



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

MAY 2017

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

This Month in Stewardship

Happy Easter! Alleluia! He is risen.

It is Easter and the weather is supposed to be warmer as the days get longer and the flowers bloom. We are most likely spending more time outside, working in the garden or playing. A fellow told me about a great round of golf that he played in this nice weather. He felt that his game was improved because he modified his grip and was hitting the ball better. He must be practicing.

Remember: Practice makes perfect.

Remember Father Guy asked us to open our eyes first thing each morning and say, "Alleluia! He is risen." That is a practice. It is a bit different than practicing a golf swing or practicing bowling. Be it a sport, prayer or stewardship, the goal of practice seems to be to perfect an action. It is kind of a neat connection to have the first fruits of our day be an Easter message, just as a principle of stewardship is to offer back to God the first fruits of our labors. Remember: Practice makes perfect, but we are not perfect. If we hit a golf ball with a lapse to a poor grip on the club or if we do not say, "Alleluia! He is risen" as exactly our first thought in the morning, we are forgiven. The journey may be as important as the destination. Remembering to remember that He is risen, may actually be the goal; the words are a reminder.

Setting a goal and working towards it is a good spiritual practice, especially as it relates to the stewardship of our time, talent and treasure. In the fall we set a commitment to a goal, our pledge. As we enjoy spring we must keep our commitment in mind and be mindful of our pledge. We recently had opportunities to care for the stewardship of our property and we will have another maintenance morning next month. In the summer, the backpack program will begin again and we can volunteer to sort, pack and give food for less fortunate children. We should also remember to keep up our financial pledges as we are on vacation.

Think "first fruits." Think, "Alleluia! He is risen." Keep practice in your prayers and prayers in your practice.

Thanks for reading,
Paul Bartkus



**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!

St. Margaret's Chime Choir at The House of the Good Shepherd

In December 2015, Ruth Petersen, a resident at The House of the Good Shepherd, came to me with an idea for a bell choir. She had been a ringer back in the day and thought it would be great activity for the residents. She was ready to back up her proposal with a donation, too!

After researching the cost of handbells, we realized that we couldn't even afford 1 octave so we decided to get handchimes instead. These turned out not only to give us a bigger bang for our buck – we purchased 2 full octaves plus binders, stands and lights – but the chimes were lighter and easier for the residents to handle. So, the St Margaret's Chime Choir was born. We started in February 2016 with 8 ringers and met every Saturday afternoon for 45 minutes at first. Our goal was to ring at the Easter Sunday chapel service. The members asked to extend the rehearsal time to 90 minutes because they felt they were just getting warmed up after 45 minutes! What director doesn't love to hear that their choir wants MORE rehearsal!

They did play that Easter Sunday – the melody of “Come Ye Faithful” - and everyone was very impressed! This group includes several people who have had no prior musical experience at all, two members who are legally blind, and no one is younger than 80! I write out the music by hand for the legally blind members using a notation that has been collaboratively developed by myself and the two members. It is bigger, of course, than regular music, and also uses certain colors that are easily seen as well as special notations to represent note and rest types.

Next they played for the Bishop and his hiking crew when they stopped at the House during their “Joining Jesus on the Journey” hike across the Diocese in July 2016. The choir played “Take My Life and Let It Be”, this time with harmony! It was a special moment for the choir and the hikers!

The next events were playing during Advent and Christmas and preparing for their first concert!

That concert was held on April 1, 2017 and featured the 12 ringers we had grown to. We played 6 pieces including a very complicated setting of the American folk song “O Shenandoah”. The concert was given for the residents and staff at the House and the Lodge was packed! The choir performed wonderfully and the audience loved it!

We just played for Easter (actually the Sunday following Easter) and have welcomed another new member! We are now preparing for our next concert which will be sometime in the late Fall. We are looking at three pieces by Hayden, as well as settings of Simple Gifts, Danny Boy, Yankee Doodle, and Dona Nobis Pacem. Of course, we will also be preparing a piece for Advent and for Christmas!

The choir members are a joy to work with! We laugh, we learn a little music theory and music reading, we take care of each other and celebrate our successes. We all exercise our brains by learning something new every week, which is a great benefit to the members. Most importantly, I think, is that they make music for themselves and for the other residents who aren't able to participate. It's very special to have music provided by residents for residents! I feel privileged to work with such a great group and always look forward to each week's rehearsal!

Pam Laura



Colonial Manor

It started with a letter....addressed to St Peter's Episcopal Church, Washington Street, Hackettstown. Fortunately the mailman placed it into the capable hands of our parish secretary, Julie Mills, instead of returning it as "addressee unknown, undeliverable."

The writer identified herself as Kathleen DiNapoli, a lifelong Episcopalian who had recently moved to Colonial Manor on RT 517 in Allamuchy. It seemed that in all the confusion of downsizing and relocating, Kathy had lost her Book of Common Prayer and she was eager to obtain a replacement.

After making Father Guy aware of this request, Julie met with Kathy and gave her a new BCP, a gift from St James'. Kathy wondered if there was any way she might receive the Eucharist. This request was brought to the attention of the Vestry; according to the minutes of the June 2016 vestry meeting, Father Guy visited Colonial Manor to make a "communion connection." And a new ministry at St James' began to take shape.

