



The Shepherd's Log

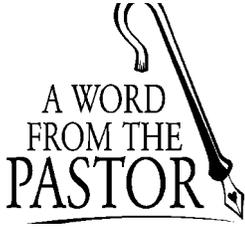
Eastchester Presbyterian Church
3154 Fish Avenue
Bronx, New York 10469

September-October
2018

Dr. Brian John, Pastor
Carlton Knight, Assoc. Pastor
Dr. J. Perry Wootten, Pastor Emeritus
Vol. XXIX, No. 5



MAY THE
GRACE
OF THE LORD
BE UPON
YOU



REFLECTIONS



It's better to have a partner than to go at it alone. Share the work, share the wealth.

And if one falls down, the other helps, But if there's no one to help, tough! . . .

By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third?

A three-strand rope isn't easily snapped.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; 12 (The Message Version)

King Solomon, from the bible; was the third king of Israel as a united kingdom. Solomon was not only born of the most regarded human family, he was a prolific author. God's divine wisdom was bequeathed to him directly; unattainable through human efforts and his reign was as erratic as roller coaster. Despite some of his blunders recorded in sacred writ in his personal life, his books teach us timeless principles on how God can use imperfect people to accomplish phenomenal things, this is why **Together Each Accomplishes More**.

When the average Christian hears the book of Ecclesiastes, they tend to focus on another popular section in this book. Chapter three, which gives us a summation of the experiences we all will encounter and experience under the sun. Solomon, teaches us for a T.E.A.M. to achieve their goals, they need to see each other and behave in a manner that exemplifies a *partner*. Before this word was tarnished in our twenty-first century to mean contrary things, this word was illustrative of the work accomplished by a team.

We must remember in his day and age, all of their sustenance came by the tireless work of farmers doing numerous jobs as a team. In an agricultural society, you had to be disciplined; you had to get to bed early. Could you imagine, if we took the young people of today, to switch their current lives, to work on a farm with the other workers for a month, what would that look like? In addition, there was a principle of accountability. You were taught that someone else was depending on you, so the goals of the team would be accomplished. Solomon, tells us, "not to go at it alone." As New Yorkers and others living in this modern culture that promotes independence, which has its place, however, the old king is pointing us to a better way. We need a paradigm shift, to tackle our work with a partner, to hunker down with a partner, to enjoy collaborative success with a partner.

Solomon is a wise teacher who points out to his students that in life we all fall into different types of pits. It is vital to have a partner to assist us. Notice the behavior of a partner; this person is able to lean into our pit without falling into it with us, or ridiculing us for our current circumstance. In verse thirteen, he pens some of the most picturesque word pictures. He said a three-strand rope is not easily snapped. On God's T.E.A.M., our attitude should be to welcome and make space for other workers to join God's mission. Here in the northeast section of the Bronx, they make us stronger.

As we finish the last four months of 2018 strong, let us all ask God to help and provide opportunities for us to be dependable partners who help one another and bring glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Whose partner will you be?

Rev. Dr. Brian John

A MOMENT ON GIVING

Presented Sunday, August 5, 2018
by Elder Lloyd R. Johnson

When we are obedient we can depend on God's promise to bless us. A familiar Bible verse in the Old Testament comes to mind.

Malachi 3:10, "Bring the whole tithe* into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

We serve a God of abundance and overflow. Didn't God send manna from heaven? Didn't David say, "My cup runneth over?" After Jesus fed the five thousand with five barley loaves and two fish, weren't there 12 baskets of leftovers? **Abundance & Overflow.**

Let me tell you a true story: A friend of mine, an ordained Minister, was sent to a Presbyterian congregation that was **struggling** to keep its doors open. The presbytery sent him there to help close it down. But, he didn't listen to them. He listened to God.

And this Pastor said to me, "Lloyd. You know in the Bible where it talks about tithing and God said, 'Test Me'? Well, we did. And He did." Over time that congregation grew to over a thousand members. God said, "Test me." And they did. And He did.

With today's technology you can tithe automatically from your bank account. Just go to our church's website**, click on "Giving" and follow the instructions. **Or continue** using your Weekly envelopes. At EPC we have options.

