

# From St. James' with Love

Corner of Lake and Main  
P.O. Box 249  
Hammondsport, New York  
607.569.2647  
Dec. 2011

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The Rev. Gary Edmister, Assistant

1.518.231.5209

The Rev. Sandra K. Curtis, Rector

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## *From Mother C*

Advent begins on November 27. It insists that Christmas is not yet here despite what we see in the stores and hear on the television. Advent invites us to see the world in a different way. We spend our lives looking at the world under the meanings of politics and culture that are presented to us each day by the media, and under the meanings that we draw from our daily routines, our doubts, fears and yes, sometimes our limited faith.

We often see a world of violence and conclude there is no stopping of the bloodshed in our streets and around the world. We see the world under the control of economic power and privilege. People are greedy for fame, fortune and prestige, and they often act in harmful ways to reach their goals because it fits with the meaning that the world is ultimately in their control, and the meaning of life is to be a success, to acquire, to hold power. We need to see the world in a different way, for in Advent Mary sings that God "has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly."

If we believe Christ will come again, then the central meaning of existence becomes getting ready for his arrival. Advent gives us a holy opportunity to disrupt the established value systems of this world by placing our entire human existence in a different light.

Maybe we need to ask ourselves some questions and do some reflection this Advent season: What is lacking in our preparation for Christmas this year? Is there someone from whom I need to ask forgiveness or someone I need to forgive? Am I failing to be kind? In what ways? To whom? Do I appreciate the fact that every person is a child of God? Do I ever seek out quiet places to spend a few moments alone with God? Do I regularly take time to pray? What do I want my life in Christ to be? Do I remain faithful to my Christian calling? Do I respond to God with a grateful and generous heart? Do I let frustration, sadness and despair rob me of my joy? How vital is my Christian hope in the fulfillment of my salvation in Jesus Christ? How often do I actually worship the Lord I love? Do I stay alert to the opportunities for spiritual growth that God will pass by me this Advent season?

*Good and gracious God, you know how much fills our minds and hearts these days. Help us to pay attention to your presence in our lives. Help us to look for, and find, opportunities this Advent to become more aware of how you touch our lives each day. May we become evermore a sign of your love in the world around us. Amen.*

Much love,  
Sandy+ (Mother C)

## APPLE PIE SALE A DELICIOUS SUCCESS

Working together, we made 212 apple pies. \$1,255 has been collected so far and more money is still to come in. The apples were donated by Jeff and Kathy Kennedy and the remaining ingredients were donated by Walter and Linda Carl. There was an excellent volunteer workforce peeling, slicing, mixing, shell and top making, crimping, and packaging. Lively music played and it was a fun as well as productive day. Thank you to everybody who worked on this project for mission. A special thanks is given to Mary White who yearly organizes this project.

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR UPDATE

A HUGE THANK YOU to Nancy French, Floyd French, and to all who worked to make our bazaar such a success. The bazaar was very well attended and a lot of craft items and baked goods were sold. The final profit for this year's Holiday Bazaar will be over \$2,700!!

## New Shed Installed

As you all know, the lack of storage space at St. James' was a problem and the small shed we had behind the building was just not up to the task. A larger shed has now been installed. It has been painted to match the color of the church and now nestles in the back corner of the property. It greatly helps with our storage issue and is an attractive addition to our property. Thank you to all involved in obtaining, placing, painting, and transferring materials needing storage to the shed.

## Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Held

A joyful noise was made unto the Lord here at St. James' during the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service November 19th. Tom and Carol Bidwell and the Joyful Noise Musicians led the ecumenical choir and the congregation through a selection of Praise Songs. Praise Songs were also incorporated into the service itself. The sermon was given by the Rev. Gary Edmister. El-lie Boutwell played the organ and Cecil VanHouten played the piano. The offering taken at the service will go to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. At the conclusion of the service was a lovely coffee hour. A big thank you to everybody who helped with the service.

