



# ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

REV. ARTHUR "GUY" FOUTS, PRIEST-IN-RESIDENCE

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## This Month in Stewardship

Matthew 24:44 states, "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." Be prepared.

As we exit the season of Pentecost, we enter the season of Advent, a season of preparation. Bridging between these two seasons in our liturgical year are in-gathering and planning activities of stewardship. Recently, we celebrated our annual stewardship/fellowship dinner, had our in-gathering of pledges and food bags, and presented our pledge cards at the altar. Stewardship season is not confined to one season, as it extends throughout the year. In our present season, the altar colors are purple, the Advent Wreath candles are lit in church, the Tree of Giving is up, and we are preparing for Christmas. This is meant to be a quiet time of reflection, repentance and good works.

This year we recognized an act of good works and officially dedicated Snyder Hall in memory of Mr. Snyder and his generosity and stewardship. Throughout his life, Mr. Snyder practiced stewardship by participating in community organizations, serving on our Vestry, caring for his resources and then, through planning, bequeathed a portion to St. James'. His example of planning is a model for us to follow. We ask that you consider following Mr. Snyder's example and remember St. James' in your will or final arrangements.

There are other ways to provide for St. James'. If you wish to learn more about making a qualified charitable distribution from an IRA, or a direct donation of shares of stock, please see either our Treasurer or a Warden. While it is best to consult a tax professional to consider your specific circumstance, we may be able to help.

If you have not yet made your declaration of commitment to St. James' through a pledge of time, talent and treasure, it is not too late. Pledge packets are available in the rear of church. Place your completed card in its envelope and place in the collection plate or mail it to the office. All pledges will be accepted by prayer at the altar. Your planning now helps our vestry prepare for our next year.

Thank you for reading,  
Paul Bartkus, Sr. Warden



## Christmas Services

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|-------|--|
| 12/18 | Lessons and Carols—One Service at 9AM<br>Wardens Coffee Hour<br>Greening of the Church |
| 12/24 | Christmas Eve—4:30, 7:00 and 11:00 PM  |
| 12/25 | Christmas Day—One Service at 10:00 AM  |

## Snyder Hall Dedicated

The St. James' Parish Hall was dedicated as "Snyder Hall" in memory of William O. Snyder at a ceremony held after the 10 am service on Sunday, November 20, 2016.

The Rev. Guy Fouts led a procession of the congregation into the hall singing the hymn, "Christ Has Made a Sure Foundation".

Once in the hall, past Senior Warden, David Lacouture and current Senior Warden Paul Bartkus read from Corinthians and Matthew.

The congregation then sang the hymn, "The Church's One Foundation".

Mr. William Hibler, who knew the late Mr. Snyder through his parents, provided a brief bio of Mr. Snyder's life in Hackettstown and surrounding areas and reflected on his many years of community service, generosity and stewardship to St. James'.

David Lacouture explained that Mr. Snyder's significant bequest to St. James' 20 years ago made it possible in 2016 for the Vestry to rebalance the church's financial health by significantly paying down the mortgage principal and establishing affordable monthly payments. A portion of Mr. Snyder's gift remains invested to provide additional annual income for the church.

A special bronze plaque was unveiled that bore the image of Mr. Snyder.



After a blessing from Rev. Fouts, the congregation together proclaimed that now and hereafter the building will be called "Snyder Hall."

The ceremony ended with "America the Beautiful" in honor of Mr. Snyder's military service in the United States Navy during WWII.

A brunch reception hosted by Jeannette and Cynthia Nolan followed.



## **St. James' Youth Choir Singing During Advent and Christmas**

The Advent and Christmas season will be a busy one for our Youth Choir. Once again, they will participate in the ecumenical Story of the Nativity at the Port Morris United Methodist church on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 5pm. The singers will meet at 4pm at Port Morris for a warm-up. This program features a narration telling the story of Mary's selection to be the mother of Jesus and the time leading up to and including the birth and the visit of the Wise men. Puppetry, singing, bells, drama, and instrumental selections are woven throughout to bring the narration to life.