When we are obedient, God will bless us. God says, "Test me."

Have you tested Him yet?

*Tithe means a tenth or ten percent (10%), e.g., \$100 is a tithe of \$1,000.

**Go to: www.eastpreschurch.org/giving



... of all that thou
shalt give me I
will surely give
the tenth
unto thee.
Genesis 28:22

An Evening of Voices and Steel

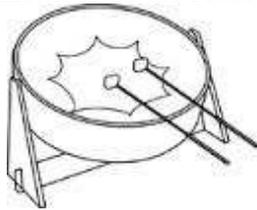


On Sunday, September 16, 2018, the City South Steel Orchestra will return to EPC. The Audio-Visual Committee responded to requests by EPC member and friends to invite these awesome steel pan musicians for another performance.

When the City South Steel Orchestra performed last year, the audience was enthusiastic in their response. A few were introduced to the steel pans; many others were reminded of home and celebrations. By the end of the concert, everyone was standing and moving to the Caribbean rhythm.

The City South Steel Orchestra comes to us directly from performing in Antigua's annual Carnival. We are fortunate that this orchestra returns to America in time for a late summer concert.

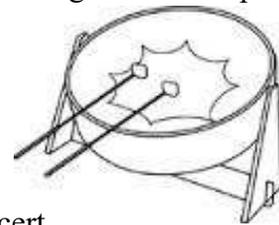
Tickets for the concert are \$35.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under the age of 12. To purchase tickets, contact a member of the Audio-Visual Committee:



Heather Allen
Cloval Anderson

Dora Johnson
Errol Smith

Marcia Hartley



Please invite relatives and friends to the concert.
Once they hear the City South Steel Orchestra they will thank you.

Remember September 16, 4:30 pm!!



November 3, 2018: Save the date! EPC will hold a fantabulous Tag Sale from 12pm to 3pm.

Many sale items are new; others are gently used. All prices will be unbelievably low. Sale items include dinnerware, small electric appliances, Tupperware, tote bags and books. Book selections include Bibles, children's books, African-American Studies and cookbooks.

The sale will also feature oil paintings by Dorothy Brown, a member of the EPC family and a sister of the equally talented Bernice Wilkinson.

In addition to all the merchandise on sale, there will be home baked cakes. Visitors may purchase some of their favorites: hummingbird cake, pound cake, layer cake and more.

Don't miss this opportunity to purchase brand new merchandise at bargain prices. If you come to browse, you will definitely find something worth buying. Proceeds from the Tag Sale will be used to finance our audio-visual system.

Senior Sunday



For several years, the second Sunday in August has been a day to celebrate EPC's seniors. Our seniors were obviously joyful and thankful for the recognition of their years of service and commitment to sharing their spiritual gifts.

During the morning worship service, Vanessa Johnson shared a moving tribute to seniors. The guest preacher, The Rev. Dr. James F. Reese, delivered a sermon entitled "Give Me This Hill Country." It was based on Joshua 14: 6-15. This Scripture, which emphasizes the strength, courage and determination of the 85-year-old Caleb, serves as an example of the person one can be at any age.

After the worship service, the seniors and their guests were treated to a sumptuous, family style lunch. The décor and service were outstanding. Everything was planned and executed by Michael Johnson, Circle of Love members and their supporters. We are grateful for all the extraordinary things they do for the elderly, the sick and those in need. They make sure that no EPCer ever feels forgotten.

Profiles in Service

As we all know, EPC has an ever-increasing number of seniors. A large group is homebound. Each of the homebound has a story of faithful service that should be told. Every long-time member of Eastchester knows the many homebound seniors. However, newer members of our church family do not know them or how they have contributed to the growth and spiritual development of Eastchester. Our homebound receive calls, visits, prayer and cards throughout the year from Deacons, Circle of Love, and individual members. We see our homebound as they are, seldom as they were. We do not know the faith, time and talent they shared with EPC. Our Church History does not mention these faithful stewards, but they are the behind-the-scenes stewards that fulfilled the innovations of our leadership.

