



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2014

REV. ELIZABETH MYERS, PRIEST

Those who take leadership roles in our worship; an explanation and invitation.

I am one who believes that our worship is tremendously enriched by the participation of a variety of people in the leadership roles in our Eucharist's. I hope that more among us will choose to do this!

Some among us have raised questions about why some of our leaders have had such extensive training while others, especially those being trained as Eucharistic Ministers, are having relatively little. I believe that a word of clarification and explanation may be helpful.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers are people licensed by the bishop to administer the consecrated elements, usually the wine, at celebrations of the Eucharist. Training for this includes how to care for and administer the consecrated bread and wine and how to respond to irregularities at the altar rail. This training is usually brief and informal. Those in our congregation who are now licensed to do this are: Linda Ayres, Meg Critchley, Peg Faust, Drew Lacouture, Pam Laura, John McKinney, Brian Nolan, Carol Novrit, Julia Quelly, Isaac Quelly, Chris Vitalos, and Dave Waldman. We will be applying for licenses for several others in the next few months. Let me know if you would like to be among them

Several of our Lay Eucharistic Ministers have also been licensed by the bishop as **Lay Worship Leaders** and for this role far more extensive training is required. Lay Worship Leaders are trained to conduct public worship services which need no ordained person such as Morning and Evening Prayer, Tenebrae and the Good Friday Liturgy. The national church has prepared sermons for services requiring sermons that are to be led by licensed worship leaders. Lay worship leaders often preside at services of Morning Prayer when no priest or deacon is available on a Sunday morning and at camp grounds, nursing homes, prisons and youth and adult retreats. Linda Ayres, Meg Critchley, Peg Faust, Drew Lacouture, Pam Laura, Carol Novrit, Julia Quelly, Isaac Quelly, Chris Vitalos, and Dave Waldman are the members of our congregation trained and licensed to do this.

We have other important participants in our

services for which no license is required. They include **Lectors** (who read the lessons), **Psalmists** (who lead the psalm), and **Intercessors** (who lead the Prayers of the People). Our current services now make use of 2 Lectors, **a Worship Assistant** who takes the roles of psalmist and intercessor and 2 Eucharistic Ministers. And, of course we have **Acolytes** who serve with Drew Lacouture, our very competent and skilled Director of Acolytes. Often a person is asked to combine two or more of these roles in a Eucharist. I always welcome any who are able and would enjoy taking on one or more of these roles.

Few people appreciate the tremendous amount of time and energy contributed to our worship by our **Altar Guild** which wonderfully prepares for and puts away after our services. This group is under the direction of Meg Critchley. I am sure that she would love to hear from anyone who would like to serve St. James' in this way. Those who enrich our worship with music are greatly appreciated and Pam Laura will be happy to hear from anyone who would like to give participation in the choir a try. Other groups involved in our worship include our ushers, greeters, counters and coffee hour hosts. Our wardens will always be delighted to hear of persons offering to help in these ways.

Last but certainly not least are those licensed as **Lay Eucharistic Visitors**. I have described this ministry on page 4 because we are in need of more persons so licensed and this license is one that requires extensive training which I am prepared to provide and/or attain for you. Members of our parish now licensed for this ministry are Linda Ayres, Paul Bartkus, Meg Critchley and Dave Waldman.

I so appreciate the many of you there are who share in one or more of these roles which contribute so much to our worship and look forward to welcoming any who wish to join them.

God bless,

Betsy Myers+

**For Weekly Announcements and what's
happening at St. James' visit our webpage:
stjameshackettstown.org
Check out the new calendar!
Sign up for email news!**

Stewardship 2014

Think of the word stewardship for a moment.

What comes to mind?

What does stewardship look like?

What does it feel like?

Now hang onto those thoughts for a few minutes...

Where were you when Superstorm Sandy struck? How did people react? What did people do? What could they do? For Linda and I, this was the second time we experienced a near direct hit by such a storm.