# ANGEL TREE

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**Sunday**

**December 4.**

**We will decorate**

**the Angel Tree in the**

**Undercroft by removing doves naming**

**items needed by the Food Pantry and putting**

**Angels on the tree in their place. All followed by**

**a dish-to-pass brunch after church. Bring a dish**

**to share and enjoy.**

**!!!!**

## **Greening the Church**

Greening of the church will take place Sunday, December 18, after the 9:00 a.m. service. Everyone's help is needed so we can be done quickly. The garland must be attached to the arch, the creche prepared, the wrought iron candlesticks placed, the windows boughs hung, and the flowers arranged. Nancy and Floyd French have volunteered to gather greens and make all the boughs for the windows and the swags for the wrought iron candlesticks on the aisle. With everyone's help we will be ready to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ at our Christmas Eve service at 9:00 PM on December 24.

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## **Christmas Flowers**

(Please print)

In Memory of

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In Thanksgiving for

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Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the church by December 18, either by mail or place in the offering plate.

We ask all at St. James Church to keep the following people in their prayers.

Linda	Gary	Cecil	Kathy
Patsy	Ruth	Josie	Gene
Nita	Roxie	Mary Agnes	Scott
Ted	The Howard Family	Teralin	Doug
Kali	Jim	John	Lori
Curtis	Georgia	Peter	Don
Melissa	Colin	Cheryl	Marion
Lee	Mary	Jessica	Julie
Bill	Marie	Lillian	Barbara
Michele	Arlene	Maria	Crocker
Bob	Marilyn	Eva	Arlene
Harry	Tim	Zack	Eileen
Sue	Bruce	Nancy	Carolyn
Richard	Lisa	Jean	George
David	Louise	Thank you for the birth of Piper Kennedy	

- The Church of Kisima in Kenya
- Those who suffer with addictions
- Those who serve our country in the military, especially Vance, Forrest, Zac, Lael, and Grayson.  
(Please let Mother C. know how people on the prayer list are doing.)

Remember that if you want Mother C. to visit someone in the hospital, you will have to tell her they are there. The hospitals can no longer give her that information.

## **Socks for the VA**

We at St. James' have generously donated white sweat socks to the veterans for many years. We do this in the memory of Jane Aeschbacher, a long time member of St. James' who put in countless hours volunteering at the VA prior to her death. When you are out shopping, please buy plain white sweat socks to help us with this worthy cause. Many of the veterans have no family to give them gifts on holidays and a gift of socks is well appreciated. Please put the socks in the basket at the back of the church. Please have them there by the Sunday before Christmas.

**PLEASE HELP US DONATE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE STEUBEN COUNTY HEALTH CARE FACILITY  
FILL THE RED STOCKING IN THE KEELER ROOM BY DEC. 18**

Please gift wrap each item and label it for a man, woman, or either.

sun catchers	plastic window clings	lotions
shaving cream	tooth brushes and paste	denture cleaner
small note pads	small figurines or decorations	greeting cards to send
pocket or board games	small talcum or baby powder	small sized deodorants
kleenex	pens and pencils	word search books
combs and brushes	emery boards	small "fanny packs" to wear around waists.
crossword puzzle books		

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Our Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 22. The meeting will take place after a pot-luck brunch following the morning service. At that time Vestry members, Warden and Delegates to Convention will be elected. There will also be reports from different programs in the church, and a report on the budget adopted by the Vestry. Please bring a dish to pass and join us at the Annual Meeting.**

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**If you are going to pledge, please do it soon.**

**Thank you.**

Fill out the form below and send it to the pledge clerk, or place in the alms basin.

St. James' Church  
P. O. Box 249  
Hammondsport, New York 14840

In thanksgiving to God, and in commitment to the ministries of St. James', I/we will participate in these ministries in the year 2012 by offering \$\_\_\_\_\_ on a \_\_\_ weekly, \_\_\_ monthly, \_\_\_ annual basis for a total annual pledge of \$\_\_\_\_\_, as well as through the offering of my/our time and talent.

