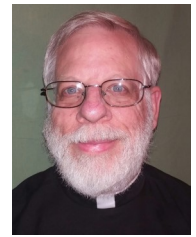


St. James' Journal

February 2025

Rev. Wayne Sherrer – Priest-in-Charge



A Note From Your Wardens About Vestry Service

Our annual parish meeting is scheduled for March 2nd, 2025 in Snyder Hall after the Eucharist, which we hope you'll attend. To dispense with the suspense; David and I have already made the decision to re-up as junior and senior warden for another two year term (unless someone wishes to challenge us for the honor). Church administration, as you may imagine, is an exercise in participatory democratic governance, on a smaller scale, with a few minor intricacies, as dictated by the office of the bishop, or the national church.

And, in your past experiences (as well as mine), I'm certain that you have heard grievous, as well as gratifying stories, about vestries, and vestry meetings being compared to dental root canals. At a previous church I attended in 2004, as vestry meetings approached the third hour, Father Tarplee triggered a timer that played the theme from the Wizard of Oz, and he got up and wished everyone a "good night." On the third occasion this happened, folks got the message that vestry meetings did not have to replicate the debate of legislation in the well of the senate; too much analysis leads to paralysis. I mention this to tell you that we realize your time is precious, and we assiduously respect the clock when we meet at 6:30 on the final Thursdays of each month (taking June and July off.) If there is trepidation that we will monopolize your time, you may be assured that we will not.

David and I have chosen to re-up because we not only work well together, and get a sincere sense of

gratification from serving, but we also enjoy a very cordial, as well as effective utilitarian working relationship with Father Wayne. Is this a sales pitch for you to consider getting involved by running for vestry member? Yes; it is.

As you may be aware, the challenges that lie ahead for national (and local) church administration, across all the companion religions, is that (sadly) the pews are relatively empty on Sunday morning. In the prior negotiations for Father Wayne's extension after his 72nd birthday, Bishop Hughes advised that nationally, there were six hundred Episcopal clerical vacancies, and (apx.) two hundred candidates. While we hope for an additional third year extension for Father Wayne's presence (October, 2026) it isn't guaranteed by the Diocese.

That being said, this year, and next, may possibly augur more variation in our worship rituals. Father Wayne had previously advised that in the Episcopal Church, Morning Prayer (lay led) was the standard, and Eucharist was contingent upon priest availability. As you are aware, we have engaged monthly variations on this schedule since 2024, and it continues.

Please consider running for vestry member; you'll become more acquainted with your fellow parishioners, and you'll also acquire an appreciation for serving God and your St. James parish as a "director" and advocate.

Thanks,

Marvin Walker, Sr. Warden

Christmas Season at St. James'

Greening of the Church



A Heartfelt, THANK YOU!

As we reflect on this recent holiday season of gratitude, we extend heartfelt thanks to our congregation for your generous donations of food and ShopRite Turkey cards for our Thanksgiving and Christmas in-gathering food baskets. Your kindness has helped provide nutritious holiday meals for local families facing food insecurity. A special shout-out goes to TJ, Briana, Shane, Madeline, Emily, and Nicholas from Sunday School, along with veteran participants, Julianna and Michael, (and moms) for their help in assembling the food into the bags for distribution before the holidays. Our congregation's help and dedication continue to exemplify our parish motto, "We feed people" as we spread love and hope to families beyond our church walls. THANK YOU!

Mission Strategy Committee

March 2025
Journal Articles Due
Sunday, February 23rd

Gift of Warmth

If you came in to the church by way of Moore Street this Fall, you might have seen many black garbage bags against the wall. These were full of coats, socks, and hats for the Gift of Warmth program. For those not familiar with this program, St. James' supplies coats to the area schools and community organizations for children and adults in need. We are able to do this outreach ministry thanks to a generous donation from our "Angel." This year we donated over 280 coats along with hats and gloves for a few homeless families! Thank you to the "shoppers" that helped us this year- Jillian & Emma Martin, Debbie Miller, Barbara Olesen, Kathy Lacouture, Mim Smith, Maureen Dutton, Sam Wood, and Jayne Mutascio. Our local Kohls store has given us a discount on purchases for this program for many years. If you shop at Kohls, please let them know we appreciate their help every year.



