

Con

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ
ANNUAL MEETING



MARCH 11, 2018

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The Leadership of St. James' Church 2016

Vestry Members:

Nancy Miller (2018)
Peter Quelly (2018)
Chris Krauss (2018)
Janice Cipriani (2019)
Sam Wood (2019)
Pam Laura (2019)
Karina Hernandez (2020)
Kathy Erwood-Lacouture (2020)
Claudia Scala (2020)

Senior Warden

Paul Bartkus (2018)

Junior Warden

Barbara Olesen (2017)

Treasurer

Janice Cipriani

Bookkeeper

Claudia Scala

Minute Recorder

Claudia Scala

Vestry Clerk

Claudia Scala

Priest-in-Residence

The Rev. Dr. Arthur "Guy" Fouts

Supply Priest

The Rev. Robert J. Solon

Bishop, Diocese of Newark

The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith

Convention Delegates

Jewels Quelly (2018) Cheryl Perkins (2019) Pam Laura (2019)

Our Staff

Parish Administrator

Julie Mills

Sexton

Pauline Volkert

Music Director

Dmitry Nikolaev

St. James Annual Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2017

Call to Order

The Annual Meeting was called to order with prayer by the Rev. Guy Fouts at 10:30 a.m.

Acceptance of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the Annual Meeting Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting as submitted are hereby approved.

Motion was made by Bill Critchley and seconded by Dan Miller. Motion was passed.

Priest-in-Residence Report

The Rev. Dr. Guy Fouts gave his report on his year at St. James' including interments, Baptisms, his hope for our Church and looking forward.

Recognition

Paul Bartkus as Senior Warden and Barbara Olesen as Junior Warden;
Bill Critchley was recognized for his Vestry term(s) and for his maintenance of the elevator;

Claudia Scala was recognized as rotating off the Vestry (appointed to unfulfilled term);

Jewels Quelly and Cheryl Perkins as Diocese delegates;

All committee chairs for their hard work;

Julie Mills as Parish Administrator and Pauline Volkert as Sexton.

Dimitri Nikolaev as Music Director

Rev. Dr. Guy Fouts and

Pam Laura for her hard work on the 2016 audit.

Election of Vestry Members and Convention Delegates

Biographical information on candidates was provided to all in attendance. The following slate was proposed by the Nominating Committee:

Vestry: Barbara Olesen (1 year extended term - 2018)

Claudia Scala (3 year term - 2020)

Kathy Erwood Lacouture (3 year term - 2020)

Y. Karina Hernandez (3 year term - 2020)

Delegate to Diocesan Convention: Pam Laura (extended 1 year term 2020) and Chika Okoye (3 year term - 2020)

Alternate to Diocesan Convention: Chris Vitalos

Elections:

Motion to accept the Vestry Members and Convention Delegates as submitted are hereby accepted.

Motion was made by Jerry Sheard and seconded by Dave Handville. Motion was passed.

Financial Report

Janice Cipriani provided and discussed the 2016 Financial Reports. The Finance Committee was thanked for their continued hard work on such an important matter.

Annual Budget

Paul Bartkus and Janice Cipriani discussed the 2017 budget.

Closing Prayer and Hymn

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Within this report for our Annual Meeting you will read descriptions about the various groups whose activities make up our parish life. Some ministries or activities have been adapted in ways that are mindful of the new realities of clergy availability and the reliance on lay leadership. In order to maintain a consistent flow of communication the Junior and Senior Wardens hold a weekly administrative meeting with the Parish Administrator. This allows us to discuss and plan for activities in our parish. We have maintained and grown a number of our traditions, such as our vibrant prayer ministry, and expanded our Lay Eucharistic Visitor outreach ministry to include weekly communication of residents at Colonial Manor at Panther Valley. The Summer Backpack program continued, but with a focus on a targeted local population. The Angel Network continued to underwrite this outreach, as well as the Gift of Warmth program that supplies coats for those in need. We have continued to hold fellowship dinners, and family breakfasts and expanded fun nights.

As we entered our clergy transition process, three objectives were established and we have continued to accomplish these. We celebrated Holy Communion at both the 8 and 10 am Sunday services, as well as celebrated special services throughout the worship calendar. We continued to practice outreach ministries that touch the lives of our greater community. Finally, we continued to provide pastoral care to our parish family members who are not able to attend church.

