

From St. James' With Love

Corner of Lake and Main
P.O. Box 249 Hammondsport, New York 14840
January-February 2019 Newsletter

St James Vision Statement: God asks us to make His love visible in our lives and community. . . . let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

From the Rector's Corner

*So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away,
our inner nature is being renewed day by day. 2 Cor 4:16*

Happy New Year! Time to start taking down the decorations, write thank you notes, make resolutions, and start dreaming of warmer days as your mailbox fills with seed catalogs. I keep thinking about renewal, "the replacing or repair of something that is worn out, run-down, or broken." It's the time of year when some people make New Year's resolutions to quit smoking, lose weight, work harder, take more time off, or get that dreaded project started. Sometimes we are a bit daunted and surprised that time continues to march forward with bold determination, leaving us a bit tired, worn, and discouraged about our ability to ever change.

I'm not sure what we think will be different about our lives if we make the promised, but rarely fulfilled, changes to our lives. Will we be prettier? Richer? Ready? Powerful? Hopeful? Fulfilled? I like to have control in my life, especially when life seems to spin out of control. I can be foolishly naïve and hopeful that if I do something as simple as keeping the kitchen clean, the rest of my life will fall into place. My family will never suffer, I will never suffer, and my friends will never suffer. Somehow, I trick myself into thinking that if I make a simple yet difficult change in my life, we will all live happily ever after.

I forget. I forget the big picture and the things that really matter. Yes, the outer nature of my life, clothing, home, car, family and friends are fading away. Yet in the midst of all that, the most important resolution I can make is to notice the inner nature, the spark of light within me that yearns to know and work with Jesus' plan of a new creation. I can't solve world hunger, but I can make sure that one other person gets a bit more to eat. I can awaken each day with the desire to be a bit more loving, compassionate, and merciful person. I can learn to listen to the sweet soft inner call to spend some time with God. We know all this is unlikely to happen on our own determination. However, like we affirm in the Baptismal Covenant, I will [and can], with God's help.

In this season of renewal, awaiting the days of warmth and new growth, how can you turn your attention to the ways that God is working within you?

Peace,
Lynne +

Read the [entire] Bible in a Year

Every year several people from St James read through the Bible in a Year. As challenging as it sounds, it is really very simple, doesn't take much time, and can bring new insights, along with plenty of questions. The schedule is available at the back of the church (brochure rack on the wall) or ask Tom Bidwell.

Athlete's Dinner

Wednesday, January 9th 3:00 - ?

We are now celebrating three years of serving our teen athletes in this community. It is a very special ministry we offer twice a year to the Basketball teams and their coaches. In December we served about 75 youth a delicious lasagna dinner, which they ate with gusto! Please keep this dinner in your prayers, sign up to bring food, or help on the day of the event. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible.

The Hammondsport Youth Group

January 13th and February 10th 5:30 - 7:15 p.m.

All youth in 7th through 12th grades are welcome to join us for the monthly meeting of the Hammondsport Youth Group. We meet at St James in January and at the Methodist Church in February. The youth enjoy a few games, eat a dinner, sing some songs, hear a message, and share their experiences. Thank you to everyone who keeps our youth in prayer, who donate food, and who assist in making this group successful!

Italian Dinner

Saturday, January 19th 4:00 – 6:30

Jim Grillo graciously invites you to attend the Annual Italian Dinner at St James in the Parish Hall. This is one of our most successful dinners, and year after year despite the winter weather we get a full house! The Vestry voted a year ago to have 30% of the proceeds go to Mission, so by participating in the dinner you help build up St James, our Community, and reach out to the world. Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board, so you can volunteer to bring food, set up, serve, or clean up. In the meantime, get the word out and invite your family, friends, and neighbors for a treat they won't want to miss!

