



# St. James' Journal

January 2022

Rev. Wayne Sherrer — Priest-in-Charge



## With Bishop Carlye Hughes in 2022...

### Lay Conversation with the Bishop

Bishop Carlye Hughes invites you to join a conversation with other members of the diocese, to reflect and consider what we, our churches, and our communities have learned and experienced during the first 22 months of pandemic.

On Thursday, January 13 at 7 PM we will hold a Lay Conversation with Bishop Hughes. Scheduled for 90 minutes, this Zoom conversation is open to all members of the diocese.

An email invitation will be sent Monday, January 10 to recipients of *The VOICE Online* with sign-in instructions for this Zoom meeting.

To subscribe to *The Voice Online*, go to <https://dioceseofnewark.org/publications>

### Bishop's Study Group 2022 - People of the Land

Study Dates: Six Tuesdays, January 18 - February 22, 7-8:30 PM.

What are we to do as people of faith about climate change? Are there steps we can take that make any difference? How do we become proactive in our care of creation?

In the prolonged period of pandemic, we have become only more aware of the challenges facing humankind as our planet responds to our consumption of resources that impact land, seas, air, and climate.

Our study this year will focus on our role as people created to live in and care for the land as God's stewards. This is a unique and significant part of our birthright and responsibility as God's beloved

children. And yet, few of us think of ourselves as connected to the land.

Through reading, film, Holy Scripture, and regular reflection on a patch of earth, we will intentionally explore our identity and relationship with the land and examine our duty to the land, climate, and other people.

There are six sessions to this study; you will need to attend five of the six sessions as each will build upon the previous one.

Reading that you can begin right away:

- *The Warmth of Many Suns* – Isabel Wilkerson
- *The Grapes of Wrath* (novel, play, or film) – John Steinbeck

I look forward to studying with you.

### Registration

**Deadline: 5 PM Friday, Jan. 14.**

To register, go to <https://dioceseofnewark.org/event/bishops-study-group-2022-people-land>.



## Tree of Giving Angel

The First Sunday in Advent is the official beginning of the St. James' Tree of Giving Ministry. This is when the tree is put up and adorned with different decorations, the first of which is the angel that rests atop the tree. It was donated by the Reverend Lorraine Dughi while she was a founding member of the Mission Strategy Committee, and from a time prior to her ordination as a priest. The tradition of the Tree of Giving began more than twenty-five years ago when the Mission Strategy Committee conceived of a ministry that would seek to provide an abundant Christmas for a limited number of families. On Advent One the Tree of Giving goes up. In pre-Covid-19 days the tree was decorated with candy canes that had the name of a requested present attached. Bows and angels colored by the Sunday School replaced the canes as they were taken. Over time, tired bows have been replaced with new ones. One decoration, however, has stood watch over the tree from the beginning. It is the angel atop the tree. This year as we put the tree up, we reflected with gratitude for Lorraine's ministries at St. James'. We are also grateful that Dave and Kathy Lacouture have continued to guide this ministry through the challenges of remote church attendance and social distancing. Merry Christmas!

Phyllis and Paul Bartkus

## Christmas Food Bags Assembled

Once again, thanks to the generosity of the congregation of St. James', 22 bags of food were assembled and delivered to families in the Hackettstown area who needed support.

With the able assistance of the Nolan family, William, Julianna, Michael and their mom, Jeanette, the bags were packed and ready for delivery by Gerry Sheard and Kathy Lacouture. A \$25 Shop Rite gift card was included in each bag. Thank you all and wishing you a healthy and happy New Year,

Paul and Phyllis Bartkus



thank you!

To all who were able to help with time, treasure and talent during the Christmas season at St. James'! Much love was spread both inside and outside the parish through many works of kindness!

### Looking for a Volunteer Webmaster

St. James' is looking for someone with Webmaster experience to maintain and update our website. If you have this kind of experience and are interested in helping out, please contact our parish administrator, Julie Mills, at 908-852-3968 or [stjames214@comcast.net](mailto:stjames214@comcast.net).

February Journal

Articles Due

Sunday, January 30th



## **Alphabet Soup - How to Lower Your Taxes and Support St. James'**

Is talking about the US tax codes the quickest way to watch someone's eyes glass over? We hope not, because we are going to take a shot at it and hope you hang in with us as we do. But first a cautionary note: We are not tax attorneys nor are we accountants. Before doing anything described below be sure to discuss this with your tax advisor. This article is for information purposes only and is not meant to be tax or investment advice.

If you meet certain requirements, you can make a donation to St. James' that reduces your taxable income. Normally, a donation to St. James', as a charity, can be listed under Schedule A on your tax return. As of the 2019 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the amount that one can deduct under Schedule A has been reduced, so many people opt to take the "standard deduction." This means that one may miss the previous tax advantage of making a contribution to St. James'. A donation made to St. James' may be used to fulfill a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA). You can make a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) by having the IRA asset or money directly transferred to St. James'. There are a couple tricky issues here that you should discuss with your tax advisor.

The Advantage Money or assets transferred can lower one's total taxable income, while still allowing one to use either the "Standard Deduction" or Schedule A.

Mutual Benefit The benefit to you is that you can make a contribution that reduces your taxable income. The benefit to St. James' is that your distribution can be used for a purpose of need which you designate. For example, at the present time, St. James' has a mortgage for the Snyder Hall that we have been faithfully paying down. Some people opt to make contributions to the Building Fund, part of which is used to make the monthly

mortgage payments. Others have opted to make donations specifically directed to reducing the principal of the loan. (In short, the faster we accelerate the reduction of the principal, the quicker the loan is paid off as less of our monthly payment goes to interest, thereby reducing the cost of the mortgage.) Your generosity in using a QCD can have a double impact both for you and St. James'. If you are subject to an RMD, which is generally taxable as regular income, you can use it to reduce your total taxable income, which can reduce your final tax bill. It can also be an opportunity for a stewardship commitment to St. James' which helps support its mission and ministries. Wow. A Win-Win.

If you would like more information about this topic, please talk with David Olesen or Paul Bartkus.

Thanks for reading,  
Paul Bartkus

## **North Porch Baby Supplies**

If you would like to help out, the most urgently needed supplies are:

- Diapers size 4, 5, and 6
- Enfamil Infant Formula 12.5 oz containers (yellow label)
- Baby wipes
- Baby toiletries (diaper cream, baby wash/shampoo)

Monetary donations can be made through their website at [www.northporch.org](http://www.northporch.org) or checks can be mailed to the following address:

North Porch Women and Infants' Center  
11 South Bergen St. Dover, NJ 07801  
Attention: Treasurer

Donations of baby supplies can be brought to the church during regular office hours 11-5 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and to in-person worship on Sunday mornings (9-10am).

# St. James' Journal

january 2022

## St. James' Staff & Vestry

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Wayne Sherrer  
Parish Administrator: Julie Mills  
Organist: Dmitry Nikolaev  
Sexton: Pauline Volkert

## Vestry

Senior Warden: Peter Quelly  
Junior Warden: David Olesen

Meg Critchley	Pam Laura	Anne Dutton
Janice Cipriani	Chika Okoye	Kathy Erwood-Lacouture
Marvin Walker	Devin O'Connor	Rachel Barber

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

Barbara Olesen, Editor

All Journal submissions  
should be sent to:

[stjames214@comcast.net](mailto:stjames214@comcast.net) & \_\_\_\_\_  
[olesen@comcast.net](mailto:olesen@comcast.net) \_\_\_\_\_

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