On Christmas Eve, at the 4:30pm service at St. James', the Youth Choir will sing again. They will meet at 4pm in the church to warm-up.

Pam Laura

Children's Choir Director



### **Love Lessons and Carols? Love homemade soups and breads?**

Come to the annual Service of Lessons and Carols at St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 73 S. Fullerton Ave. Montclair, NJ 07042. The readers are wonderful, the choir and music is excellent, and there are lots of hymns for congregational singing, too. All this in about an hour and followed by a free soup and bread reception! Music and food to warm your soul and give you a peaceful break from the hectic-ness of the pre-Christmas time. Sunday, Dec. 11 at 5pm.



### **Christmas Altar Flowers**

The Congregation can help defray the cost of wreaths and poinsettias this Christmas. There are envelopes for donations for these altar flowers in the back of Church.

This is also a way to remember loved ones and departed family and friends during this season.

The Altar Guild

### **Save the Date for the 2017 Epiphany Dinner:**

January 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in the Parish Hall

Family Fellowship Night

\$12.00 for Adults

Kids 12 and under free

Look for sign up for side dishes and desserts  
in mid-December





## The Tree of Giving



Advent begins the new year of our church calendar and marks the season of anticipation and preparation. We begin a new church year and get ready to retell the story of the miracle of the birth of Jesus, of a poor family struggling to find a place to rest, of the wonderful gift given

to us, and later, the gifts brought by the Magi to honor the baby Jesus. And so, we prepare to celebrate our greatest gift by sharing presents with our families.

At St. James, we have a tradition of preparation and giving. Our congregation portions out a bit of their time and treasure to share in giving to some who would find it difficult to provide gifts for their children at Christmas. For more than twenty years we have sponsored children from two or three local families who are struggling due to economic circumstance by buying gifts suggested on the Tree of Giving.

Families are selected through the school nurses at local schools. The families' identities are anonymous, and the nurses work with the parents to develop a wish list of toys and clothing, which we transform from wishes to gifts.

This year we will support the children of three families and place candy canes with their gift suggestions on the Tree of Giving. We hope you will visit the tree, located in the upper lobby of the Moore St. entrance, and take a tag to help a child. Complete directions are provided at the tree. The children of the Sunday School will replace each tag with an angel. **Gifts are due at St. James' on or before the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Although we do not get to see the children's reaction as they open their presents, we do get feedback from the nurses who tell us how grateful the parents are and that we have made a difference for those families by helping them have a Christmas that they didn't expect to have. Each year this ministry reminds us to give thanks for our many blessings, by giving a blessing to someone else.

Paul Bartkus, Coordinator

## Stewardship In Gathering Potluck:

A beautiful autumn Saturday blessed St. James' on November 19<sup>th</sup> when our In Gathering Potluck Dinner was held. A wonderful array of families and food were present to celebrate the wrap up of Stewardship season in the Parish Hall (still unnamed at that time) that evening. We were particularly blessed to have the Huryk family: Gerri and Pete and their grandchildren among us that evening, traveling back for the weekend from Maryland to lead us in fun with a combo of The Match Game and Family Feud after dinner. As usual it was an evening filled with laughs for all ages. Prizes were plentiful and a raffle for a new car was won by Janice Cipriani's winning ticket!

Special thanks to the Huryk's for once again finding the time and energy to entertain us with their challenging game questions. And to all who brought delicious dishes and desserts to share. And to those who brought in the extras: crafts and balloons for the kids, wine, decorations and the fall touches throughout the room.