Any review of our past year should include the events that follow. In May we successfully hosted the Episcopal visit by Bishop Beckwith. Many people stepped forward to help with “sprucing-up” our property for his inspection, participated in the worship service, and organized the food and set-up for the reception that followed. In October, the Sunday School hosted Sisters Barbara Jean and Mary Lynn from the Community of Saint John Baptist in Mendham and established sponsorship of a child at the Good Shepherd Home in Cameroon, Africa, and began communication with the children there. Also in the fall, we commemorated Snyder Hall, recognizing the late Mr. Snyder’s stewardship commitment to St. James’. This accompanied the restructuring and partial pay-down of our mortgage that has resulted in a less onerous monthly payment. This would not have been possible without Mr. Snyder’s bequest.

Words in this summary cannot fully express my gratitude for the gifts of time and talent that our congregants have offered to support the care of our altar and activities of outreach, fellowship, maintenance and fundraising. As warden, I am especially thankful for the “here I am” discipleship that is demonstrated by our vestry, the group leaders, and those participating in our ministries and fellowship activities. A special thank you is extended to Bill Critchley and Claudia Scala whose terms on vestry end, and to Kathy Erwood Lacouture, Karina Hernandez and Claudia Scala who are standing

for election to the vestry. I also wish to recognize Barbara Olesen, our Junior Warden, for her dedication to our parish, the unselfish gift of her time and talent, and support of me. Thank you to Janice Cipriani, our Treasurer and Claudia Scala our Bookkeeper and Clerk who have kept our finances on track. Thank you also to our staff; Julie Mills, Parish Administrator, Pauline Volkert, Sexton and Dmitry Nikolaev, our Music Director. Finally, as a warden and worshiper, I am thankful and grateful for our Priest-In-Residence, Father Guy, and his steady reassuring presence and spiritual guidance. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Bartkus

MISSION STRATEGY

The mission strategy group supports our church's outreach ministries. As stated previously, our mission is to concentrate efforts locally, trying not to duplicate programs hosted by other churches or agencies. We often, however, contribute to or support those programs. We welcome opportunities to support outreach undertaken by parishioners in activities approved by the Vestry.

We sell grocery gift cards from Shop Rite and Weis Markets as a means of raising money for outreach and as a fund raiser for our church. These stores donate \$5 for every \$100 of cards that we sell. This year we sold just over \$61,000 worth of cards and earned approximately \$2368 for outreach. This is a decrease from our sales in previous years. We transferred \$5000 to the general operating fund of the church. We supported outreach activities for EFM and the Yarn Twisters.

This year's Christmas Tree of Giving again supported three local families by collecting about 60 presents that were divided among seven children ranging in age from 2 to 12 years. Our congregation provided wrapped gifts that included clothing, toys, games, art supplies, and ShopRite gift cards. Thank you to our Sunday School children who colored paper angels to hang on the tree to replace the gift tag candy canes that were taken.

Thanks to the many in-gathering donations made by the congregation, and the Sunday School children who helped with the assembly of over 60 food bags that were distributed over Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Each bag consisted of nonperishable foods and some paper goods, as well as at least one ShopRite gift card also donated by parishioners. Thank you to Miss Jennifer, Miss Alicia, Miss Jeanette, and Miss Millie for your super bag-organizing-packing skills and support. Thanks also to Jerry Sheard for supervising the delivery of the bags.

As we have said in the past, we are all members of this committee and welcome the opportunity to underwrite an outreach project that you wish to start.

Respectively submitted,
Paul Bartkus

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

For about nine months in 2016, the Lay Eucharistic Visitors, along with Reverend Guy Fouts, have brought weekly communion to Colonial Manor, a senior residence in Allamuchy. Approximately 3 to 6 residents join in the brief service and Eucharist at the facility. In addition, the LEV's have brought communion to parishioners at their homes upon request. There are currently 6 LEV's and two additional parishioners have expressed interest in the training to become part of this ministry. It is the goal of this ministry in 2017 to add another local senior facility on Sunday mornings. Please contact Kathy Lacouture if you are interested in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Lacouture

YARN TWISTERS

The SCI program is very much alive at St. James, thanks to Phyllis Bartkus, Wendie Germain, Louise Olshan, the ladies in the Needle Workers group at Heath Village, and especially to Pat Taylor for coordinating. We sent 22 hat and scarf sets (44 items); 68 scarves; 44 hats; 2 neck warmers and 1 vest, totaling 159 items! I think this is the highest contribution ever. Thanks to Jerry Sheard for playing Santa and delivering five boxes to SCI, Port Newark.

