

From St. James' With Love

Corner of Lake and Main
P.O. Box 249 Hammondspport, New York 14840
November-December 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

"I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

I've spent the last 12 days in Israel, traveling with a group of 35 Pilgrims, going in and around Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Galilee, Jericho, and the Golan Heights where Jesus and his disciples preached to the people of Caesarea Philippi. Every time I headed toward the Old City of Jerusalem this Psalm came to mind – with the thought, "from where is my help to come?" As you can imagine, visiting the sights where Jesus and his disciples walked the earth is powerful. I also find it powerful to pause and wonder at the beauty of creation, and the people who surround us. But most of all, the profound reminder that the power does not reside in me. Every part of life is a gift from God.

Sometimes it seems like life is too busy, too full of both the good and the challenging. Full of joy and sorrow, hope and despair, dancing and mourning, and all the other emotions and hectic schedules of modern lives. When in the world do we have time to slow down for just a second? To seek Jesus in our daily lives? Where do you find glimpses of God peeking through the golden autumn sunlight on the changing leaves, flakes of snow, and pumpkins decorating our steps?

We are doing so much good work at St James, and we gather every Sunday to give thanks as we pray together and enjoy fellowship. As you read through this Newsletter, I invite you also to ponder the many ways we can turn to God and rely on His power in our lives.

Peace,
Lynne +

Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St Francis and in thanksgiving for our furry companions, St James had its first Blessing of the Animals following the Sunday service on October 7th. There were a variety of dogs and guinea pigs who came to receive a blessing, as well as some photos and statues of other pets who could not make it that day. We look forward to continuing the practice next year as we reach out to the community, and bless our companions.

CROP Walk 2018

A big thank you to Karen and the many others who came together to offer a taco bar before the youth headed out on the CROP Walk. The CROP Walk is about 3 miles long, rain or shine, and is a part of the Church World Service – helping to end hunger locally and globally “one step at a time.” 25% of the local sponsorships benefit the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. Thank you for your donations, participation, and prayers

Day of Prayer

Tuesday, November 6th from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

St James will host a day of prayer throughout the day on Tuesday, November 8th. Please consider spending an hour at St James . . . bring a book, bring your knitting, bring your prayers and hopes and dreams. Sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.

Join us for the Book Group - New Time 6:30
First and Third Mondays of the Month at 6:30
Begins on Monday, November 5th

We will begin reading God's Joyful Surprise: Finding Yourself Loved by Sue Monk Kidd. “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. . . 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.

HAMMONDSPORT ECUMENICAL YOUTH GROUP

Open to all students grades 7 through 12

Sunday evenings from 5:30 - 7:15

Transportation available, if needed.

Dinner provided by host church, games, music, fellowship, and a message from Scripture each week. Come and join the fun and bring a friend or neighbor!

Sunday, November 11 at St James (see sign-up sheet to help with dinner.)

Sunday, December 2nd. at the Martello Home

Please bring appetizers, desserts, drinks to share

Sunday, January 13th at St James

Sunday, February 10th at United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 3rd at the St James

Sunday, April 7th at United Methodist Church

Sunday, May 19th Picnic and Celebration location & time TBD

Giving Tree

November 18th

'Tis almost the season and we are having a tree with both food items and with Christmas gifts for some families in our community. The tree will go up on November 18th and we need the gifts back for distribution on December 2nd, and the food items by December 9th. The tags will be color and shape coded so you can easily select a gift and/or food item.

Annual Pledge Drive

Thank you all for your consistent generosity in considering how you give of your time, talent, and treasure to the work and ministry of St James. We invite you to begin prayerful consideration of how you will respond to this year's Pledge Drive. Look for a letter from St James the first full week of November.

Happy Feet

submitted by Esther Covell

Collection November until December 16th

We have another opportunity to show our care for our veterans, thanks to our memorial for Jane Aeschbacher. Jane was an avid volunteer here and for our veterans. At her passing her husband, Paul, continued her activity via the collection of socks for our veterans at the VAMC. To date we are approaching 3000 pair, donated and passed on to our vets! That is a lot of 'happy feet'! The generosity of our parish is very much appreciated. I get a chuckle when presenting the socks, their eyes pop when I report the number collected.