Book Group - God's Joyful Surprise

1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

The Book Group continues to read *God's Joyful Surprise* by Sue Monk Kidd. This book, written 30 years ago, continues to speak to people today as she writes of her own spiritual journey into the heart and love of God. "Beautifully written . . . the message and challenge of the book is profound. . . . This book will awaken your longing and set you off on your own spiritual journey."—*Today's Christian Woman*. Yes, we started the book, but you can easily catch up and join us. The group is open to everyone and offers an opportunity to reflect on our own spiritual journey, and where God might be calling us today.

Reports for Annual Meeting – due January 16th

Please send your completed report to Rev Lynne no later than Wednesday, January 16th so we can make them available to the congregation on Sunday, January 20th. It is our hope that people will have the chance to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the reports, and then at Annual Meeting everyone will have the opportunity to ask clarifying questions, and give thanks for all we have done in 2018.

Annual Meeting: looking behind, and planning ahead Sunday, January 27th

St James Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 27th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The Annual meeting will open with prayer and nominations from the floor immediately prior to the opening hymn. Service will continue as usual with the Rector's report included as the sermon. After the closing hymn we will continue the meeting in the Sanctuary, with Voting, Financial Reports, and an opportunity to ask questions about any of the Committee Reports. At the end of the meeting we will have the Dismissal, and then Coffee Hour. Our hope is that everyone can stay for what is now a fairly short and informative meeting. Let Rev Lynne know if you have any questions.

Sunday School

Every Sunday at 9:00

Calling all children ages three to eleven to join the Sunday School 52 weeks a year. Gladys Palmer and an assistant work together each week to offer the songs of our faith, bring the Bible stories to life, and offer an activity which helps the children to remember the story of the week. All ages welcome! Let Rev Lynne know if you are interested in being an Assistant.

Prayer List – Starting Anew

We are going to update the prayer list which is on the back of the bulletin and used in our Prayers of the People. We know that the current prayer list contains names of some who have experienced thanksgiving, some losses, and some people have fallen from our awareness. We are going to remove all names, so please contact Rev Lynne at rectorstjames14840@gmail.com, call 607-569-2647 or put a note in the offering plate if you wish to add a name to the prayer list. The new list will be placed on the bulletin, and in our prayers on Sunday, January 27th.

St James 'socks' it to the Bath VAMC

Jane Aeschbacher and husband Paul were active volunteers at the Bath VA, at St. James and at the Presbyterian Church. After Jane's death, in 1999, with Paul's blessing, St. James continued to collect white socks for the veterans, in Jane's memory. Including this year we have gifted the Bath VA veterans with 2754 of socks! Dry, healthy feet are important to all, critical to our veterans and very much appreciated. We collected more than 300 pairs this year 2018!!!

Angel Tree

This year we gathered close to 300 pounds(!) of personal care items and dessert mixes for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, as well as buying gifts for the children of four families in Hammondsport. Faithful knitters also donated 30 scarves to the Pantry to help keep everyone warm. The Pantry, and the families, have extended their sincere thanks. St James is a generous congregation, and that shines forth this season in helping people to enjoy Christmas, and to have essential items in times of need.

Cookie Walk

Many thanks to Karen for baking more than 200 cookies and dog biscuits for the Hammondsport Cookie Walk. Thank you also to the volunteers who messily and beautifully iced the cookies, put them into baggies, tagged them, and also thank you to the many volunteers who handed them out on the day of the Cookie Walk. We handed out more than 100 cookies and had more than 200 visitors in our Sanctuary that Saturday. We were blessed also to host ARC in the Parish Hall where they were able to give out materials on the services of ARC as well as spread some holiday cheer! And thank you also to Joan for staffing the bead and craft table for five hours and raising more than \$250 for the St James Mission fund. All in all, a very good day of spreading the Good News and sharing our gifts with the community.

Brookdale and Fred & Harriet Taylor Center Worship

Several of us go to Brookdale each month to visit Ruth Clark and offer a monthly Service with music, readings, a brief message, and reserved Sacrament. The residents are delighted to listen or sing along with favorite hymns and help by reading the readings. Most months between 15 and 20 people attend the worship. We usually meet at Brookdale on the fourth Thursday at 2:30. This year we added at Service at the Fred and Harriet Taylor Center. We offer the same service, and could use your help singing, or reading, or simply greeting the residents and assisting them in finding the correct page in the worship bulletin. We typically meet at the Taylor Center on the 3rd Wednesday at 2:45 p.m.

