

February ~ March 2013



from the Rector's Desk

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

You can't get more *basic* than dust.

Ash Wednesday is the churches' way of calling us back to the 'basics'-- back to the foundations of our Christian faith. On this day, through prayer, scripture readings, and the imposition of ashes, we are reminded of our mortality, God's forgiveness and mercy, and our need to reconcile ourselves with God and one another.

In the Old Testament reading from the prophet Joel we read:

"Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing." [Joel 2:12,13]

In ancient days the people would tear their clothing, ripping it apart as dramatic expression of distress or sadness. God saw their outward expressions of grief. God declared that he was not impressed with outward appearances...let's get real.

Stop trying to impress me.

Show me the depth of your heart!

Reveal your true colors so you can see how dark they are!

Then, and only then, can we draw close.

Then, *and only then*, can we work together

on fixing that which is broken *in you* and *between us*.

We can fool ourselves, and we can fool others, but we cannot fool God.

So where do we start? How do we rend our hearts?

First, we need to acknowledge that we are creatures of habit and prone to self-deceit. The worldly habits we cultivate in our daily lives help us to hide from, or reinforce, our sinful thoughts and behavior. The traditional, godly, spiritual Lenten disciplines of fasting, praying and alms giving are meant to foster changes in our innermost being--changes that serve to bring us into a closer relationship with God.

In *Forward Day by Day's* reflection for Ash Wednesday we read:

"We nurture [that] relationship by practicing prayer in conversation with God throughout the day. We may briefly do without food to be

St. James' Church ♦ 300 Broadway ♦ Long Branch ♦ New Jersey

The Grapevine

Give up I

"What are you giving up for Lent?" That is THE question of the church season during which we prepare spiritually for Easter. Frequently, the answer is something external and material such as chocolate, or desserts, or wine. That is all well and good. Consider, though, the invitation to keep a holy Lent from the beginning of the Ash Wednesday liturgy in the "Book of Common Prayer." "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." Somehow the words fasting and denial have merged as just giving up something that usually brings us pleasure and have taken precedence for many during Lent.

Look closely at the essence of the invitation to keep a holy Lent, and it is clear that we are called to give up something much more profound. We are called to a much greater challenge. While the title of this reflection may sound like something Yoda, the Jedi Master from "Star Wars" might say, it is what we are to do during Lent, and during all of our walk with Christ: give up I. Yes, give up I, me, mine.

Between our human willfulness and cultural pressure to do what feels good, few of us manage to put God first in all things; to give up "I." "I don't have time for daily devotions." "I can't make it to Mass this week." "I don't have time to help out with _____ at church." "I want them to do things my way." "I can't afford to tithe." All of the aspects of the invitation to keep a holy Lent call us to empty ourselves of ourselves. It is a tremendous challenge; one that requires continuous effort throughout our lives.

In John 14:16-17 Jesus speaks of sending the Holy Spirit to abide with us, and be our Advocate forever. But, if we are full of ourselves, where is the room for the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and guide us? In acting on the invitation to keep a holy Lent, we work at making room. All of the actions both empty us and turn our attention towards God. We clear our "agendas" to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We make all that we are and have available to respond to whatever it is that God wants us to do with our lives. We become faithful stewards of the lives with which God blesses us.

Consider taking time each Sun-

day to make a plan for the coming week to grow in each of the elements of the invitation:

- Self-examination and repentance
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Denial
- Reading and meditating on God's holy Word

©2013 Michael L. Redpath All Rights Reserved
This article is protected by copyright. No part of any of the article may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or otherwise, without written permission from the copyright owner. We are pleased to provide permission to reprint them at no cost as long as you give credit to the author. For permission email Michael Redpath at mredpath@acreativeworld.com

ADULT EDUCATION/ BIBLE STUDY

Enrich your Lenten journey by joining us for the Sunday adult forum as we continue our discussions relating to the appointed Sunday scriptures.

