

From St. James' With Love

Corner of Lake and Main
P.O. Box 249 Hammondsport, New York 14840
September – October 2018 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

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. (John 6:35)

We have been reading and hearing about the Bread of Life for several weeks now and trying to understand what Jesus is saying and what this means for us today. I have been pondering "bread" for the last month and was thinking about the different types of bread in different cultures. Bread seems to be a staple in every culture. From ancient times people have created bread with some sort of flour and water, and in times of prosperity, oil. Flattened and cooked it can become an oat cake, pita bread, pizza crust, naan, English muffin, dosa, crepe, or a tortilla.

We can look at this list and focus on the differences; or we can look at this list and see that every culture has a "bread" which brings life, health, nutrition, comfort, joy, hope, and fullness. There is no doubt that bread in any form is essential to human life and is the core of our health and well-being. And that is what the people of Jesus time were expecting and requesting. Feed us! We're hungry!

Jesus invites us to understand that there is more to life than a full belly. Jesus urgently insists that we understand who he is and the purpose of his ministry. Jesus has come to bring us life! Jesus invites us to gather to hear his stories and to understand the gift he brings to the world. An end to division. Justice and peace. Eternal life. He requires us to trust in him, and to partake of his wisdom and promises. The John Michael Talbot communion song that we sing from time to time also reminds us that "this" bread is what brings us together and binds us to the most important thing in our lives:

One bread, one body
One Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many
Throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord

Three times Jesus says, "I am the bread of life," in this single Chapter of John, and then adds, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." As we enter the new school year, get ready for the leaves to change, anticipate the first frost, what is bread you seek?

Peace,
Lynne +

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Saturday, September 15th 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. (note the extended time)

Our delicious and famous Chicken & Biscuit Dinner will be held on Saturday, September 15th from 4:00 - 6:30. Mark your calendars and let your friends and neighbors know that the dinner happens the same weekend as the Wings and Wheels show so they can enjoy both events! It is always a joy to serve more than 100 people hearty food and hospitality. As you all know, it is also a joy to assist with this dinner by bringing food, or set-up and clean-up, or making coffee, or being a server. Sign-up sheets are available now in the Parish Hall.

Bible Study

Every Monday at 4:00 (except Labor Day)

We will completed the study of Isaiah on Monday, and will begin reading 1 Corinthians on August 27th with the help of the 1 Corinthians: NT Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides. Everyone is invited to join us every Monday at 4 to study Scripture – no previous knowledge necessary or expected. You can purchase the study guide on your own or contact Joan.

Book Group

First and Third Mondays of the Month at 5:30

Resumes September 17th

We will begin reading *God's Joyful Surprise: Finding Yourself Loved* by Sue Monk Kidd on Monday, September 17th. "An inspiring account of one woman's spiritual journey into discovering a love of God from the New York Times bestselling author of *The Secret Life of Bees*. From the acclaimed and beloved author Sue Monk Kidd (*The Secret Life of Bees*) comes an exploration of God from early in her spiritual journey. Here, Kidd explores how we are being called on an adventure, one in which we will finally experience how deeply and wholly loved we are by God. Steeped in wisdom and written with poise and grace, Kidd's words will encourage others along their spiritual journey." Join us every other Monday as we read a chapter or two and discuss the surprises, and how it relates to our lives. Order the book yourself or talk to Joan about ordering a copy through Amazon.

Prayer List

Pat, Stosh, James C., Michelle J., Beckie, Jenny, Holly L., Joseph R., Anne M., Anja, Eva, Walt Y., Pam, the Brayer family, Art D., Brett, Steve M. and family, Muriel, Caitlin, Tim P., Heather and family, Lois, Beth, Sarah, Steven, Joe, Michael, Katie, Rachel, Robert, Carol B., Lindsey, Doug and family, Jonah, the Food Pantry, those suffering from addiction, and those in the military.

**Community Blessing of the Animals at St James
St Francis Day, Sunday, October 7th at 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Every day our pets bless us with unconditional love and joy. They are our companions and offer so much more than we can give. On the Sunday closest to October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, people of faith around the world host events where animals are blessed. This year St James will sponsor a blessing of pets on Sunday, October 7th, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Why a pet blessing? It's an opportunity to have God bless our furry, and hairy, and scaly friends – both our living friends, and our little one's stuffed friends. It's an opportunity to invite our neighbors and the community to celebrate all of God's creation with the pets we love.

How does it work? There will be a brief service and prayer followed by the individual blessings. If your pet is good on a leash, great! Or in a cage, great! If your pet is not as eager to encounter many others, stand to the side and I will come to you. If your pet is too large, or doesn't travel well, perhaps a horse or a dolphin, you can bring a symbol of that pet for the blessing. Invite a neighbor or friend to bring their pet and come with you.