College for Congregational Development

The Diocese of Rochester has sponsored a "College for Congregation Development" for the last two years, inviting each congregation to bring a clergy and two lay people to learn more about how to grow healthy and vibrant congregations. This year the Diocese is offering the two-year program as a week-long session in July, or as four weekends over the year. Rev Lynne, Karen Derr, Treasurer, and Connie Van Houten, Warden will be representing St James. Ask us from time to time what we are learning, and we will share our experience with the Vestry and Congregation. Our first weekend in Canandaigua is February 22nd and 23rd. Other weekends take place in April, October and November. For more information on the "College" see: episcopalrochester.org/content/college-congregational-development

Directory Update-The St James Directory will be updated with new, corrected, and changed addresses. Please look at the current directory to let Rev Lynne know about any changes. The 2019 Directory will be available at the Annual Meeting on January 27th.

Pregnancy Resource Center

The Pregnancy Resource Center of the Valleys holds its annual fund drive in January. If you would like to contribute, collect a baby bottle at the back of the Sanctuary, or use any other container you have at home and collect coins (or folding money). Checks or change (marked for Pregnancy Resource Center) can be placed in the collection plate on January 27th, or you can make a donation directly to "Pregnancy Resource Center of the Valleys" and mailed to: PRC of the Valleys, Inc, 22 Liberty St, Bath, New York 14810

Mission and Outreach Opportunities at S. James

The Mission Committee is so grateful for the unbounded generosity of the people of St. James! Thank you, as you are the embodiment of Proverbs 21:26-“The righteous gives and does not hold back.” Scripture also says “ Give and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.” (Luke 6:38) Based on that, we should expect good things to come to St. James!

The following are some of the opportunities the Mission Committee is considering continuing in the coming year so you can look ahead and see what appeals to you, either by donating items, knitting/crocheting, and donating food or money.

Pregnancy Resource Center-Baby Bottle Drive in February

Food Pantry-dessert and personal care items quarterly

Knitting for Charity-Red Hats for newborns collected in January: cancer items (hats, prostheses) ongoing

Operation Christmas Child-Shoebbox project October/November 2019

Backpack program-August

Youth Group and Athletes dinner-school year and December/January

Hand of God Ministries-boarding house in Bath for homeless veterans

A New Paint Job!

Thanks be to God that we have finally found a local, licensed, insured, and available painter! Eric will be working with us to identify the perfect color, and then at the end of January or early February will paint the walls, ceilings, and trim of the Parish Hall, hallway, and bathrooms. This is a long-awaited update and we are grateful to have found a skilled craftsman to do this work.

Facebook Page

Do you know we have both a Facebook page known as St James Hammondsport and a web page at stjames14840.org? To see the latest pictures and upcoming events, “Like” us on Facebook, or check on the webpage. Facebook has photos, videos, and upcoming events, and the webpage also has photos as well as Newsletters, Vestry minutes, St James history, the monthly calendar, Bible resources, etc. We recently added the Sunday worship to our webpage as an audio file. Feel free to listen to the whole service, or you can opt to listen to the sermon only.

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday is on March 6th and we will celebrate at St James at Noon and 7:00 p.m. The Community Service at noon includes the Imposition of Ashes and a light lunch. The Service at 7:00 p.m. will include Imposition of Ashes. More information about the Noonday Lenten Services, and the Lenten Education will follow in the March/April Newsletter.

Prayer List

Travis, Janet, Delbert, Leroy, Dawn O., Carolyn B., Bob S., Barrett and family, Ron, Bonnie, Pat, James C., Michelle J., Beckie, Jenny, Holly L., Joseph R., Anne M., Anja, Eva, Walt Y., Pam, the Brayer family, Art D., Lois, Beth, Katja, Sarah, Steve M. and family, Muriel, Caitlin, Tim P., Steven, Joe, Lindsey, Katie, Heather and family, Rachel, Robert, Carol B., Jonah, Doug and family, the Food Pantry, those suffering from addiction, and those in the military.