One of our homebound members was not only active in the church, but was a community activist. This amazing woman is Annie Calhoun. For many years, she was a Sunday School teacher, a member of FLEC Board of Directors and a dietitian for FLEC. In addition to planning meals for FLEC, she taught children about healthy foods and held cooking sessions. As a member, and later as chair of Fish Bay Neighborhood Association, Mrs. Calhoun organized an annual African-American History Month celebration. These events drew standing room only crowds. The performers ranged in age from preschoolers to seniors. The celebration included drama, instrumental and vocal music, dance and dramatic readings. Memorable moments were Mrs. Sisco reciting poetry, Deloris Mullings telling humorous anecdotes and Mrs. Calhoun's son, William Calhoun, performing on drums from various cultures. Until her health challenges sidelined her, Mrs. Calhoun followed wherever the Spirit led her to serve.

Another homebound member is Dorothy Mardenborough. She served the Lord in many capacities. She was an elder, a Sunday School teacher and superintendent. Her interest in helping young people guided her in serving on the Scholarship Committee. She always encouraged children to use their time and talents in the Church. She believed in setting high standards for herself and for others. The church will miss her insights.

A homebound member who has been side-lined for several years is Mavis Christie. Ms Christie was a life-long Bible student. She participated in a home Bible study when these studies began. Her knowledge and understanding of the Word were shared with others. When FLEC was first organized, Ms. Christie volunteered to prepare snacks for the children. She not only prepared nutritious food, she insisted on good manners from the children. No child ever passed by the kitchen without saying, "Good afternoon Ms. Christie." Mrs. Christie never forgot the formal manners that she had been taught as a child. Most of us will always remember the quiet efficiency with which she completed any task.

Finally, a homebound senior that we have seen on rare occasions is Enzy Anderson. She was an active EPCer for many years. She was instrumental in organizing FLEC and was Board of Directors Chair. Ms. Anderson was an elder and a member of the Design Committee. She worked tirelessly with other EPCers to raise funds for our new building. She and others visited members to solicit pledges for construction costs. The dedication of seniors like Enzy Anderson is responsible for many things EPCers take for granted.

There are other homebound seniors, who should be recognized and celebrated. Perhaps this may be done at a later date.



"In the last issue of the Shepherd's Log, an incorrect essay was inadvertently attributed to Rachel Jessamy. Here is the prize-winning essay that Rachel Jessamy wrote for the Scholarship Committee.

As a young woman who has just turned 18, I am cognizant of the momentousness of this point in my life. These last few years served as the coming-of-age period of my adolescence as I adventently used, and continue to use, experiences to develop my spiritual, physical, and mental wellbeing. Now, at the cusp of adulthood and soon to advance my education in the transition to a university, I find myself reflective on how I reached this point. One of the biggest influences on my growth has been my church. Eastchester Presbyterian Church has been a part of my life since before the days of my earliest memories.

When exploring my memories of my church, I recall my first few weeks starting Confirmation Class in 2014 with Ms. Wynter and Mr. Christian. In our first class, our instructors asked my peers and me what the church is. It appears as a simple question; however, it calls for a rather complex answer, as we learned in our lessons for the coming weeks. Lesson 1 taught us that one of the three ways of interpreting the church is by seeing it for simply what it is: a building. Over the years I have learned how important it is to our community that this building continues to stand here on Fish Avenue to this day. This building is open as a safe and welcoming place for members of its community, and this building represents different things for different people. For its youth, the building is where the F.L.E.C after school program, Bell Choir, C.Y.D, and the Praise Dance ministries meets. For its community, the building is where those in need go to for Mom's Kitchen or the Food Pantry. For those looking for spiritual growth, it is where people worship the Lord and have bible study. I have come to learn that this building serves many purposes, from a child's afterschool program, to a place that harvests musical and creative minds, to a soup kitchen, to a sanctuary. It is a building where all members of its community feel they have a place in. The many purposes that this building serves show me the importance of giving back to the community.

