



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 2017

Rev. Robert "Bob" Solon—Supply Priest



Our Journey Continues -

Last time I wrote about pilgrimage, the characteristics of pilgrims, examples of pilgrimages and by analogy, our own as we embark on a search for a new priest. This time I would like to update everyone on how we have taken our first steps on this journey and what the journey may look like.

The vestry has accepted the following as members of our search team: Dave Handville (as chair), Meg Critchley (as chaplain), Ron Cipriani, Mike Aron, Chika Okoye, Pete Quelly, and Melissa Vitalos. Barbara Olesen and I serve on this team as ex officio members (We can listen and speak, but not vote.). The team was officially commissioned by prayer by Rev. Scott Hoogerhyde on August 27 during our church service and held their first organizational meeting afterwards during coffee hour. They have scheduled their first meeting with our Transitional Consultant, Pat McKenzie for later in September.

This September the Rev. Bob Solon will join us, serving as a long-term supply priest through December. He will be a consistent clergy presence at church as we begin our search process. I was asked why we need to undergo a search process if we have a long-term supply priest. Isn't that a waste of time? The short answer is, no. (The long answer is also, no.). The call of a supply priest is to administer the sacraments. This priest may in that course perform baptism and funeral services. He or

she may also undertake some pastoral duties. The supply priest is limited in responsibilities as to the running of a church and developing the spiritual growth of its congregation. A rector, whether full-time or part-time has a focus on this growth and development. Our search team is charged with finding a priest with whom we have a fit. In order to do this they will guide us to reimagine our mission and its expression through our ministries. They will help us to identify our unique strengths and characteristics and develop a profile that prospective priests can peruse to determine an interest in developing a ministry with St. James'. So while a supply priest administers the sacraments, a permanent priest helps us to explore the ways in which we can grow spiritually.

Some pilgrims, in days of old, would undertake a wandering. Others were focused on a path that led from sacred place to sacred place. Some of these sojourns were dotted along specific paths. I envision our search team as leading us on a pilgrimage adventure with places of discovery along the way. They will be taking us along some new paths, but not wandering without focus. This journey is to open us to understand where the Holy Spirit will lead us. This is a prayerful process. We will do this reflectively. The pilgrims of old walked the paths. They did not run. They reflected along the way. So should we.

Along the way, the team will develop a search prayer which we will pray each week. They will

interact with us to develop a parish profile, interview candidates for our call, and recommend a candidate to the vestry. The vestry will then prayerfully consider the recommended candidate and vote whether to extend a call to the candidate. This work will take about a year, more or less.

I look forward to this journey. Please feel free to talk to a member of the team about the process and our progress. We will be sharing this information as we go.

Thank you for reading this,
Paul Bartkus



Sunday School

St. James' Sunday School will begin on September 24th led by Alicia LaForge and Jeanette Nolan. Alicia and Jeanette would like to start a new initiative – a monthly meet-up event that includes both Sunday School and Youth Group children. The first one is proposed for Saturday November 4th at 6PM in the Snyder Hall – Game/Pizza night. Each month would be a different event.

Watch for more details!

Thank you!
Alicia

September Edition
Journal Deadline
September 24th

Commissioning the St. James' Search Team



On Sunday, August 27th, the Rev. Scott Hoogerhyde prayed for the formation of the St. James' Search Team. Pictured above are Meg Critchley (Chaplain of the team), Mike Aron, Peter Quelly, Rev. Hoogerhyde, Dave Handville (Chairman) and Chika Okoye. Members not pictured are Ron Cipriani and Melissa Vitalos.



Pat McKenzie

Transition consultant Pat McKenzie met with the St. James' Parish on July 23rd to discuss transition and answer questions from the congregation. We thank her for advising us!





Dorsey Price Salerno

One of the newer members of the St. James' family is Dorsey Price Salerno who happens to be an author and has offered to lead Memoir writing workshops for those in our parish . We met on Sundays August 20th and 27th and the next one is scheduled for September 10th. She offers tips on how to create memories on paper that capture the reader. Dorsey is the author of "The Bacchus Claim," an acclaimed novel which involves stolen art during the time of World War II. She has written many short stories and has been published in *New York Times*, *Johns Hopkins Review*, *American Classical League* and other publications. Please read her short story "From the Alpha to the Omega" re-printed on pages 7 and 8 of the Journal.



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.