Crop Walk 2018

Sunday, October 14th at 1:00 starting point St Thomas in Bath
CROP Walk October 14th at 1:00 For the past few years St James has participated in the CROP Walk which helps raise funds for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry and nationwide hunger. CROP Walk is part of a nationwide program through the Church World Service to combat hunger in the United States. Twenty-five percent of funds raised stay in the local area. This year's CROP Walk is Sunday, October 14th and starts in Bath. Our youth and families are invited to participate, and everyone can prayer for the group, or sponsor one of the walkers. See Donna for more information.

All Saints' Day – in Remembrance

All Saints' Day Celebrated Sunday, November 4th. We will have special music and flowers to commemorate this occasion and will read the names of your dear departed. Please give the names to Rev Lynne by phone, email, or leave a note in the collection plate. Reminders will be placed in the bulletin a few weeks prior to November 4th.

Why all the Stained Glass – from The Episcopal Handbook

Formed by two of the world's most basic elements, earth and fire, it is no wonder that Christians have long seen glass in churches as a window to more than just the outside.

No one knows who invented stained glass (it may have started with jewelry) but its popularity began spreading in the Middle Ages during the European church and cathedral building boom. Advances in architecture allowed for large, sweeping windows, and many church designers used them to say something big about God. Medieval craftspeople believed they were building sacred spaces to give glory to God,

and to instruct the people in the history and mystery of the faith. They were interested in creating an atmosphere of grandeur where people could sense God's presence. They also knew that a picture is worth 1,000 words, and often portrayed incidents from the Bible in their windows. Thus, early stained glass windows were to be experienced both for their beauty and their message.

Stained glass windows in churches often depict a biblical scene, a sacrament, a famous saint, or some aspect of natural wonder that reveals the power and majesty of God. Such windows maintain effectiveness as teaching tools. Think of stained glass windows as the medieval church's PowerPoint. They helped new Christians learn Bible stories and reminded older members of their sacred story.

The idea behind stained glass, and many furnishings in Episcopal churches, is that the presence of beautiful objects can lift our souls closer to God. Like nature, stained glass windows open our eyes to the wonders of God. They remind us of our past and point us to the future. When we look at stained glass we see God's story played out in myriad different levels. And when we think about it, that's really not a bad way to look out at the world.

Other Visual Arts

Other visual aids are often found in Episcopal churches, including mural paintings, statuary and relief carvings, and fabric art such as weavings and banners. In recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in icons, long a part of the Eastern Orthodox tradition.

To get a taste of the wide range of Episcopalians have produced, from photography to macramé, pay a visit to the website of the Episcopal Church and the Visual Arts (ecva.org)

Backpack Program

Many thanks to you all for helping to collect, pack, and distribute backpacks and school supplies to nearly 40 Hammondspport School students. This is a great way for us to show our support to our children and youth as they return for another academic year. We are happy to partner with the neighboring churches and Catholic Charities to create a service to families who need some assistance in preparing for the upcoming school year.

Mission Table at Craft Festival

A big thank you to everyone who donated baked good to the Mission Table during the Craft Fair. We also thank Joan and Nancy for staffing the table for two days on short notice. We gratefully raised \$129.50 for our Mission Fund. The Church was open on Saturday and several individuals and family came through the church, and some left prayer requests.

Sunday School 52 weeks a year

Join us every Sunday morning, week in and week out, for Sunday School. Children up to age 12 are invited to participate, and at age 10 we encourage our youth to start exploring their gifts as acolytes or readers. We adopt a multiage curriculum using the lectionary readings of the day with a variety of music and craft activities

to enhance learning. Join Gladys Palmer, the Sunday School teacher, and her weekly assistant for this Bible based music, stories, and fun!

Altar Flowers

Each week we have flowers on the high altar created by Stella Pulver, and on the side altar by Leahbella from her garden. The flowers are often given in thanksgiving, or in memory of a loved one. If you would like to donate flowers, simply sign up on the Flower Calendar in the Parish Hall, then complete the information on the envelope and place it in the plate, or give the envelope to an usher. We ask a donation of \$25 to cover the cost of the weekly flowers and materials.

BBQ & Bonfire

The invitation noted, "rain or shine," and Gary prayed mightily that the rain might cease – which it did for the duration of the Bonfire and BBQ. Many thanks to Audrey and Gary Edmister for opening their home and offering hospitality. We gathered together for the Order of Service, and slowly added the flags, then not so slowly the aged or tattered Prayer Books and Bibles. We shared a meal with each person bringing some goodies to the table. Although we huddled under some tents, the rain held off so that Gary was then able to offer rides around the farm. What a blessing to share time with each other and share a meal!

Loaves and Fishes: A Story of Stewardship and Generosity

The story of the loaves and fishes is known to be the only miracle included in all four books of the Gospel. In both Matthew and Mark, a second, similar story is told again, with seven loaves and 4,000 people. And in both Matthew and Mark the story comes up a third time, when the disciples say they have no bread, and Jesus reminds them of the first two incidences, saying "Do you not understand?"

Clearly the great teacher wanted to emphasize the importance of leadership and understanding of stewardship as an essential part of building and providing for a community. The stewardship leader knows the resources are present among the people and must help the community recognize and tap their abundance in responsible ways.