Kathy Lacouture agreed to organize and then joined the rotation of Lay Eucharistic Visitors....Paul and Phyllis Bartkus, Meg Critchley, Chika Okoye, and Cheryl Perkins each Sunday. In addition to bringing Communion and leading the service, the LEVs distribute our weekly bulletins and quarterly "Forward Day By Day." There are four residents who regularly attend...Geri Colburn, Kathy DiNapoli, Barbara Lobb, Geri Williams, and Mae Moloney, Colonial Manor receptionist. The nursing staff often guides the LEV to stop in on those residents for whom health and /or mobility issues make it difficult to leave their apartments to attend services.

"Wherever two or more are gathered together in My name, I am in their midst." Matthew 18:20

Meg Critchley



Editors note: If you are interested in becoming a Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV), please contact Kathy Lacouture who is scheduling training.

Thanks to our Webmaster!

Mary Echevarria is the St. James' Webmaster and has maintained our website for the past seven years. We thank her for her excellence in keeping our website up to date and making it an interesting and beautiful site for those checking us out. A little bit about Mary:

Mary is a freelance web designer who has been volunteering time on the St. James Church website since 2010. In her free time, Mary enjoys DIY home improvement. She is also an avid typewriter hobbyist, collecting and repairing typewriters of every vintage.

A mother of two kids ages 14 and 21, Mary lives in San Mateo, CA and Arlington, VA with her husband of 24 years and teen daughter.





Yarn Twisters

Our bins are getting full, thanks to the busy hands of the Heath Village needle workers. These ladies are such an important part of our Mission as we would not have nearly as many items to send to SCI without them. Phyllis Bartkus and I will be visiting the ladies at Heath Village on May 5th to thank them personally for their contributions along with some much needed yarn.

We are in need of yarn in “manly” colors – no pastels, etc. If anyone has any yarn in a box that has been forgotten at the back of a closet, please think about donating to the Yarn Twisters.

We are always looking for new knitters and crocheters – the patterns are easy to follow and can be found on the SCI website at 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 or call me at 908-684-3566.

Thanks and enjoy the warmer weather!

Linda Miller

Heath Village Knitters

Phyllis Bartkus and Linda Miller visited Heath Village on May 5th to meet and thank the ladies who knitted articles to send to the Seamen’s Church



THE ST. JAMES' GOLF OUTING IS COMING SOON!!



The 9th Annual St. James's Golf Outing will be played on Monday, June 26 at Farmstead golf Club in Lafayette, NJ. We have held our event there for the past 7 years, and each one gets better than the previous. The fun includes lunch, golf and a buffet dinner, with lots of raffle prizes to enhance the day.

There is still time to join in, as well as contribute to St. James' biggest single fundraiser. Entry forms to play or become a sponsor are available on the St. James' website, as well as in the Narthex and Snyder Hall. From the community, businesses contribute hole sponsorships, many of the local restaurants contribute gift certificates, and golf courses in the area provide free rounds of golf, all as a means of advertising. A listing of past sponsors is included as an insert in the weekly bulletin. You can help by thanking those businesses whenever visiting one of them - it also makes the task of soliciting donations easier.

You might ask the question - I don't play golf, so what can I do? One way is to simply sign up and join the dinner buffet. The cost per person is \$30, and dinner is usually starting by about 5:30 PM.

If you have more time and are interested in volunteering to help out on the day of the event, we need a group of people to help with registering golfers starting at 11 AM, selling raffle and 50/50 tickets, taking pictures, and keeping things moving until the golfers head out to play at 1 PM.

I am personally thankful for the efforts of the Golf Outing Committee, Meg & Bill Critchley, Phyllis & Paul Bartkus, Barbara Olesen and Linda Miller. If you have any questions, contact any one of us, or drop a line through the website. If you can't find registrations forms, let us know - we will get some to you pronto!

Let's make this year's event the best St. James' Golf Outing ever.

Dan Miller

Spring Maintenance Morning

On a chilly Saturday April 8, ten St. James Parishioners gathered to address some current maintenance needs around the church. After being fortified with coffee and bagels we assigned ourselves to the various tasks listed for the morning, both indoors and outside.

Maintenance was performed in the bell tower, the sacristy, and the kitchens in Snyder Hall and the Mitcham House. In addition palms were prepared and arranged on the altar for the next day.



Outside, the gardens were raked and tidied, perennials were cut back, and pansies were planted in the planters in front of St. James' as well as on the Mitcham House porch. Our grounds looked lovely for Palm Sunday, the next day, and Holy Week to follow.

Many thanks are extended to David Lacouture, Dan and Linda Miller, Jane Mutascio, Barbara Olesen, Claudia Scala, Pauline Volkert, and Sam Wood who were able to come out to help that morning.



Phyllis and Paul Bartkus

Save the Date!

St. James' Annual Picnic

June 11th

See the June Journal for more details!