No preparation is required. Just join us in the church office at 9:00 a.m. and experience enjoyable conversation and uplifting learning.



Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

For George Schwarz' successful hip replacement surgery, *we thank you, Lord.*

For the life of LeRoy J. Herbert, Jr., *we thank you, Lord.*

For the opportunity to worship in this sacred space for 100 years, *we thank you, Lord.*

May we live this and every day conscious of all that has been given to us,
let us pray to the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD!



Lent and Holy Week Schedules

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT, BEGINNING FEBRUARY 20TH

Stations of the Cross followed by a traditional Soup Supper in the Parish Hall. *Please bring your favorite soup or bread to share.*

PALM SUNDAY ~ March 24th ~ Mass at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

HOLY WEEK

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday ~ March 25-27

Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday ~ March 28

Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Watch immediately following Mass until noon on Good Friday

Good Friday ~ March 29

The Liturgy of Good Friday at Noon

Holy Saturday ~ Saturday, March 30

The Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30 p.m.

Easter ~ Sunday, March 31

Mass at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Of your charity, please remember your fellow parishioners and those that have requested your prayers, especially

Steven and Lauren, Luci, Coleman, June, Airelle, Davion, Katey & Tom, Terry, Elsie, Brenda, George, Norma & Hugh, Jayden & family, Spencer & family, Edward, Ed, Eric, Tracey, Steve and Johanna, Eileen, Josephine, Richard, Ashley, George, Frank, Ellen Anwar, Charity, Elizabeth, Kenneth, Michael, Jeffrey, and for our brothers and sisters in Christ, the Congregation of Our Lady of Guadalupe,

“Oh “God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to your servants the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” *BCP p. 458*

Buildings & Grounds

Dear fellow parishioners,

The insulation and repairs to the garage were scheduled to begin October 29th—the very day of Super Storm Sandy! One of the PODs in the parking lot contains the contents of the garage. The garage is now full, again, with pantry donations, delaying the project even further.

A private contractor has been hired again this year to take care of plowing, blowing, and shoveling snow.

Spring will be here before we know it and there will be plenty of gardening and grounds work to be done. Please speak to Nancy Francese or George Schwarz if you'd like to join in this ministry. No experience necessary—we'll even supply the work gloves!

We continue to have issues with water accumulation in the basement. It has been recommended by a structural engineer that we first address the obvious sloping of the parking lot toward the building. The project requires highly specialized contractors and we are awaiting one additional estimate before moving forward. As part of this parking lot project we also hope to include a ramp at the rear entrance to the Parish Hall.

The two large maple trees on the front of the property have been removed. We're considering various trees to be planted when the weather permits.

The costs of a bicycle rack and

park bench to be placed near the office entrance are much higher than anticipated. We're seeking "pre-owned" racks and benches from the City which were removed from the boardwalk area after the hurricane.

The small closet outside the sacristy is being gutted and rebuilt. The plaster walls will be replaced with sheetrock and more suitable storage for sacristy items and vestments will be installed. Most of this work will be completed by our Sexton, Orinzo Martinez.

The Thrift Shop has an on-going problem with squirrels making their home in the attic. An exterminator has been trapping them and relocating them to a new home. Let's hope they don't want to renew their lease again!

If you have a background in the construction trades and can spare some time now and then, please contact George (732)233-9602 or Dave (732)618-2789.

George Schwarz, Jr. Warden & Dave Till



Outreach Ministries

St. Brigid's Pantry & Kitchen News

Thanks to Nancy Francese we have been awarded our first federal grant in support of St. Brigid's Kitchen. The grant provides \$2 for each meal served to a maximum of \$5,000. That will go a LONG way to improving our menu! Two additional grant applications are pending through the FoodBank. We'll keep you posted on the outcome!

The people of Our Lady of Guadalupe continue to operate the pantry on Saturday evenings, and prepare and serve dinner. Our thanks to them for sharing their gifts through this ministry.

