

# From St. James' With Love

Corner of Lake and Main  
P.O. Box 249 Hammondsport, New York 14840  
October 2021

*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)

## A Letter From Bishop Singh

Dear saints,

*For everything, there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.*

—Ecclesiastes

On May 31, 2008, Presiding Bishop Katherine Jeffers Schori, with the help of many of you, and several Bishop friends, prayed the Holy Spirit on us and consecrated me to serve as your Bishop. Over the nearly fourteen years we have embraced a culture of empowered leadership of lay and clergy leaders. As you know, empowerment assumes healthy leadership transition. Therefore, in that spirit, I have prayerfully consulted with our Presiding Bishop, his office, our Standing Committee, diocesan staff, and several governance leaders as part of my discernment to resign as your Bishop.

I will be leaving with a whole heart and a good portion of sadness on February 2, 2022, which will be the fourteenth anniversary of my election as your Bishop. My heart is at peace as I pray this decision collaboratively, just the way I have prayed most of my past choices into action. I will say that this journey was not always easy, but with the challenging times, we did get greater clarity about why and how to be a beloved community. You are a good people and a good diocese, and I feel humbled to have served as your bishop. The diocese has changed for good during our time together, thanks to our agency and God's providence, and below is a summary. I look forward to seeing how joy in Christ will continue being a way of life among you after I depart.

I have the utmost confidence in our Standing Committee. They are a thoughtful group of leaders, and they have an established process they will follow to ensure a smooth transition to our diocese's next bishop. We have come this far by faith leaning on our dear God. Let us continue to depend on God.

Yes, for everything, there is indeed a season. I, too, am discerning a new context of the call— I do not intend to retire right now. Where've God calls me to serve following our fulfilling run, I hope you will bless and send me as your own.

I look forward to spending the remaining months blessing you and always holding you as a part of me. Could you please reach out to Sarah Butler as (585) 473-0903 if you would like to connect over the next few months as I prepare to take your leave? I love you!

With all my affection  
Bishop Prince Singh

We have not included the summary of Diocesan changes that the Bishop mentions. If you are interested it will be made available.

## **Oh No! Masks Again!**

Nobody likes wearing masks! They are a pain in the neck, they cause glasses to steam up, they make us uncomfortable, and they are not really attractive. **However** the number of Covid cases has surged in our county. As of September 22 there were 112 new cases in the past two days, which brings the number of active cases in Steuben County to 420. Our county wide death toll has surpassed 200.

Because of the recent surge in Covid cases the Vestry feels a deep responsibility for the welfare of the entire congregation. As well, the Diocese issued guidelines that were very clear that when the transmission rate for our county went to "high", masks would be required. Rest assured that we will rescind the church mask wearing mandate as soon as case numbers fall to a much lower number.

Meanwhile please bear with our attempt to protect the health of not only you, but of anybody you may come into contact with. People can spread the disease without even being aware that they have it. So please wear your masks in the sanctuary for our church services. At coffee hour, please wear your masks until you take your seat at your chosen table. If we work together we can help end this pandemic.

## **Zoom Compline Thursday Nights at 8:30**

For those of you who are not familiar with Compline, it is a very short, but powerful evening service. It generally lasts around ten to twelve minutes. The meeting ID is 810 4431 4708

<https://us02web.zoom/j/81044314708> or by phone +19294362866,,81044314708#US(New York)

If you have any questions, contact Mary White.

## **Mission Committee News by Carol Bidwell**

The St. James Mission Committee -Carol, Donna, Kris, Leah, Luanne, Mary and Janetmarie - has been blessed with abundant funds this year! We have been busy helping mainly local needs and parishioners have been generous with their meat donations to Amanda and Billy.

We have supplied Easter dinners to several families, donated to two Amish buggy accidents; the family of Andrew, the high school senior who had a head injury the last day of school; the flooding in southern Steuben County; Leah's brother-in-law/ family who lost everything in a house fire; a domestic violence ministry in Addison; money for school clothes for a family; and the food pantry.

Regionally we have donated to the Texas power outage, tornadoes in Alabama, Hurricane Ida, and Reynoldstown Mission Fellowship in Atlanta. The proceeds from the Village Yard Sale went to the Potters Hands, a ministry to help sex trafficked individuals.

Internationally we have given money to Samaritan's Purse for Afghanistan.

Luanne and Carol attended a workshop for Operation Christmas Child, the shoebox project in which we participated in the past few years. More information on that forthcoming. So far this year we have dispersed a total of \$7,600 so far.

## PRAYER LIST

Jeff & Aliza, Danette, Seth, Bradley, Kris, Gail, Kimberly J., Don M., Jim, L., Ray, Amanda & Billy, Bonnie, Carson, Anne, Laura, Ashlyn, Betty, Jerry, Cheryl, Brian, Douglas, Richard, Kathy, Lindsey, Tammy S., John, Muriel, Heather, Andy, Jim & Marietta, Colleen, Steve, the Food Pantry, students and teachers, first responders, those suffering from addiction, those suffering from Covid, those in the military , and those who mourn.

