



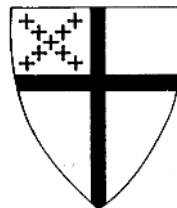
IN THE MESILLA VALLEY
SINCE 1875

Give me my scallop-shell of quiet
My staff of faith to walk upon,....
and thus I'll take my pilgrimage.
— Sir Walter Raleigh

The Staff

Saint James' Episcopal Church Motto Text for 2014:

Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves." Luke 10:2-3
(English Standard Version)



Sept./Oct. 2014

Traditional Anglican worship of Jesus Christ and Biblically orthodox preaching.

DIOCESE OF THE RIO GRANDE

Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Vono, *Bishop*

The Rev. Dr. Nicholas J. Funk, *Rector*

The Rev. Canon Brian C. Hobden, *Rector Emeritus*

The Rev. Dr. Frank Williams, *Assisting Priest*

It is very hard to convince those whose lives are dominated by feeling that faith has nothing whatever to do with emotion. Nor does it have anything to do with 'feeling good,' because very often faith recommends something that is very difficult, such as taking up a cross.

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~ ~ *Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen*

August 2014

From the Rector's Laptop
**The Second Sabbatical Letter to St. James
Parish**



Greetings St. James! We miss y'all, and look forward to returning to Las Cruces. During this sabbatical, I have the opportunity to plug into Anglican communities, not as mere observer or tourist, but as a fellow worker for the Kingdom of God. The generosity of the Anglican Diocese of the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands has put us behind the veil, into a side of the Bahamas that tourists do not see. I have sought, and am seeking to learn the history of each community so that I may have a level of understanding of how they have arrived in their current Anglican worship of Jesus Christ and life as faithful Christians. Being their priest, I have been able to visit and speak at deeper levels than otherwise (including the local jail). The dichotomy between what tourists normally see, and how local people live boggles the mind. We are seeing and living amongst a significant level of material poverty and filth in the midst of crystalline blue water of the Caribbean Sea. Likewise we're learning some of ways Anglicans (and the communities) deal with their situation. Some have dealt with their situations with grace and acts of loving kindness, whereas others respond with a cycle of violence. This brings to mind the quote often attributed to St. Augustine, "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page." Augustine did not have a gluttony for new experiences (cf. Acts 17:21). He understood that involvement with other cultures often jars a person out of comfortable anesthesia, and requires the person to view the world afresh. As Fr. Charlie often prayed, "Lord, give us a fresh vision." I believe there are mission opportunities for St. James' here, and am discussing them with the Bishop of the Bahamas.

Our second placement was at Green Turtle Cay in Abaco where I covered five churches (one on Green Turtle Cay, and four on the main island of Abaco). I wish I had more time to linger with each parish on Sunday, but in order to make it to the next church, I was among the first to depart after the service. All of the Anglicans were welcoming and hospitable, yet they each held a distinct identity. Some were almost charismatic in their worship, whereas others stayed more reserved. A common feature was the Prayerbook, and whatever they sang, they sang loudly; with or without organ accompaniment. At one of the churches, the organist (really a keyboardist) did not know how to read music, but waited until someone began singing the tune, and then he offered a Bahamian-style keyboard accompaniment. On a side note (pun intended), on weeknights he plays in with *The Gully Roosters*, rated as the number one band in the Bahamas. All of the worship has been more evangelical and more Anglo-Catholic than in the US. Whereas in the US (and UK), one often has to choose between the two in Anglican circles, in this region that does not seem to be the case. One can enter an incense filled cathedral, sing evangelical hymns, hear an often fiery "come to Jesus" sermon, and close the service with the Benediction of the Holy Sacrament. This experience has blessed my soul. Unlike Crooked Island, Green Turtle Cay regularly receives boaters from the US, and thus we did not stand out as much. In fact, both of us were pegged as locals by tourists, as the Bahamians of the cay are not of a single race. This results from the interesting history of the cay. Back in the War of Rebellion (aka the War for Independence), some stayed loyal to the Crown. These 'Loyalists' found life difficult in the newly formed US, and

sailed to Green Turtle Cay (along with their slaves). The Church of England was the first church on the cay, and is still the largest church building. The town architecture and culture seemed to be shaped by English styling and diligence. Among the churches, St. Peter's on Green Turtle Cay was the most prosperous, and it supports the lion's share of the budget for all five churches.