The Thrift Shop is our biggest financial supporter, providing \$5,000-\$6,000 per year! THANK YOU! Please support them with your donations as well as your time. They can always use volunteers.

As we've reported in the past, we must limit our clients to receiving USDA foods to once a month. As a result of the hurricane we received a multitude of donations and have been able to provide clients the opportunity to receive additional items on a second monthly visit.

Prayer, Fasting, Works of Love LENT

Although we have been blessed with a multitude of donations, there is one item we are unable to receive on a consistent basis through the FoodBank ~ CEREAL. In fact, last month we expended almost \$600 to purchase cereals from local grocers. During this Season of Lent, St. Brigid's is requesting your assistance in gathering 500 boxes of cereal for distribution to our clients. Your donations can be placed in the baskets in the rear of the church. We'll keep you posted each week on the number of boxes received!

And, yes, we need volunteers too!



St. James' Thrift Shop has long been a part of the local community, providing clothing and household items at affordable prices. All the profits from the Thrift Shop directly support the work of St. Brigid's Pantry & Kitchen. Over the past few years the Thrift Shop has provided \$5,000 to \$6,000 per year to support the Pantry.

The volunteers are always happy to accept your donations but *desperately* need your help. Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., the Shop is staffed by only 5-6 volunteers, some of whom work 2-4 days per week. If the Thrift Shop's schedule doesn't suit your own, please consider sharing this opportunity with friends, family and neighbors.



*This Lent don't worry about what
you should "give up."*

Let's "take something on" instead.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Thrift Shop: Contact Pat Brewer at 732-229-6404

St. Brigid's: Contact George Schwarz at 732-233-9602

Parish Office: 732-222-1411

*Jesus said to
them, "They
need not go
away; you give
them something to eat."*



Matthew 14:16

100th Anniversary Committee

The 100th Anniversary Committee thanks you for your participation in attending the celebration events during this yearlong celebration. The high point of the celebration comes at 4PM on Sunday, April 14th with our bishop celebrating a special Anniversary Mass with us. This will be commemorating first Mass celebrated in the present church building. Present will be clergy, friends and dignitaries. Immediately following, there will be a splendid reception for all in our Parish Hall. We have been blessed with a rich parish history and a magnificent worship space. The committee looks forward to being with you at the mentioned events and share some St. James fellowship.

Events: Saint James' Church began centennial celebrations on the 100th anniversary of the cornerstone's placement on Saint James Day 2012. Our celebration continues with music and choral events. I hope everyone has the opportunity to attend some of these extraordinary performances. There is a brochure with the Centennial Concert Series and all of the music events. These music venues include choral concerts, evensongs, organ recitals and more. The brochure is in the back of the church or may be obtained through the church office. The celebrations will include St. James Day with the placing of the time capsule and will finish out in the Christmas season.

Booklets: The committee is actively working on the anniversary booklet. We will be publishing a booklet in brochure format and an Anniversary Mass Booklet. There will be space for adds in the brochure style booklet. The pricing structure and related information will be released is listed below. Hopefully, one hundred years from now the parishioners will be looking over what we have done for the 100th. If you would like to be a part of helping with this historic booklet, please contact Ken Kersey, Bill Woolley or Mike Redpath.

Display Case: We are looking for volunteers to assist with changing historical items in the Parish Hall glass case. There is a large variety of materials available. The case will be set up every month starting in February. If you are interested in helping set up the display case, please call Ken Kersey or leave a message with the church office.

The Treasures of Saint James: The popular tour continues this year. The candle light tour has expanded into three tours and possibly a fourth from one. The first of the tours will be at 6:30pm on a Wednesday in April and is titled the "Historical Regalia Tour". This tour will take us on a behind the scenes look at the vestments, liturgical items and symbolic workings for the liturgies of our Anglo Catholic

traditions at St. James. We have been fortunate to have some beautiful pieces given to the parish over the last 150 plus years. It's like looking at our very own museum of sacred objects. There will be a tour about the building and the significance of the architecture along with many of the objects in the building, another about just the windows and there symbolism and possibly another about the organ and music program. There will be light refreshments served in the Parish Hall afterwards during a question and answer reception. I hope you will keep take this interesting historic journey through time.