Anne Dutton & Nancy Miller

Baby Shower for Jesus

The members of St. James' were quite generous during our Baby Shower for Jesus during the Advent and Christmas seasons. St. Mark's Episcopal in Mendham added their donations for North Porch to consolidate the pickup.



Christmas Season at St. James'

Tree of Giving 2024

The Mission Strategy Committee contacted Willow Grove School and Hatchery Hill School and two families were identified by the schools' contacts to participate back in November. This year we were able to support 6 children, four of which were school aged, and two babies. The children ranged in age from 2 months old to 12 years old. Each child received approximately 9 gifts (which included pajamas, clothing, and toys) and several received a new coat (Thanks to the Gift of Warmth). In addition, both sets of parent received coats, donated groceries, and gift cards to Target, Walmart and Shoprite. The gifts were delivered to the two families in mid-December and groceries and more gift cards were delivered on the 23rd of December. The parents expressed great appreciation when deliveries were made.

For the past few years, Mission Strategy Committee has communicated to the St. James' parish community via email which enabled parishioners who are not attending church as well as those who are attending to have access to the list of requested gifts. The wrapped gifts are then dropped off at church throughout the month of December, and using donations, additional gifts and gift cards are purchased by the committee. Thanks to the generosity of members of St James', as well as family members of our parishioners, we were able to provide a wonderful pile of gifts for each child and gift cards for parents to use for other holiday needs.

The Mission Strategy Committee thanks all who donated their time, gifts, money, or gift cards and shopped for coats for another meaningful year of this ministry.

Kathy Lacouture

Epiphany Dinner 2025

The Special Events Committee thanks all who attended and contributed to making this year's Epiphany Dinner one of the best attended events that we have had in years. The weather cooperated and the food was hearty and delicious and there were enough desserts for a crowd. The best part was the fellowship and laughter in the room among our long standing members and newcomers alike.

Special thanks to Pam Laura for her ideas for several games which had fun challenges, props, and prizes which were enjoyed by all, and for Dave Lacouture for taking the presentation of Kevin Bacon to a new level this year. And thank you to Tom Niessen for playing piano for the hymns, and to TJ Niessen for all his help as well. And lastly, congratulations to Pete Gartelman for winning the opportunity to host vin Bacon for the year.

Suggestions are always welcome for other fellowship events! Email me at lockwood88@comcast.net.

Kathy Lacouture



Ed Note: Thank you, Kathy Lacouture, for leading the Special Events Committee in this and other Fellowship events!

Sunday School

We have been having a great Sunday School year so far. We have an enthusiastic group of children who have been enjoying the lessons and crafts. Our sessions have included lessons on the Creation story, the Circle of the Church Year, Baptism, and the Mustard Seed parable. The children also had fun helping to pack food bags for needy families for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We are planning for more fun lessons and activities in the coming months, including helping pack food bags for Easter and putting together flowers to hand out after church on Mother's Day.

Sunday School meets at 9AM in the Parish Hall for a lesson and a craft. We then join everyone in church around the time of the Peace for the rest of the service. All children are welcome to attend. Parents / grandparents can stay with their children or drop them off if they are comfortable.

Here is the schedule of classes for the rest of this school year:

February 2

February 16

April 6

April 13

May 11

May 25

Please contact Alicia LaForge for more information: ali109@yahoo.com or 908-619-7766.

United Thank Offering (UTO)

The United Thank Offering began in 1883 when the women of the church took up a thank offering to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion that the church budget could not cover. Today, UTO includes members of all ages and genders, and welcomes people regardless of church affiliation. UTO's focus is still on promoting gratitude and supporting innovative projects that address compelling needs around the globe.