We have recently arrived at our third (and final) placement: South Caicos in the Turks & Caicos (British West Indies). South Caicos has a still different quality. For one thing, I'm only handling one church. Also, unlike the dense jungle foliage in the Bahamas, here Laura and I see barren rocks, Palo Verde trees, mesquite, and cacti. In fact, the Turk's head cactus is on the national flag. Adding to the uniqueness of this arid region are the honeycombed caverns that allow the ocean's tide to bring salt water onto the inland flats. During the 19th century, this allowed for a thriving salt industry, and made many wealthy. One can see abandoned grand homes of yesteryear dotting the island, and wild donkeys and horses roam freely. Nowadays, South Caicos can be characterized as down-at-the-heels. Despite having beautiful water and reefs, tourism does not constitute a major industry (as it does in Providenciales). Various folk have tried and are trying to bring in tourism (e.g. I was interviewed for *Destination* magazine), but much of the local culture seems to resist tourism (and tourists). The locals (who term themselves 'The Belongers') make few apologies about their attitudes toward foreigners, especially the Haitians and Dominicans who have come to South Caicos to seek work (usually in the fishing industry). Happily enough, the Anglican Church differs from the norm. The parish has multiple nationalities, and they seem unfazed by having an American priest lead them for a bit. The church may be the oldest church in the Caribbean, and since it was established in 1795, it has weathered many a storm. For history buffs, the church bell we ring for services came from the wreck of the *RMS Rhone*.

Many feral dogs call South Caicos their home. The dogs freely roam about the island, and every year the SPCA rounds up the dogs to have them fixed and inoculated. The dogs have been surprisingly friendly to us, even while they give locals a wide berth (for good reason). Three of them have adopted us at the rectory, and sleep on our front porch (see picture on previous page). They have become surprisingly protective of us and the church property. When we walked to dinner with a few people from the School of Field Studies (a Marine Biology and Ecology center, www.fieldstudies.org), I felt like the Pied Piper of Hamelin. A couple of dogs started with us, but by the time we got to the restaurant the pack had grown to more than a dozen, as the surrounding dogs joined in the parade. I will be thinking of them when I do our own Blessing of the Animals service after our Rummage Sale on October 4th.

When we return, I'll be happy to share more reflections (and pictures), and I thank God for the opportunity to have this sabbatical. Please keep us in your prayers, as you are in our prayers. We hope to see y'all soon!

God's Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. Nick". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Saint of the Month....

An Ancient Reformer: Bernard of Clairvaux, August 20



People don't realize that there was reformation before the sixteenth century. In the twelfth and thirteenth, for example, people had grown interested in personalizing their religion, and especially in conforming to the pattern of the Gospels. This showed itself in the monastic field. Monks and nuns had been characteristic of the church since the fourth century at least, and in the sixth Benedict had drawn up the Rule of prayer, study and manual labor they were supposed to live by.

But a monastery can go sour very easily -- I've seen it happen. Monks get lazy, half-committed persons get taken into the Order and things go from bad to worse. They aren't necessarily immoral though this can happen; the problem is more cushy life. In the twelfth century a group of idealists, Stephen Harding and several others, decided to change this. At Citeaux in central France they founded, in 1111, a house where Benedict's Rule, as Benedict intended it, was to be kept. They're called Cistercians, from the Latin name for Citeaux.

Things didn't go particularly well. And then, one summer day, 35 young men rode up and said they wanted to join. Their leader was Bernard, a well-educated young nobleman on fire with the love of God, who had persuaded his friends and relatives to come with him.