Signed\_\_\_\_\_

Print name\_\_\_\_\_

## November Vestry Highlights

- Received a report on pledging and projections for the 2012 budget. We are still hoping that more pledges will come in.
- Sent \$1,000 to St. Paul's Church in Owego to help their recovery from the flooding.
- Approved the following for mission: Health Ministry of the Southern Tier-\$200; Hospice-\$200; Family Life Ministries-\$100; Catholic Charities-\$200; Episcopal Relief and Development-\$200.
- We are collecting socks for the VA again this year.
- We will be working with the Wayne American Legion to provide items for local men and women in the military.
- Voted to apply the profits from the Bazaar to Debt Repayment. There is still more money coming in from the Silent Auction, but the profit will be approximately \$2,700. Sincere thanks to Nancy and Floyd French for making this possible.
- Annual Meeting date was set for after church on January 22, 2012.
- The elevator project is underway, but we will need a new electrical service for it. Nick Forenz will manage that project.
- The new storage shed is completed, and Nick Forenz, Jim Grillo, and Leah Nichipourk have been moving items in.

### **South East District Mission Projects**

The District is still taking donations for their two mission projects in Haiti. The projects are Doctors Without Borders and Rebuilding the Cathedral. If you choose to donate, please put your check in the alms basin. It should be made out to St. James' with the project's name in the memo.

### **OTHER MISSION NEWS**

If you still wish to contribute to help an Episcopal church that has been damaged by recent flooding in NY State, make check payable to St. James', and mark the memo "flood".

## LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE

PLEASE FIND A SUBSTITUTE IF YOU CAN NOT SERVE AT YOUR SCHEDULED TIME.

**PLEASE NOTE POSSIBLE CHANGES TO SCHEDULE**

December 4	Ce. VanHouten	Co. VanHouten	C. Bidwell W. Torp	T. Dykas S. Dykas
December 11	Co. VanHouten	H. Matthews	D. Erway S. Wilson	D. Burch B. Frey
December 18	M. White	L. Nichiporuk	M. Samson J. Skinner	J. Grillo L. Grillo
December 24	M. White	C. Skinner	Ce. VanHouten M. White	W. Barney D. Barney
December 25	L. Nichiporuk	J. Grillo	J. Grillo Co. VanHouten	P. Manikas C. Manikas
January 1	C. Skinner	H. Matthews	A. Edmister D. Erway	N. Forenz P. Forenz
January 8	Co. VanHouten	L. Nichiporuk	S. Wilson M. Samson	D. Burch B. Frey
January 15	Ce. VanHouten	Co. VanHouten	J. Skinner Ce. VanHouten	J. Grillo L. Grillo
January 22	M. White	J. Grillo	M. White J. Grillo	W. Barney D. Barney
January 29	J. Grillo	C. Skinner	Co. VanHouten C. Bidwell	P. Manikas C. Manikas

**St. James' Church**  
**Corner of Lake and Main**  
**P. O. Box 249**  
**Hammondsport, NY 148**

**ST. JAMES CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!**

**Sunday School - 52 weeks a year!**

HOLY EUCHARIST

SUNDAY AT 9:00 A.M.

Vestry and Delegates to Convention

Wardens: Jim Grillo - first year, Leah Nichiporuk - second year

Vestry: Donella Barney, Floyd French, Esther Kowulich- Covell - 1st year

Ted Dykas, Pete Manikas, Nick Forenz - 2nd year

Tom Noteware, Charles Skinner, Karen Derr - 3rd year

Delegates to Convention: Betty Frey - 1st ; Gladys Palmer - 2nd; Charles Skinner - 3rd

Clerk of the Vestry: Betty Frey

Treasurer: Karen Derr

Pledge Clerk: Donella Barney

Choir Director and Organist: Elenor Boutwell

Christian Education: Lin Bretherton

Deacon: The Rev. Thomas Williams, M. Th.

Associate: The Rev. Gary Edmister, M.Div.

Rector: The Rev. Sandra K. Curtis, M.S. Ed., M. Div.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: [www.stjames14840.org](http://www.stjames14840.org)