Through grants, UTO supports global innovative ministries addressing compelling need and which could serve as models for others. Each year, 100% of what is donated to UTO is given away the following year as way of helping people connect gratitude, generosity, and care for others. Since 1883, UTO has given away \$143,235,479.98 through 5,428 grants. The this included recently awarded projects: Horse Camp for Lakota Children in South Dakota, Clean Water Project in Kenya, and a project in Florida that connected interns and a senior center through environmental projects. At St. James' you can find UTO Boxes on the piano in the front of the church and in the rear of the church on the back table. Kathy Lacouture has graciously volunteered to collect the boxes when they are full and arrange to have the change in the boxes counted. There are also UTO envelopes of you would like to make a cash or check donation.

Thanks for supporting the Diocesan outreach!

Community of St. John Baptist Welcomes
Its First New Postulants In Over a Dozen Years

Read the article on the diocesan website:

<https://dioceseofnewark.org/>

Search for "postulants"



Dutch Mill

Spring Bulb Fundraiser



Attention all gardeners, we are currently selling Spring flower bulbs to generate funds to support the mission and ministry of St. James'. The sale has started and will end on Sunday, Feb 9th. Brochures will be available in church or you can place your order directly online by going to <https://dutchmillbulbs.com/st-james-episcopal-church-hackettstown-nj>. Bulbs will be shipped in early April with plenty of time for Spring planting. Please share our link with any friends and family that might be interested in purchasing bulbs. Contact Anne (908) 887-7817 or Barbara (908) 797-0515 with any questions. Thank you for supporting St. James!!

Thanks to Journal Contributors

This is a shout out to all who help contribute to the St. James' Journal 10 times a year! It seems like it would be easy with a few articles and photos, reminders, and Save-The-Dates. The February edition, like most editions, had about a dozen people writing articles, submitting pictures, formatting, proof reading, printing, mailing, and emailing the Journal. It takes a village!

All St. James' members are welcome to submit articles, pictures, and info with editors' approval. Have you visited a place or read a book that brought you closer to God? Are you aware of any events that closely relate to our ministries that readers might be interested hearing about? Perhaps a picture (with credits) that readers could reflect upon? If so, please submit to olesen@comcast.net and stjames214@comcast.net for review.

Barbara Olesen

February Birthdays

02/01 Gerald Sheard
02/01 Larry Sheard
02/02 Sam Wood
02/02 TJ Niessen
02/13 Hannah Miele
02/15 Mary Maier
02/16 Carol McKinney
02/18 Theresa Lord Stout
02/22 Melissa Vitalos
02/23 Rachel Barber



Upcoming Events

February 2 Sunday School
“ **ANNUAL MEETING
30 DAY NOTICE**
February 9 Annual Meeting
Committee Reports Due
February 14 Happy Valentine's Day!
February 16 Sunday School
“ Special Events Meeting 10:15 AM
Re: Annual Meeting Brunch
February 20 Finance Committee Meeting 6 PM
February 23 Journal Articles Due
February 27 Vestry Meeting 6:30 PM
March 2 **ANNUAL MEETING After Service
with Brunch**
“ Sunday School
March 5 Ash Wednesday 12 PM and 7 PM
Services in Sanctuary



[St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesepiscopalchurchhackettstown)

St. James' Journal - February 2025

St. James' Staff & Vestry

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Wayne Sherrer

Parish Administrator: Rosalia Caamano

Organist: Dmitry Nikolaev

Sexton: Pauline Volkert

Vestry

Senior Warden: Marvin Walker

Junior Warden: David Olesen

Jayne Mutascio Nona Wolosin

Janice Cipriani Ruth Najemian

Millie Quelly David Lacouture

Vestry Clerk: Pam Laura

Treasurer: Janice Cipriani

Bookkeeper: Barbara Olesen

Sunday School: Alicia LaForge

SS Assistants: Helen LaForge, Millie Quelly

Barbara Olesen, Editor

All Journal submissions
should be sent to:

stjames214@comcast.net

& olesen@comcast.net

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