

# From St. James' with Love

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January 2011

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The Rev. Sandra K. Curtis, Rector

607.569.2534

Dear People of God,

Christmas afternoon - is it all over? Some say it is. If you are willing to take a ride around in your car, you will even find Christmas trees with bits of tinsel still attached to them, thrown on their sides on the curb. The wrappings have been stuffed in garbage bags and tied up for the trash pick up. A few folks were out in the late afternoon taking down the lights. Some stores already have set up their post-Christmas sales. In fact, I heard an ad on television talking about programing for the pre-Valentine season - two full weeks of love stories!!

Well, I will admit that Christmas day has come and is quickly going. The exciting moment of tearing the wrappings off of gifts to reveal a new, unwrinkled, unworn shirt, or an unscratched, unbroken toy, or the latest electronic gadget is past. But the excitement is still here, and, for some of us, our natural desire is to prolong it for as long as possible. The gifts were given, not just for the moment of joy in their opening but to give the longer, fuller joy of their good use, and each time we use them, we will think of those who gave them to us. I suspect that it may warm the hearts of some of us for a while longer.

The same applies to the gift of the birth of Jesus. The gift of God to humanity at Christmas is not just the joy of the moment of Christmas day, but the gift of God's presence with each of us and with all of us for all time. The season after Christmas is our time to step back from the celebration and explore the depth of what has happened. On the day after Christmas, we can take up our presents one by one and appreciate the beauty and purpose of each. We can also take up the opportunity to ponder the beauty, complexity, and power of the Incarnation of God in our human form. This revelation is not an aloof appearance of a transcendent and impersonal deity, but an in-the-flesh- person who dwelt among us and calls us each by name to know God, receive God, and live in the light of God.

In our contemplation of the birth of Jesus, we see God's glory and share in the very life of God. We are challenged to become part of a dialogue and be a partner in a covenant. Jesus moves into the center of our beings and brings us to the point where our hearts are ready to receive the gift of hope that God gives. We ask God to help us be susceptible to his message and accept his call to faith, hope and love.

May God be with you and bless+ you in the coming year!

Much love,  
*Sandy* (Mother C)

## PRAYER CORNER

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

Cecil	The Howard Family	Carolyn	McKennah
Adrienne	Ted	Charlene	Michele
Pat	Teralin	Mark	Robert
Ruth	Doug	Jessica	Bud
Carl	Kali	Hunter	Greg
Gene	Curtis	Bill	Candy
Jean	Georgia	Mike	Karin
Richard	Peter	Marie	Dan
Nita	Nancy	Lillian	Tom
Roxie	Maria	Cora	Barbara
David	Charles	Lee	Garry
Dorie	Amy	Julie	Eva
Lori	George	Deena	Zack
Linda	Jim	John	
Marilyn	Gina		Bruce
			Sue

The Hutcheson family at the loss of Dicks brother Norman

Our thoughts and prayers are with Julie Brynside at the death of her mother, Jean Crofut. Charlotte Palmers funeral was held December 4. Please keep her husband Bud and their family in your prayers. The Church of Kisima in Kenya Those who suffer with addictions Those who serve our country in the military, especially Vance, Forrest, Zac, AJ, Lael and Grayson. (Please let Mother C. know how people on the prayer list are doing).

### VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

#### November 18, 2010

- Established a Kathleen Frey Moran Memorial Fund with the \$10,000.00 she left to St. James.
- Donella Barney will replace Barbara Brayer as Pledge Clerk January 1, 2011.
- The Annual Meeting date is **January 23, 2010**.
- Set up a fund for a new shed
- Sent **\$2,000.00 to Missions**. Listed are the various organizations, with set amounts, receiving the \$2,000:  
**Family Life Ministries - \$100.00; Pregnancy Resource Center of The Valleys, Inc. - 200.00; Southern Tier Hospice-300.00; Christmas Families-400.00; Church World Services-500.00 ( 2 bee hives \$50.00, 100 chicks \$50.00, Seeds & Tools \$100.00, 20 mosquito nets \$200.00, 5 school kits \$75.00, 5 blankets \$25.00); Well - for South America-500.00**
- Bob Hunn will shovel the walks again this winter. Thank you, Bob!
- We welcome Jonathan, Juanita and Alek Barter to our church.

