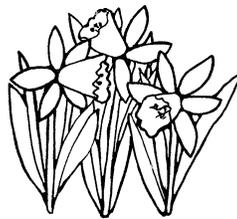


# From St. James' with Love

Corner of Lake and Main  
P.O. Box 249  
Hammondsport, New York  
607.569.2647  
May-June 2015

## From the Rector's Corner

*If you follow my statutes and keep my commandments and observe them faithfully, I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. (Lev. 26:3-4)*



It's finally beginning to look like spring, almost. The tulips are doing their best to blossom, the daffodils are shining brightly, and the buds on the trees show the promise of green any day now. I'm looking forward to all the blossoms bursting forth in the days and weeks to come. It seems to me that we are always in a season of transition, in our lives, in our communities, and in the world. We are in the midst of the 50 days of Easter, rejoicing in the risen Lord, and celebrating the amazing gift of God's work in our lives and in the world. In a few weeks we will celebrate the Ascension and then at the end of May, Pentecost. The color red on that day will remind us of the joy of the Holy Spirit and how the Spirit works in us, through us, amid us, and around us. Returning us once again to "Ordinary Time" the green season of discipleship and the opportunity of new growth in our faith.

The other transitions I notice around me are the many losses we each experienced this winter, and the many new babies who arrived or are on their way. The cycle of life, death, and new birth is always with us and always filling us with the mixture of joy and sorrow. And I'm delighted to see our snow birds returning, both the robins as well as our families who have been away for a season. As I watched the ice slowly thaw on Keuka, I could feel the excitement build as people open their lake homes, we see more visitors and guests in the Village on the weekends, and we prepare for the next season of events at St James, beginning with the Mother's Day Smorgasbord on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

This Newsletter includes the outcome of the St James Visioning process, Stories of our Faith Journeys, and many opportunities to join our faith journeys with the good works of St James. May this be a season of transition that is filled with grace and invitation.

Peace,  
Lynne +

## **Tellers/Counters**

We are looking for a few people who are willing to give a bit of their time during coffee hour one or two Sundays a month. Every Sunday two of our faithful members come together during coffee hour to count the money and prepare the deposit. If you can count, we can train you to be one of the counters. Contact Rev Lynne if you would like to learn more about this opportunity to serve.

## Prayer List

Ted	Michele	Katie	Sue
Lori	Dylan	The Howard Family	Connie
Stuart	Barb	Joy	Nancy
Eva	Sandy	Doug	Donna
Peter	Marion	Angie	John
Bob	Kristin	Winnie	Hollie
Sheryl	Bonnie	Ginny	Brenda
Muriel	Denny	Jim	Gary
Ruth	Anissa	Bill	Joe
Peter	Georgia	Betty	Adrienne
Nate			

The Church of Kisima in Kenya-Those who suffer from addictions-Those who serve in the military especially Vance, Tony, Zack, Lael, and Grayson

### Funeral Planning

Funeral planning is a topic that most people avoid at all costs, understandably. If you have already made plans, and have a copy available, could you make sure to send it to the church office so we can have it on file in case the need arises. If you would like more information on how to plan your service, or the service for someone you love, contact Rev Lynne and we can get you more information. If you would like to meet to talk through what this means, and if you might want to plan at some point in the future, contact Rev Lynne at 607.569.2647.

### Announcements

*Prayer Lists* – Did you know that St James has an email Prayer Group that holds all prayer requests in confidence? If you wish to add someone to the confidential list, or to add someone to the bulletin, or to offer updates, or thanksgiving for prayers answered, please contact Rev Lynne. Also contact Rev Lynne with names and addresses of our military so we can keep in touch.

*Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry* – gives thanks for the weekly basket of food and other items. They would like to remind us that cleaning products, and hygiene products (toothpaste, deodorant...) are always needed as well as the food items.

### Emeritus House

Several of us go to Emeritus House to visit Ruth Clark and other friends at Emeritus House and to hold a monthly Service with music and reserved Sacrament. The residents are delighted to listen or sing along with favorite hymns, and help by reading the readings. On Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> we sang the music of Lent, Palm Sunday and Good Friday with about eighteen residents. Please consider joining us in song and prayer on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 in the afternoon.

