



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2017

Rev. Robert "Bob" Solon—Supply Priest



Stewardship Message

Given by Meg Critchley

October 29, 2017

8 and 10 AM Services

May the Lord bless us and bless our time together. Amen.

Well, it's October. There's a member of the congregation standing at the pulpit, and our celebrant is sitting down. It must be Stewardship Sunday... also known as The Beg-A-Thon.

Please forgive my cynicism, but I don't know what I'm doing here. I don't consider myself an eloquent person. I'm not a profound thinker like Dave who spoke of the "4 D's." I'm not clever like Paul who condensed stewardship into "Time, Talent, and Treasure." And I certainly don't have John's scholarliness to research St James' history and discover our "Constancy of Purpose." In fact I think when Paul first asked me to speak on stewardship, I declined. I think my exact words were "I'd rather not."

So you're probably thinking...if she doesn't perceive herself to be eloquent and she already declined, then why is she speaking now? Well, God had other plans for me that I'd like to tell you about. Please be patient...I'm Irish. I can't make a long story short.

So the morning after I refused Paul's request, I sat down to my usual daily Bible devotion...feeling

very smug that I had gotten out of the task of this stewardship talk. Now I use Our Daily Bread for my morning prayers and that morning's meditation concerned the feelings of a woman who had been asked to host a Bible Study in her home. She was very conflicted because her house wasn't large enough and she didn't have enough chairs and what if she had to prepare refreshments. But most importantly she doubted her skills to facilitate the discussion. She didn't feel up to the task; she felt inadequate...she didn't have enough to do it.

I paused during this meditation as a small voice inside me wondered if this was why I refused. Then I moved on to the Bible study portion. I was guided to read Ephesians 4. Now we've all heard Ephesians 4..."We are all parts of one body, we have the same spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism...etc." But the next phrase made me stop and it stated..."However, Christ has given each of us special abilities - whatever He wants us to have out of His rich storehouse of gifts."

Well, God wasn't done with making His point yet because I read on..."Why is it that He gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for Him, building up the church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity; until finally we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Savior, God's son, and all become full grown in the Lord - yes, to the point of being filled full with Christ."

Okay God...I get it. I think this is what Pentecostals term “being convicted.”

Now just in case I wasn't completely convinced to take on this task of the Stewardship talk...something else happened.

I walked down to St James' to set up for Sunday's Eucharist and because Cameron, our grandson, was with us for the weekend, I brought him along. I was polishing the brass and Cameron was just hanging around the Sacristy. “Grandma...what does c-o-m-m-i-t-t-e-e spell? I thought a bit, visualized the word and replied “Committee.” “Oh,” he said sounding disappointed. “I thought it spelled community.” Ah Ha... a teachable moment! “Cameron...What does community mean?”...”Well, it's a group...like my class in school or the kids at ju jit su “...and then he paused and looked around...”or like Church.” Now I know Cameron is an old soul but this was too much for me to ignore regardless of how much I did not want to give this talk.

Probably the Biblical phrase most often taken out of context is from Isaiah. “And a little child shall lead them.” This doesn't mean that children will be leading adults but rather that when Jesus removes the curse of sin from our world with His resurrection, all will live in harmony. Well, out of context or not, that morning God used a little child to lead me to do His will.

So okay, we here at St James' are a community - a group of people together having the common characteristics of fellowship with others. We share common attitudes, interests, goals, and faith. And we foster the spirit of fellowship to take care of this community, our family of St James'.

And like any family we have do the mundane; we have to keep the lights on and the furnace pumping

out heat and a roof over our heads although the roof has become a ten year project.

We have to eat; coffee hour, family breakfast, backpack program, meals brought to the home bound, Epiphany and St Patrick's Day dinner, and most importantly the Lord's Supper that will soon be celebrated and shared with all.

We have fun; Bunco night, parades, golf outing, and even maintenance mornings can be fun. In fact, maintenance mornings are the most fun I've had in the mud since I was six!