### **Holy Cow!**

The first step for the Search Committee looking for a new priest is to do a congregational assessment. With the Vestry's approval they have contracted with Holy Cow! Consulting to help them administer the CAT, Congregational Assessment Tool. Holy Cow! has worked with over 3,000 congregations, staff, boards, numerous regional associations, libraries, non-profits and schools across the country.

This is an exciting opportunity to develop a solid comprehensive profile for St. James. They are striving for 100% participation because everybody's voice is important.

Be looking for a letter from the Search Committee in early October that contains more details.

### **Taylor Grant**

This year St. James was generously awarded \$7,500 from the grant. The money will be used to update our current sound system and coordinate with a video system to better accommodate the need to use Zoom for some of our services. Besides people staying at home due to Covid, we also would be able to better serve our shut-ins or people who can not attend due to other illnesses. There will also be some stained glass window work done.

### **Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse)**

Luanne Graulich

This amazing journey of a simple Shoebox Gift BEGINS WITH YOU and results in Evangelism, Discipleship and Multiplication. The bottom line of everything at Operation Christmas Child and Samaritan's Purse is sharing the Gospel.

The shoeboxes are here and once again we are inviting you to participate. It's really simple, and fun, and a great way to share the gift of Christ with children. We will have the shoeboxes and information about packing a shoebox in the undercroft. There is plenty of information on their website: [samaritanaspurse.org.occ](http://samaritanaspurse.org.occ)

There is a donation of \$9.00 for each shoebox and this helps a multitude of things; collecting, processing, shipping to over 100 countries, Gospel booklets, and training local church leaders. If you pay this online you can get tracking information to find the country where your Christmas Child lives. If you prefer not to do this, the Mission Committee will cover the \$9.00 donation.

Another option is to go online and have them pack the box. For \$25.00 you get to select boy/girl, age group, and select the items you would like included in your box. This \$25.00 also

includes the \$9 donation and you can track your package. When you go online simply click the link for [build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/goal](http://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/goal) and you will be directed to the St. James "Build a Shoebox" page.

Since the project began in 1993 over 178 million shoeboxes have been delivered. After the shoeboxes are handed out the children are offered a Gospel booklet in their language (over 80 languages). They are then offered a 12 lesson discipleship class called "The Greatest Journey", where local volunteer church leaders teach the Bible lessons. As a result of this project the children share these booklets with their family and friends which has led to 1,100 churches planted in 54 countries.

Amazing to see what results your efforts can bring! We have a goal of 75 shoeboxes for St. James and we thank you once again for supporting Operation Christmas Child.

**Collection week in November 15-22, 2021**

### **Notice the Replaced Window by the Tower Stairs**

The disintegrating window, which had a non usable dehumidifier trapped between the side of the stairs and the glass, is no more. It has been replaced by a new vinyl framed window. This was done by Kevin Bailey at no charge to St. James. Thank you Kevin!

### **OUR DOORS HAVE BEEN RESTORED TO EPISCOPAL RED**

Over the last few years our front doors, tower door, and back door have slowly faded from a bright Episcopal Red to a dullish, reddish, pinkish, blah color. No longer! They have been repainted and now sport the Episcopal Red that they once had. Visitors passing through Hammondsport are sure to spot them as they, as well as our sign, announce us as an Episcopal Church.

### **Sign Repainted**

Our large green sign in the front yard was also in need of restoration. It was beginning to show wear and tear. Some of the green paint on the sign and on the sign holder had chipped off due to weathering. It has been restored to its original beauty.

A Big Thank You to Adrian Perkins of Adrian's Lawn Mower Repair in Avoca. He did a complete cleaning and servicing of the church lawn mower which had not been used in two years. He generously did this free of charge!

We are using a new florist at this time. If you want to donate for altar flowers the cost for a Sunday is \$40. There is a sign-up sheet in the undercroft.

## Women's Breakfast

Ladies, please join us for our monthly women's breakfast which is held on the third Thursday of each month. It will be held on October 21st at 9:30 am at the Kozy Korner in Bradford. The Kozy Korner is right on Route 226. If you have any questions on directions to get there contact either Audrey or Joan.

## Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is still being held in the undercroft. Please wear your masks until you are seated at your chosen table. We need people to sign up to host coffee hour. If you are willing to take a Sunday, please sign up on the sheet on the counter near the coffee maker. You do not have to make anything fancy. We are perfectly willing to eat desserts bought from a store as well as those home made.

## Lay and Clergy Schedule

DATE	CLERGY	ACOLYTE/ CHALICE	LAY LEADER	READERS	USHERS
10/3	M. Hartney	N. Forenz		K. Derr	L. Graulich T. Channing
10/10			K. Packard	A. Edmister	M. Piersons J. Piersons
10/17	D. Pope	K. Derr		J. Grillo	J. Skinner C. Skinner
10/24			R. Little	S. Young	A. Edmister G. Edmister
10/31			N. Forenz	K. Packard	M. Dowdle L. Grillo