The SCI is a voluntary ecumenical agency affiliated with the Episcopal Church that provides pastoral care, maritime education, and legal and advocacy services for mariners. The historic name of this volunteer program, "Christmas at Sea", only partially describes the work of the people who make holidays a little warmer for mariners. While gift distribution happens during winter months, collection and creation of items happens year round, and while many gifts go to international mariners working "at sea," thousands of gifts also go to mariners working on inland waterways here in the United States. It is located in Port Newark, NJ.

We always welcome donations of yarn, but please no light colors as they are not practical for the Mariners.

For more information on this program, please visit the website at www.seamenschurch.org. Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome to contact me at 908-684-3566 or email me at frlbailey1@comcast.net.

Linda Miller

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Special Events Committee continued to plan events to enhance fellowship throughout the year and met most months on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The committee joined with Fundraising Committee, Summer Backpack, and Stewardship Committee to assist with some specific events. The committee is open to ideas for new events and is always looking for new members. If there is something you would like to suggest, please contact us via the office stjames214@comcast.net or send to lockwood88@comast.net.

2016 Highlights:

January :	Boars Head Epiphany Dinner	
February:	Farewell to the Huryks	
March:	Corned Beef and Cabbage Fellowship Dinner	
May:	Bishops visit & reception	
July:	Mini Golf outing	
October:	Community Day	
October:	Bunco Night	
November:	In Gathering Dinner	Respectfully submitted by

Kathy Erwood Lacouture

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Saturday Maintenance Morning crews meet at least twice annually to make minor repairs and touch-ups here and there, and if needed, attend to a specific project. Typical projects involve changing the filters in the air handlers for the Snyder Hall air conditioners, making sure the pews are attached tightly to the floor, and clean-out the gutters. This year we made repairs to the fence behind Snyder Hall, replaced the ballast in a florescent ceiling fixture, cleaned out the grease trap in the kitchen and contracted to trim the trees in the rear of the property. In preparation for the Bishop's visit in May, we undertook a refreshing coat of paint in the hallway and parts of the sanctuary. We are in process of finalizing bids for repair of the Snyder Hall roof, which will correct the occasional leak in the hallway.

We continue to be blessed with property and structures that facilitate our worship, fellowship, and outreach. Faithful stewardship of our property will insure that it is available for future generations. The key to maintaining it is to make repairs when they are still minor, and before they become too expensive. To that end, please remember that if you see something that may need repair, say something to a warden or vestry person.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Bartkus

NORTH PORCH

St. James' became host to North Porch in October of 2011. North Porch Women's and Infants' Center is a non-profit organization which provides emergency seven-day supplies of formula, diapers, baby food, clothing, bed linens and other items for needy mothers who are referred by social agencies that work cooperatively with some of the area churches. A project of the Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of Newark, it also maintains sites in Newark, Paterson, and Dover.

On behalf of the North Porch Board, The Rev. Margaret Otterburn extends thanks to St. James' for the space to serve needy families in the Hackettstown community.

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour extends our fellowship at God's holy table (the altar) to the tables in Snyder Hall!

We enjoy goodies, catch up with each other, collect children from Sunday School, read the latest Journal or...sign up to host a Coffee Hour!

You can sign up to host a Sunday this year. There is always a signup sheet in the Great Hall. We have hosts who are celebrating a family event like birthday or baptism, hosts who like to bake, and hosts who like to bring Shop-Rite goodies! We also love to have your group (Vestry, Sunday School, Altar Guild, etc.) host a coffee hour, and that makes the work easier. As a church which believes strongly in accessibility, our goodies are not all sweet but often include cheese and crackers or fruit.