Upcoming Events

- 9/6 Special Events Mtg 7 PM Mitcham House
- 9/10 Homecoming Sunday
 - Return to 8 and 10 AM
 - Family Breakfast
 - Writing Workshop after 10 AM service
 - Sunday School Registration
 - Gift Card orders are due
- 9/13 Parish Life Mtg 7 PM Mitcham House
- 9/14 District 1 Meeting at St. James' 7 PM
 - Snyder Hall
- 9/21 Finance Committee Meeting 7 PM
- 9/24 Sunday School Begins
 - Journal Articles are due
- 9/28 Vestry Meeting 7 PM
- 10/7 Community Day 11 AM—4 PM
 - Hackettstown Medical Center
 - Volunteers needed!

NEW OFFICE HOURS BEGIN

SEPTEMBER 12TH

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY

9 AM—3 PM

Fundraising Report

Shop With Scrip—Next order is due Sunday, September 10th. Order forms are in the back of the church and in Snyder Hall.

Amazon Smile—We continue to earn money from Amazon through the Amazon Smile program which donates a portion of eligible purchases to St. James'. Our check for the 2nd quarter of the year was around \$10—it doesn't sound like much but this is earned with no effort. If you use Amazon, please sign up and tell family and friends to help support us. Sign up at smile.amazon.com.

Rummage Sale—St. James' will not have a Rummage Sale in September this year. However, Peg Faust is having a sale and will try to sell what few items we do have. If you can help Peg on either Saturday, September 16th or Sunday September 17th with the sale please let her know.

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



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

**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!**

Ministry Scheduler Pro Now

Available as a Mobile App!

If you are an usher, counter, Altar Guild member, or serve on the altar, you can now download Ministry Scheduler Pro to your mobile device. Now you can check your schedule anywhere you go! Please contact Julie Mills in the office if you need help.



District 1 Meeting

St. James' will be hosting the Diocese of Newark District 1 Meeting on Thursday, September 14th at 7 PM in Snyder Hall. This is a meeting of representatives of 10 churches to share information in our district which includes Warren County and parts of Morris County. If you would like to help with this event, you can attend the Special Events meeting on September 6th to help plan, or contact Kathy Lacouture if you would like to help the night of the meeting.



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Summer Backpack 2017

This summer's backpack program was a roaring success. Thanks to the volunteers of our St. James family, we served approximately 50 children from the Willow Grove and Hatchery Hill schools four times this season. The children received two bags each with items such as milk, cereal, soups and stews, tuna, chicken, mayonnaise, and tortillas and crackers. Family bags were also given out. Those bags contained rice, beans, pasta, pancake mix and syrup, fruit and juice boxes. And let's not forget the macaroni and cheese. What started out as an error in counting and ordering resulted in a celebration for the many children who love mac and cheese. We certainly couldn't nourish these families without the help of our anonymous donor, but it's the willingness of our volunteers that makes giving of our time and energy so delightful.

Jewels Quelly



Carl, of Shoprite from Home, became one of our trusted team members. His warm smile and friendly attitude made unloading the truck effortless! Pictured below with Phyllis Bartkus.



On August 26 the 2017 St. James' Backpack Program ended with its final "give" for this summer. Many thanks are extended to the various teams of volunteers who contributed time for receiving deliveries of food from Shop Rite, the packing of the items on given Sundays, and/ or the distribution of the food bags to local families. The make-up of the people on these teams varied, each donating their time when they were able.

Finally and most importantly, a huge "Thank you" is extended to Jewels Quelly and her family. Jewels led this outreach program and had to coordinate the communication between the representative of the "Angel" who donated the money, which makes this all possible, and Shop Rite which provided the deliveries of the food to St. James', and finally our congregation. Jewels generated the menu and determined the quantity of food to be ordered and then reordered for each "give" day as needed. We can't thank her enough for stepping forward to lead this important St. James' outreach ministry which helps to feed so many children throughout the summer months.

Phyllis Bartkus



Among the many volunteers are pictured, Jean Krauss, Millie Quelly and Helen LaForge, Drew Lacouture Alicia LaForge and Chris Krauss!

Prayer Ministry

St. James' has an active prayer ministry in which "pray-ers" lift up prayer requests in their own personal devotions. They are open to receiving pray request and thanksgiving from anyone; the "pray-ers" hold your requests in confidence. Please for requests to Barbara Olesen at Olesen@comcad.net; you may also wish to join us as a "pray-er"; please speak with Barbara.



Maintenance Morning

October 7th

9 AM— Noon

Help us clean up and repair

Inside and outside

small and large projects

Refreshments will be served!



