



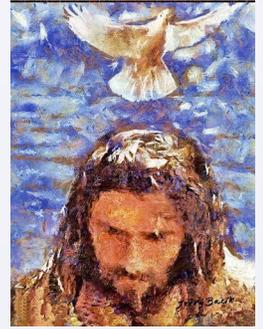
# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, January 10, 2021 Issue No. 43

Greetings! Today is Sunday, January 10, 2021, and it is the First Sunday of Epiphany. Epiphany season begins twelve days after Christmas, on January 6, and continues until the Sunday before Ash Wednesday which falls on February 17. This season covers six Sundays, and the first Sunday traditionally focuses on the narrative of Jesus' baptism. At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presents himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends as a dove and we hear the voice of God: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (see Psalm 2:7).



At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus' baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ. Accordingly, this Sunday is an appropriate time to celebrate the sacrament of baptism or the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. It also foreshadows the season of Lent, as Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness for 40 days after his own Baptism.

## Faith Like Janes Holzhauer

Randy York



I enjoy watching Jeopardy each evening and play along using a calculator-like device that keeps score. I win slightly more than I lose, which I guess makes me an average sponge of information. There was a time awhile back though that I put aside my scorekeeper because I had little chance of winning. It was between April and June of 2019, and the reason for the surrender was that a contestant named James Holzhauer was dominating the show. He won 2.4 million dollars during a 32 game winning streak. He won by accumulating such a large lead that no one could catch him, least of all yours truly. He was very knowledgeable across all topics. However, he outdistanced his competitors by building up a sum of money and going "all in" when he hit a Daily Double question, betting everything he had. He thus created an insurmountable lead. It was a risky maneuver that required some starting capital, confidence in your grasp of knowledge, and an adversity to fear.

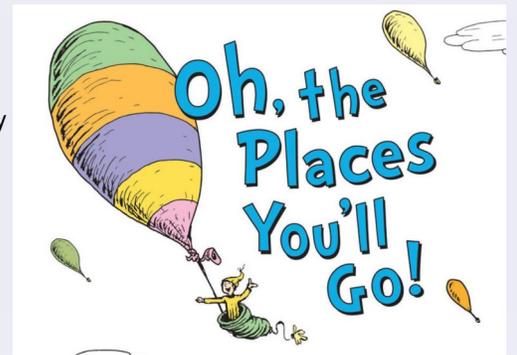
You might say that God is looking for that same conviction in our walk with him. God seeks those who have recognized their need of him; not as an errand boy, but because of their sin. That knowledge of our fallen nature becomes the foundation to build our "spiritual" capital upon. The framework rises from experiencing God's work, provision, and presence in and around our lives. From that solid structure, we can reach out each day, with each step we take, in confident knowledge, to a faithful Abba Father rich in grace, mercy, and love. That confidence will lead then to a special bond, Father to child, a connection of trust and light that will dispel all fear and darkness. God calls us to go "all in" and totally commit to his offer of relationship.

A story is told of a pig and a chicken walking down a country road. As they pass a church, they notice that a potluck charity breakfast is under way. Caught up in the spirit, the pig suggests that they each make a contribution. "Great idea," the chicken cried. "Let's offer them ham and eggs!" "Not so fast," said the pig. "For you that's a contribution, but for me, it's a total commitment."



God seeks our total commitment, not for an hour on a Sunday, not for prayer here and there. He is looking for the "all in" response. Not a transaction of faith, "You give me this and I'll give you that." No he desires a reaction, no better a transformative reaction in our lives. "Oh, oh" you think, "I am not prepared to do that. I am fairly comfortable right now, thank you very much." Well then it's time to reconsider your faith because it's not an offer, it is indeed what God wants. "But I am not ready for a monastic life or to be a missionary to a distant land!" Although that might be his specific call for you, most likely the place he has in mind is right where we are and he simply watches and smiles when we reach out to him each day in thanks, in wonder, for grace, for mercy, for wisdom and discernment. Start each given day by first putting aside selfishness, because God cannot fill what is already filled with itself. He can only fill us to the extent that we let go of ourselves, so he can fill us with himself. Then once we have our footing to reach back and help someone who just may need us, by acting justly and showing God's kindness.

The first question God asks in the Bible is found in Genesis chapter 3. After the fall of Adam, God is walking in the garden and he calls out to him, "Where are you?" If we are indeed totally committed in our faith, our response each day will be. "Right here Father, waiting for you, ready for our daily walk, so let's go!" And with a committed heart like that, to quote that eminent physician Dr. Seuss, "Oh the places you'll go!"



PS: The Burlington Food Pantry provided food to 98 families this past Wednesday.





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*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord*



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Prayer Requests

Becky Jensen — For continued prayers for the PNC as they carry on their mission.