We would love you to host a coffee hour! Your setup responsibility is to continue to make the coffee for after the 10 am service using our brewer (coffee is premeasured and easy to prepare!), bring and set out the goodies, and clean up or arrange for cleanup. Think about teaming with someone else and divide prep and cleanup.

Join us in celebrating what Episcopalians have called "the eighth sacrament"!

FAMILY BREAKFAST

Pete Quelly has taken the lead of the famous Sunday Breakfast usually held on the first Sunday of each month, except during Lent and Summer. He usually has the help of Jewels and Millie. The team has been preparing breakfast classics as well as offering some new dishes such as breakfast pitas, interesting quiches, and morning casseroles. The team is really in need of volunteers to help. We are now asking folks to take turns setting up the tables for breakfast either the day before or early in the morning of the breakfast. This includes arranging tables with tablecloths and setting out salt and

pepper and other condiments and making sure plates, napkins and utensils are in place. And we also need help in cleaning up after all Coffee Hour and Breakfast mornings after the 10 AM service.

ST. FIACRE'S GUILD

St. Fiacre's Guild is the title given to the group of parishioners who tend the St. James' gardens. Our group is named after St. Fiacre, who was a medieval monk who grew medicinal herbs. Once again, members of St. James' responded to the request for help this past year.

Our most immediate goal last spring was to have the gardens looking their best for Bishop Beckwith's visit in May. The beds around the church, and the areas between it and the Mitcham House were raked and weeded, and shrubs were pruned. Our perennial bulb plants, including the daffodils, tulips, and iris did not disappoint us when they came up. With the help of fertilizer, applied earlier in the spring they all bloomed and looked lovely. The grounds received compliments from our neighbors and congregation, as well as the Bishop.

During the fall of 2016 the necessary weeding was done, as well as pruning, including the roses along the retaining wall. Unfortunately one boxwood shrub was lost to frost burn and was removed with the help of the folks doing maintenance morning chores. We planted mums in its place for the time being.

Pride is taken by the members of the St. Fiacre's group in maintaining the lovely gardens which grace our beloved St. James' property. Given the work accomplished on the scheduled spring and fall maintenance mornings, with some minor tending in between, we expect our gardens will be beautiful again this year.

Consider joining us the next time there is a request for "the many hands that make light work."

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Bartkus

ALTAR GUILD

In the early days of the church, priests and nuns were responsible for the care of the altar and sanctuary. Later these tasks were entrusted to a chosen group of women who became known as the Altar Guild. Because congregations vary in degree of ceremony followed, our service ranges from simple to elaborate but always grounded in faith and focused on detail and tradition that is offered to the glory of God.

St James' Altar Guild functions with four teams of two women (and sometimes men) who prepare for the weekly Eucharist, care for the sacred vessels and linens, and serve the congregation by arranging for other liturgical services. This requires about one hour of work on either Friday or Saturday at a mutually convenient

time set by the weekly team members. Preparations for Easter and Christmas and special services such as weddings and funerals involve the joint efforts of all teams.

A local dry cleaner donates his services to help clean and maintain the vestments, paraments, and frontals. One Altar Guild member washes and irons the linens used at the Eucharist. Replacement linens are purchased as holes appeared/or stubborn stains makes linens no longer liturgically white.

There were a few moments of panic after Christmas when it appeared that our friendly dry cleaner had gone out of business. With the help of the Altar Guild from Church of the Messiah in Chester, we learned that the business had merely relocated. We will still use this facility for our needs.

Nancy Miller has been on hiatus since early in 2017 due to a fall and subsequent surgery. We hope that she can return to Altar Guild once her recuperation is completed. We invite anyone who is interested in preparing the Lord's Table to stop in after services and speak to the Altar Guild member busy in the sacristy.

The Altar Guild is grateful for the continued support of the St James' parishioners. Without your generous contributions we would not be able to have the beautiful flowers for our weekly Eucharist or Christmas or Easter. Parishioners are encouraged to sponsor weekly flowers in memory of departed loved ones or in thanksgiving for special occasions by selecting and signing the particular Sunday as found in the Altar Flower Donor booklet located in the Narthex.

