



ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2018

Rev. Robert "Bob" Solon—Supply Priest



Dear People of St. James,

We're deep in the throes of winter now, and as I wrote this, we have about 8 more weeks till spring officially begins on March 20. February for me is always the time I very much think, "OK, I'm done with winter. I like the seasons, but this is quite enough. On to spring please!"

And yet, we in the Church are very much far from that. We still have lots to do! One of the major things we're doing right now is exploring how we live out the grace of God given to us in the very life of Jesus in our own lives, through what we Episcopalians call the Baptismal Covenant. We'll be continuing that through Feb. 10, and it's so important because it directly informs what the community of St. James should be next, as you search for your next permanent priest.

For those of you who might need it, here's the Baptismal Covenant: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/baptismal-covenant>

Just as important as the words of that agreement, though, are what I've recommended you take time to reflect on in your personal lives, and in the life of the community. Here's what I've suggested, for each of those responses that begin with "Will you....":

- How have you personally put this in practice in your life thus far?

- Has that been enough or satisfactory? Why or why not?
- How has St. James put this in practice as a community?
- Has that been enough or satisfactory? Why or why not?
- How will you personally renew your commitment in this area in this upcoming year?
- How should St. James as a community renew your commitment to this Response with a new priest?

How we live our lives as Christians is the response we make to the free gift of Jesus that we can't pay back, but only pay forward. I encourage you to continue to reflect on the Five Responses and how individually and you as St James has lived into them. And I encourage you to share your thoughts about what St. James should do and be in the next phase of your ministry with the Search Committee. Now is the time to do so, as you work to complete your parish profile, which describes who you are and what you hope and pray for next.

February though, is also when the age-old Season of Lent begins. Lent is our 40-day preparation for the best day – and season – of the whole year, Easter. (Although if you count up the number of days it's actually 46 – ask me why and I'll tell you!) And this year, as we announced in the Epiphany Proclamation, we will begin our observance of Lent on Ash

Wednesday, which falls on February 14 this year. And it's not too early to begin thinking now, about how you can enter more deeply into the meaning of Lent. We'll come together for one service at 7 PM to begin our season of fasting, prayer, and works of mercy. Those three "Lenten disciplines" have traditionally been ways in which we sharpen our focus on the ways we have not lived into God's will for us. Here's what they mean, briefly:

A. To "fast" traditionally means to give up or abstain from something that we like. The funny example is of course chocolate, which is even funnier this year given what day Ash Wednesday is! But more traditionally it's food of various kinds, and traditionally in Lent it's been meats (but not fish or dairy products). One of my own practices is to drink my coffee black no sugar in Lent, which for me is a particular reminder of the bitterness of Christ's suffering on my behalf. Of course, we never fast or abstain on Sundays, even in Lent, because all Sundays are Feasts of the Lord and so we have no choice but to celebrate!

B. We all know what prayer is. It is a primary way outside the Sacraments themselves that we open ourselves to encounter God moving and working in our lives. It may be difficult to know how to start or restart a practice of daily prayer. Fortunately, we Episcopalians have a method already laid out and planned for us, called the Daily Office. ("Office" in this case comes from the Latin "*officium*," which means "duty".) We can and should and need to pray every day, not just on Sundays. Here's a good website that gives you daily Morning and Evening Prayer for every day, directly from our own *Book of Common Prayer*. I encourage you to give it a look and a try. Here's how:

www.dailyoffice.org. Could you commit to trying it for

from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day? All you have to do is start at the top and get to the bottom, and you can do it in about ten minutes or so. (If possible, it helps to read it aloud except for the Bible passages themselves.)

C. And finally, works of mercy. In the Gospel for Ash Wednesday, it's called "giving alms." But it's anything you can actually do, including the contribution of money that directly helps other people. So how do you do that now? Can you take on an extra discipline this Lent? Can you make an extra contribution to North Porch, perhaps? Do they need help on Fridays? Can you do some volunteer work this Lent? Give extra to the other charities of your choice? Find other ways to help?

Lent sort of comes on as a surprise, although we get a bit of a preview and warning on the Sunday before. So don't be surprised this year. Go into it with an open mind and an open heart, so that your feast of Eastertide may be so much more deeply enhanced by your penitence, prayer, fasting, and works of mercy in Lent.

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. Amen. – the Prayer Over the People for the 5th Sunday in Lent

Rev. Robert "Bob" Solon



Thank you to Rev. Deacon Nancy Hansen, a friend of Rev. Bob Solon, who assisted in celebrating at the 10 AM service with Bob at St. James' on January 28th. Nancy donated her time and flowers that day in honor of Bob's 11th anniversary of ordination. We are always glad to have you with us Nancy!

This Month in Stewardship

SAVE THE DATE

Have you ever gotten an email or postcard announcing that you should save a date to attend a special event such as a wedding or golf outing? Well, consider yourself served. This little blurb is a reminder that our **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** is scheduled for March 11th.