SHOP-RITE & WEIS GIFT CARDS

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

Fundraising Report

Shop With Scrip—Next order is due Sunday, May 14th. Order forms are in the back of the church and in Snyder Hall.

Amazon Smile—Thanks to those who signed up to donate a portion of eligible purchases to St. James'. Donation checks are deposited directly to our account on a quarterly basis. Stay tuned for the amount!

Sign up at smile.amazon.com.

Coke Caps/Codes— We are no longer collecting these as the program has ended. Thanks for your past support!

Thanks for helping to raise funds for the mission and ministry of St. James'!

June Edition

Journal Deadline

May 28th

Confirmation

Four youth members of St. James' were confirmed on April 29th at Trinity & St. Philips Cathedral, Newark by the Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith.

St. James' congratulates confirmands, William Fleck, Emilia Quelly, Hayden Smith and Amelia Vitalos. We are also honored to have the Rev. Guy Fouts lead confirmation classes each Sunday and send them on their spiritual journey!



Rainbow over the Cathedral!

Easter at St. James'



Beautifully adorned Altar thanks to the Altar Guild and flower donors!

Palm crosses made by Nancy Miller and grandchildren Emma, Jillian and Jackson!



Jeanette Nolan and children William, Juliana and Michael at the Easter Vigil!

Easter Food Bag Ingathering

On April 9, Palm Sunday, twenty bags of non-perishable food and household items were sorted, and packed, ready for delivery to families in need for Easter. Thank you, St. James' parishioners, for your contributions and donation of Shop Rite \$25 gift cards. A big additional thanks to Sunday teachers Alicia LaForge, Jeanette Nolan, and the young people present for helping to pack, and to Jerry Sheard for delivering the bags, each of which included a Shop Rite gift card with a hand-made Easter greeting, created by the Sunday School class.



Paul and Phyllis Bartkus Honored

at House of the Good Shepherd

On Thursday, May 4th, Paul and Phyllis Bartkus, along with Norman Worth of WRNJ were honored by the House of the Good Shepherd at its 10th Annual Wind & Dine fundraiser.

Paul and Phyllis have been volunteers at The House for nearly 10 years. In 2007, they started to bring Maggie, their yellow Labrador, who earned her certification as a therapy dog. The Bartkus trio made hundreds of lives happier with their visits. Paul and Phyllis continue to volunteer to help bring residents to chapel on Wednesdays.

St. James' is very proud to have Paul and Phyllis as part of our church family, and thanks them for their service!



The Honorable Sheila Abdus-Salaam

A public memorial service for the Honorable Sheila Abdus-Salaam, wife of the Rev. Canon Gregory A. Jacobs, will be held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1045 Amsterdam Avenue, New York City on **Friday, May 26 at noon**

Please see Diocesan website for more information.

<http://dioceseofnewark.org/event/public-memorial-service-honorable-sheila-abdus-salaam>

NEW EYES – GLASSES FOR THOSE IN NEED

I would like to THANK Rev. Arthur Fouts, the parishioners and all those who helped me learn not to take what I have for granted. Because of your support I collected 3,000 eyeglasses, sunglasses, and eyeglass cases that are going to be sent to medical missions and charitable organizations for distribution to the poor in various third-world nations.

Please accept my sincerest thanks and deep appreciation for your contributions!

Molly Szpakowski

"April 26, 2017

Dear Molly,

New Eyes for the Needy would like to thank you for coordinating a collection drive and for your very generous donation of 3,000 pairs of glasses! We were so impressed by your well-planned promotion and collection plan, and by your enthusiasm and dedication to help the needy around the world.

We appreciate your support of our programs to improve the vision of poor children and adults in the United States and around the world. For over 80 years, New Eyes has been committed to giving clear sight to those most in need by providing a basic pair of eyeglasses.

Please know that your efforts will make a difference in poor people's lives. Our volunteers will sort and categorize the used glasses to be shipped overseas to impoverished people living in countries such as Haiti, Ghana, Indonesia, and Senegal. These glasses are often the first and only pair of glasses these recipients will ever own! Your donation will improve the lives of the needy – children can succeed in school, adults can find or maintain employment and the elderly can remain independent.

Again, New Eyes thanks you for helping us to help others and we look forward to your continued support!

*Best regards,
Sally Golding
Volunteer Manager"*





**SATURDAY, MAY 20TH
FROM 1-4 P.M.**

**SPRING
FUNAPALOOZA!
*FOR SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES***

It's time for fun!

Come join the fun at our free Spring Funapalooza for special needs families! Play a game, make a craft, join in Karaoke, enjoy some tasty treats. All are welcome!

Free!

**Fun for All
Ages!**

**Games,
Crafts,
Prizes!**

**Food, Drinks
Bake Sale!**

Rain or Shine

**All Are
Welcome!**

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

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Budd Lake, NJ 07828

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www.christchurchbuddlake.org

CALENDAR

ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

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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	Claudia Scala	Janice Cipriani
Nancy Miller	Chris Krauss	Kathy Erwood-Lacouture
Pam Laura	Sam Wood	Karina Hernandez

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

Barbara Olesen, Editor

All Journal submissions
should be sent to:

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