The disciples begin with a half-empty mindset. They are in a deserted place with thousands of needy people and immediately the conversation goes to money: not having enough to buy what is needed; send them away to buy their own; how can this be done? Much hand-wringing and gnashing of teeth, whining and complaining goes on among the disciples in trying to address the problem. Confidence wavers and anxiety levels spike. Sound familiar?

Each time the disciples come to Jesus, he calmly tells them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They come back expressing more doubts, and Jesus asks, "How many loaves have you? Go and see."

In the story, Jesus wisely instructs his disciples to organize the people into smaller groups of 50 people. The leader must also have a vision and system to help the community meet its needs, effectively manage their resources, and take care of one another.

In John's telling, it is a child who makes the personal transformation. A child has a supper of five loaves and two fish and offers it to Jesus and the disciples. Could it be possible that young boy was the only one among the 5,000 who brought food with them? Perhaps the boy was the only one who looked into his own basket and saw what he had, instead of what he didn't have and was willing to take action. The boy saw the need and knew that he had something to share.

And, so all ate and were filled.

givingspeaks.com/2011/11/14/the-loaves-and-fishes-a-story-of-stewardship-and-generosity/

SHIPWRECKED – Rescued by Jesus

Submitted by Diane Albright of the United Methodist Church

VBS, 2018 was another example of our local community working together to provide a wonderful Christian experience for children from our area. Six churches sponsored the program which was attended by 76 children and led by 40 adults and 29 teen assistants.

On our shipwrecked "island" we learned that Jesus rescues us when we are lost, worried, struggling, wrong or powerless. These themes were developed through Bible stories, recreation, snacks, crafts, science, music, etc.

Each day the kids were asked to share "God Sightings" and indicate them by covering a tear in the sail on one of three rafts located around the church. By the end of the week the sails were repaired, symbolizing how God takes care of us and repairs the "holes" in our hearts.

In our effort to "rescue" others, a daily offering was taken to be used to provide drought tolerant seeds for families in Haiti. We were able to donate \$ 650.22 to this program.

At the local level, and tying in with our "rescue" theme, donations of food, toys, treats, etc. were brought in to be given to the Finger Lakes SPCA. A representative of the SPCA presented a program and brought a rescue dog for us to meet.

A tremendous **THANK YOU** goes out to all who helped make Shipwrecked a success. As usual, this was a team effort. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Where was Solomon's temple located? On the side of his head.

Upcoming Dates:

- September 3rd – Office Closed in observance of Labor Day
- September 6th – SED Clergy meeting
- September 7th – First Friday Fellowship at Wallace Wesleyan
- September 10th – SE District meeting 6:00 at St James Hammondsport
- September 12th – Vestry Meeting at 7:00
- September 15th – Chicken and Biscuit Dinner
- September 17th – Bible Study 4:00, Book Group at 5:30
- September 20th – Women's Breakfast 9:30 at Kozy Korner, Bradford
- September 27th – Brookdale
- September 28-29th – Diocesan Confirmation Retreat at the Curtiss Museum
- October 1 – Bible Study 4:00, Book Group at 5:30

- October 3 – SE District & SW District Pre-Convention meeting 6:00 p.m. St Peter's in Dansville
- October 5th – First Friday Fellowship at Bath First Presbyterian
- Sunday October 7th – Blessing of the Animals 10:30 – 11:30 at St James (the Community is invited to participate)
- October 8th – Vestry meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- October 11th – 24th Rev Lynne is taking a group to the Holy Land, please pray for us and for the peace of Jerusalem
- Sunday, October 14th – CROP Walk at 1:00 (starting point tentatively St Thomas in Bath)
- October 15th – Bible Study at 4:00, Book Group at 5:30
- October 27th – Diocese of Rochester Convention

Lay Schedule September-October 2018

DATE	CHALICE	ACOLYTE	READERS	USHERS	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sept. 2	M. White	C. VanHouten	M. Samson C. VanHouten	M. Piersons J. Piersons	S. Pulver
Sept. 9	C. VanHouten	M. White	L. Graulich K. Derr	P. Forenz N. Forenz	N. Folts
Sept. 16	J. Grillo	L. Nichiporuk	A. Edmister G. Briscoe	C. Manikas P. Manikas	E. Covell
Sept. 23	L. Nichiporuk	J. Grillo	J. Grillo C. VanHouten	M. White N. Folts	J. Rogerson
Sept. 30	M. White	C. VanHouten	S. Pulver J. Grillo	M. Dowdle L. Grillo	K. Derr
Oct. 7	C. VanHouten	M. White	M. Samson K. Derr	M. Piersons J. Piersons	M. Dowdle
Oct. 14	J. Grillo	L. Nichiporuk	A. Edmister J. Grillo	M. Dowdle L. Grillo	J. Derr
Oct. 21	L. Nichiporuk	J. Grillo	S. Pulver C. VanHouten	P. Forenz N. Forenz	D. Noteware
Oct. 28	N. Forenz	J. Grillo	L. Graulich G. Briscoe	M. White N. Folts	L. Nichiporuk