God has never failed to provide me with blessings, and I must continue to give back to the Lord through service. When I was starting to take part in church ministries, I did it because it seemed to be a part of the routine I followed; however, I have come to realize my larger purpose. I now make use of my musical talents because they help praise God, being a Sunday School assistant teacher aids in guiding children to Christ, and volunteering at Mom's Kitchen helps get food to those in need and reminds me how my service, no matter what it is, is always needed in my community. In my volunteer work in the church, I have witnessed those in need of assistance to support themselves; I have also seen people willing to sacrifice their time and effort to supply and suffice the needs of others. Volunteering in my own community has strengthened my Christian calling to be a vessel for God, improving society in which ever way God calls me to. My goal in life is to make an impact by bringing my knowledge, unique way of thinking, and individual perspective to my community to aid in advancements. No matter where I may end up living in the future, I know that I must always be an active member of my community because there is always some form of God's work to be done to achieve progress.

Lesson 2 of Confirmation Class taught us that the church is an organization. Our class learned about the roles of the General Assembly, the Synod, the Presbytery, the Session, the Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustees, and our various ministries. In order to make this building function, organization is needed. Our Session, Deacon, and Trustee members are dedicated to their jobs so that continuity and progression are achieved. Members of our church are always coming together to serve in various ministries where they can to give back to the Lord through their time and talent.

Finally, lesson 3 of Confirmation Class taught us that the church is also defined as its people, people who join together to be part of an organization that, in God's name, gives life to the building that is the church. This definition of the church is the one that I always leaned towards because the members of this church make it what it is. There are many members of this church who I have known all my life and are always there to greet this child turned a young woman, with warm smiles and caring questions of how I am doing. Eastchester Presbyterian Church is the people who have been there for me my entire life, helping me in whatever way they could because they care and chose to help raise me through the teachings of Christ, since the day of my Baptism as a baby.

My church family has showed me the importance of working with others towards a common goal of spreading the Christian message, because as Pastor John teaches, Together Each Accomplishes More. I have learned that when you have people on your team, their love and support will help guide you to be more successful in your endeavors. I have grown to understand that even though I am going away to university in the fall, I do not have to feel that immense pressure or that I am alone and everyone is just waiting to see if I live up to their expectations, because I have people on my team who love me. I know that I have my parents, sisters, friends, teachers, and church family on my team. I know that my church believes in my abilities, and is there to support me on my journey to success. Through my strong foundations, I live by my personal standard in being a dedicated, diligent, and dignified individual who sets and reaches for her aspirations. By God's grace and my hard work I know that I will truly maximize my potential. This church has taught me the important lesson of community, and that no matter the trials I face in life, I always have a place to come home to: Eastchester Presbyterian Church—the building, the organization, and the people.



Our young people continue to gladden our hearts.

Natasha Harris graduated from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in both Philosophy and Government/ Law. We'd best use Natasha's own words to describe her college experience:

"During my time at Lafayette I have been able to study abroad in London, England for a term, working on International Politics as well as participating in a semester exchange program at American University where I focused on International Organization and Developing Nations. On campus, I had spent time as President of the College's women of color group and Step Team, also being a part of the Resident Life Staff. Post-graduation I have secured employment with Goldman Sachs as an Analyst in the Global Compliance division." Natasha sends thanks to the Eastchester family for their thoughts, prayers and continued support.

Amari Mitchell graduated cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania where she majored in English and Africana Studies. She has received a scholarship for a combined Masters and Ph.D. Program at Rutgers University.

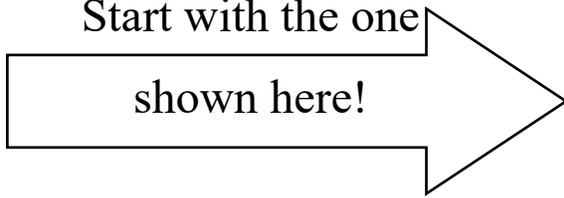
It's time to go Back to School!

There are 6 Backpacks scattered around this issue of The Shepherd's Log.

Can you find them all?

Start with the one

shown here!



Can you find the Backpacks?



The Parable of the Corn

There was a farmer who grew excellent quality corn. Every year he won the award for the best grown corn. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. "How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked.