# *Journeys*

## **My Spiritual Journey ~ Carol Bidwell**

I was baptized in a large Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh, most likely because of the influence of my paternal grandmother and great aunt. I attended Church School and Sunday services (Confirmation at age 12) into my teen years, and the song I remember as just a very little girl, was "Praise Him, Praise Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love."

Even through college I attended church...which was something, given my attendance at Saturday fraternity night parties! I have always believed in God, and attending church was expected. I don't think it went any deeper than that, although it was important for me to be married in a church, and I wanted to have Communion at the service, but that didn't happen. Tom and I were married in a Church of God by a Methodist minister.

In our early married years we discussed the importance of taking the kids to church and having them baptized..."what if it's true?" but at that time we were exploring other realities. I was reading a lot of what I now know to be occultist books.

My dear friend at that time had become "born again" and was concerned for me. I remember telling her that I was happy for her, but that Christianity was so narrow, and intolerant, I didn't think it was for me. She invited me to attend a conference with her and several other women from a main-line church in Bath, "just to see." OK, I wasn't working at the time, and it was a "weekend away."

Well. I walked into the convention center in Atlantic City where 40,000 people had their hands raised and were singing, and I remember thinking/praying "Lord, help me with this." There were workshops available and one description was: "if you don't know what you're doing here or what this is about, this is the one for you." That fit. I would also mention that the atmosphere everywhere was filled with love, something I had never experienced like that before.

In the workshop, the priest said if you can accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, renounce the devil and all his works, and allow the person behind you to lay hands on you to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, your life will never be the same. I thought I could do all those things. Nothing happened at the time, but the next day I was filled with so much love! And what the priest said was true, my life has not been what it may have been!

While Tom was at his active duty assignment for Army Reserves, a fellow teacher would visit and talk about the Bible and Jesus and I listened; I even tried to read the King James Bible my grandfather had given me. Nothing. I could not stay with it at all. But, when I came back from Atlantic City probably six years later I couldn't put the Living Bible down! I read the New Testament several times, and I have to say, my thinking changed 180°.

The women who went to the conference just swooped down and checked on me, showed love and concern, invited me to Bible Studies and Prayer groups, all of which I started to attend, as well as the one that was offered at the church we were attending at the time, St. Thomas in Bath.

That was probably the apex of my spiritual journey. There have been peaks and valleys, questions and doubts along the way, but I am encouraged by Phillipians 1:6, "...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

(NKJV)

## **My Faith Journey ~ Tom Bidwell**

If you really want to hear about it, I grew up (more or less) as a 'heathen.' By that, I mean that I was not a believer in Jesus Christ, but thought I was a good person. My mother was a believer from her early childhood, but with a family of eight kids, she was busy every day of the week. My father worked hard to support our family but never seemed too interested in going to church. So religion and God were not high on my list of important things. It all seemed rather dry and boring. Skepticism and mockery were my modus operandi when it came to the issues of faith. Even Billy Graham seemed to be a charlatan in my self-centered view of the world.

But God, in His infinite mercy and grace, gave me a praying grandmother who would take me to church from time to time and prayed faithfully throughout her life for all her grandchildren. As a teenager I recall playing my guitar for her and singing her favorite Hank Williams song 'I Saw the Light'. Then I went off to college and followed the ways of the world, looking for 'meaning in life' in the usual places of the day - i.e. far eastern mysticism, the rambling writings of Castenada, meditations of Yogananda, astral projection, etc - all the interesting paths to find eternal truth. But at the end of the day, I still felt alone and lost.

After marriage and children, my wife and I felt we should probably go to church somewhere. Funny how there was something instinctive in our hearts to drive us toward God. My wife had some Episcopal imprinting from childhood, so we ended up at the Bath Episcopal Church where Father Robert Horner was the priest at that time. In 1976, my wife was invited by a friend to attend a religious conference in Atlantic City. When she returned, she started reading her Bible a lot, talked about God and generally acted weird (in my non-believing eyes). So I dug in my heels to resist.

The following summer, we were invited by another friend to go to an outdoor musical/camping festival in Pennsylvania. It was called 'Jesus '77 (that year). This was a Christian gathering modeled after the Woodstock phenomena of the 1960's. I was overwhelmed by 35,000 people of all shapes, sizes and ages (from gray-haired grandmothers to tough, burly bikers) - all worshipping and praising God and boldly proclaiming their love and belief in Jesus Christ. I had no idea there was this invisible universe of Christian believers, music and exuberance. There was so much joy and love at that place in the hills of Pennsylvania, I went home changed.

