

**SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS  
JANUARY 29, 2017

**Nominations for Election** – submitted by Karen Derr and Donna Noteware  
On January 29, 2017 we will have the St. James Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to vote for our church leadership. The following nominations have been submitted by the Nominating Committee, Karen Derr and Donna Noteware. You can still notify the Nominating Committee if you are interested in serving. It is also possible to nominate from the floor on the day of the Meeting.

Junior Warden: Jim Grillo

Vestry: (select three)

James Nichiporuk, Jr.

Leah Nichiporuk

Tom Pietsch

Deanery Delegate: Gladys Palmer

Alternate to Deanery Delegate: open

**Altar Guild** – submitted by Leah Nichiporuk

I would like to thank all who have volunteered to set the altar this past year. Connie VanHouten, Betty Frey, Janet and Charlie Skinner, Gladys Palmer, and Mary White. A special thank you to Nick Forenz for providing the candles, Mary White for making our communion bread, and Jim Nichiporuk for providing the Altar Wine. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Leah at 607-569-2055.

**Apple Pie Sale** – submitted by Mary White

For over 25 years the people of St. James have been making apple pies for mission. This year we sold 150 pies, sliced apples and pie filling. Because all of the ingredients were donated we were able to contribute over \$1350 to the St. James Mission Fund. We had a great group of student volunteers and parishioners that helped carry in the apples and set up the space on Friday evening. On Saturday there was another group of wonderful volunteers that peeled apples, made filling, mixed dough, rolled crust, crimped, bagged, carried, collected money, made reminder phone calls, served lunch, cleaned up and more. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this another successful year!

**Dinners** – submitted by Karen Derr

Italian Dinner	1033.50
Smorgasbord	1045.00
Chicken & Biscuit	961.50

**Giving Tree & Christmas Socks**

submitted by Mary White and Esther Kowulich-Covell

Individual tags were placed on the tree in the undercroft. Each tag represented either a personal care item for the food pantry or an item from a student's Christmas "wish list".

Four teenagers from two families were generously gifted for Christmas including clothes, personal care items and fun gifts. The tags were gone from the tree in the blink

of an eye and within the next week beautifully wrapped gifts were under the tree. The gifts were distributed on Friday, December 9th at the same time as the food baskets.

Totes full of personal care items were delivered to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. A total of 389 items were donated including toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, bar soap, shampoo and even Tums. Leah reports that the food pantry was extremely grateful to have these items to give to the patrons. Ann Greene reported that a patron on Saturday took the Tums and was very thankful as her husband just lost his health insurance and could not afford his medication.

Many thanks to the incredible generosity of the people of St. James! In memory of the Aeschbackers, we continue to collect socks for our veterans at the Bath VAMC. This year we had the pleasure of supplying 256 pr, bringing our cumulated gift to 2350 pr. That's a lot of happy feet!!! VA expression of appreciation is warm when these socks are unloaded. Thank you for participating.

### **Junior Warden Report – submitted by Mary White**

- Working with New York State DOT, Town of Urbana, Village of Hammondsport and individual property owners for permission to erect “The Episcopal Church Welcomes You” signage at the 3 main roads entering the village.
- Backpack program- 41 backpacks were distributed to students through a coordinated effort of the local churches
- Sponsored two families for Christmas
- Vestry Visioning Day, April 30th- the morning focused on reviewing previous year's goals and setting new goals for 2016-2017. Goals included: calling Rev. Lynne full time by the beginning of 2017; implementing ways to make our Vision part of our worship and daily lives; becoming familiar and more comfortable with ways to talk about stewardship including time, talent and treasure; offering a trial period of senior pot luck lunch once a month with a movie, speaker to follow ; finding opportunities for youth to be incorporated into the life of the parish and worship; continue to look at ways to build up our nursery and Sunday School programs; have a greeter to welcome newcomers. In the afternoon Sharon Arthur helped us focus on activities related to becoming familiar and comfortable with Stewardship.
- St. James contributed to and participated in Vacation Bible School
- We provided the site and supervision for lunch distribution to students after the school program was finished for the summer. Unfortunately there was no participation, possibly due to lack of transportation.
- Labeled blue recycle bins to encourage stewardship of the earth through recycling.