Hammondspport Thanksgiving Service November 18th

St James Episcopal Church at 7:00 p.m.

St James will host the Hammondspport Community Thanksgiving service this year is on Sunday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m.. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with our local community and offer thanksgiving and praise in an evening of music and prayer. Please invite a neighbor or friend to join you this year in giving thanks.

UMC Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day – delivery 11am to 2pm

If you would like to volunteer, or can help provide some of the food for the 400 meals, please call the Methodist church office at 569-3511. A letter with more details is available on our bulletin board.

Prayer List

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

Advent Education: The Journey – Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Thursdays, November 29, December 6, 13, 20

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

We invite you to journey with Adam Hamilton this Advent Season as we travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. This study is “a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. . . . Hamilton once again approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.” Join us every Thursday of Advent as we come together to immerse ourselves in the story of Jesus birth. Includes book, DVD, and discussion.

Memorial Park

Did you know that Steuben County built a Law Enforcement Memorial Park in front of the Public Safety Building in Bath to honor the fallen brothers and sisters who have died in the line of duty? This Memorial Park honors fallen police and peace officers from 9 counties: Allegany, Chemung, Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Steuben, and Yates. The park includes the names of the fallen officers and a blue glass flame created by The Corning Museum of Glass representing an eternal flame. St James Episcopal Church proudly sponsored a paver in the Park with our name and a Bible verse to honor those who have given their lives for our safety. We invite you to stop by and see the brick as well as saying a prayer for those who have died, and a prayer for those who faithfully serve our community.

Brookdale & Taylor Center

St James now goes to the Taylor Center the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2:45, and Brookdale the 4th Thursday at 2:30. We sing hymns with the faithful and gifted leadership of Ellie, read Scripture, pray together, and share Communion. The residents of both facilities enjoy this time to come together with other Christians and worship. You are always invited and welcome to come along and join in the singing or read a reading, or just be there to greet the residents.

3rd Annual Cookie Walk

December 1

We were excited last year as we made about 150 cookies, iced that many cookies, put them in a baggies, and sealed them for the people who bought Cookies Tins through the Chamber of Commerce. More than 100 walkers, with their friends, stepped into the Sanctuary of St James to collect a cookie. Each person was greeted with a smile, and we extend an Merry Christmas and an invitation to join us on Sunday!

Athletes' Dinners

Friday, December 7 and Wednesday, January 9

St James will host two pre-game dinners this Basketball season in December and January. All team members, cheerleaders, and support students are invited to attend a dinner at St James. More information to follow about how you can participate in this event.

Greening of the Church

Takes place on Sunday, December 17th immediately following the Sunday service. As you know, it is a joyous occasion, and takes all available hands to place all the greens, candles, and decorations around the Sanctuary. Please mark your calendars and plan to stay.

Christmas Eve – 7:00 p.m. (Note: new time!)

Gather your family and friends to join us for the Celebration of our Savior's Birth on Monday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. As always, this is a smaller service, filled with joy, candlelight, some of your favorite Christmas hymns, and the opportunity to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus.

Stewardship is ...ALL that we do, with ALL that we have, ALL the time.

Stewardship isn't ...

- + Fundraising.
- + Paying the light bills or maintaining a building.
- + Paying a decent staff.
- + Meeting the budget.
- + Keeping the church alive.
- + Paying our fair share of the dues.
- + Passing on a legacy to our children.

Stewardship is ...

- + Sharing in God's mission with a glad, generous and grateful heart.
- + Transforming lives in our community.
- + Prayerfully responding to God's call.
- + A deeply spiritual matter.
- + Something that blesses the giver more than the receiver.

Stewardship is discipleship; it is a complete reorientation of our lives toward God, who calls us through Jesus Christ.

Stewardship is... Everything I do after I say, "I believe."

Bible in a year

Every year several folks 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.