For the first time in my life, I decided to believe that Jesus really was who he said he was - the Son of God, the Messiah, the living water, the bread of life, the light of the world. The peace which I felt inside at that time has never left me. It was like coming home again from a long journey. My favorite verse in the Bible is Ps 37:4 - 'Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.'

### Bequest

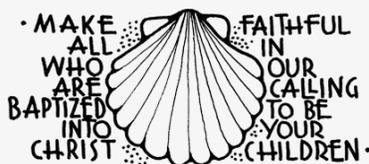
St James received a generous bequest from the estate of Arlene Santus, and the Vestry spent some time looking at different ways to use and invest the gift in a way that would honor Arlene, glorify God, and benefit St James. After two months we have decided to explore the options and possibilities of refurbishing the landscaping, which in the end will include a memorial bench under the trees on the side of the Church. Nick Forenz is currently working on getting some ideas and bids together and hopefully we will see the results this year.

### St James Dinners



Our next dinner is **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the Mother's Day Smorgasbord, with Donna Noteware coordinating. Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall, and plan to bring friends to one of our best dinners of the year! The Chicken and Biscuit Dinner, another favorite, will be on **September 19<sup>th</sup>**, with Nancy French and Karen Derr co-coordinating. The ever-popular Spaghetti/Lasagna Dinner will be on **January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016** with Jim Grillo as coordinator.

## St James Mission – Vision – Planning for 2015-2016



St James Vestry met on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 until 3:00 to vision, dream, and plan for our future. We had a very productive day and filled newsprint with our ideas of "What we do best," "Dreams," "Vision," and "Goals." We invited to take the next two weeks, read the ideas, add to the ideas, and ask questions. On Palm Sunday the 45 people in attendance were given three dots to "vote" for the three items they would want implemented (or continued) at St James for the 2015-2016 years. We did add the caveat that you vote for something that you are willing to invest either time or talent or treasure.

At the April 8<sup>th</sup> Vestry meeting we looked at all the results and selected the top categories: Dinners, Bazaar, Yard Sale in the Church, Backpack program, Youth/Family/Community Events, Postcard for Newcomers, Bring a Friend to Church, Cookie Patrol, Open during Village Events. Vestry members volunteered to bring a group together to explore how to make each of these ideas a reality. If you would like to help plan one of these items, please see the people listed below.

Dinners and Bazaar, see separate items in the Newsletter.

Yard Sale in the Church – Leah Nichiporuk

(Bring the Yard Sale to the Church during the Village Craft Sale)

Backpack Program – Leah Nichiporuk and Mary White

(Catholic Charities offers backpacks and school supplies, we would like to contribute and be a distribution site.)

Youth/Family/Community Events – Karen Derr, Nick Forenz, Mary White

(Plan two, three, four events during the year open to the Community, such as movie night, or game night, Senior dinner . . . )

Bring a Friend to Church – Karen Derr, Joan Rogerson, Terry Channing

(Ways to invite friends and neighbors to church, and keep them coming back.)

Cookie Patrol – Leah Nichiporuk and Donna Noteware

(Welcome newcomers.)

Village Events – Charlie Skinner, Mary White, Donnella Barney, Karen Derr

(Have the church doors open, offer water/lemonade, and a place to rest/pray during Village events.)

Postcard and Brochure for Newcomers – Rev Lynne

### Audio-Visual System

We are aware that our audio-visual system is in need of an upgrade, and we are hoping to obtain some funds this year from a Taylor Grant to make that dream a reality. We know that the sound system works better in some parts of the church than others, we know we have one portable microphone that at times has to be shared by the preacher and the officiant. We know that our system does not work well with people with hearing aids. We need more speakers, and some of our equipment is a bit dated. Tom Bidwell and Gregg Learned are seeking estimates to equip us with both audio and visual upgrades that will benefit the entire congregation, as well as our guests when we host events in the Parish Hall.