Someone had given the new group a present of land not far away at a place called Clare Valle (Clairvaux); Cistercians would accept land, but it had to be developed. Bernard, brand new though he was, was sent to found a new house -- clear and plant the land, build church and dwelling, the whole bit. It was a success. He had to learn to tone down his austerities though -- they damaged his health, among other things.

Bernard continued to attract aspirants, and wrote voluminously. His religion was a mixture; he believed in justification by faith and "imputed righteousness," and both Luther and Calvin quote him now and then. His devotion to the Blessed Mother we'd consider went much too far. But the hymns, "O sacred Head surrounded" (168) and "Jesus the very thought of thee" (642) are based on his poems, and I have a copy of selections from his sermons on the Song of Songs, which he saw as Jesus expressing his love for the soul. They're magnificent.

His peace-making activities involve people we don't know, so we needn't go into them, but we can appreciate the Cistercians. They grew like weeds -- by Bernard's death there were more than 300 Cistercian houses in Europe, and later there were 700 or better. Part of the reason was that they offered the monastic life to the common (and illiterate) man. To be a choir monk you had to read, but Cistercians built dormitories for non-reading monks, with devotions they could recite by heart.

Cistercians vastly increased the amount of cultivated land in Europe. They were leaders in architecture; they didn't believe in decorated building but they believed in good one, and they did a great deal to develop the Gothic style. This applied not only to their churches but to other building, including barns. They were interested in metallurgy too, and pioneered new methods of smelting iron. At Rievaulx in England they had what amounted to a blast furnace -- it's been said that Henry VIII's confiscation of monastic lands stopped an incipient industrial revolution.



To keep their ideals and discipline they established a convention of Superiors meeting every three years, with attendance compulsory. It made decisions for the whole Order -- in fact, Cistercians were the first “religious order” in the strict sense of the word. All Benedictine houses are independent of each other.



Toward the end of his life Bernard preached the Second Crusade, and its miserable failure saddened his last years. He died in 1153, but his Order went right on. Unfortunately it was simply too good, big and successful to keep the ideals with which it had begun; it got sloppy. There were plenty of efforts to reform it, but they were always local -- the convention of Superiors, which should have been the vehicle of reform, simply didn't work.

The Reformation, the French Revolution, and the peculiar policies of Joseph II of Austria finally destroyed the Cistercians -- that is, they appeared to. The Order was re-founded in the 1890s -- at La Trappe in France, hence, the Trappists. They represent the original Rule, as Bernard and others saw it. There are also Cistercians with a mitigated Rule -- I have met the head of their school near Dallas. They are good people too, but the Trappists are the larger branch of the Order.

The church is an old, old institution. It always needs reform, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to show it what is reform.

~~ Father Frank

Junior Warden's Report

- The assembly and dis-assembly of the tents for the St. James Day celebration was nicely handled by generous volunteers who braved the heat and humidity to accomplish this, as well as the porting of tables and chairs to the picnic site. Many, many people lingered after the meal to help on Sunday and the take down process went very fast! The junior warden would like to thank everyone involved!
- Work on the office got underway in late July thanks to George Berger and Valerie Steigely. Painting of the office interior was discussed and approved in a vestry meeting earlier this year. There has been a change in the color choice for the walls - we are going to a wonderful coral instead of a previously considered pastel green. George used his carpentry talents to install a new door which allows natural light from previously inaccessible directions. The new door has helped to brighten our office space. All labor and materials were at no cost to the church!
- It was reported that a buzzing sound was coming from one of the fluorescent lamps in the sacristy. I believe it might have been a bad lamp or perhaps a failing transformer. The noise has not come back since the first report and I have asked altar guild volunteers to report any further noise coming from the unit.
- With the rains, the grass in the area around the classrooms and nursery is getting greener and the bare spots are filling in. I think that feeding the grass this winter will be necessary; the soil may be getting depleted.
- I hope to have the large dying tree on the northwest side of the parish hall removed soon. Laura Funk and I have discussed leaving ten feet or so of the trunk with an idea to have a St. Francis carved out of it. If anyone knows of a talented tree carver who would consider doing this, please let the parish administrator or junior warden know. Let's not do another bear.
- The air conditioning system in the sanctuary has given us a month of good service!