Time Capsule: On the July celebration of Saint James Day 2013, we will be placing a time capsule in the ground near the cornerstone of the church building. We are looking to compile a list of items to be placed in the capsule. Please contact Ken Kersey or Bill Woolley with your suggestions. We need a list of items by June 1, 2013.

Bake Sales: Every Sunday after the 10am Mass, there will be home-made confectionary goods baked by members our parish family for sale in the Parish Hall. There will be a Centennial Pie & Cookie Bake Sale after Lent in the Parish Hall. The date will be announced. If you have a preference for a certain pie, you can place your order before the

sale with Ken Kersey. There will be a Spring Centennial Bake Sale in May. Thank you for your support and enjoy!

Centennial Fellowship Covered Dish Supper: You can't miss one of our famous fellowship covered dish supper events this Spring in the Parish Hall. I hope you will consider bringing your favorite dish along with family and a friend. More details on the date and contact person will be forthcoming. Volunteers are more than welcome!

Music at St. James'

The business of the Advent and Christmas season carried over into Epiphany for our music ministry, with more events on the Centennial concert series and Music at St. James' series schedules. Young American organist Andrew Yeargin performed a thrilling one hour organ recital on January 20. On the program included major works of J.S. Bach, Cesar Franck and his current organ professor, legendary American organist McNeil Robinson. The third organ recital on the Centennial concert series is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2013, featuring Philadelphia based organist Andrew Senn. On January 27, our friends from Trinity Church, Asbury Park joined forces with our choir to offer a service of Choral Evensong, which was rescheduled

following superstorm Sandy. It was a pleasure to welcome Diane Caruso and her singers to St. James' for the first time. 25 singers in total sang music of the English Tudor era. The last Choral Evensong of the year will be on Sunday, March 10th at 4:00 p.m.

The new recording of the St. James' Choir, "A Cappella from St. James'", is nearly completed! The finished disc features 14 tracks of a cappella hymns, psalms, anthems and motets, along with two solo organ tracks. It will be available for purchase around Holy Week and Easter, in time for our Centennial celebration on April 14. The demo disc received great reviews, and the final product should make the parish proud! Proceeds from CD sales will support funding for the choral scholar program.

Jim Douglas, Director of Music

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

We're happy to report that our 2nd Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a rousing success! Great food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

All men of the parish are invited to join us as we strive to plan and execute events that support strong Christian fellowship. Questions? Contact Kevin Bates at 732-222-1395.

Vision gives life

In the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah we read, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. 13When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, 14I will let you find me, says the Lord." (Jeremiah 29.11-14)

The Lord has plans for us individually and for his churches. He will faithfully provide for the fulfillment of those plans when we faithfully do our best to discern to where it is that he calls us. That is a challenging task, as the human tendency is to impose our own wants and fears. And so we follow a process that we pray is faithful and leads us to hearing God's yearnings for us.

Saint James' Church has been following a process since last year when The Rev. Bud Holland worked with groups of individual members of St. James' and the Vestry. With the facilitation of Mike Redpath, who has been doing this kind of work in the Diocese for many years, the process has continued. The Vestry worked through a demanding, though prayerful, visioning session that resulted in substantial input for a vision.

Four draft visions, based on the

Vestry member input, were prayerfully crafted by four individuals. Those four drafts were then blended with the input from the congregation listening sessions conducted by Fr. Holland. This blending resulted in a single draft that has been under consideration by the Vestry. Once the Vestry conditionally adopts this draft, it will be distributed to the congregation for comment. Working with that input, a final version will be drafted and presented for adoption by the Vestry.

Let us all join together in continually offering this prayer for vision: "Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves; when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little; when we arrived safely because we have sailed too close to shore. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life. Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love; we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."