The Physicality of Our Faith – Hannah Jackson

Posted on Hannah's blog on November 11, 2018 and reprinted with permission

As I continue to sit in the wilderness that has been my faith for the last three or four years, I have had a lot of opportunities to think about the nature of faith itself. The words I've hung onto for the last year or so are the phrase, "come anyway." Come anyway, come regardless. Come anyway, any way that I can, and that's what I've done, over and over... and over, and over again. It's forced me to examine the ways that I used to engage with God and faith. Did I say examine? I meant throw them all out.

My senior project in undergrad was praying through dance. I did my project and concluded that praying through dance just wasn't for me. I wasn't connecting to it at all and found at the time that I could only engage fully mentally when I was still. It didn't make for a very pleasant senior project, but I had a feeling at the time that I would come back to it. I used to engage with God mentally; I would pray, I would read—I did a lot of Bible reading, I mean a lot. That's not working so well for me now, though. I think I've managed to read my Bible maybe a dozen times in the last year and a half, and that's being generous.

So I've been forced to find other ways to come anyway, and that means physically. I changed churches last year and began going to an Episcopalian church, and I've found so much refuge in the physicality of their worship. In all the other churches I've ever been to, there's not much physical engagement. Sure, you might raise your hands or stand to sing, but that's pretty much it. In one church, we came forward for communion, and in another, general exuberance in worship was encouraged (think jumping in the aisles, flags waving, and so on), but by and large, church has been a sedentary activity. It doesn't even include that many chances to participate, besides listening. In the average service, you sing for a while. That's probably it, unless you go to a church that does the occasional responsive reading or group prayer. But other than that, it's sitting and listening.

That's just not possible in liturgical worship. It's impossible to get through an Episcopalian (and I presume other liturgical services too, but I haven't been to those yet) service without physically engaging. You're constantly speaking, singing, standing,

walking, kneeling, sitting, tasting the sweetness of the bread and the bitterness of the wine. I'm fortunate enough to attend a church that's physically gorgeous, and today I watched purple and pink streak across my Book of Common Prayer page from the sunlight streaming in through the stained glass behind me. Frequently during services I just spend time drinking in the rich blue color of our ceiling, the woodwork covering the altar area handcarved by a member as a many-year-old labor of love, the stained glass windows that are open on nice days to let the breeze and street noise in, the vivid red doors that are open as often as possible to welcome the community. And, of course, we're Episcopalians, so there's always delicious smells and tastes at coffee hour afterward.

And in all of that, when I can't tell up from down mentally, I come on Sunday and I read the prayers of the people, say the Nicene creed, sing the Lord's Prayer, kneel to receive communion and feel the bread pressed into my palm, dip the bread into a silver cup of wine, and savor the taste and the meaning before walking the long walk back to my pew. It has been a blessing beyond measure to settle into a worship that requires me to act. Then I go home, put on some gentle music, and move, allowing my body to speak when my mind can't, and letting that be my prayer. Ironically, this has now become my main engagement with my faith—I have indeed come back to my senior project topic, and it's very precious to me now.

I've had two conversations in the last few weeks about how easy it is for us to forget we're *human*, we're physical creatures by nature, not just a soul hanging out in a semi-unrelated body. With the current discoveries made in psychology and neuroscience and the growing popularity of somatic work, it's increasingly obvious that we, ourselves, are fully physical in a way that is tangled up in our spirituality. It's too easy to forget that Jesus was *human*, fully physical, in all the ways that we are, and that our faith therefore can only be human and fully physical. Bodies can be uncomfortable; they get hungry and need to go to the bathroom and all sorts of other things that are inconvenient and even painful, but that's part of what makes us *us*. We do ourselves and our faith a huge disservice when we don't invite our full selves into worship of a full God.