### **Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry**

This was an extraordinary year for the Pantry, after 30 plus years at St. James Episcopal Church we relocated to St. John Vianney's St. Gabriel's Church. Many volunteers contributed many hours of labor over the summer and particularly the second week in October. This allowed us to close on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> after regular pantry hours, move appliances with Mercury Inc.'s assistance in the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup>, and move the inventory in the afternoon. The Food Bank of the Southern Tier inspected and

approved our new quarters on October 14. We reopened on our regular day, Saturday, October 15. The monetary cost (for new shelving, partly covered by a grant from the Food Bank, ads; postage; paper; and renovations) for the move was less than \$3500. Fortunately, The Fred and Harriet Taylor Foundation had increased our grant in anticipation of the move. At year's end the Meade Foundation has contributed an amount which will enable us to replace one or more of our 3 appliances.

In addition to general support from the four Hammondspport Churches, most community organizations, the school and individuals continue to support us financially and by contributing items to the Pantry.

The statistics of service for 2016 are as follows with the change from 2015 in parentheses:

Households	Adults	Children	Seniors	Total People	Days open
439 (-27)	629 (-40)	461 (+23)	216 (-4)	1316 (-11)	103 (+2)

Additionally we distributed:

- 40 Easter gift certificates to Hammondspport Market
- 65 Thanksgiving turkeys (with potatoes, dressing, cranberries)
- 111 Christmas Boxes (in cooperation with Hammondspport Community Services which gave a gift certificate to each.)

Thank you to all.

**Mission Committee Report** – submitted by Carol Bidwell

**Committee Members:** Carol Bidwell, Luanne Graulich, Donna Noteware, Leah Nichiporuk, Kristin Packard, JanetMarie Skinner)

**Local \$598.95:** Congregational gifts to the Giving Tree for a local family and the Food Pantry, Congregational donation of 256+ pairs of socks for the VA; Vacation Bible School \$200, Pregnancy Resource Center (baby bottles) 140.15, Community school supplies \$175, Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry 74.80;

**Regional \$700:** Covenant House \$200, Reynoldstown Mission Fellowship (D. Graulich) \$500;

**International \$2760:** Episcopal Relief and Development \$1435, Primate's World Relief Fund (Canada wildfire) \$500, Smiile Train \$480, Children International \$330, International Fellowship of Christians and Jews \$15.

**TOTAL \$4049.95** (\$2135 through Mission Committee).

**Music Ministry Symphony** – submitted by Ellie Boutwell

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord –

The music ministry tries to do that each week. Thanks to devoted choir members, Carol & Tom and special visitors, we lift our voices in song to proclaim God's love. If you like to sing, please join us. If you have a favorite hymn, let us know and we will sing it.

Thank you for your kind words and compliments and join us to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

**Safe Church** – submitted by Nick Forenz

By the close of 2016 all clergy, lay ministers, employees and persons holding keys to the building who may come in one on one contact with other members of the

congregation have completed the required Safe Church training including the refresher course.

All keys to the building are accounted for and registered in each key holder's name.

### **Senior Warden Report – submitted by Terry Channing**

In 2016 we worked on the following projects:

- 1) The completion of the exterior painting, done by Finger Lakes Painting.
- 2) The installation of a new sound system in the Sanctuary.
- 3) The replacement of one ceiling fan in the Sanctuary.
- 4) Installation of donated grab bar at the top of stairs to the Sacristy.
- 5) Installation of lights on stairs to Sacristy.
- 6) Installation of outside light, on the side of steps, for Undercroft.
- 7) Installation of original light outside main entrance to the church.
- 8) Installation of donated diaper changing station in one of the restrooms.
- 9) Started working on operations manual for church.
- 10) Initiated the collection of proposals for the repair, maintenance and protection of all stained glass windows.
- 11) Installed new heating system for Rectors office.

### **South East Diocesan Delegate Report – submitted by Luanne Graulich**

Diocesan Delegates from St. James attend the meetings of the Southeast District of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. These district meetings are held four times a year. Delegates are Gladys Palmer, Charlie Skinner and Luanne Graulich.

These meetings discuss resolutions that will be presented at the next convention of the Rochester Diocese, Budget proposals are discussed as well as a general overview of the budget for the following year. Reports on the State of the Diocese as well as guest speakers can also be on the agenda.

At the 2015 convention a Resolution was adopted to declare a year long pilgrimage of " Seeing the Face of God in Each Other", this was concluded at the 85th Convention held in November. 2016.