We care for others...yarn twisters, PRAY-ERS, Tree of Giving, Colonial Manor. And we have our tribulations and difficulties....managing our debt and working to call a priest.

So in the next few weeks when you receive your Stewardship packet, consider prayerfully how you wish to be a part of the St. James' community. And if you feel inadequate or think that what you have to offer isn't sufficient, remember that God asks us to give what we have in faithful obedience. He is the one who makes it enough.

I would like to close with the words of St. Paul. He says things much better than I: “And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.”



Thank you,
Meg Critchley

Vestry Highlights

- In-gathering dinner on Nov 18...pledge cards are due Nov 19. Vestry to commit to pledges before then.
- Training for Acolytes, LEM's and LEV's
- Ward J Herbert visited St. James' to inspect for possible reimburse of roof cost.
- Sam Wood continues to work on new sign placements for St. James'
- Vestry resignation of Chris Krauss due to unavailability October thru May.

Acolyte Training

On Sunday, October 29th, Rev. Bob Solon provided Acolyte Training for new and existing members. Pictured below are William Fleck, Pam Laura and Millie Quelly along with Rev. Solon.



Training for **LEM's** and **LEV's** will be held November 12th and November 26th respectively. Please contact the church office if you are interested in being a Eucharistic Minister.

Stewardship In-Gathering Dinner

Saturday, November 18th, 5:30 to 7:30pm

Snyder Hall

Fellowship Potluck

Wine and soft drinks provided

Bring a dish according to your last name:

A to I Side Dish or Salad

J to O Dessert

P to Z Main Dish

Pledge Envelopes welcome on that evening

Game with prizes—thanks to the Huryk's!!

(Rumor has it there might be a car as a prize!)



December/January Edition

Journal Deadline

December 3rd

Blessing of the Animals

On October 8th St. James' celebrated the Feast of St. Francis with a blessing of animals present at the 8 and 10 o'clock services. Father Bob appeared very pleased to meet and bless 3 dogs, 2 guinea pigs, and 1 very large rabbit. All of the animals were very well-behaved during both services, and appeared at ease receiving their blessings.



Upcoming Events

- 11/5 Family Breakfast
- Guest Celebrant-Rev. Paul Young Yoon
- All Saints Sunday
- Thanksgiving Bags are available
- Veterans Day Envelopes due back
- 11/8 Search Team Meeting 7 PM
- 11/12 Veterans Day Sunday
- LEM Training 9:15—9:45 AM
- SWS Gift Card orders due
- 11/15 Special Events meeting 7 PM
- 11/16 Finance Committee meeting 7 PM
- 11/18 Stewardship Dinner 5:30—7:30 PM
- 11/19 Stewardship Ingathering
- Thanksgiving Bags due back
- Gertrude Hawk Candy orders due
- 11/26 Tree of Giving is up
- LEV Training 9:15—9:45 AM
- Hymn Sing 7 PM at Gethsemane
- 11/30 Vestry Meeting 7 PM
- 12/3 Family Breakfast
- Christmas Flower envelopes available
- Christmas Food Bags are available
- Dec/Jan Journal Articles Due



St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown

Community Day

Hackettstown
Community
Day, on October
7th, fell on a
beautiful fall
day and the
community



came out in droves. Once again, St. James' was represented at the event, where we chatted with interested community members about Blessing of the Animals and North Porch and gave out balloons. But as we have discovered in recent years, enjoying some fun fall crafts has been a big draw to our table for young families. In fact by the close of the event we had basically depleted our supply of craft items. Thank you to our volunteers who came to set up, staff the table, and take down: Phyllis and Paul Bartkus, Jean Krauss, Alicia, Helen & Henry LaForge, Pam Laura, Dave & Katie Lacouture.



Come on out next
year and enjoy a
Hackettstown
tradition!

Kathy
Lacouture

**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!**

The Martin Kids Have Had a Busy October!

Thank you for all the prayers and good wishes from our entire family to St. James. Jackson is home recovering from his surgery and actually adding weight. That is the best sign that he is on the mend. His diet is still limited but he is doing well. I have included a picture of him just pre-surgery and one week later.