Altar Guild is not just another church job. It requires dedication, attention to detail and a cheerful willingness to respond to the needs of our congregation. It is a privilege to serve St James'.

Meg Critchley

USHERS

The main responsibilities of our ushers include collecting the offering, assisting during communion and preparing the church for the next service. However, just a friendly "Hello" or "Good Morning" or smile is the most important function of the ushers/greeters. A warm welcome on a Sunday morning into a place we are familiar with, or for first-time attendees can set the tone for a more meaningful and positive experience.

For anyone who would like to participate in a ministry that requires minimal training or preparation, but one that is significant in many ways, you can just see any of our current ushers or wardens for additional information.

Thank you to all of our current ushers.

Janice Cipriani

MUSIC COMMITTEE

This past year was a lot less hectic for the St. James' music program. Dmitry has settled into St. James' and has been very good at picking up on the kind of music that is well suited to our taste at St. James'. He has learned a great deal about the Episcopal Church and is at times adventurous with his choice of music. While we do not have a standing choir, Dmitry did conduct a Bell Choir for Christmas and we were also able to present a duet, thanks to Pam Laura and Karina Hernandez. Julie Mills has been as patient as ever patient and we are grateful for her help with the bulletins and the music.

Special thanks go to Marge Schafetz, Wendie Germain and Pam Laura, who have been vital in hymn selection. Thanks go to Dmitry for being a quick learner and making the committee's job so much easier. We acknowledge the help of Olshans and the Hawkins with thanks, who have not been as active at St. James as they were last year, but continue to make contributions.

We appreciate the comments and patience of the congregation regarding the music at church and while we continue with this transition, we are grateful for the congregation's appreciation of our efforts. We have had a productive year as Dmitry has become more familiar with our services, and has contributed immensely to a vital aspect of our worship. Thank you all who contribute with your comments, actions or appreciation.

Chika Okoye on behalf of the Music Committee

March 2017

YOUTH CHOIR

2016 saw a return to the usual round of singing events for our Youth Choir singing and our Easter service as well as their participation once again in the Story of the Nativity through the Arts program in Advent. This choir's members fluctuate with the Sunday School attendance but they are an enthusiastic group no matter how many there are! Due to reduced numbers in Sunday School so far in 2017 and snow storms, the Choir will not be able to sing at Easter this year but we will look ahead to Advent!

Submitted by Pam Laura

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Once again we had a great team of auditors-from-within to handle our 2015 Audit Report tasks. We continued to work with Julie Mills and Janice Cipriani who again put together an audit binder

containing almost all the necessary documents. The audit results continue to improve due to many people's efforts to get and keep all the required documents organized. We did not quite meet our goal of getting the Audit in on time but we were much closer! This was the last year I am able to be part of the Audit Committee since I was on Vestry in 2016 and Vestry members cannot participate in audits of years during which they served on the vestry. (Note: David Lacouture will head up the committee in 2017).

Submitted by Pam Laura

ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

The Journal serves to connect a wide readership to the life of St. James' including people at home, friends, and others beyond our community. The newsletter is distributed by mail or email to more than 100 families or individuals on the first Sunday of each month.

The email Journal helps to save postage, paper, and trees. The email edition allows you to see our photos and illustrations in color. It is also available on our Church website's home page, along with archived copies of previous editions. As of year-end, we were emailing to about 3/4th of our subscribers, and print mailing to the other quarter. The Journal is still available in a hard copy to either pick up at church or receive by mail. Sign up to receive the Journal by email at stjames214@comcast.net

Ten monthly issues in 2016 featured Stewardship Letters, Vestry Updates, upcoming events or programs, and parish life and outreach information. The Journal featured articles and pictures about Maintenance Mornings, Special Events, Fellowship Dinners, Service schedules, Sunday School events; special seasonal events were also featured along with pictures.

The Journal's content and production depend on the contributions of many. Our thanks go to all who contribute articles, pictures and information about our parish life. The articles highlight the dedicated and ongoing service of everyone from Altar Guild to Music and Worship, Sunday School teachers and those serving as committee chairs.