## St James Bazaar

Although Nancy and Floyd stepped down from taking the lead on the Bazaar, we will still have the Bazaar on October 31<sup>st</sup> and **we need your help**. The Bazaar this year, and in years to come will be even more of a St James Community event than it has been in years past. Nancy and Floyd will continue to contribute, but on a much smaller scale. This gives each of us an opportunity to contribute our gifts and talents. We don't want to limit anyone's imagination or creativity, so give us your best ideas and work. We encourage everyone at St James to offer 2-3-4-5 (or more) of what they enjoy making/doing: needlework, metalworking, woodworking, beading, junking, photography, painting, ceramics . . . you name it, we need it. With all the variety and gifts we would have the best Bazaar in the area! We will also, of course, recruit for baked goods closer to the day.

To help us prepare, we are going to have two Bazaar Craft days at St James. **Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 5:00** bring your project, teach your project, learn a new project. Let's come together and create together. The second day, closer to the event, is **Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 5:00**. We will again bring what we are working on, or what we want to learn, or what we would like to teach, and create together. Bring the whole family, bring your neighbors, and crafty friends.

## Children and Youth

*Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. (Mark 10:14b)*



We are blessed to have Lin as a teacher, and a year-round Sunday School, and the Vestry would like to do everything we can to make sure that we are providing the best faith education for our children and youth. So we are making some changes immediately, and then looking to support our programs even more in the months and years to come.

We believe -

- . . . our children are not our future, but our present, and therefore are always welcome in the Sanctuary during any and all Services.
- . . . that youth in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older will benefit from being in the Sanctuary during the entire service, and are encouraged to volunteer to be an Acolyte, and if desired, to be put on the Rota as Readers, Ushers, or to assist with the Altar Guild.
- . . . in maintaining a loving and supportive environment for all our children. We will have two adults in the Sunday School room, and will add a third adult if there are children under the age of 5 in the class. Please see Rev Lynne or Lin if you would like to volunteer to assist in the classroom.

In the months ahead we hope to create a play space for our babies and toddlers, as well as a quiet space for (grand)parents with these little ones to who need to roam, rest, or recreate. We also hope to build on our programs for middlers (grades 6-8) and high school youth.

## The Hammondsport Ecumenical Youth Group

**NOTE:** In May we will meet on the first and third Sunday of the month, at the Hammondsport Methodist Church, with the final meeting to be May 17<sup>th</sup> with a picnic at Champlain Beach. Also a trip to Darien Lake for the "Kingdom Bound" event is planned for mid-July

## South East District Meeting

The next South East District meeting of the Diocese has been rescheduled to June 1<sup>st</sup> at Christ Church, Corning at 6:30. Our delegates Charlie Skinner, Luanne Graulich, Gladys Palmer, and alternate Anne Oates will attend, and anyone else is also invited to attend these meetings that help us to engage in the work of the District, the Diocese, and Mission work. The June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will focus on the first draft of the proposed 2016 Diocesan Budget. If you are interested in attending, a shared meal (bring a dish to pass and your own place, settings) starts around 6:00, and the meeting starts at 6:30. Contact any of the delegates for additional information.

## Book Group

The Book Group is enjoying WALKING THE BIBLE -- A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses. We just spent the night in St Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai Desert, home of the oldest manuscripts of Scripture, and the home of THE burning bush. Next we will climb Mt Sinai with Bruce Feiler as he continues to engage with the gap between belief and disbelief in his personal journey of faith. If you did not get a chance to order the book and would like to join in at home or with the group, contact Joan. We meet every other Monday at 6:00. The next meeting is Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Directory

The 2015 St James directory is now available, and yes, there are mistakes. Please find one copy per family in the back of the church, and as you find the errors, let us know so that version 2015.2 can be more accurate. Thank you to all who have made corrections, and send their photos. We have already received comments about how helpful it is to have the pictures to help us remember who is who, and to have addresses handy to send out cards and greetings.

## Upcoming Dates

- April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup> Rev Lynne in the Holy Land (Pastor Gary to cover)
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> Smorgasbord Dinner 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- May 4<sup>th</sup> – Book Study – Book Three, Chapter Three at 6:00 p.m.
- May 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Move Back into the Neighborhood (for Clergy and Interested Parishioners)
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – Book Study – Book Four, Chapter One at 6:00 p.m.
- May 20<sup>th</sup> - Vestry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- May 21<sup>st</sup> – Women's Breakfast at the Wagner in Penn Yan at 9:30
- May 28<sup>th</sup> – Emeritus House at 2:30
- June 1<sup>st</sup> – South East District Meeting, Christ Church Corning 6:30 p.m. (dinner at 6:00)
- June 1<sup>st</sup> – Book Group, Book Four, Chapter Two at 6:00 p.m.
- June 10<sup>th</sup> – Vestry meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- June 14<sup>th</sup> – Vespers for Graduating Hammondsport Seniors at St Gabriel's
- June 18<sup>th</sup> – Women's Breakfast at Stephanie's in Bath at 9:30
- June 25<sup>th</sup> – Emeritus House at 2:30
- July 3rd-First Friday Fellowship will be held at St. James at 7:00 p.m.