Rector Sabbatical – Summer 2019

Rev Lynne, with the assistance and direction of the Vestry, is in the process of preparing herself and St James for a 3-month Sabbatical next summer. First of all, we are confident that the generosity of the St James pledges allows the congregation to have excellent clergy coverage for Rev Lynne's time away. The Vestry decided not to intersperse weeks of Morning Prayer with the traditional Rite of Holy Eucharist, and voted to invite The Rev Linda Leibhart, retired, to cover the majority of the sabbatical. Pastor Gary will cover approximately once a month, and lay leaders are prepared to lead Morning Prayer if necessary.

The Episcopal Church now offers a "College for Congregational Development" in the Diocese of Rochester: a two-year program to expand the gifts of individuals and the congregation. Rev Lynne, Connie Van Houten, and Karen Derr will participate in this 4-weekends per year program and will be sharing the tools and experiences with the congregation.

In the months ahead Rev Lynne and the Vestry will continue to plan and raise up lay leadership to cover formation (education), mission (events in the Village), pastoral

care and emergencies, funerals, Vacation Bible School, as well as lead Vestry meetings in the event of an emergent situation (i.e. accidental property damage). After all, the idea is that the congregation is also given the experience of renewal and discovery of new gifts during the sabbatical.

The following was copied from Sabbaticals for Ministers: The Benefits for Pastors and Congregations: ***Congregations benefit from sabbaticals in the following ways:***

- “They find a new appreciation for their minister, in his or her absence, realizing the multiple responsibilities, tasks and assignments in which their minister has been engaged. In most cases, the congregation will be surprised at how much their pastor does and will wonder how he gets it all done. Sometimes, they will discover the opposite. In either case, there is value in better understand what it is like to be a pastor of a congregation. When the pastor returns, he or she often finds a congregation with a whole new heart.
- Congregations gain a new understanding of how well the church body can function as a whole. Churches have individuals who, given the opportunity, will share their gifts and fill the gap. This is a proving ground for up-and-coming leaders, spiritually gifted laity and volunteers. Volunteer involvement has been found to increase as a result of a pastor’s sabbatical.
- Congregants will often lessen their dependency on the minister. They will better understand the ongoing balance that is necessary between the work of the clergy and work of the laity. They may realize their own need to draw closer to Christ during this extended season of pastoral leave. Having come to expect the minister to be there for them, people may discover their dependency needs to be on God instead.
- Sabbaticals help retain ministers who know the flock, the community and the dynamics that have taken years to achieve. Churches can expect to see longer pastorates when sabbaticals are given. Retention of ministers goes up when a pastor and a congregation learn to care for one another. Many ministers leave their posts due to stress, unresolved conflict or a sense of burnout. Without time off and time for renewal, ministers leave exhausted, depressed and defeated. The Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth has consistently shown that ‘the most effective, growing churches are led by pastors with a long tenure. Pastors who ‘stick with’ a church through good times and rough times gain a credibility and respect that allows them to challenge the church to take risks necessary for growth.’
- Churches find a refreshed minister upon his or her return.”

Rev Lynne intends to be out-of-town for the entire sabbatical and hopes to find summer rentals for her house to supplement the expenses of the sabbatical.

Briefly, I plan to tent camp in National Parks around the country, heading west and up into Canada, down the west coast, back east and then north-east into Nova Scotia, returning in time to attend a retreat in Pennsylvania mid-August. Following the retreat, I will head to Europe for a series of religious retreats and a hiking trip which will conclude mid-September – just in time for the Chicken and Biscuit dinner.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – May 24 – June 3, 2021

Is this the year you will walk in the footsteps of Jesus' birth, ministry, death & resurrection?

Rev Lynne will be bringing her fourth and final group of Pilgrims to the Holy Land in the May 2021. Some of the places we will visit include: St George's Episcopal Cathedral in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Western Wall, Bethlehem, Shepherd's Field, Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher), Calvary, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River, Capernaum, Jericho, Gethsemane, the Way of the Cross, and Emmaus. Flyers and itineraries are available in the church office or send Rev Lynne an email to receive the information as an attachment. Registration is limited, and a non-refundable deposit is required to hold your place.

