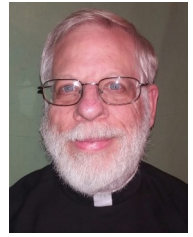




ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2022

Rev. Wayne Sherrer — Priest-in-Charge



John 13:35 Jesus said, "By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples."

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The combination of the very contagious omicron variant and the surge related to holiday gatherings meant that New Jersey was hit hard as the new year began. With the health and safety of parishioners in mind, our worship for most of the month of January was only online. Thankfully, the Covid-19 infection rate has declined almost as swiftly as it rose. We look forward to resuming in-person worship in the church in February. We have scheduled our annual parish meeting for Sunday March 6. Of course, severe winter weather might also affect any of our plans. Stay tuned for updates.

As we approach the celebration of St. Valentine on February 14, thoughts of romance are common. Yet, romance is only one form of love. February 14 is also a day we in the church remember Cyril and Methodius. These brothers from Greece were sent as missionaries to the Slavic population in Moravia. St. Cyril invented an alphabet for the Slavonic language and translated the liturgy, while St. Methodius translated the Bible into that language and served as archbishop of Greater Moravia for 15 years. The brothers' love of the Slavic people was a visible expression of God's love for them. Their service is an excellent example of the active love of neighbors and strangers to which Jesus calls us.

A third type of love is friendship. Social connections are important aids to emotional and spiritual health. Physical distancing and other pandemic precautions have led to higher levels of isolation and

loneliness everywhere. Parishes have often been places where friendships can begin and flourish. Acquaintances from worship can grow into friendships as people work together on Altar Guild or Vestry or outreach activities, such as Summer Backpack or obtaining coats for the Gift of Warmth. But a schedule of all work and no play doesn't leave time for friendships to deepen. Although the pandemic has brought a temporary pause to some of our traditional times of shared fun, we have found some ways to play together. Our Awesome Ambles, picnic, and mini golf are a few of the ways we have used to get to know one another better in a casual setting and to build our sense of community. Some parishes have had pop-up groups that attended a play, movie or concert together, or visited a museum or flower show. What interests do you have that might be fun to share with some other members of St. James'? Contact me at clergy@stjameshackettstown.org or Kathy Erwood-Lacouture (lockwood88@comcast.net) from the Parish Life committee with your ideas. Let our love for one another make it even clearer to Hackettstown and the world that we are disciples of Jesus.

Peace,

Fr Wayne

Baby Shower for Jesus

During the recent Advent and Christmas seasons St. James' had its first Baby Shower for Jesus. By Epiphany, which marks the visit of the sages from the East, we had collected 1651 diapers, 4114 baby wipes and 17 containers of infant formula for distribution by the North Porch Women and Infants Centers. These gifts for the babies were much more useful than frankincense or myrrh. Thank you to all who supported this outreach.



Congratulations Rev. Elizabeth Myers



Rev. Elizabeth “Betsy” Myers celebrated the 45th anniversary of her ordination to the priesthood recently. She graduated from seminary in 1962 and spent the next 12 years teaching religion and the Bible in high school and junior college. She was ordained a deacon on May 24, 1974 and moved into parish ministry soon after ordination to the diaconate became open to women. Betsy became one of the first women ordained an Episcopal priest on January 14, 1977 just two weeks after ordination to the priesthood was open to women!

“As for the journey there have been some rough spots, some due to my gender but most to my stupidity, but for the most part it has been a deeply joyful and much blessed life bringing me into treasured relationships with communities like St. James’. God is good !!”

We are so blessed to have Betsy with us as a member of our congregation and sharing her journey. She spent a great deal of time as a supply priest at St. James’. We welcome her wisdom and humor as part of our parish family!

March Journal
Articles Due
Sunday, February 27th

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Tree of Giving 2021

Once again, the generous parishioners of St. James' came through with a giant pile of donated gifts for the six children and several adults who were chosen to be this year's recipients. Clothing, toys, books, games, puzzles, action figures, and pajamas were among the wonderful and beautifully wrapped items donated. The Gift of Warmth then donated eight new coats using the Kohl's Cash earned during their many purchases. Thank you to all of you who donated these gifts and those who donated gift cards and money to purchase additional gift cards. This outreach would not be possible without your enthusiasm and generosity.

Kathy Lacouture



thank you!

The Altar Guild would like to thank the congregation for the generous donations that made this past Christmas poinsettias and wreaths possible...and also to those who helped decorate and clean up.

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.



Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale

Our annual Easter Gertrude Hawk Candy sale will begin on **February 13th (please do not order before that date)** and run until March 13th. We will have some brochures in the church and inside the Moore street entrance. You can also view the holiday brochure online at www.fundraising.gertrudehawkchocolates.com Please let us know if you would like a brochure sent to you.

You may order the candy in 3 different ways.

1-You may order directly online and have the candy shipped to your home (there is a shipping charge for this option) or have it shipped to the church at no cost. To order online:

Go to <https://fundraising.gertrudehawkchocolates.com/> , select “I am a buyer”, click “find a fundraiser”, type in 119267 and St. James’ Episcopal Church, Hackettstown should appear, click “Find Seller”, type Anne Dutton, select and start shopping!

2- You may email me with your order at annymo1955@gmail.com and mail payment.

3- You may complete the order form and mail/drop it off with payment to the church office.

You can also share the fundraiser with friends and family by forwarding them the website with our ID# 119267. Candy should arrive the week of April 4th.