"Why sir," said the farmer, "Didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn."

So is with our lives... Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all...

- Call it power of collectivity...
- Call it a principle of success...
- Call it a law of life.

The fact is, none of us truly wins, until we all win!!





On June 28, 2018, Deacon Phillip McDonald and Francesca Jean Charles were wed in a beautiful setting at Montego Bay in Jamaica.

Surrounded by many attendants, Marian Dehaney and Ricardo Edouard were married at the church on July 6, 2018. Pastor John officiated at the wedding.

Sunday, July 22, 2018 was the wedding date at the church for Sonia Marcia Forbes and Alfred Leroy Walters. Pastor John was the officiant.



Natasha Kirlew gave birth to Isaiah A. Awoniyi on July 5, 2018. This sweet little boy came into the world at 6 lbs, 10 oz.

Kayleigh Aiko Clarke arrived on August 3, 2018 weighing in at 7 lbs, 13 oz. Kayleigh is the daughter of Karen Lyn-Clarke and Hylton Clarke. Her delighted big sister is Kaelyn Clarke.

We pray for God's blessing upon these new additions to our church family.



Pastor John performed two baptisms on July 8, 2018: **Londyn Skylar Bertrand**, born March 18, 2017, the daughter of Nichole Martin and Keston Bertrand *and* **Arya Alexa Douglas**, born June 15, 2017, the daughter of Courtis Douglas and Beneve Campbell Douglas.

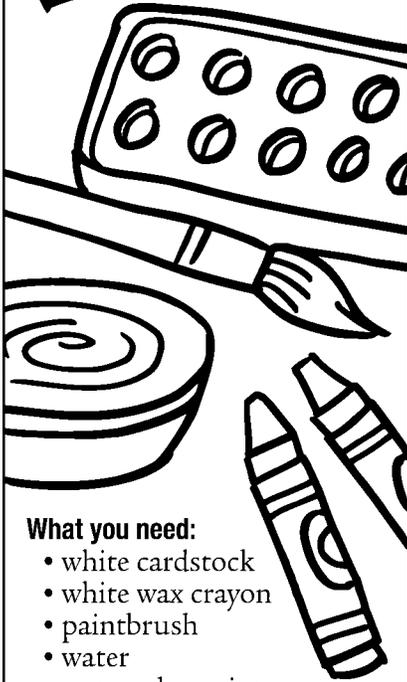
Zachary Ricardo Anthony Brooks was baptized by Pastor John on July 15, 2018. Zachary was born April 6, 2018 and is the son of Richardo and Tazia Brooks and the grandson of Lilieth Hunt.

Our Sympathy-

We extend our deepest sympathy to Elder Frank Hall on the passing of his brother.

Miracles happen!

Create this colorful reminder of God's wondrous works.

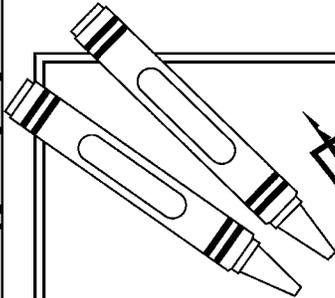


What you need:

- white cardstock
- white wax crayon
- paintbrush
- water
- watercolor paints

What you do:

1. Across the paper horizontally, write with the white crayon "Miracles happen!" (or a Bible verse such as Job 5:9; Psalm 77:14; Jeremiah 32:27; or Matthew 19:26).
2. Wet the paintbrush and paint over the words with different colors.
3. Let dry and then hang up.



PUZZLE

IT'S A MIRACLE!

Jesus performed many amazing miracles during his earthly ministry.