Emma and Jillian are both active in sports which is keeping them from all other activities. Emma is playing competitive and recreational soccer. Her competitive team won their age bracket at the recent Mt. Olive Halloween Tournament. She hopes to be in church soon. Jillian has won all 3 of the UFC competitions her team has been in. She is a Junior Streak on the Mini team (youngest age level).

Nancy Miller



Nancy Miller

Just before our most recent Maintenance Morning, I received a phone call from Nancy Miller. Nancy is a member of the Altar Guild but since a fall this past January, she has been unable to shoulder the responsibilities of a weekly altar Guild team member.



Nancy asked if it would be all right if she came to Maintenance Morning and polished all the brass...although she would have to do this while seated in her wheelchair and "someone will have to bring me the pieces to polish." Since this is a chore that I will try to avoid at all costs, I told Nancy to come along, and we would work something out. I would have brought the polishing to her house if necessary to take her up on such an offer. Arriving promptly at 9 AM, Nancy spent the next three hours scrubbing all tarnish off the vases and plates and crosses. I think she used up an entire bottle of polish!

In addition to helping out with this task, Nancy has volunteered to wash and iron all the altar linens. Although she is now able to drive and come to Church for services and events, Nancy is aware that her ability to get up and down on altar is limited. She told me, "Washing the linens is certainly a job I can easily take on."

So we welcome Nancy Miller back to working with the Altar Guild after a long hiatus.

Meg Critchley

Fall Maintenance Morning at St. James'

Many tasks were accomplished on October 14 on our fall maintenance morning, both inside and out.

Tables were returned up to Snyder Hall, windows in Mitcham were washed, the air conditioner removed, living room area was tidied, a battery was replaced in a hall exit light, and timers for outside lights were reset.

Outside, gardens were weeded, perennials cut back, and, porch furniture was stored. Also we were so happy to find Nancy Miller in the sacristy, smiling and polishing brass.

Thank you to Dan and Linda Miller, Meg Critchley, Nancy Miller, Dave Lacouture and Barbara Olesen for coming out to help.

Phyllis and Paul Bartkus



Fundraising Report

Gertrude Hawk—Christmas Candy Orders are due in Sunday, November 19th. There are order forms in the back of the church and in Snyder Hall. Think of who would enjoy these items when considering gift giving!

Shop With Scrip—Next order is due Sunday, November 12th. This will be the next to the last order before Christmas. Please think about your holiday shopping! Order forms are in the back of the church and in Snyder Hall. **After the end of the year we may discontinue the way we currently place orders. See article on page 8 for more information.**

Amazon Smile—We continue to earn money from Amazon through the Amazon Smile program which donates a portion of eligible purchases to St. James'. If you use Amazon, especially for holiday shopping, please sign up and tell family and friends to help support us. Sign up at smile.amazon.com.

Rummage Sale—Let's plan on a Rummage Sale next Spring! Set aside items if you think we can use them. We have not participated since Spring of 2016, so let's try to make this happen.

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

From the Editor

Thanks to all who contribute to the St. James' Journal each month. We strive to keep everyone up to date with what has happened and what will be happening in our congregation. Without the input from various groups and individuals, this publication would not be what it is!

Barbara Olesen

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 contact Barbara Olesen at Olesen@comcast.net for prayer requests; you may also wish to join us as a "pray-er"; please speak with Barbara.



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.

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.



Beginning in January 2018, the FRC will be taking Gift Card orders through ReloadNow and ScripNow! These options will eliminate the need to order physical cards.



With ReloadNow, you register a card you have previously purchased and reload it online. You then pay the FRC for the amount that you reloaded.



With ScripNow! you can buy and receive an eCard that you print out. You must use PrestoPay to get ScripNow!

If you think you would be interested in reloading cards, please place an order for a physical card by November 12th when we order Christmas scrip.

Several times a year we will place orders for physical cards most likely around Easter and Christmas. Please contact Barbara Olesen for information on how to Reload online and use ScripNow.



Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

CALENDAR

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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

All Journal submissions
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