From All of Us — For Brynna. A 7 year old fight lymphoma cancer.

From All Of Us — Continued Prayers for Wendy Kasper.

From All Of Us — Prayers for Margo Mattis, who is still recovering from foot surgery.

From All Of Us — Prayers for Brittany Zier who is battling a serious long term disease.

Michelle Cox — Prayers of healing, comfort, encouragement & strength for her mother, Jennifer as she is battling serious long term illnesses.

Betsy Reeder — For the Family of Bill Ranalli, who passed away just before Christmas.

Betsy Reeder — For Joel, who is in need of a bone marrow transplant.

Margo Mattis — For her Mother, Jean Miller, who is had a cardiac procedure this past Wednesday.

Robin McCarter — For her Mother, Betty Jenkins who is residing in the Masonic Home.

Carol Shore — Praise that her niece Breaze, is home from the hospital and doing well!

For All of Us — Safety and God's blessing for a healthy and joyous 2021.

Bring your Requests to Services On Sunday



*Giving a child a new coat positively impacts that child's self-esteem and self-worth. We believe—and school principals, nurses, and social workers agree—that the impact on kids that receive coats from CFK is dramatic, as evidenced by heads held high, smiles, and fewer missed days of school because of illness.*

This year has been one of extreme challenges for everyone, which in turn, has exasperated the hardship of those already in need. Barb York is reaching out to those who may have the ability to provide a basic necessity to children in our community. The Sisterhood ministry is in need of new or gently used winter coats for kids. All sizes are welcomed, either for a boy or girl, as the demand is great. They could also use gloves, scarves or hats. Coats will be collected through the end of January. Drop off can be made either in church or arrangements can be made to pick them up. Just email Barb at: [yorkie0401@gmail.com](mailto:yorkie0401@gmail.com).



## You can Pre-register for your COVID-19 Vaccination!

**New Jersey will roll out COVID-19 vaccines in a phased approach to all adults who live, work, or are being educated in the State. Within six months, New Jersey aims to vaccinate 70 percent of the adult population. Pre-Register for the Vaccine today! Click on this Link: <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/>**

**[Enroll in the State's vaccination registration portal.](https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/)**





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### Your Stories

**T**his week we are continuing with the second installment of our new feature called "Your Stories." These are stories from you, that you may wish to share with your Friends and Church Family. This section will come and go periodically going throughout the year, but for the next few weeks or so, we are sharing a serialized short story from Marie Celkupa describing her time volunteering with the Christian Appalachian Project in 2008 and 2009. Let us now continue with:

### Appalachian Adventures - Marie Celkupa

When I walked into her house for the first time, I was overwhelmed by the clutter and poverty! She invited me to sit, and when I did, I sank so far down into her sofa that I had difficulty getting up again. Her disabled son, who is 50 and lives with her, cares for her as best as he can. Margie can't get into the bathroom, which had been installed about three steps down from the living room, so she used a portable potty in the kitchen. Lester asked me if there was any way that CAP could install a kitchen sink and a water heater. Currently there was no kitchen sink and dishes had to be washed on the kitchen table. I told him of course we could, and we would also paint the walls, repair the floor, which had several big holes in it, and install new linoleum in all the rooms. I said all this on faith, we had no funds or people available to do this, but I was sure CAP could make this all happen.

Finally, Margie timidly asked me if we had a bed for her. She was currently sleeping on the dilapidated sofa. Well, we couldn't get a bed in to her bedroom until we had removed all the hundreds of boxes which had accumulated there. Then the holes in the bedroom floor could be repaired. Lester and Margie weren't able to do this, so I brought in a crew of four ladies to clear out the bedroom and clean the kitchen. The ladies in the kitchen soon gave up because Margie wouldn't let them touch anything, so they joined us in the bedroom.

Meantime, we were finding that most of the boxes in the bedroom contained outdated homemade canning jars of food, no doubt put up by Margie years before when she had been stronger. The jars were dated 1995 back to 1980, and many had exploded and dripped over everything else. Mixed in with the food were clothes, mice nests, video tapes, you name it!

Well, we very carefully separated the good from the bad. The bad we put outside to be carted away. And there stood Margie's son Lester, methodically taking each item out of each garbage bag and deciding if enough to throw out. He decided that most of it was not so bad, and called a neighbor with a tri bags to a storage unit to keep. Oh my! What could we say? I quickly called one of our trucks and they came out and started to load the bad stuff in our truck. It was a rather comical race, the CAP team trying to stuff in the CAP truck to be dumped, and Lester and the home team putting stuff in the neighbor's truck to keep. We both worked faster and faster, and at the end it was about a tie. At least, both of our trucks were full. *...To Be Continued*

[Click the image to learn more about the Christian Appalachian Project](#)





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