Notes to Myself

Have you ever intuitively known what was the right thing to do in a situation even though others voiced their opposition loudly and perhaps belligerently? I had this situation this last weekend. My parents are 90 and 89 and still live in their own home in Fair Haven. Between the two of them they are barely managing so I spend a lot of time grocery shopping, taking them to doctors, raking leaves, shoveling snow, delivering food, picking up prescriptions and on and on. They have income property in Sea Bright, which they've owned for 30 years. The house has been good to them and now it's time to sell. Low and behold a buyer comes along – all cash, good offer, close fast. Take it I say. You don't need the stress and the worry, and the cash will see you through the rest of your lives in comfort. Okay, they say. Okay say all my family members, save one.... It's not enough she argues, don't take the offer, hold out for more. No I say, take it and run. My parents are confused, we're all arguing. I have a stomach ache. Contracts are ready to be signed the real estate agent says. Okay I tell him – 1 pm on Monday. Monday morning, my mother decides she doesn't want to sell the house. Why I ask in horror? She's not sure, maybe we should fix it up and rent it again. Hmmm no heat, no gas, no water, no first

floor, no one in Sea Bright. No I say, don't think so. Sell it. Agent arrives and I basically insist that she sign the contract. She does reluctantly and without a word to me and without any eye contact. I know it was the right thing for my parents, but they are both angry and confused. My sister is angry. My stomach feels better.

So what's this got to do with St. James? To sit back and be still and quiet in the midst of turmoil is hard, but this is when we hear the voice of God guiding us. If we follow the right action, if we think the right thoughts, they will only lead us to the right action and the right thought. But we need to listen to God and to our stomachs. We have been talking and thinking a lot about the vision of St. James. Now is the time to sit back, be still, be quiet and listen for God's voice to show us the direction, show us the right thing to do. We are worshippers in the house of the Lord, we can be a house undivided, a house of peace and acceptance, of joy and compassion, of hope and prosperity, or we can implode upon ourselves and be a house divided, a house of anger and resentment. This is not what God wishes for St. James. If we are still and quiet, we will hear God's voice directing us on a path of faithful followers. In literature a foil is a character whose purpose is to reveal something about the main character that the reader might not have known. A foil can reveal kindness or generosity or a sense of humor in a main charac-

ter, or a foil can reveal brutality or selfishness or narrow mindedness. Let us all be foils to each other revealing in others and in ourselves a joyful spirituality, a compassionate nature and a peaceful heart.

Nancy Francese

"Failure is not fatal but failure to change might be."
 "Don't beat yourself. That's the worst kind of defeat you'll ever suffer."
 "Learn as if you were to live forever; live as if you were to die tomorrow."

John Wooden, legendary coach of UCLA's men's basketball team from 1945 to 1975
 --http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/John_Wooden.

CLASSIFIEDS ~ HELP WANTED ~ PART TIME

Flower Coordinator

One-two persons needed to order and pickup the flowers for the altar each week. Please contact the parish office with questions or to volunteer.

Greeters/Hospitality

Greeters provide a warm welcome at the church doors on Sunday mornings and at special parish events. Distributing bulletins, providing assistance to visitors, and demonstrating pride in our parish make for great first impressions!

The Hospitality Committee works to prepare and present refreshments for coffee hour on Sundays and for parish events.

No experience is needed to serve as a Greeter or Minister of Hospitality.

Please contact Nancy Ali with questions or to volunteer.

732-571-8092 or
npali@comcast.net

Service at the Altar

- ◆ Chalice Bearers
- ◆ Acolytes
- ◆ Thurifers
- ◆ Lectors

NO experience necessary. FREE training provided!

See Mother Val after Mass

St. Brigid's Pantry & Kitchen

- ◆ Sorting Breads, Vegetables & Non-perishable items
- ◆ Preparing Bags for Distribution
- ◆ Unloading Pallets/Stocking Shelves
- ◆ Computer Intake

We have a volunteer training handbook outlining all the different opportunities to be of service. Contact the parish office or see George Schwarz for a copy!