Supply Priests

Thanks to those Supply Priests who lead us in worship this summer. We hope to see them again....give thanks to God for these folks:

- † Rev. Lorraine Dughi
- † Rev. Jeanette Hile
- † Rev. Yong Yoon
- † Rev. Betsy Myers
- † Rev. Scott Hoogerhyde

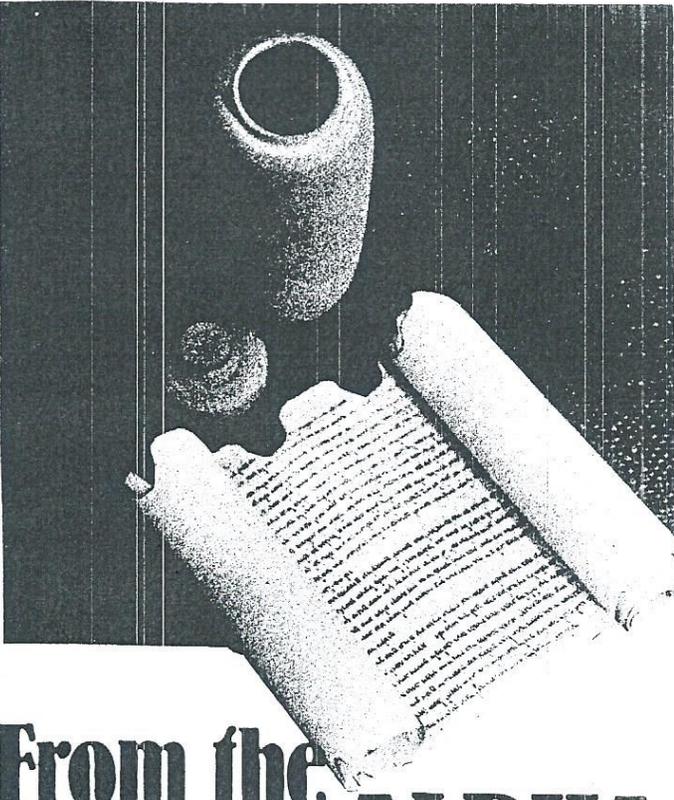


Vestry Hi-Lites

A quorum was not established at the August 24th meeting, therefore no motions were voted on.

Discussions:

- CMS, a church office software program, will not be supported after the end of the year. Paul, Barbara and Julie are exploring new software.
- Rev. Robert Solon has been secured as a supply priest for 8 and 10 AM services from September 10th— December 31st.
- Advanced Roofing has completed repairs.
- District 1 meeting to be hosted by St. James' on September 14th.
- Search Team to be commissioned on August 27th by the Rev. Scott Hoogerhyde. Search Team members are Dave Handville (chairperson), Meg Critchley (chaplain), Mike Aron, Ron Cipriani, Chika Okoye, Pete Quelly, and Melissa Vitalos.
- Peter Quelly and Paul Bartkus are looking into having the stained glass windows in the church repaired.
- Keep communications open regarding the Search process through Facebook, Constant Contact, the Journal, Bulletin and website.



From the to the **ALPHA** **OMEGA**

**Ancient Greek
in the Church
and the Liturgy**

by Dorsey Price Salerno

When I was in high school, I wouldn't have admitted that I liked a 2,000-year-old language, but now I confess how much I have learned even through little things like the Greek alphabet. And I enjoy my deeper understanding of the world because of my classes in ancient Greek. This is especially true when I'm sitting in a church, when I think of "I am the Alpha and the Omega" from Revelation or the words of Jesus in Matthew: "One jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled" (5:18 NKJV).

It seemed to take me an eternity (two weeks!) to learn the alphabet from its first letter, *alpha* (α), to its final one, *omega* (ω). Because of that struggle, I appreciate the symbolism that Christ is our all, from the beginning to the end.

*"One jot or one tittle
will by no means
pass from the law
till all is fulfilled"*
(Matt. 5:18 NKJV).

And although knowing the whole of the alphabet teaches one kind of wisdom, the smallest letter, *iota* (ι), says something else. I made that minuscule *iota* over and over while practicing the letters of the alphabet. At the end of two weeks I understood that when the law wasn't going to change by one jot (*iota*) or tittle (the smallest stroke in a Hebrew letter), it wasn't going to change at all.

Now I like to look around a church and find the

***I enjoy my deeper understanding
of the world because of my
classes in ancient Greek.***

letters *chi* and *rho* ($\chi\rho$) next to each other, the first two Greek letters of Christ (*Christos*, "the Anointed One"). The monogram ($\text{X}\rho$) is an even more coded way to write the name. Sometimes I spot the first three letters of Jesus' name: IHS.

In many churches you can find the symbol of a fish. For the early Christians the fish was a password, a secret sign by which they identified others of the faith. The word for fish, *ichthus* in Greek (ΙΧΘΥΣ), is an acronym for "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior" (*Iēsous Christos Theou Huios Sōtēr*).