Please think about contributing to the St. James' Journal. The deadline is the last Sunday of the month, in order that it may be distributed on the 1st Sunday of the following month. . Personal reflections in poetry or prose, milestones, information or reports on church life, and photos are more than welcome. All articles should be submitted to stjames214@comcast.net **and** olesen@comcast.net. Do you have an idea for a new feature or any suggestions or comments? Please let us know!

Barbara Olesen

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

Be 'In-the-Know'

Peruse the monthly Journal for articles written by your favorite authors who you see every Sunday. Check out what's new with our committees and what is going on with the mission and ministry at St. James'. You too can become a published author by submitting your articles to be published in the journal. Feel free to include photos! The journal is available in both hard and soft copies.

Check out St. James' website at www.stjameshackettstown.org. Webmaster Mary Echeverria keeps the site current. Not only will you find the latest copy of the monthly Journal, you will also find the Calendar of Events. The Calendar of Events has everything going on in the parish from Worship times, Committee meetings to 'Must-Be-There' social events. It's an easy way to stay in tune with what's going on in our church community. The website also has great photos and information about who we are and what we do. Check it out!

Like St. James' on Facebook! Sam Wood keeps the site up to date with upcoming events, special worship schedules and announcements. You will even find a photo or two. Take a look!

Read the weekly bulletin. Thanks to the efforts of Julie Mills, you can keep up on announcements and upcoming events in the weekly bulletin used for worship. Great care is taken to keep us all informed!

Read the local papers. Julie also sends announcements and articles to local papers. This year Pam Laura wrote a special announcement welcoming Dmitry Nikolaev to St. James' which was published in local papers.

Open those emails from St. James'. Constant Contact is used to send reminders about special events, family breakfasts and special worship schedules to name a few. If you are not receiving these emails you can request to be added through the St. James' website or by contacting the church office at stjames214@comcast.net.

Give it a try, be 'In-the-Know'

Jayne Mutascio

SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. James' Sunday School continues to meet three of four Sundays a month at 10 am in the Parish Hall. Currently, there are 8 students, from Pre-K to 5th grade, enrolled in Sunday School, and an average of approximately 5 students attends each week. The teachers/coordinators this year are Jennifer Howlin, Alicia LaForge, and Jeannette Nolan.

Sunday School students participate each year in sorting and bagging up the donated food for the Mission Strategy Committee at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. They also prepare holiday songs which they sing during the Christmas Eve and Easter services. Also this year, the children continued the tradition of making and distributing Valentine Cards for residents of House of Good Shepherd. An end of year party is being planned for the last Sunday of the Sunday School year in May.

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia LaForge

A GIFT OF WARMTH

The program "A Gift of Warmth" was continued in 2016 by Peg Faust along with help from Nancy Miller. The program, funded by anonymous donors who also funded the Summer Back Pack program, provides coats, socks, gloves and hats for those in need.

230 coats went to folks at a lot of sites such as area schools and the corrections system in order to keep them warm. We would shop at Kohl's, often using store racks to bring purchases to the cash register!

Special thanks go to the donors who enabled us to do this. They are all truly angels!

Respectfully submitted,
Peg Faust

SUMMER BACKPACK

St. James' distributed a total of 258 back packs (or bags filled with food) twice monthly in July and August to a total of 129 children. Thanks to the generosity of the Angel Network this project was supported with over \$11,000 worth of food for the children and families served.

During committee work, it was realized that to better serve our community and to be more effective givers, we needed to make our program smaller than it was in the past. So, we limited the program to students in the immediate Hackettstown school district who currently qualified for assistance. Potential recipients were

contacted through the school district, who then sent the recipients' information to St. James. Some additions were made to our list based on need and requests. Each request was carefully considered. It was not our intention to be exclusive, only to respect the time and energy of our volunteers and the guidelines we established.

We continued the established schedule of Get-Pack-Give. Groceries were ordered through the Angel Network and were delivered on the Get Saturday prior to the Give Saturday so that volunteers could Pack the bags on the Sunday before the Give Saturday. Volunteers for Get, were on hand to receive and organize the food when it was delivered, to Pack the bags after coffee hour, and to host the Give day. Participant children received two individual bags. Each family received a family bag. Each individual bag contained a box non-sugary cereal, a box Parmalat milk, 5 individual fruit or applesauce cups, 6 cans of chicken or tuna, 1 small jar of mayonnaise, 5 granola bars, 6 Kraft Easy Macs, 5 packs cracker sandwiches. Each family bag contained 2 packages sandwich thins, 1 jar jelly, 2# bag rice, 2-1# bags of beans, and 10-pack real juice boxes.