Sabbatical

What is a Clergy Sabbatical and why is it important? Below is some information excerpted and adapted from: soulshepherding.org/sabbatical-guide-pastors.

“Sabbatical” in simple terms means a time off for rest and/or study. In the Episcopal Church clergy are given paid leave for rest, and rejuvenation after five years of service.

Why is a Sabbatical important?

A clergy has emotional highs and lows unlike most other vocations. In the course of a day, a clergy can deal with death, deep spiritual issues, great encouragement, petty criticisms, tragedies, illnesses, and celebrations of birth. The emotional roller coaster is draining. Many clergy are on-call 24-7 and don't have an “off” switch. They go to sleep with the knowledge they could be awakened by a phone call at any time of the day. Vacations are rarely uninterrupted. Clergy who have sabbaticals have longer tenure at churches. Clergy who have sabbaticals view the time off as an affirmation from their churches.

What is a Sabbatical?

A Sabbatical is not a long vacation. It's not a time to read books on leadership or visit successful churches to learn from them. It's not a time to write a book, do research, or work on some other special project. A Sabbatical is not a job search. As a matter of fact, clergy contract to stay in place for at least a year following a Sabbatical.

The purpose of a Sabbatical is extended Sabbath rest! The Biblical precedent and Christian tradition is for clergy to go on Sabbatical. The typical Sabbatical in the Episcopal church is three months.

A true Sabbatical is a season of Sabbath for *prolonged rest*. It's like stringing together a number of Sabbath days. You do no leading, no ministering, no visioning the future of the church, no sermon planning. The key to Sabbath rest is: “Do nothing! Don't try to make anything happen!” *Just be with God.*

Clergy Stress Statistics Document Their Need for Sabbaticals

Here are a few of the statistics on clergy stress:

- 90% work 55 to 75 hours per week
- 90% feel fatigued and worn out every week
- 91% have experienced some form of burn out
- 70% have a lower self-esteem than when they entered the ministry
- 70% fight depression
- The average seminary trained clergy lasts five years in professional ministry

Clergy get so preoccupied caring for others that their own souls suffer:

- 72% only study the Bible when preparing their sermons for others
- 70% do not have a close friend
- 50% do not regularly meet with an accountability partner or group
- 44% do not regularly take a day off
- 85% have never taken a Sabbatical!

Congregational benefits of a sabbatical

A sabbatical for the clergy does not have to be met with anxiety or inactivity. During the clergy absence, the sabbatical can provide a means of partnering for effective ministry within the congregation. It can be an opportunity for people to try a new ministry, and for individuals to discover new gifts. In the longer vision of sabbatical,

the congregation should expect to benefit from renewed leadership through ministers who are both physically and spiritually refreshed. As a result, both the congregation and its ministerial staff have the opportunity to be exposed to new programs and ministries that will benefit the church.

Martin Padgett, president and chief executive officer of Clark Memorial Hospital in Jeffersonville, Indiana, was board chairperson of First Christian Church in Jeffersonville while his pastor was on a three-month sabbatical. Following the pastor's return, Padgett wrote, "I feel we [the congregation] benefited by this experience as much as he did. . . . We had to make decisions based on meaningful discussion and not by just looking to (our pastor) to tell us the answer to whatever issue we had. . . . (He) returned from his time away with revived enthusiasm in every aspect of his role as senior pastor. Since he has returned, we have added additional services, programs, and attendance. . . . The congregation feels the renewed energy we have."

Rev Lynne is eligible for a 3-month Sabbatical next summer and is working with the Vestry to decide how best to approach this time of renewal for both the rector and the congregation. 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. St James is also looking at coverage and exploring the possibilities of a combination of Sunday coverage including Pastor Gary, supply, and lay led Morning Prayer.

You will hear more over the next six months as plans emerge, dates are set, and coverage is put into place. Please pray with us as we enter this opportunity for new growth and renewal. Feel free to ask Rev Lynne, or any Vestry member if you have questions.