Please be sure you are shopping on the fundraiser page so we get credit for your order. There is also another St. James Episcopal Church listed so make sure you see Hackettstown!

Please contact Anne Dutton (908)887-7817 or Barbara Olesen (908)797-0515 if you have any questions.

As always, thank you for your support!

Anne & Barbara

Gift of Warmth Reminder

If you are shopping at Kohls in Mansfield, please mention you are a member of St. James’ and thank them for all the support and assistance they gave during the Gift of Warmth shopping trips. They gave us a 30% discount and were always very helpful as we shopped for over 300 coats!

Are You Called To Serve on the Vestry?

If you believe you are so called, please speak to Wardens Peter Quelly or David Olesen. The Nominating Committee is gathering names of persons to serve three-year terms. Special skills? The desire to serve St. James’ and help us grow, and a love of our community. The Vestry meets once a month via Zoom in the evening.

Upcoming Events

February 13th	Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale Starts
February 27th	Journal Articles Due
March 2nd	Ash Wednesday, One Service at 7 PM
March 6th	St. James’ Annual Meeting After 9 AM Service
March 13th	Gertrude Hawk Candy Orders Due
March 26th	Awesome Amble-Location TBD
April 10th	Palm Sunday
April 14th	Maundy Thursday-In Person and Online-No Vigil
April 15th	Good Friday
April 17th	Easter Sunday
April 30th	Blessing of the Bicycles
May 6th-7th	Diocesan Convention

Diocese of Newark—Black History Month

Transcript of 2/2/2022 Video

This is Bishop Hughes in the Diocese of Newark, and it is Black History Month. That annual celebration that takes place in our country every February 1st through March 1st, where we take an intentional look at the achievements of African Americans – the things that they have done, said, written, changed, discovered, experienced – and the impact that those people and their actions have had on the history of our nation. It is a time of great celebration and of discovery and of learning and drawing together more closely as a community across the lines of color.

I think this year is especially important to us to celebrate Black History Month. I specifically am looking at ways that I can be intentional that way. I know that the work that we have been doing in our diocese – and it's a work we've been doing for a very long time, to bring racism to an end and to bring an end to white supremacy – is work that takes continual generational commitment. And right now this generation has committed to doing work around racial healing and justice, teaching about anti-racism, and also looking deeply at the history racially of our diocese and the racial history of our parishes.

This is hard and it is good work. And even as we do that work, we make discoveries that surprise and delight us from time to time. It's important to have those because all along the way we have also been coping with racial violence and racial killings, and things that make us wonder what is happening in the world, what is happening in our country, what is happening in our neighbors, that is so dreadfully awful that we have lost respect for each other.

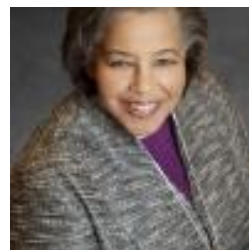
These awareness months – and I've asked our parishes to pay attention to all of them this year, Black History Month happens to be the first – these awareness months are important to us. Because we remember that

we're not just simply driven by what is wrong and by crime and by hurt, and those things are important things that guide of the work that we're doing, but we're also motivated by the goodness of people, by the achievements of people. And those are things that we want to lift up and focus on and celebrate.

So, I don't know what that's going to look like in your parish. I imagine that we might see some changes to music or readings in liturgies. That there might be an adult forum or a Bible study or a book study – something that helps people look that way. That you might visit a museum or to go to a concert to see a particular group of artists. And the thing that I hold deeply in my heart is I hope every Episcopalian will, sometime during Black History Month, take a visit to another church. A church that may or may not be Episcopal, but a church that is African American. It means choosing a Sunday that you're not going to go to your church and to participate one Sunday in an African American church.

The blessing of Black History Month is it reminds us we are in relationship. In relationships that are to be honored and treasured, but to honor and treasure them we have to know each other better. So I'm excited to hear about your discoveries, and know that you have my prayers as you celebrate Black History Month.

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes



Snow Removal at St. James'

St. James' is happy to announce that we have contracted with W.C. Fields Landscaping of Great Meadows to handle our snow removal. They are a local contractor that has agreed to clean and de-ice our walks, steps and porch. They started with the storm of January 28th-29th (see pictures below).

We are very thankful for Dave Lacouture for leading the snow removal for the past 15 years. He along with Pauline Volkert, her husband Bud, and many "snow angel" volunteers over the years have been ready to handle keeping our grounds safe on many cold, snowy days as well as saving our Parish a lot of money. Dave says: "I must say I feel like this is like a gift. Sounds dramatic but it's true. For 15 years I've obsessed about not only removal but the timing to ensure the sidewalks were cleared for students walking to the middle school and not iced over. This is a huge weight off of me, Pauline and the Wardens." Congratulation on your retirement Dave, Pauline and all of the "snow angels" that have kept us safe!



Altar Flowers

Sign-up sheet is available

Fresh flowers will be delivered the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Please consider making a monetary donation in honor of or memorial to a loved one or events.

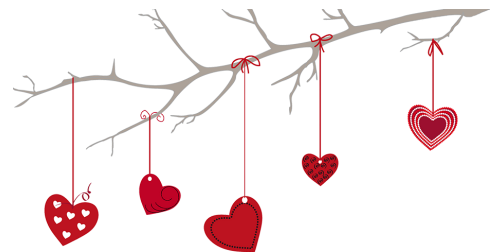


"O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget thee, but may remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*" — *The Book of Common Prayer*

Office Hours

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

11 AM to 5 PM



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

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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:

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