I know a lot of people would like to forget the experience. When the lights went out, did you think – oh well, we'll have the lights back on in a couple of hours? But for many, the lights didn't come back on – for days and even longer. The word got out....

The Great Hall at St. James' had its doors open to anyone who needed it.

It was warm here.

There were connections to the outside world.

Lunch was being prepared. Hours stretched to days. More food kept turning up. People stayed longer because there was nowhere warm to go. Dinner was made.

A few people, not St. James' parishioners, brought cash donations by – they heard what was happening here and felt a need to do something.

We have often heard the biblical view of stewardship: "Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation."

Sandy brought all facets of stewardship and the results of that stewardship to the surface.

Time was given generously;

Talents were on display in many ways – in the kitchen, helping with homework;

Treasure was shared through the food brought in by many; donations that arrived at the door; the mere fact that St. James' had a door to open to whomever needed it.

To me, part of Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians, chapter 9 brings it all together:

⁶ He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

⁷ Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

⁸ Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have abundance for every good work.

The long-standing stewardship by the people of St. James' was rewarded many times over in those 2 weeks following Sandy's arrival in dealing with the hardships.

I have been given the privilege of speaking today; the Sunday that marks the annual appeal for each of us to take stock of our personal orientation and commitment to stewardship. It is something that is very personal. I'd like to beg your indulgence for a few more minutes to reflect on how stewardship is part of our fabric.

Paul Bartkus mentioned in the last Journal that I chair the annual golf outing. I have spent a lot of my career managing projects – I guess it's a talent, but it's also a pleasure to share it. The time spent putting on the golf outing introduces a lot of people to what we do at St. James'; the whole committee and the volunteers give their time willingly.

I think about all the miles of wool knitted by the Yarn Twisters, the warm heads and necks of seamen traveling all over the world that have been touched by the hands at St. James'.

We have a hot family breakfast every month, music and singing at 10 AM, someone who answers the phone, writers and publishers of the Journal, the gardens are weeded and fertilized, the special sounds of the bell choir resonate, the Eucharist is brought to those who can't join us here in person, the sanctuary is always ready for the season and for the sacrifice of the Eucharist.

Did you notice that the candles are always lit for our services, and they stay the same size....the list goes on.

And what about everyone who participates in some way to the Backpack program? From picking up the groceries, filling the backpacks every other Sunday; and distributing to those who need it.

In fact, the list of ways our parish demonstrates its many avenues of stewardship lives in the St. James' Journal every month with articles about the good of St. James'. It's the time and talent of many that make it possible.

When we think about sharing our treasure, one only has to look around to see what we have here and what it means. Our sanctuary, heated in the cold weather, fans turning in the hot weather. The Great Hall provides a place for our community to join together for many occasions and for many reasons. It is through the sharing of our treasure that what is here at St. James' is possible.

There are many ways to share your treasure; in the offertory basket, electronic giving, planned giving or through a will, a specially designated gift, the loose change in your pocket.

In my time on the Vestry, we often talked about how the people of St. James' always find a way to pitch in. We also talked about how often, all it took for someone to get involved, to give a bit of their time or talent, was to simply ask them. Did you read Betsy's invitation in the most recent Journal to participate directly at the Altar in some way?

Consider today as the tap on the shoulder to reflect on your talents, maybe there is a bit of your time – a void that needs to be filled, how you use the treasure that has been given to you; and answer the call to commit to stewardship in some way you have not done so before. Pledge cards, that other tap on the shoulder, will be mailed to you this week. Think about your blessings and consider how you can demonstrate Christ's call to stewardship.

We have a community at St. James' that constantly demonstrates the Christian meaning of stewardship in many ways.

I am going to borrow from Paul one more time in his letter to the Romans 12:7-9

⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.

⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

A few minutes ago, I asked you to think about the word stewardship. What came to mind? What did it look like? What does it feel like?

I hope that when the card from St. James' comes in the mail, you will feel the tap on your shoulder.