This Sunday is noteworthy for a couple of reasons. It is the first day of **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**, there will be only one service at 9:00AM and afterwards there will be the meeting with bagels and fruit. (Remember the memory aid; “fall back-spring ahead” and set your clocks ahead). There will be signs up at church as notice of the meeting and time. You will also get a letter in the mail and a Constant Contact email with these meeting details.

A meeting of the parish is required and is an act of stewardship of our parish. The meeting provides a formal opportunity to review the events and accomplishments of the prior year, review our financial position and budget, and elect new members to the vestry, as well as celebrate the participation of the members whose terms have expired. When you review the materials from the various committees of groups, you may find an activity that you might consider joining. This year we will also take time to review materials relevant to the call of our next priest.

Our Search Team will present our Parish Profile for your review and discussion. Please take this time to read the profile and give comment at the meeting about it. Our profile is the basis of our extending an announcement to priests that we are in transition and are seeking to call a priest. The profile is posted on the dioceses webpage and serves as our introduction with

details about our parish, its status and its aspirations for the future. Once the profile is posted, we will begin taking inquiries from priests. These will be reviewed by the Search Team, interviews will be scheduled, a recommendation will be made to the vestry, and upon its acceptance a call will be made. So yes, this is an important meeting and your presence and participation are needed. So yes, save this date!

Paul Bartkus
Senior Warden



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 14TH

7PM

Upcoming Events	
2/4	Gertrude Hawk Candy Sales Begin
	Annual Meeting Reports are due
2/11	Sunday School Visit to House of the Good Shepherd
2/14	Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM
2/15	Finance Committee Meeting 7 PM
2/22	Vestry Meeting 7 PM
2/25	Gertrude Hawk Candy Orders are due
	Journal articles due
3/4	No Family Breakfast (Lent) - coffee hour
3/11	Annual Parish Meeting-one service at 9 AM
	Daylight Savings Time begins!
3/15	Finance Meeting
3/17	St. Patrick’s Dinner 5 PM-watch for details



Greening of the Church

Many hands make light work!
Thank you to all who helped green the sanctuary for Christmas. Once again Meg Critchley selected gorgeous poinsettias which graced the altar as well as perfectly sized wreaths which were hung around the church and outside. Well done all!

Phyllis Bartkus

Christmas at St. James' with the Children

Isaac Quelly assisting Rev. Solon on the altar at the 4:30 Children's Service on Christmas Eve.



The children sing a Christmas Hymn during the service

Food bags packed by the Sunday School for those who needed a Holiday meal.



St. James' Stained Glass



The history of stained glass windows as part of a church's architecture goes back to the 7th century. They were not only beautiful, but they were also a means of communicating Bible stories to those who were unable

to read. As time passed, the windows became more sophisticated and elaborate using new methods of achieving special colors and shapes, especially those designed for large churches and cathedrals.

Here at St. James' we are blessed to have beautiful stained glass windows with many of them given in memory of loved ones. With time, and the sun, that most definitely enhances their beauty, the windows are in need of some repairs. The window near the Baptismal Font in particular is one that needs immediate attention. We are in the process of getting estimates for those repairs and to date, we have gotten bids for approximately \$10,000. Yes, ten thousand dollars for one window!

Unfortunately, The Ward J. Herbert Fund that most churches throughout the Diocese rely on for partial reimbursement costs for major repairs does not include stained glass windows. However, we recently received a generous donation of \$2,000 from a parishioner toward those repairs, and wanted to make others aware of the need, and of the opportunity to contribute to this special project.

If you have any questions, please contact our Wardens or any member of the Vestry.

Thank you!

Janice Cipriani, Treasurer

A Special Christmas Season Service in London

By Chika Okoye

This year I spent Christmas in Nigeria visiting family and catching up with friends I had not seen in years. So, I was unable to attend any of St. James' wonderful Christmas services. Since I knew I would be en-route to Nigeria on a Sunday and I had a 12-hour layover in London, I decided to make the most of it by attending a carol service during my layover.

On landing at Heathrow Airport in London, I was met by a friend I had not seen in about 30 years. It was like no time had passed and we went immediately to the British Museum, Africa section to see some of the Nigerian Benin Bronzes and other treasures that had been looted from the palace of the Oba of Benin in the late 19th century (see <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-31605284> for more information).



Ivory Mask



Carved Gate



My friend Ify and I

After the museum we went to lunch and had so much fun talking and catching up that we were late to the Nine Lessons and Carol service at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church (<https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/>). The service was lovely. The church has a mixed choir which followed the traditional service. If you have ever recited the poem "Oranges and Lemons..." you would have heard of this church. It is one of the famous London churches whose bells are referred to in the poem, "You owe me five farthings say the bells of St. Martin." St. Martin is a historic London Church that has had a congregation at least since Norman times (<https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/life-st-martins/history/>). This church, located in the heart of London in Trafalgar Square, is known for its ministry to the poor and the homeless and for its focus on interfaith cooperation and worship. It was a great privilege to worship at a church that has been in the forefront of Christian life for hundreds of years.