The highlight of the year was the 85th Convention held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Geneva., NY. The Most Reverend Michael B Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church preached a dynamic message that inspired everyone.

### **Programs 2015**

- *Bible/Book Study* (Lynne Sharp) – Bible Study met most Mondays (except holidays) at 4:00. This year we focused on reading through the Minor Prophets, and then began on the book of Acts with the assistance of N. T. Wright's Study Guide. We are scheduled to complete the Book of Acts at the beginning of January.
  - The Book Group met the second and fourth Monday at 6:00. We began the year reading *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom* by John O'Donoghue, followed by *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen. In the Fall we started reading through the Book of Common Prayer. All are invited to attend.

- The Lenten Study this year included reading the daily readings from Lent for Everyone, Mark, Year B: A Daily Devotional by N. T. Wright, a noted New Testament scholar and Bishop in England. We had weekly discussions and reflections on the readings. We met all Wednesdays of Lent, including Ash Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m.
- The Advent Study, held on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 focused on “The First Christmas” through the lens of the four Gospels. Each week reading through some of the Scripture, and then reflecting on the many different ways we expect and experience Jesus’ manifestation to the earth.
- **First Friday Fellowship** (Tom Bidwell) **First Friday Fellowship** (Tom Bidwell)  
Website: [www.FFFship.com](http://www.FFFship.com) - Monthly meetings in area churches since year 2000. A classified ad is placed in the *Southern Tier Shopper* the week prior to each meeting. Christian praise and worship singing (choruses, contemporary, traditional hymns) All are encouraged to bring + play musical instruments.

Meeting locations of past year 2016:

Jan 1 - No FFF due to holiday

Feb 5 - Bethel Assembly of God, Bath

Mar 4 - Wallace Wesleyan Church

Apr 1 - First Presbyterian Church, Bath

May 6- North Urbana Chapel, Hammondsport

Jun 3 - St. James Episcopal, Hammondsport

Jul 1 - No FFF due to holiday

Aug 5- Curtis Baptist Bible, Campbell

Sep 2- Mitchellsville United Methodist Church

Oct 7- Savona Federated Church

Nov 4- Wallace Wesleyan Church

Dec 2- Mitchellsville United Methodist Church

Average attendance: 60-80 - largest in May (90+)

### **Media Update** (Tom Bidwell)

Church website: [www.stjames14840.org](http://www.stjames14840.org)

Domain name: [stjames14840.org](http://stjames14840.org)

Web hosting: MacHighway ([www.machighway.com](http://www.machighway.com))

Church e-mail: [stjames14840@gmail.com](mailto:stjames14840@gmail.com)

Online Calendar: [www.brownbearsw.com/cal/sj14840calendar](http://www.brownbearsw.com/cal/sj14840calendar) (editable with PW)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/St-James-Hammondsport-701314666632130/](http://www.facebook.com/St-James-Hammondsport-701314666632130/)

Church WiFi PW protected

- **Sunday School** (Lynne Sharp) – Lin has faithfully served the children of St James for more than ten years, and we were both grateful for her years of service, while saddened by her decision to retire. We give heartfelt thanks for her decade of dedicated ministry to our children and youth. We initiated a new curriculum this year, “Seasons of the Spirit” which is a lectionary based curriculum which offers an outline for the day, background information for the teacher(s), a variety of activities which speak to different learning styles. St James purchased the multi-age program which is effective for young learners age 5-11/12. Seasons of the Spirit also

includes music CD's for each season of the year. We give thanks that Gladys Palmer has agreed to be our Sunday School teacher. Gladys comes with many years' experience working with both children and youth. We also give thanks to the faithful and helpful volunteers who give their time every few weeks to assist in the classroom. Thank you to the volunteers: Donella Barney, Leah Nichiporuk, Donna Noteware, Jim Derr, Joan Rogerson, and Esther Kowulich-Covell.

- Youth Group, Hammondsport Community (Lynne Sharp) St. James has supported the Hammondsport Community Youth Group this year. The youth group met twice a month from September through May at the Methodist Church for students in Grades 7-12. Attendance ranges from 5-12 young people; some who attend area churches and many who do not attend regular services. We give thanks to Karen and Jim Derr who coordinated the food through the 2015-2016 school year, and the many folks of St James who also offered snacks. We thank Tom Bidwell for his musical direction with the youth. In October 2016 we changed the format after surveying youth and their parents. We now meet once a month and alternate between the Methodist and Episcopal Churches. Youth Group includes a dinner – a huge thanks goes out to Karen and Jim for coordinating, and the many helpers who made our youth dinners a success. This year we have averaged 20 students per gathering.