Kathy Lacouture

Special Events Committee



## Yarntwisters



It is not very often that I am at a loss for words (ask Dan) but today when I went to the Great Hall to package up all of the knitted/

crocheted items for the SCI, I really was at a loss. I began unpacking the bins in the closet and started laying them out on one table, then had to put a second table into use and then a third – each table was totally covered with an array of beautifully colored hats, scarves, neck warmers, and even a vest! Many thanks to the ladies in the Needle Workers group at Heath Village, especially to Pat Taylor for coordinating and the Yarn Twisters of St. James. We are sending 22 hat and scarf sets (44 items); 68 scarves; 44 hats; 2 neck warmers and 1 vest, for a total of 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.

So, let's keep on knitting, the dark and cold nights will soon be upon us, so a perfect time to begin working on items for 2017. We had some lovely fabric donated that will make great ditty bags, so if you can sew a straight line and thread a shoelace around the top, that's all it takes.

All patterns and information can be found on the SCI website at [www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea](http://www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea). This also gives an idea of what colors can and cannot be used, no tassels or fringes. If you would like to knit/crochet for SCI and need more information, please contact me at [frlbailey1@comcast.net](mailto:frlbailey1@comcast.net) or call me at 908-684-3566.

Thank you and warm wishes for the Holiday Season,

Linda Miller



## Dates to Remember

### December 2016

- 12/4 Last date to order Shop with Scrip before Christmas  
Children's Choir at Port Morris, 5PM
- 12/11 St. Luke's, Montclair Lessons & Carols, 5PM
- 12/18 Lessons & Carols-Sign up sheet available  
Wardens Coffee Hour  
Greening of the Church  
Wrapped Tree of Giving gifts and Food Bag donations deadline.
- 12/24 Services at 4:30 (with Children's Choir),  
7, and 11 PM (volunteers needed, contact office)
- 12/25 Christmas Day service at 10AM
- 12/29 Vestry Christmas Dinner and Meeting, 6PM

### January 2017

- 1/1 New Year's Day, regular services at  
8 and 10 AM
- 1/8 Family Breakfast
- 1/14 Boars Head Dinner
- 1/18 UTO boxes and envelopes due
- 1/27 Diocesan Convention
- 1/28 Diocesan Convention

### February 2017

- 2/5 St. James' Convention Delegates report  
between and after the two services.

## Vestry Highlights

- † Finance Committee continues to work on 2017 budget
- † Bids are coming in for repair of the flat roof repairs.
- † Peg Faust is coordinating Coats of Warmth-Volunteers needed



## Daily Advent Email Meditations

You can sign up for daily emails for Advent on the Diocesan website. Go to:

<http://dioceseofnewark.org/>

The Diocesan website has a new look, so check it out!



## Fundraising Report

**Shop With Scrip**—Next order is due Sunday, December 4th. This is our last order for the year!

We are also selling bracelets and necklaces from **Bead for Life**—these make interesting gifts with a story behind each creation.

**Gertrude Hawk**—Thanks to all who were able to participate. We raised \$473! Congratulation to the winner of the chocolate basket, Pauline Volkert!

MERRY CHRISTAS AND THANKS FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT  
OF THE FRC IN 2016!

## SHOP-RITE & WEIS GIFT CARDS

Order forms for gift cards will be distributed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. The order forms must be returned by the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and the gift cards will be distributed after the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. See Paul Bartkus if you have any questions.

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

February Edition  
Journal Deadline  
January 29th



**[St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown](http://St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown)**

# CALENDAR

# ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

## St. James' Staff & Vestry

Priest-in-Residence	Rev. Arthur "Guy" Fouts
Rector Emeritus:	The Rev. Clarence Sickles
Parish Administrator:	Julie Mills
Organist	Dmitry Nikolaev
Sexton:	Pauline Volkert

### Vestry

Senior Warden:	Paul Bartkus
Junior Warden:	Barbara Olesen

Peter Quelly	Bill Critchley	Janice Cipriani
Nancy Miller	Chris Krauss	Claudia Scala
Pam Laura	Sam Wood	

Vestry Clerk:	Claudia Scala
Treasurer:	Janice Cipriani
Bookkeeper:	Claudia Scala

### Barbara Olesen, Editor

All Journal submissions  
should be sent to:

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

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