Program



St. Martin Pipe Organ



2018 Epiphany/Boars Head Dinner

A fun time was had by all at the dinner on January 6th. Instead of the usual roasted pig, several members of the congregation made different versions of pulled pork which were delicious! A variety of side dishes, salads and desserts were equally marvelous. An abundance of “pork” jokes also kept everyone in stitches!



← One order of “pulled pork” coming up!

→ “Kevin” (think Kevin Bacon) now has a new home with Jane Mutascio and Sam Wood waiting for next years event!



← We are always delighted to have Pete Huryk and family visit us during fellowship dinners for a night of fun!

→ Teams listen to Pete regarding game rules!



← Gerri Huryk and her granddaughter Emmy show off desserts, some of which they made!

→ Kathy and Dave Lacouture receive the “Golden Pig” award for the 5th anniversary of leading the event!



In Memory of Bernard Sheplin

Long-Time Member of St. James'

Uncle to Anne and Maureen Dutton

*In
Loving
Memory*



Bernard Daniel Sheplin of Budd Lake, N.J., passed away peacefully on Jan. 1, 2018, at age 93, surrounded by his loving family. He was born and

lived in Jersey City, N.J., before moving to Budd Lake over 70 years ago. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to Bernard's Caregiver, Patricia. A Celebration of his Life will be held at St. James Episcopal Church on Jan. 13, 2018, at 12:30 p.m. Arrangements are under the direction of Bugbee-Riggs Funeral Home, 12th St. & Long Beach Blvd., Ship Bottom, N.J. Mr. Sheplin enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942 at the age of 18. He was a radio operator and gunner on the B-17 bomber in northern Italy and was shot down on his last mission and captured in January 1944. He was a POW at Camp Chumen, Bulgaria. He escaped in September of 1944 and, at the time of his discharge, he had earned the rank of technical sergeant and was awarded the Purple Heart for his service. He went on to become an educator and principal for over 35 years for Boonton Public Schools. Known as "Shep or Sheppy," he enjoyed spending time with his family. He was an avid fisherman and spent summers on Long Beach Island and wintered in the Florida Keys. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 70 years, Gloria. He is survived by his son, Daniel and his wife, Kathy; grandsons, Justin and his wife, Paige, and Matthew and his wife, Chloe; great-grandchildren, Rhea and Brayden; sisters-in-law, Edna (Patricia)

Anderson, and Mildred Smith and husband, Richard; nieces and nephews, Anne Dutton and daughter Maureen, Maureen Mertz (MacDougall), Edna Boone Temaner, Tricia Trinite', David, Joe, and Mark Anderson, along with many loving great-nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to St. James Episcopal Church, 214 Washington Street, Hackettstown, N.J. 07840, or to the VFW, 406 West 34 St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111.

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Save the Date!

Monday, June 25th

2018 St. James' Golf Outing
Farmstead Golf &
Country Club

Watch for more details!

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!

2018 Diocesan Convention

Chika, Pam Laura and I attended the 144th Diocesan convention in Parsippany NJ on Feb 26th and 27th. This year is especially exciting since it is a year in which we will be electing a new Bishop, as the Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith is retiring. This year's theme was centered on stories, both telling them and listening. This exercise focuses the mind of both the story teller and listener, and in the process of focusing achieves better communication and greater understanding. These skills are vital in improving any relationship.

The way I personally engaged in this story telling and listening exercise was by attending a workshop with other parish deputies involved in assembling the Prayers of the People for their worship services. I listened to the deputies describe how they approach this intimate part of our worship. Some have a LEM or lay reader read the one of the unmodified forms contained in the Book of Common Prayer. Others follow Saint James' approach - having a lay leader read a prepared script aligned to one of the forms. Rarer still, some congregations allow members in the pew recite the stanzas from an identified form. These congregants are either assigned or in some cases allowed to spontaneously recite the stanza as they are moved. I was invited to share Saint James' approach, and participate in a prayer circle after the workshop ended.

I enjoyed my participation, and look forward to the Election Convention later this year.

Regards,
Chris Vitalos

Sunday School Visit to House of the Good Shepherd



We are planning on continuing the annual tradition of taking the Sunday School kids to the House of Good Shepherd to deliver Valentine cards. We plan to do this on Sunday, February 11th at 10am.

Thank you,
Alicia and Jeanette

Fundraising Report

Gertrude Hawk—Our Spring Candy sale is now on! Orders are due on Sunday, February 25.

Shop with Scrip-We might be placing an order in late February in time for Easter. Please let Barbara Olesen know if you are interested.

Amazon Smile—We continue to earn money from Amazon through the Amazon Smile program which donates a portion of eligible purchases to St. James'. Valentines Day and Easter will be here soon so think of St. James' when placing Amazon orders. Sign up at smile.amazon.com.

Rummage Sale—Let's plan on a Rummage Sale in April! We are beginning to get donations of gently used items. Please contact Barbara Olesen if you need help moving packed items to the basement.

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

Journal Deadline

March Edition
February 25th

CALENDAR

ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2018

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
should be sent to:

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