My thanks to David Lacouture and the Vestry for giving me the opportunity to share with you, and to you for being here.

Dan Miller
October 12, 2014

Is God Calling You

...to the ministry of a Lay Eucharistic Visitor?

Lay Eucharistic Visitors are persons trained and licensed by the bishop to take the Holy Communion from the church to the home bound and hospitalized. Such a ministry is especially important to a parish when there is not a full time priest and/or where parishioners are accustomed to receive communion on a regular basis and/or where there are a number of persons confined to homes and nursing homes.

This ministry requires special training in a number of areas including having completed Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Exploitation training within the last five (5) years. Training for this also includes what and how it is done, basic pastoral care skills and legal requirements.

A congregation having nurses volunteer for this ministry is especially blessed as these Eucharistic Visitors can be a tremendous resource for a sensitive and caring ministry to those seriously ill and/or preparing for death. I know how very grateful Helen Wise and her family is to Meg Critchley who shared the Holy Communion with her just before her death in the Hackettstown Hospital.

Please don't hesitate to speak with me if you believe that God may be calling you to this ministry. It is a ministry which incarnates the presence and love of Jesus Christ and his church in the hard times of lives in a very concrete and beautiful way.

Betsy Myers +

Vestry Hi-Lites

- ✦ Voted to hire professional to work on office computer, set up of 2nd computer and networking.
- ✦ Linda Ayres to be honored October 19th for her volunteer service as Parish Administrator.
- ✦ Mitcham House steps and railing to be repaired.
- ✦ Administration team to be formed to streamline office procedures.

Fundraising Report

The St. James' FRC's next meeting is in January. At that time we will decide which fundraising events we will hold in 2015. We are open to new ideas, so let us know if you have any!

Scrip Pro - Next orders are due on November 9th. The Holidays are rapidly approaching and we would welcome your support as you plan your gift giving. Gift cards are a great way to give someone a gift they will love!

Our See's Candies Christmas sale begins on November 9th. These fine chocolates make a great gift for any chocolate lover. Orders are due back on November 23rd to ensure that we have delivery before Christmas.

Thanks for your support in our fundraising efforts!

St. James' FRC
Barbara White, Ellen Infante,
Ann Dutton, Barbara Olesen

Sunday School News

We are excited to have a great group of children registered for Sunday School this year! We had our first lesson of the year on September 21st, and have had several fun lessons in September and October. The Halloween party on October 28th was a huge success – thank you to the youth group for helping with this fun event!

In the coming months we have many fun activities coming up. The children will be helping to sort and pack food for needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Also, Pam Laura has been working with the children to prepare a Christmas song to be sung at several events during the holidays. And we are really looking forward to having our 2nd annual Christmas pageant!

Sunday School holds lessons on Sunday mornings during the 10am service except for Family Sunday (the first Sunday of the month) for children in Pre-K (age 4) up to 5th grade. We always welcome new students or visitors! Jenn and Alicia are very happy to welcome Jeannette Nolan as a new Sunday School teacher this year. If anyone is interested in joining our teaching team (even just to substitute as needed), please contact us.

Alicia LaForge

This month in Stewardship

November will be a busy month, as are most at St. James'. We have several stewardship activities that began in October and that will continue into November.

Dan Miller kicked-off our seasonal preparation for the considerations of our stewardship sharing back of our time, talent and treasure by discussing how our stewardship efforts are transformed into actions in helping others in our community. If you missed his remarks, you can find a copy to read on our web page.

Last week we started to have ministry stewards speak about their experiences. Phyllis Bartkus spoke about tending the gardens, how she came to do that and what it has meant to her. We will continue having speakers give short 3 minute glimpses into how they value a ministry during the announcements over the next few weeks. This may allow you to hear about a ministry to which you may be called.