Thank you to all who came to help with receiving, organizing, packing and distributing the food.

Submitted,
Jewels Quelly

PRAYER MINISTRY

The Prayer Ministry is a group of parishioners who faithfully pray, each in our own way, wherever each of us lives or works, for people known or unknown to us when they are in need of prayer. Prayers might be requested for someone who is critically ill, preparing to undergo surgery or in recovery, or mourning the loss of a family member or friend. We have prayed for people in hard times, families in crisis, and people who have lost a job. We pray for the protection and care of loved ones.

Email requests for prayers are sent to olesen@comcast.net. Many of the requests are confidential and we faithfully hold those people and their requests for prayer in our confidence. Members are notified by e-mail.

We welcome all who would like to pray for others in their time of need. Please consider becoming a part of this ministry. Speak to Barbara Olesen or notify the church office at stjames214@comcast.net.

Barbara Olesen

CARES

The CARES group continues to provide meals for parishioners in immediate need. We have delivered food to several families in 2016. We also try to provide transportation to doctor's

appointments when there is a need. The CARES group is always looking for someone who can provide a meal on occasion. Please contact Barbara Olesen (908-850-5645) if you are interested.

Barbara Olesen

STEWARDSHIP

We believe that stewardship is a year-round practice and that it goes hand-in-hand with discipleship. We encourage all our parishioners to prayerfully discern their stewardship commitment to the ministries at St. James' throughout the year.

This fall our activities included an in-gathering fellowship dinner. This fun evening was well attended and again featured a Pete Huryk production of the "Match-Family Feud Game". Our autumn call for pledges has been answered by 37 folks, to date. This was up from last year's number of 35. We have commitments for the operation of the general fund in the amount of \$61,700, which is also up from last year's \$58,800. This year's average annual pledge was up compared to last year. Last year the average pledge was about \$1650, while this year was is \$1670. Twenty-six people have pledged \$25,410 to the Building Fund, which is up from last year's \$23,200. (Dollar numbers have been rounded.)

Twenty-five pledges of time and talent were received for participation in our parish ministries. The most frequently chosen included; serving on the altar during worship as an Acolyte or serving as a Lay Eucharistic Minister or Lector. Others included helping with the Backpack Program and knitting with the Yarn-Twisters. We continue to need more help with counting and coffee hour. If you are interested in any activity you can join in without having filled out a pledge card.

If you have not yet handed in your pledge, however, please consider doing so now and make your commitment to the ministries and mission of St. James' for this coming year.

Respectively submitted,

Paul Bartkus

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising for 2016 is as follows: Gertrude Hawk Spring and Winter candy sales, \$662.21; Golf Outing, \$4,007.80; Rummage Sale Spring and Fall, \$1,162.00; eBay, \$165.00; Shop with Scrip, \$683.14 and miscellaneous fundraising of \$45. The total raised from these events was 6,725.15!

We are running the same fundraisers as last year. Our numbers are down about \$2,500.00 from last year due to various reasons. Please consider supporting the above fundraisers when possible. If you have ideas for fundraising please let me know. Every little bit helps in order to support the mission and ministry of St. James'

Coming up shortly is the Rummage Sale at the end of April and the Golf Outing at the end of June. Bring your new or gently used items for the Rummage Sale after April 1st. We are sometimes able to sell a few donations on eBay for more money. And the Golf Outing needs sponsors! Parishioners can sponsor a hole for \$50.00. We are always looking for Corporate Sponsors at \$100 a hole. Watch for more details in the days ahead and let the Golf Outing Committee know if you would like to sponsor a hole or know a business owner we can contact to support us.

Please watch for future fundraising events in the Journal and Sunday bulletins. Thank you for your support, for all the time, talent and treasure you so willingly give to St. James’.

Barbara Olesen

COUNTERS

Many parishioners have chosen to go the electronic route to keep on track with their pledges, but we still need to have an account of the offerings on Sunday morning and that is when “counters” are needed.