Highlights from the July Vestry Meeting

At the July meeting, the Vestry:

- Announced the Convention will be held in October at St. Andrews.
- Deadline for nominating candidates for the Vestry is approaching. Three Vestry positions will need to be filled.
- In Father Nick's absence, Bishop Lamb will be available for pastoral and emergency care as needed.
- Additional funds contributed to the church above the amount pledged will once again be matched up to a total of \$6,000 by an anonymous donor. Letters will be sent out.
- Audit report has been sent to Albuquerque.
- New reimbursement form approved.

Summary of June 2014 Financial Activity of Operating Fund:

	June Info	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget
Total Income	\$ 20,569.12	\$129,857.86	\$130,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 18,621.52	\$128,449.54	\$125,200.46
Excess Income/Expenses	<u>\$ 1,948.61</u>	<u>\$ 1,408.32</u>	<u>\$ 4,799.54</u>

Highlights from the August Vestry Meeting

At the August meeting, the Vestry:

- Youth Ministry has been continuing the Andy Stanley Christian series.
- Stewardship Committee is starting to work on the 2015 Pledge Campaign while continuing to verify 2014 pledges.
- A city engineer will meet with the Parish Hall Renovation Committee to discuss property drainage.
- IT Committee reported there may be a search engine problem on the new St. James website.
- Fifty percent of the Rummage Sale proceeds will be designated for Mission.

Summary of July 2014 Financial Activity of Operating Fund:

	July Info	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget
Total Income	\$ 16,111.28	\$145,969.14	\$150,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 21,980.48	\$150,430.02	\$149,007.37
Excess Income/Expenses	<u>\$ -5,869.20</u>	<u>\$ -4,460.88</u>	<u>\$ 992.63</u>

Parish Office Remodel

Thanks to the efforts of Valerie Steigely, George Berger, and Junior Warden, Art Fountain, our Parish Office has had a transformation that was well overdue. We hope you enjoy the new look as much as our Parish Administrator is enjoying it! The before and after pictures are quite dramatic!



Good morning, Sunshine.

September

- 3 - Jennifer Terrazas
- 8 - Mia Fisher
- 9 - Phoebe Pierce
- 12 - David Williams
- 15 - Jennifer Huntsberger;
Manny Terrazas
- 17 - Pat Lamb
- 19 - Robert Amistead; Dixie Johnson
- 22 - Brian Hobden
- 23 - Edward Haines
- 25 - Bretton Murphy; Sarah Fountain
- 28 - Gerry Fountain; Harold Garner
Judy Feil



October

- 2 - Virginia Francis
- 6 - Margo Schultz
- 7 - Marianna Fountain
- 8 - Margaret Ritter; Morris Southward
- 9 - Breanna Bonfantini
- 10 - Harry Wiley
- 11 - Godfrey Cane
- 15 - David Johnson
- 16 - Karen Amison
- 20 - Cynthia Bailey; Ashley Goehler
- 28 - Paul Huntsberger
- 29 - Debby Strader

If your name is not listed and should be, *please* call the office at 526-2389 and let us know. We would love to wish you a Happy Birthday.

Youth Group Report



Youth group has continued our “What it means to be a Christian” series with learning and interaction. We also had two youths attend Bishops Ridge: Camp Stoney: Zombies vs. Humans. This Zombies vs. Humans camp was put on by Fr. Daniel Cave and the Southwest Deanery. Both youths indicated that they had a lot of fun and that the spiritual leadership from Fr. Cave and Fr. Ruthven was excellent. Although they were immediately separated into different groups because of a one year age difference, I think that they both grew from the camp experience and were also glad to have each other there. I think the experience grew their relationship with our Lord. Please encourage any youths that you interact with to attend our youth group.

~~ Zack Libbin

St. James' Annual Yard Sale Saturday, October 4, 2014

The year has creped up on us and the St. James Yard Sale is just around the corner. The Annual Yard Sale has provided earnings of about \$2,500 - \$3,00 for outreach ministries. It has also provided a fun outreach to the greater Las Cruces community -- especially some of the many poor people in our midst. As a further benefit, the days of preparation offer unique opportunities for fellowship with members of the “other service.”