On November 16th we will hear sermons touching on the theme of stewardship. This is the week before our In-gathering Sunday on November 23rd, which is when we will be gathering in bags of food purchased for local food-insecure families. Empty grocery bags with a list of suggested nonperishable foods will be available starting on November 9th. Look for them in the Narthex or Parish Hall. You may return your bags on or before the 23rd so that our Sunday Schoolers can sort the food and repack it for individual families on that day. This is the Sunday right before Thanksgiving. Each bag that is put together will also have a \$25 ShopRite "turkey card" for the family to purchase a turkey for their Thanksgiving meal.

Also on the 23rd, we will have the formal in-gathering and presentation of our pledge cards as the gifts are brought to the altar. You may return your pledge card at any time between now and the 23rd by placing it in the collection plate or by mailing it to the church office.

You should have received your pledge packets by now. If you have not, let me know and I will get one to you. "Thank you" to those early birds who have returned theirs already. Should you have a question about filling out the financial or time and talent sides of the card, please do not hesitate to drop me an email (pbartkus@verizon.net) or see me in church to arrange a time to meet.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Did you ever want to learn to play Bunco? Would you like to challenge another family in a game of Family Feud? Well, here's your chance! St. James' will host a Family Fun Night....**Potluck and Game Night** on Saturday evening, November 22nd at 5:30 in the Parish Hall. A sign up sheet will be in the Parish Hall for you to sign up to bring a dish/dessert to share. BYOB. Join your St. James' friends! Invite family and friends! If you would like to just come for dinner, please do so, as we will enjoy a meal together first and then start the games at about 7:00pm. Or if you prefer, come at 7:00 and be ready to have fun! The Special Events Committee will supply soft drinks and games but feel free to bring your favorite game as well.

RSVP to stjames214@comcast.net. Or if you sign up for the Potluck just let us know how many people in your group. Questions? Ask any member of Special Events Committee or contact Kathy Lacouture at lockwood88@comcast.net or call 908-850-9214.

Hackettstown Hymn Sing

Please plan to attend the annual Hackettstown Hymn Sing on Sunday, November 23. The event will begin at 7 PM at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 409 East Baldwin Street, Hackettstown. It is always followed by delicious refreshments.

The St. James' Multi-Generational Bell Choir will be participating. The evening is always most enjoyable with choir anthems, bell ringing and congregational hymn singing. What a wonderful way to celebrate Christ the King Sunday.

Louise Olshan
Bell Choir Director

Thank you,
Paul Bartkus,
Stewardship Chair

Drew D. Lacouture Awarded

Rank of Eagle Scout

Drew D. Lacouture was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor Ceremony at St. James' Episcopal Church, Hackettstown on Sunday October 12th. The ceremony was attended by Drew's family, friends, fellow scouts and community leaders.

The Invocation at the Court of Honor was given by the Rev. Elizabeth Myers, Priest at St James' Church. First Class scout Steven Egan served as Master of Ceremonies.

Drew began his scout career in 2003, joining Cub Scout Pack 164 as a Tiger Cub. He continued with Cub Scouts through the Wolf, Bear and Webelos ranks, and earned the Arrow of Light, Cub Scout's highest honor, in 2008. That same year, Drew crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 416 of Independence Township, sponsored by the Methodist Men's Group of Trinity United Methodist Church, Hackettstown.

Drew served as Senior Patrol Leader for two consecutive years. In his post he provided leadership and taught scouts at all age and skill levels. He took particular interest in helping younger scouts become leaders themselves.

Over the course of his scout career, Drew attended over 50 year-round campouts. In the summer of 2012, he traveled cross county with nine scouts and two leaders from Troop 416 for 29 days, visiting national sites and trekking for two weeks in the back county of the Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico. Drew was accepted into the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society in May 2013.

Drew earned 22 merit badges including Camping, Canoeing, Citizenship In The World, Citizenship in the Nation, Communications, Cooking, Environmental Science, Family Life, Finger Printing, First Aid, Kayaking, Lifesaving, Mammal Study, Music, Nature, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Photography, Rowing, Swimming and Weather.