On Sunday mornings after the 10AM service, there are volunteers quietly working in the Mitcham House office. Their responsibility is to count/record the pledges/donations/memorials from both services for that particular day and then prepare deposit tickets for the bank deposits.

Currently there are four teams (two per team) that rotate Sundays so that volunteers are usually scheduled every four weeks.

If this is a ministry that interests you, we’d be happy to “train” you according to our policies and procedures, and welcome you to our team.

Please contact the church office if you would like to be a counter.

FACILITY USE

St. James’ facilities are available to both our parishioners and outside organizations. Guidelines for use of the buildings and donations are available through the church office or on the St. James’ website. A Building Use Application should be completed and approved by the Senior Warden prior to using the facilities. Please call the church office and speak with the Parish Administrator if you are interested in using the St. James’ facilities.

Offices for the priest and parish administrator are located in the Mitcham House. Space is provided there for the Joseph T. Quinlan Bereavement Center and Literacy Volunteers of Sussex County. The Mitcham House also serves as the meeting place for most committee meetings.

Since 2011, we have provided space in Snyder Hall for the North Porch Program, the Summer Backpack Program and the Church of El Shaddai, whose congregation holds twice weekly worship and Bible study in our Parish Hall and sanctuary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fulton Mortgage Early in 2016 the Finance Committee and Vestry worked together to find out whether we could use funds from the Snyder Family bequest to apply to our mortgage. Once we realized that this was acceptable under the terms of the bequest, Fulton Bank was contacted to find out the details and to move forward with that idea. At that point, the balance of our mortgage almost equaled the total of the Snyder Fund Investments, but the Vestry voted to pay down about 75% of the mortgage balance. This has reduced our monthly payments from approximately \$4,000 to a little more than \$1,000 and still kept funds in the Snyder account for an investment.

St. James' uses a unified budget that includes both operating and building income and expenses. The building income and expenses are shown as line items for specificity.

There are currently two checking accounts within our financial system: The Operating Account and the Building Account. The Snyder Fund is a separate investment account

The Operating Account is used for the day- to- day operation of the parish. The funds used to support this fund come from pledges, special offerings, fundraising and other undesignated income. The expenses include salaries, utilities and any other miscellaneous expenses.

The Building Account is used primarily for mortgage payment, major repairs as well as any other significant improvements needed in our church buildings. This account is funded with pledges and specific donations or bequests. We have also added envelopes designated for payment of the mortgage principle.

The Snyder Family Endowment Fund continues to be an investment account with a balance of approximately \$155,000. This investment account earns interest that can be used to supplement our operating expenses if necessary.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Cipriani

A Prayer for St. James' Church

*Almighty and everliving God,
ruler of All things in heaven and earth,
Hear our prayers for this parish family.
Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless,
and restore the penitent.
Grant us all things necessary for our common life,
and bring us all to be of one heart and mind
within your holy Church;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Hymn

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea,
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee,
Yet possessing every blessing,
If our God our Father be.

Savior, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
All our weakness thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us;
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Yet unfearing, persevering;
To thy passion thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
Love with every passion blending
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.

2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

SENIOR WARDEN	Paul Bartkus
JUNIOR WARDEN	Barbara Olesen
MISSION STRATEGY	Paul Bartkus
YARN TWISTERS	Linda Miller
SPECIAL EVENTS	Kathy Lacouture
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	Paul Bartkus/David Lacouture
FAMILY BREAKFAST	Peter Quelly
ST. FIACRE'S GUILD	Phyllis Bartkus
ALTAR GUILD	Meg Critchley
USHERS	Janice Cipriani
MUSIC	Chika Okoye
YOUTH CHOIR	Pam Laura
AUDIT COMMITTEE	David Lacouture
ST. JAMES' JOURNAL	Barbara Olesen
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN	Alicia LaForge
A GIFT OF WARMTH	Peg Faust
PRAYER MINISTRY	Barbara Olesen
CARES	Barbara Olesen
STEWARDSHIP	Paul Bartkus
FUNDRAISING	Barbara Olesen
COUNTERS	Barbara Olesen
FACILITIES	Wardens
TREASURER	Janice Cipriani