Please be thinking and praying about how you can be involved in this fun and important ministry.

We need Saints to:

- Pick up and haul the big stuff (do you have a truck?)
- Set up the sale, Wednesday, October 1 through Friday, October 3, 2014.
- Set up the tent on Thursday and Friday.
- Donate food, sodas, and bottled water for the volunteers especially for Friday and Saturday.
- Help with counting cash, traffic control, and customer service on the day of the sale. (Spanish speakers especially appreciated)
- Clean up afterwards.

Anything and everything sells. However, we prefer not to lug large appliances. Remember that packaged food, household chemicals (painting supplies, cleaning items) cannot be sold. Bring your “merchandise” Tuesday through Friday, September 30 to October 3, 2014. **Look for sign-up sheets in the Parish on September 14, 2014.**

Questions? Suggestions? Please call the Queen of Rummage, **Johanna Binneweg at 527-8575.**

St. James' Day Celebration

St. James Day was enjoyed by those who braved the heat to share in the fellowship with other St. James' family members. Godfrey Crane gave a history of Saint James and Larry Pickett, Senior Warden, shared a letter that he received from Fr. Nick and Laura regarding their adventures in the Bahamas during the month of June. Much to our surprise, it is not what most people imagine the Bahamas being like. A big thanks goes out to Art Fountain and his crew for the enormous amount of work it took to setup and take down the tents that provided the shade that was definitely needed that day. A thanks also goes out to all those who shared their family recipes in order that we might sample their delightful talents.



Jack Ancker, "What a great party!"



Bishop Lamb, "Relaxing with a cool drink."



Godfrey Crane

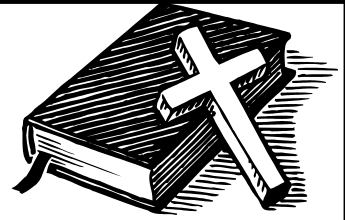


Terry Steigely, Father Frank, & Hobie Veitch.
"Oh my gosh, that was great food!"



Larry Pickett.
Senior Warden

St. James' Weekly Bible Studies:



- Sunday, 9:30 am Leader: Fr. Frank Williams
Location: The St. James' Library.
Current topic: Romans
Contact: Fr. Frank Williams: 541-1768.
*Resumes September 7, 2014
- Sunday, 4:30 pm Youth Group Bible Study: Leader, Zack Libbin, et al
Location: The St. James' Youth Group Room
Current topic: "What it means to be a Christian."
Contact: Zack Libbin: 635-8979; zlibbin@gmail.com
- Tuesday, 10:00 am Women's Bible Study, Leader: Johanna Binneweg
Her home, 1151 Old West Way
Church office: 526-2389; or 527-8575
Current topic: *10 Key People of the Bible*,
begins September 9, 2014.
- Wednesday Noon Leader: Fr. Frank, Fr. Nick
Location: the St. James' Parish Hall
Current Topic: Exodus - resumes September 3, 2014.
Contact the Church office: 526-2389
- Thursday, 7 pm Leader: Dr. Martin Bond
Location: Steinborn Realty building on Roadrunner Parkway
Current Topic: Women in Scripture: 40 Wise, Willful, and
Wicked Women; then, The Miracles in Context.
Contact: Elsie Bonfantini: 650-3680; Martin Bond: 541-9374

If there is **not** a Bible Study group meeting at a time convenient for you,
why don't you start one? Speak to Fr. Nick about it!



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Qnd whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ.

~ ~ Colossians 3: 17, 23-24



St. James' Holy Eucharist Service Schedule

Sundays at 8:00 am Rite I
Adult Sunday School 9:30 am
Children's Sunday School 10:15 am
Sundays at 10:30 am Rite II
Wednesdays at 10:00 am Rite I
1928 BCP 8:00 am on the Fifth Sunday