**Giving Thanks** – submitted by Rev Lynne Sharp

It is always a delicate matter to offer thanks to individuals within a community as some are always left out, and especially at St James as there are so many behind-the-scenes unsung heroes of faith and ministry. Please know that I sincerely appreciate the many various ways each and every one of you contributes to the life of the parish, and to our mission in the community. Reading the above reports you can get a brief glimpse of some of the ways that people contribute every day of the year.

I would like to thank Terry Channing, Warden, Donella Barney and Esther Kowulich- Covell for their service to the Vestry, and the many ways they helped to keep us on track and moving forward. I also wish to thank those who have given their names to serve in the future. I thank Gregg for an unseen ministry of keeping us cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter; coming in hours, and sometimes days before Sunday services, and throughout the year during the week for weddings and funerals. I give thanks to the Acolytes, Altar Guild, Clergy, Coffee Hour hosts, Lectors (Readers), Musicians, Sunday School teachers and assistants, Ushers, who all give of their time and talent week after week. Thank you to all who help with dinners, funeral meals, and hospitality throughout the year. As you know, I could go on and on. Thank you, community of St James.

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**St, James Episcopal Church**

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of January 24, 2016

Rev. Sharp called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and opened with prayer.

The nomination of Connie VanHouten for the vestry was offered from the floor.

Jerry Lange moved, seconded by Leah Nichiporuk, to accept the nomination of Connie VanHouten to the slate of potential vestry members. Carried.

All candidates for offices were running unopposed, so were elected by acclamation. The Junior Warden is Mary White for a two-year term; Vestry members are: Nick Forenz, Gregg Learned, Anne Oates, Joan Rogerson and Connie Van Houten, all for three year terms; and Annie Oates as Delegate to Convention for three years.

Rev. Sharp gave the Rector's annual report in place of the sermon that included the following information:

- Three deaths/funerals
- Four baptisms
- Four confirmations
- A successful Visioning Day with the adoption of a statement with the theme "to make God's love visible in our lives and community" which was enabled through:
  - \*Backpack program in conjunction with Catholic Charities
  - \*The church is open for prayer, Eucharist and healing on Thursdays
  - \*Distribution of water bottles at Community events
  - \*Installation of pew racks with church information and business cards, as well
    - as brochures in the back of the sanctuary
  - \*Participated in Social Media Sunday, FaceBook, QR readers and the web
    - \*Held a Memorial Concert as well as Christmas caroling in conjunction with
      - Christmas in the Park
    - \*Participated the the Wednesday Lenten lucheons as well as the Lenten study
    - \* Weekly Bible Study and bi-weekly book study
    - \*Participated in the Hammondspport Vacation Bible School as well as the Community Youth Group
    - \*Sponsored a variety of dinners open to the public
    - \*Participated in various mission and outreach endeavors that include
      - socks
        - for the VA, Christmas stocking to provide gifts for less fortunate, Mission committee which gives locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
          - apple pie sale to benefit outreach, holiday Bazaar and Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.
- Completed major projects that included landscaping, a Baptism/Funeral table, chimney repair and a new sound and video system.

Gregg Learned moved, seconded by Joan Rogerson to approve the minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting. Carried.

Karen Derr presented the Financial report for 2016 which include a 4.3% increase in the Diocesan apportionment and a 3% increase in salaries for a budget total of \$94, 277, which is a 3.3% increase over last year's budget. Pledges and plate offerings increased 4.6% over 2015.

A line item for Loan Repayment was added in 2014, and certificates of deposit that came due the end of 2015 were moved to a market-linked vehicle through Five-Star Bank. Our total assets have increased 7%.

William Kingham moved, seconded by Nick Forenz to accept the financial report. Carried.

Carol Bidwell noted that the amount given to Covenant House should be \$520 and not \$250 making the total given \$6530.

Rev. Sharp thanked all for the work on behalf of St. James.

Jim Derr moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Terry Channing. Carried.

See attached committee reports for more detailed information.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Bidwell  
Clerk of the Vestry.