10:00 AM Euchristic Service Rite II 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM The Church El Shaddai	17 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	18 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 Counseling	19 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM El Shaddai Church	20 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ	21 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM El Shaddai Practice	22
23 9 AM Lessons and Carols - One Service 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM The Church El Shaddai	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30 PM Childrens Service 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM Eucharistic Service -	26 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM El Shaddai Church	27 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM KAQ 6:00 PM Vestry Meeting	28 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM El Shaddai Practice	29
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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

Vestry

Senior Warden:	Paul Bartkus
Junior Warden:	Peter Quelly

Janice Cipriani	Pam Laura	Sam Wood
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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