#### December 16, 2010

- Appointed Gladys Palmer as delegate to the Episcopal Diocesan Convention to replace Leah Nichiporuk.
- Accepted the proposed budget in the amount of **\$93,627.82 for the year 2011. Carried.**
- Passed the 2011 Housing Resolution for The Rev. Sandra Curtis and placed it on file.
- Each parish in the S.E. District was asked to contribute \$500.00 towards the drilling of a well in South America. At the last S.E. District meeting, St. James contributed the most in the amount of \$1200.00.
- Greg Learned reported that he expects a proposal from Peckham's & Sons, in regards to the work on the organ, in the near future.
- A special thank you to Nancy French for buying the gifts and wrapping them to give to the Sunday School children the day we had the Angel Tree.
- There will be no Vestry meeting in January**
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Pot Luck Dinner and Annual Meeting.**

...Thanks to everyone who helped with the **Greening of the Church** on Sunday, December 19. Everything went quickly because of all the help. The church looked magnificent! The **Christmas Eve** service was awesome. Thanks to everyone who worked to make this possible. A special thanks to Ellie Boutwell and all the musicians who shared their gifts and provided the beautiful music.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

**Our Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 23.** 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.**

### **Altar Guild for 2011**

If you are willing to help with the Altar Guild in 2011, please let Leah Nichiporuk (569.2055) know as soon as possible. She is putting together the schedule for 2011, and would very much appreciate your help.

We welcome Nancy Folts, Gladys Palmer, Jonathan, Juanita and Alek Barter to St. James.

*...On December 19, the Sunday School Angel Choir sang for us during Communion. They also sang for us on Christmas Eve. Thanks to Ellie Boutwell and Lin Bretherton for helping the children prepare, and thanks to the Sunday School for singing for us. We loved it!*

**...The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry distributed 145 boxes of food for Christmas.**

*• • • We delivered 296 pair of socks, in memory of Paul and Jane Aeschbacher, to the Bath VA Hospital the day before Christmas.*

**...THANK YOU to Nancy French, chair, and all who worked on this year's Holiday Bazaar. Final profit total for the Holiday Bazaar was \$3220!**

*thank you      Gregg Learned for fixing the furnace.*

• • • Thank you Mary White, chair, and all who helped with this year's Apple Pie Day. The apples were again donated by Jeff and Kathy Kennedy. We made over 200 pies with a total of \$1500 for mission! Pretty awesome!

...Congratulations to Audrey Derr who was on the Honor Roll for the first quarter for Hammondsport

**OFFERING ENVELOPES AT BACK OF THE CHURCH**

2011 Offering Envelopes are on the back pew of the church. Please take yours, and be sure to place your name on the envelope the first time you place it in the alms basin so your contribution will be verified with the correct account number.

**Pledging for 2011**

We want to thank everyone who has turned in a pledge card. If you have not turned in a pledge card, and still plan on doing so, please send your pledge in as soon as possible. If you have lost the card, there are extra cards and envelopes on the rack at the back of the church, or simply write your intent in a note to our Pledge Clerk, Barbara Brayer, and send it to the church, or place it in the offering plate. The Vestry

• • • Names are being placed on the Altar Flower Calendar for 2011. If you wish to remember someone on a particular date, or give flowers as a thanksgiving, please notify Sandy+ as soon as possible so that your name can be placed on the calendar. The cost of flowers per week is \$24.00. If there are two donors on a particular week, the cost will be divided between the donors.

**• • • IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR, THERE IS A SIGN-UP NOTE PAD ON THE COFFEE BAR.**

# **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: Leah Nichiporuk - first year, Barbara Brayer - second year

Vestry: Ted Dykas, Pete Manikas, Nick Forenz - 1st year

Tom Noteware, James Grillo, Karen Derr - 2nd year

Mary White, Floyd French, Jan Smith - 3rd year

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

Clerk of the Vestry: Betty Frey

Treasurer: Karen Derr

Pledge Clerk: Barbara Brayer

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)

ST. JAMES' E-MAIL: [stjames14840@gmail.com](mailto:stjames14840@gmail.com)