Drew's Eagle Scout project entailed planning, funding and construction of a large storage shed at the Hackettstown Community Pool complex. The shed was constructed over five weeks in the spring of 2014 with the help of 23 workers including scouts, parents, and other volunteers. It was completed in time for pool season. The shed is used to store safety equipment for life guards, as well as equipment for the Hackettstown Hurricanes Swim Team.

Special guest speakers included Warren County Freeholder Richard D. Gardner and New Jersey Assemblyman John DiMaio, each of whom presented Drew with certificates. Mr. Chip Cochran of Cochran Funeral Home presented Drew with two engraved plaques to mount on the shed to commemorate Drew's accomplishment and to inspire other scouts and young people to contribute back to their community.

After the presentation of the Eagle pin, neckerchief and slide to Drew by his parents David and Kathy Lacouture, Drew spoke to the younger scouts in attendance encouraging them not to give up their dreams of becoming Eagle Scouts. Afterwards, Drew presented mentor pins to Thomas "Willie" Williams, Troop 416 Scoutmaster; Patricia Hawkins, Troop 416 Assistant Scoutmaster and Mr. Steven Egan, Eagle Project mentor. The Benediction and closing blessing was given by Drew's grandfather, RC Deacon Roger Lacouture.

Currently a Senior at Hackettstown High School, Drew plans to study education after graduation.



Thank You

I want to thank the congregation of St. James' for the wonderful tributes on my final Sunday as your organist. I was overwhelmed by those members who attended the service. What a surprise when I looked out during the Announcements and saw some familiar faces that I have not seen in a while. Thank you to everyone who attended on that special day. The standing ovations caught me totally off guard and I still get teary-eyed when I think of them.

The gifts from the congregation are so very much appreciated – the flowers which still looked beautiful when we were ready to start our vacation a week later and we sent to the local nursing home and the donation in my name to Episcopal Relief and Development for micro loans for women in business in Africa. I have been so very blessed in my life in so many ways and I hope the donation will be a blessing to others as they work to support their families and make better lives for them.

Thank you to the Senior Choir for the beautiful flowers which also went to the nursing home, for the CD set of Bach's music and for the cash gift. The CDs are helping us pass the time when we are on the road and the cash will be used for a special dinner as we travel. Sam certainly deserves to enjoy this with me as he did so much to support me while I served as your organist.

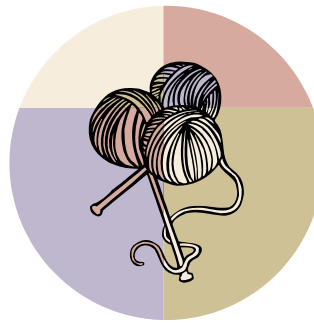
The Coffee Hour was really a lunch, including not only very tasty food, but beautiful decorations. I was overwhelmed when I walked into the Great Hall and saw all the work that Cindy and Jeanette Nolan, along with William, Michael and Julianna, had done. Many of the guests that day remarked on what a wonderful closing that was for the day. Thank you, Cindy and Jeanette, for making the Coffee Hour truly remarkable. I really appreciated it.

I also want to thank Betsy for her wonderful sermon which had me crying several times. I will try to take those words with me and use them to guide me in the future. It has been wonderful to work with Betsy and St. James' is certainly blessed to have her guiding us at this time of transition.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the day so special for me. I know there were a lot of people working behind the scenes. Please be sure that all your efforts are appreciated.

Louise Olshan
"Retired" Organist

YARN TWISTERS



I am happy to report that this year the Yarn Twisters will be sending 30 items to SCI. We have 18 hats and 18 scarves. Many thanks to all who have helped us reach this amount. I know that these items will help keep warm 15 men or women who work many months of the year on the high seas away from their families. These items will be put into a "ditty bag" along with toiletries, books, etc. by volunteers at the Port of Newark and distributed at Christmas.