Looking Ahead - Reports for Annual Meeting

Please send your completed Reports to Lynne no later than Wednesday, January 17th so we can make them available to the congregation on Sunday, the 21st the week before our Annual Meeting on the 28th of January. It is our hope that people will have the chance to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest, and then at Annual Meeting have the opportunity to ask clarifying questions, and give thanks for all we have done in 2018.

Upcoming Dates

- Saturday, Oct 27th – Diocesan Convention, Islamic Center Rochester 7 a.m.
- Friday, Nov 2nd – First Friday Fellowship at Christ Community Church, Bath at 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov 4 – All Saints' Day & and change your clocks
- Monday, Nov 5 – 4:00 Bible Study
 - 6:30 Book Group: God's Joyful Surprise, read Intro and Chapter 1
- Tuesday, November 6th – Day of Prayer at St James from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 9th – Vestry meeting at 7:00
- Sunday, Nov 11th – Hammondsport Youth Group at St James 5:30 – 7:15

- Monday, Nov 12th – Veterans' Day – Office closed, no Bible Study
- Thursday, Nov 15th – Women's Breakfast at the Wagner in Penn Yan at 9:30
- Sunday, Nov 18th – Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St James at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, Nov 19th – Bible Study 4:00
 - 6:30 Book Group: God's Joyful Surprise, read Chapter 2
- Wednesday, Nov 21st – Taylor Center at 2:45
- Thursday, Nov 22nd – Happy Thanksgiving! Office is closed.
- Sunday, November 25th Christ the King and Ingathering Sunday – please bring your pledge cards and put them in the offering plate.
- Thursday, Nov 29th – Brookdale at 2:30
 - Advent Education at 7:00
- Saturday, Dec 1st – Cookie Walk in Hammondsport (and at St James)
- Sunday Dec 2nd – Hammondsport Youth Group Christmas Party at the Martello's
- Monday, Dec 3rd – Bible Study 4:00
 - 6:30 Book Group: God's Joyful Surprise, read Chapters 3 & 4
- Thursday, Dec 6th – Advent Education at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 7th – Athlete's Dinner – time TBD
- Friday, Dec 7th – First Friday Fellowship, Mitchellsville Methodist Church 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec 12th – Vestry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec 13th – Advent Education at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, Dec 17th – Bible Study 4:00
 - 6:30 Book Group: God's Joyful Surprise, read Chapter 5
- Thursday, Dec 20th – Brookdale at 2:30 (tentatively)
 - Advent Education at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, Dec 24th – Christmas Eve service at St James at **7:00 p.m.**
- Wednesday, December 26th through Monday, December 31st Rector on vacation
- Sunday, December 30th – Lessons and Carols

LAY MINISTERS

DATE	CHALICE	ACOLYTE	READERS	USHERS	SUNDAY SCHOOL
Nov. 4	C. VanHouten	L. Nichiporuk	S. Pulver L. Graulich	N. Forenz P. Forenz	J. Rogerson
Nov. 11	M. White	C. VanHouten	K. Derr C. VanHouten	J. Piersons M. Piersons	D. Noteware
Nov. 18	J. Grillo	M. White	K. Packard M. Sampson	M. Dowdle N. Foltz	J. Derr
Nov. 25	L. Nichiporuk	J. Grillo	S. Pulver L. Graulich	P. Manikas C. Manikas	E. Kowulich-Covel
Dec. 2	C. VanHouten	L. Nichiporuk	S. Pulver M. White	N. Forenz P. Forenz	K. Derr
Dec. 9	M. White	C. VanHouten	A. Edmister C. VanHouten	J. Piersons M. Piersons	L. Nichiporuk
Dec. 16	J. Grillo	M. White	L. Graulich K. Derr	G. Learned L. Grillo	J. Derr
Dec. 23	N. Forenz	J. Grillo	M. White C. VanHouten	M. Dowdle N. Foltz	J. Rogerson
Dec. 24 7pm	C. VanHouten	N. Forenz	M. White M. Samson	J. Piersons M. Piersons	
Dec. 30	J. Grillo	C. VanHouten	S. Pulver J. Grillo	P. Manikas C. Manikas	E. Kowulich-Covel