Directions: Match the words and pictures of different healings, from one column to the other. Then fit the word pairs in the blanks below to complete Matthew 11:5, NIV.



blind



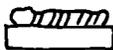
leprosy



lame



deaf



dead

hear



walk



raised



sight



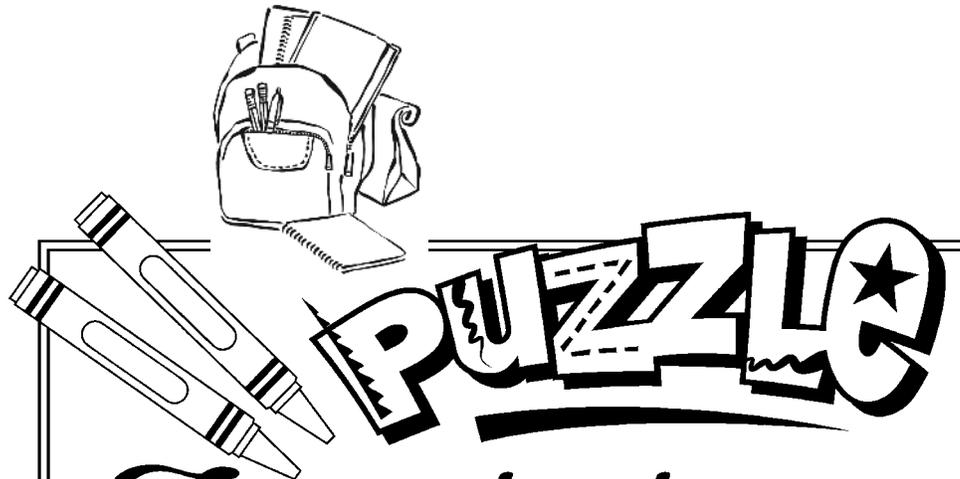
cleansed



The _____ receive _____, the _____, those
 who have _____ are _____, the _____
 _____, the _____ are _____ . . .

MATTHEW 11:5, NIV

Answer: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised ... Matthew 11:5, NIV



From the heart

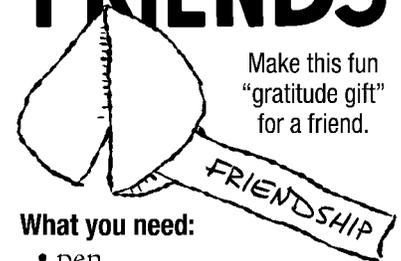
We all need people who share godly wisdom with us.

Directions: First, unscramble the bold letters to spell another word for "pal." Write that word in the first empty row. Then move the words under each bold letter to that letter's new column. The result will be Proverbs 27:9, NIV.

D	E	F	I	R	N
F					
to	bring	Perfume	incense	and	joy
Perfume					
of	the	the	and	heart,	pleasantness
the					
advice.	their	a friend	from	springs	heartfelt
A friend					

Answer: FRIEND; Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Proverbs 27:9, NIV

Fortunate FRIENDS



Make this fun "gratitude gift" for a friend.

What you need:

- pen
- round object to trace (about 4 inches across)
- lightweight colored paper
- scissors
- ruled notebook paper
- Chinese food takeout box (or small paper gift bag)
- hot glue gun

What you do:

1. Trace circles onto the colored paper and cut them out.
2. Cut strips of notebook paper and write messages to a friend (or Bible verses about friendship).
3. Fold each circle in half without making a crease. Secure the top center edge with glue.
4. Pull the outside edges together by creating a bend in the center of the paper. Undo the bend and insert the fortune.
5. Re-bend the "cookie" into shape and add glue inside to hold it in place.
6. Put all the "cookies" in a takeout box and give to your friend.



September

- 1 Trustees' Bus Trip (apple picking!)
- 8 Flu Vaccines
- 9 Sunday School Resumes
- 9 Visitors' Sunday
- 15 "No to Gun Violence" Program –
10:30 am
- 21-23 Revival
- 29 Grace Gathering

October

- Blanket Drive (all month)
- 6 Officer Training – 10 am
- 7 PW/Drama Fundraiser – 4:00 pm
- 13 Street Evangelism
- 13 Deacons' Dinner
- 19 Prayer Vigil – 7:00 pm
- 20 Bronx Presbyterian Churches
Bible Jeopardy – 2-6 pm
- 26 Hallelujah Party – 7:30 pm

*Zumba classes - Mondays and Thursdays 7-8pm &
Saturdays 9-10am
The Girl Scout troop-Saturdays from 11 am to 1 pm*

THE SHEPHERD'S LOG

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