There is plenty of yarn in the bins in the closet in the Great Hall and patterns can be downloaded from the SCI website at: www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea if you need any information, contact me at frlbailey1@comcast.net or call me at 908-684-3566. I would love to see some new people onboard, so please contact me if you would like to join the Yarn Twisters – you can either complete items at home, or hopefully we can begin to meet once a month again.

If there is enough interest, perhaps we could arrange for another outing to SCI at the Port of Newark in the Spring time.

Thank you,
Linda Miller



St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown

Journal Deadline

DEC/JAN EDITION:

November 30th

Research Trip to Nigeria

By Chika Okoye

This summer I went to Nigeria for a research trip. I was collecting data for my dissertation I am writing looking at the plight of market women in West Africa. Market women are those women who sell small items such as vegetables or cheap household items like plastic bowls and utensils, but who sell from stalls in open air African markets. These women tend to be relatively poor, have limited education or have limited opportunities for employment. These women are ubiquitous in West Africa and are generally accepted as a normal part of life. My argument is that these women present an organic solution to the unemployment problem that plagues many developing countries as they offer jobs, flexibility and culturally acceptable opportunities for women to improve their economic circumstances.

My goal in Nigeria was to interview some of these market women to find out what strategies they have developed to survive in an often hostile economic environment. There are quite a few interviews to go through and analyze but the preliminary finds are summarized below. I interviewed about 40 market women and a few bankers at regular banks and microfinance banks. I found that most of the women would prefer to expand their businesses but were unable to because they did not have easy access to funding opportunities. The bankers in their responses indicated that the women often defaulted. In the women's defense, the lending conditions were in many cases were less than ideal and the women were encouraged to borrow more than they could realistically repay.

It was interesting to conduct research in Nigeria as I had the impression that I would encounter some unsurmountable difficulties. Nigerians tend to be highly suspicious of anyone asking questions especially when they are questioned about their business or earnings. I must say that everyone I encountered was very helpful. The best part of the research was that I got to go to several towns and interview all kinds of really enterprising women. I was also able to travel with my mother who was a great resource for historical context. I got to spend time with my siblings too.

Thank you to the people of St. James who I know were praying for me to have a successful and safe trip. While I was in Nigeria the Ebola Virus Disease was raging in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. Thankfully Nigeria has been declared Ebola free, but while I was there 20 people were infected and 8 people died. I am glad to be back safe and sound and I will keep all of you informed on my research progress.





BABY ARRIVALS



Brian Nolan III was born on October 5th at 9:58 PM .
He weighed 7 lbs 8.3 oz and was 20.5 inches long.
Congratulations to Brian and Meredith Nolan and
Grandma Cindy Nolan and Aunt Jeanette Nolan!



Elizabeth Rose was born on October 11th at 2:13 PM.
She weighed 6 lbs 13 oz and was 21 inches long.

Congratulations to
Joe Ayres and
Fawn Abrahams
and Grandma
Linda Ayres and
Aunt Shannon
Ayres!



SUNDAY SCHOOL HALLOWEEN



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2014

St. James' Staff & Vestry

Priest:	The Rev. Elizabeth Myers
Rector Emeritus:	The Rev. Clarence Sickles
Parish Administrator:	Julie Mills
Music Director:	Pam Laura
Organist/Bell Choir Director:	Louise Olshan
Sexton:	Pauline Volkert

Vestry

Senior Warden:	David Lacouture
Junior Warden:	Carol Novrit

Paul Bartkus	Peter Quelly	Bill Critchley
Peter Gartelmann	Ellen Infante	
Barbara Olesen	Chika Okoye	

Vestry Clerk:	Jayne Mutascio
Treasurer:	Janice Cipriani
Asst. Treasurer:	Ricky Okoye
Bookkeeper:	Ellen Infante

Barbara Olesen, Editor

All Journal submissions
should be sent to:

stjames214@comcast.net
& olesen@comcast.net

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
214 WASHINGTON STREET
HACKETTSTOWN NJ 07840