All shifts available! Contact George Schwarz at 732-233-9602 or the Parish Office at 732-222-1411.

Building Maintenance

We have an abundance of projects! Do you take on small household projects by yourself? There are many projects here at the parish where you could be of assistance. Contact George Schwarz at 732-233-9602 or Dave Till at 732-618-2789.

Altar Guild Membership

Preparing the church for Mass each week, caring for the linens, replacing candles, etc. Contact Pat Brewer at 732-229-6404 or see Mother Val.

The Thrift Shop

Providing clothing and household items at little to no cost to members of the community.

- ◆ Sorting Donations
- ◆ Assisting Customers

The harvest is plenty but the laborers are few!




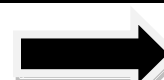








Contact Pat Brewer 732-229-6404

There are two kinds of people in the world ...
 Those who make your life easier -- and those who make it harder.
 Those concerned about doing the work -- and those concerned about getting the credit.
 Those who leave you feeling up -- and those who leave you feeling down.
 Those who simplify -- and those who complicate.
 Those who listen when others are talking -- and those who wait when others are talking.
 Those who give -- and those who take.
 Those who last -- and those who fade.

Which are you?

--Daniel H. Pink, danpink.com. Retrieved September 30, 2012.

The Avenues of Communication at St. James' Church

Weekly Sunday Bulletin 	Please don't leave it in the church...take it home with you as a reminder and a reference!
<i>The Grapevine</i> Newsletter 	Save it as a reminder; pray for those on our prayer list
<i>St. James' Church Website</i> http://stjames-longbranch.org 	Check on details of scheduled events; check the church calendar for times of liturgies and ministry schedules.
The Parish Shepherd's List 	Please feel free to contact your assigned Vestry member if you would like to discuss any matters pertaining to St. James'.
St James' Church Facebook page 	"Like" us on Facebook! Find announcements of scheduled events and background information about the Saints we commemorate on our liturgical calendar.
"Calling Post" Messages 	Receive telephone messages from the church office announcing last minute reminders, changes or cancellations, or parish news.
<i>Diocese of New Jersey Website</i> http://www.newjersey.anglican.org 	For the latest news and information about Convention and workshops; also, find "links" to the web pages of other parishes in the diocese.
The Parish BULLETIN Board ...located in the Parish Hall 	Read news articles about St. James', our members & ministries; read our Church calendar of events; find schedule for liturgical ministries.
 If none of the above answer your question... 	Please call the office. 732-222-1411
 PLEASE REMEMBER that because of privacy laws we will not know if you are in need of pastoral care unless we hear directly from you or a family member. 	Please call the church office during weekday office hours—or if it is an emergency after hours, call Mother Val at home.

2013 Wardens & Vestry Contact Information

Kevin Bates, Sr. Warden	732-222-1395	kbates@kbeonline.com
George Schwarz, Jr. Warden	732-233-9602	gs14mile@yahoo.com
Janice Jernigan	732-483-0989	janicejernigan@yahoo.com
Audrey Palmatier	732-229-2588	audreydirc@hotmail.com
Kenneth F. Kersey	732-710-6706	ken.kersey@alliedbarton.com
William "Reggie" Tynes	732-621-4426	reggietynes886@hotmail.com
Nancy Ali	732-571-8092	npali@comcast.net
Edward Dean-Neil	732-571-3384	eddean1944@hotmail.co
Nancy Francese	732-660-0930	nancar1150@aol.com



Easter Memorial flowers

To request a memorial, please complete the form below and return via the alms basin or by mail. Requests must be received by Sunday, March 17th for inclusion in the Easter bulletins.

Kindly use the flower offering envelopes in the rear of the church, if possible.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Requested by _____

St. James' Church
300 Broadway
Long Branch, NJ 07740