It's easy to imagine a member of the new underground religion scratching a fish at night on a sun-whitened Mediterranean wall. The next morning other followers of the Christ would see that they were not alone, that fellow believers were nearby. It is said that sometimes an early Christian, while talking with someone along a dusty road, would trace half a fish with his sandal. If the person to whom he was talking outlined the other half of a fish with his toe, he could be trusted as a fellow Christian.

All these letters and symbols remind me that early Christians were persecuted for their faith, and to protect themselves they had to hide. They had to make sure that the people with whom they talked were friends or fellow believers. Greek, the universal language of New Testament times, became the instrument used to spread the Good News of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ throughout the Mediterranean lands.

Language reflects the thought and culture of the people who use it. After the Hellenistic age, during which Greek influence was far-reaching, Greek was widely understood in the eastern Mediterranean region. It was a language well suited for teaching the new religion.

Often the first Greek words given to read in class

are those of John (1:1): *En archē ēn ho logos* ("In the beginning was the Word"). In learning, it's a relief to see that *en* is close enough to "in," and that *archē*, with a jump through "archives," can be remembered as "beginning." Then we were told that in this particular phrase, *word* in English could mean "word" or "message," but that *logos* means "saying, principle, context," as well as "message, proposition, explanation." When I first learned how rich in meaning a language can be, I shook my head in wonder.

The next words of St. John are *kai ho logos ēn pros ton theon* ("and the Word was with God"); *kai theos ēn ho logos* ("and the Word was God"). Using *logos* (word, idea) and *theos* (God), we find English words derived from Greek. In my ancient Greek class we talked about the long journey *logos* had taken to become *logic*, *logarithm*, and *logistic* in English. I began to understand how old were the Greek words hidden inside *theology*, *atheism*, and *theocracy*.

I really understood how language reflects the culture of those who speak it when a friend told me this story. In the summertime, when it can be breathlessly hot in Greece, he was studying the classics with a college group.

One afternoon he stepped into the coolness of a small, white church near Athens. Sitting on a wooden prayer bench, he looked around for evidence of ancient Greek. And there on the wall to the left of the altar were the words of John. What was even more exciting was that they were written in ancient boustrophedon, a style no longer used. The writing alternates left to right, then right to left.

It would look like this:

EN ARCHE EN HO LOGOS ———→
 ←NOEHT NOT SORP NE SOGOL OH IAK←
 →KAI THEOS EN HO LOGOS

"Boustrophedon" means "as the ox plows," that is, back and forth. The word comes from *bous*, "ox," and *trophe*, "turn." When the Greeks were still an agrarian society, their language reflected that culture. And there it was in that tiny church.

The more I learned, the more I looked for Greek roots everywhere. It's second nature for me now, when I look through the Old Testament, to think of Bible (*biblion*, book), Genesis (*genesis*, birth), Exodus (*exodus*, a going out), Leviticus (*Leuitikos*, of the Levites), Deuteronomy (*deuterous*, second, + *nomos*, law), gathered in the Pentateuch (*pente*, five, + *teuchos*, implement, book).

Other Greek roots in the Old Testament spring to mind, too, such as Chronicles (*chronika*, historical register of facts), Ecclesiastes (*ekklēsiastēs*, member of assembly of believers), and Apocrypha (*apo*, away, + *kruptein*, to hide).

The New Testament evokes for me a panorama

of travel and movement, people and messages crisscrossing the Mediterranean world. The word "epistle" (*epistolē*, letter, message) is kept alive for the modern world in the letters carrying the Gospel (*euaggelion*, good news), going on ships from one ancient city to another, until the book of the Apocalypse (*apokaluptein*, to disclose).

The liturgical (*leitourgia*, ministry of priests) calendar has become richer in meaning for me because of the ancient Greek. I understand Epiphany more when I think of the Greek (*epiphaneia*, appearance). I grasp the term "paschal lamb" more easily when I know that *pascha* is the Greek word for the Jewish Passover. The paschal lamb was the one slain and eaten at the Passover meal. And Pentecost comes from *pentēkostē*, the *fiftieth* day after Passover.



Photo by Mimi Forsyth

The New Testament evokes for me a panorama of travel and movement, people and messages crisscrossing the Mediterranean world.

When I recall letters of the Greek alphabet and look at some of the derivations of the words in the liturgy, I feel closer to the whole Christian church on earth. When I think of stories I now understand because I know a little Greek, I feel a connection to the early Christians.

All these letters and symbols remind me that early Christians were persecuted for their faith.

I hope you will enjoy knowing a few ancient Greek phrases and that they will add meaning and flavor and deepen your understanding of the life of the early Christians and of the history of the church and the liturgy.

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St. James' Staff & Vestry

Supply Priest	Rev. Robert Solon
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

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