## Episcopal Night at Frontier Field

Save the date for Redwings Baseball, followed by the RPO and fireworks on Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Last year there were about 200 people who attended. Friends are welcome. More information to follow.

## Mark Your Calendar-Ellie Boutwell

There will be a Memorial Concert on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at St. James. We invite you to join us to honor our dear friends who have made an impact on the music ministry of our church. We will be remembering John Rogerson, Mary Jane Burch, Richard Hutcheson, Arlene Santus, Lauren Peckham, and Cecil Van Houten. One of the featured performers will be Dr. Robert Ferris from Rochester. Please invite your family and friends to join us and help us "make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

### **Fare-Wells**

It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to Marion Searle and Cecil VanHouten. The funeral for Marion (Nov. 5, 1915–Mar.26, 2015) was held on Monday, April 20th and Marion was interred at Pleasant Valley next to her beloved husband, Don. We said our goodbyes to Cecil (Dec.10,1954–Mar. 31, 2015) on Monday, April 6th, and he was interred that afternoon at White Haven in Pittsford. May Marion and Cecil, with all the saints, rest in peace and rise in glory.

### **Move Back into the Neighborhood – A Workshop for Clergy and Interested Parishioners May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at Church of the Incarnation in Penfield**

(Clergy only )Friday, May 15, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For Clergy, Parish Leadership & Other Interested Parishioners

Friday, May 15, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (with continental breakfast and lunch)

Please plan on attending both the Friday and Saturday sessions.

Together, we'll learn a method that will help the church discern how to engage with the community and mission opportunities.

#### *What is MBiN?*

There is a growing movement of congregations across North America who believe God is calling them into fresh expressions of mission and ministry in their neighborhoods and communities. This movement is energized by the conviction that the Spirit of God is still at work in the world and the times of discouragement are passing. The Spirit invites us into the dawn of a new day for local churches.

*God is up to something out ahead of us in our neighborhoods and communities.*

MBiN is a workshop that brings a message of hope to congregations and their leaders. It takes participants on a

journey to explore what God is already doing in their neighborhoods by learning how to listen to God through one another, giving context to what type of church they are, providing direction on how to go on the journey as a church and suggesting some next steps to consider.

*Join us as we discern together how churches within the Diocese of Rochester can move back into the neighborhood!*

*Registration* – click on the link below to register for the event. The cost is \$15 if you register by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Financial assistance is available if needed.

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/moving-back-into-the-neighborhood-tickets-16525245454>

### **First Friday Fellowship**

First Friday Fellowship will be held July 3rd at St. James at 7:00 p.m. Bring a small snack to share and sing praise songs to the Lord with us.

## **Lay Minister Schedule**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>CHALICE</b>	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	<b>READERS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>
May 3	C. Skinner	N. Forenz	K. Packard A. Edmister	J. Grillo L. Grillo
May 10	N. Forenz	C. VanHouten	W. Torp C. VanHouten	R. Battaglia C. Battaglia
May 17	C. VanHouten	L. Nichiporuk	L. Graulich C. VanHouten	P. Manikas C. Manikas
May 24	J. Grillo	M. White	K. Packard A. Edmister	J. Piersons M. Piersons
May 31	M. White	C. Skinner	W. Torp C. VanHouten	N. Forenz P. Forenz
June 7	L. Nichiporuk	M. White	L. Graulich J. Grillo	R. Battaglia C. Battaglia
June 14	C. Skinner	N. Forenz	K. Packard A. Edmister	J. Grillo L. Grillo
June 21	N. Forenz	C. VanHouten	W. Torp C. VanHouten	J. Piersons M. Piersons
June 28	C. VanHouten	J. Grillo	L. Graulich J. Grillo	P. Manikas C. Manikas

**If you cannot serve at the time you are scheduled, please find a substitute**