Upcoming Dates

- *Happy New Year!* – Office will be closed on December 31st and January 1st
- *Rector Vacation* – December 30 – January 2
- *Friday, January 4th* – First Friday Fellowship at St James at 7:00 p.m.
- *Sunday, January 6th* – Epiphany
- *Monday, January 7th* – 4:00 p.m. Bible Study – we begin 2 Corinthians
6:30 Book Group – God's Joyful Surprise, Chapters 8 and 9
- *Wednesday, January 9th* – Athlete's Dinner 3:00 - ?
NO Vestry Meeting – See you at the Annual Meeting
- *Sunday, January 13th* – Youth Group at St James 5:30 – 7:15 p.m.
- *Monday, January 14th* – Bible Study
- *Wednesday, January 16th* – Fred and Harriet Taylor Center at 2:45
****Annual Meeting Reports due****
- *Thursday, January 17th* – Women's Breakfast at Chat-a-Whyte at 9:30 a.m.
- *Saturday, January 19th* – Italian Dinner
- *Sunday, January 20th* – Annual Meeting Reports available
- *Monday, January 21st* – Martin Luther King, Jr Day – Office closed [no Bible or Book Group]
- *Thursday, January 24th* – Brookdale at 2:30
- *Sunday, January 27th* – Annual Meeting
- *Monday, January 28th* – Bible Study
- *Friday, February 1st* – First Friday Fellowship, location TBD
- *Monday, February 4th* – 4:00 p.m. Bible Study
6:30 Book Group – God's Joyful Surprise, Chapters 10 and 11
- *Sunday, February 10th* – Youth Group at United Methodist Church 5:30 – 7:15 pm.
- *Monday, February 11th* – Bible Study at 4:00 p.m.
- *Wednesday, February 13th* – Vestry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- *Monday, February 18th* – Bible Study at 4:00
6:30 Book Group – God's Joyful Surprise, Chapter 12 and 13
- *Wednesday, February 20th* – Fred and Harriet Taylor Center at 2:45 p.m.
- *Thursday, February 21st* – Women's Breakfast at Mom's Diner in Savona at 9:30
- *Friday-Saturday, February 22nd & 23rd* – College for Congregational Development

- *Monday, February 25th* – Bible Study at 4:00
- *February 26 – 28* Rector on Vacation – no Thursday Eucharist
- *Sunday, March 3rd* – Youth Group at St James 5:30 – 7:15 p.m.
- *Monday, March 4th* – 4:00 Bible Study
6:30 Book Group – God’s Joyful Surprise, Chapters 12 and 13
- *Wednesday, March 6th* – Ash Wednesday Community Worship at St James, Noon
7:00 Ash Wednesday at St James with Imposition of Ashes

Lay Schedule for January/February 2019

DATE	CHALICE	ACOLYTE	READERS	USHERS	SUNDAY SCHOOL
1/6	C. Skinner	N. Forenz	K. Packard G. Oliver	M. Dowdle N. Foltz	J. Derr
1/13	L. Nichiporuk	C. Skinner	S. Pulver K. Derr	L. Grillo J. Grillo	E. Kowulich-Covel
1/20	C. VanHouten	L. Nichiporuk	A. Edmister C. VanHouten	P. Forenz N. Forenz	K. Derr
1/27	J. Grillo	C. VanHouten	J. Grillo C. VanHouten	M. Piersons J. Piersons	D. Noteware
2/3	L. Nichiporuk	J. Grillo	S. Pulver M. Samson	G. Learned L. Grillo	J. Derr
2/10	N. Forenz	L. Nichiporuk	K. Derr C. VanHouten	M. Dowdle N. Foltz	D. Noteware
2/17	J. Grillo	N. Forenz	K. Packard G. Oliver	L. Grillo N. Foltz	J. Rogerson
2/24	C. VanHouten	J. Grillo	A. Edmister C. VanHouten	P. Forenz N. Forenz	E. Kowulich-Covel