

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS  
JANUARY 28, 2018

**Nominations for Election** – submitted by Donna Noteware

On January 28, 2018 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. 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: Connie Van Houten

Vestry: (select four)

Karen Derr

Nancy Folts

Marilyn Dowdle

Gladys Palmer

Alternate to Deanery Delegate: open

**Senior Warden Report** – submitted by Mary White

From your “more absent than present” outgoing Senior Warden. The generosity and compassion of the people of St. James continues to be a wonderful witness to our mission. I love and miss you all! The following happened during 2017:

- We called Rev. Lynne to be our full time Rector
- Backpack program- 46 backpacks were distributed to students through a coordinated effort of the local churches. Excess supplies were given to the school to be distributed as needed.
- As a spin-off from the backpack distribution we were able to help an unexpectedly expanded family with school clothes for their 6 children.
- The Giving Tree solicited generous donations of gifts for 4 high school students as well as well over 300 much needed personal care items for the Food Pantry.
- St. James contributed to and participated in Vacation Bible School, Paul and the Underground Church. 75 children, 25 youth and 50 adults participated.
- Work on “The Episcopal Church Welcomes You” signage is on hold until Spring. Receiving permission from individual property owners is still needed.
- St. James participated in the Earth Day Fair in the Village Square, taking prayer requests and handing out reusable grocery bags.
- We worked to increase our social media presence through the St. James Facebook and Instagram pages.
- A number of St. James parishioners accompanied Rev. Lynn on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May 2017.
- The Sunday School room was beautifully renovated. A wall was constructed to separate Rev. Lynne’s office from the sacristy for heating and privacy purposes.
- We hosted Senior Potluck lunches.
- A stunning cathedral window quilt was created by a group of church women. Rev. Lynne organized a Quilt Show for the community. The raffle of the quilt as

well as proceeds from the bake sale were contributed to the stained-glass window protection fund.

- We took a break from the Apple Pie Sale and made other commitments to fund mission.

#### **Altar Guild** – submitted by Leah Nichiporuk

I would like to thank all who have volunteered to set the altar for Sunday morning and care for the altar. Gladys Palmer, Janetmarie and Charlie Skinner, Connie Van Houten and Mary White. Thank you to Mary White for providing the communion bread and Nick Forenz for providing the candles. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Leah at 607-569-2055. We would appreciate adding to our small group.

#### **Buildings and Grounds** – submitted by Nick Forenz

Buildings and Grounds project were numerous in 2017. The major projects are listed below followed by some of the day to day efforts that many members of the congregation take on every day to help keep the church building and its surround grounds in good shape.

##### *New Heat/AC in Office:*

A new combination heat/air conditioning unit was installed in the office.

##### *Dean Frey Sunday School Room Remodel:*

Following the move of the food pantry to St. Gabriel's, the food pantry closets were removed and the room was enlarged to by expanding into the space formerly taken up by those closets. Walls were sheet rocked and painted, floor tile was patched, new blinds were hung on the storage closet and the walls and ceiling was repainted. LED lights were installed to make the room brighter and a new rug, felt board set, and tables and chairs were donated to complete the effort.

##### *New Cabinets in Kitchen:*

Four new cabinets were added to the kitchen to increase storage space especially for larger objects and all of the cabinets have been labeled so items can be easily located.

##### *Stained Glass Window Project:*

The Vestry designated a portion of money to refurbish and protect the stained glass windows. A grant was received form the Fred and Harriette Taylor Foundation for another portion of the refurbishment. This still left a significant amount of money to be raised in order to make the project a reality. Members of the congregation signed up to adopt a window or to pool their money with others to adopt a window and the balance of the money was quickly raised. The plan was for the repair, cleaning and placement of protective, non-yellowing antioxidant-UV stabilized polymer sheets over the windows, held in place with Aluminum frames to be done in 2018. The company doing the work contacted St. James in early November and the work began just before Thanksgiving. The windows look brand new again and we no longer have to worry about damage from foreign objects impacting them from the outside. We believe we may even be seeing

some benefits in out heating costs due to the increase insulation value of the cover sheets.

Office Remodel:

The stairway in the office was closed off and a door installed at the bottom of the Sacristy stairs in order to provide some privacy for Rev. Lynne when she is holding a counseling sessions and it also is serving to help hold the heat in the office rather than having is just flow up the stairway into the Sacristy

As is the case every year we did our usual share of yearly maintenance that keeps the church looking good and operating safely.

- Ruts in the lawn were filled in and new grass was planted
- Spring clean-up and bush trimming work day
- Lawn mowing
- Trash removal
- Snow Removal
- Outdoor flower upkeep
- Light bulb changing
- Fixing a loose or broken something
- Making sure the TVs, sound system and cameras are working

To this list, as always, we can add the things that get done that no one is aware of because someone steps up and takes care of them before anyone else takes notice. Many thanks, to all our solicited and unsolicited volunteers. We all appreciate your efforts to keep the church in good repair, and looking great.

We have several projects on our "To Do" list - some of which we will tackle in 2018:

- Repair or replace the Tower Door
- Install new ceiling and lighting in the Sacristy
- Clean/shampoo the carpets and chairs in the Undercroft
- Paint the walls in the Flora Keeler room
- Put of a fireproof backsplash behind the new stove
- Install an Ansul Fire Suppression System in the kitchen
- Reconnect Sacristy Drain to dry well
- Repair ruts in front lawn (new ones 😊)

So, as you can see 2017 was another busy year from a maintenance and grounds-keeping perspective with a lot being accomplished by a relatively small volunteer workforce. As we check items off the list we continue add new ones and we are confident that people with the appropriate talents will continue to step forward to help whittle down the 2018 list.

Thanks again to all who do their part. We would not be able to operate this building without your efforts.

**CROP Walk** – submitted by Donna Noteware  
**October 15, 2017:**

Pastor Eleanor Collingsworth from Centenary Methodist Church in Bath is the contact person for the Sponsor Sheets. Registration took place at St Thomas Episcopal Church in Bath prior to the walk and refreshments were provided by St Thomas. This year the Hammondsport Youth Group joined St James and we had 25 walkers. St James provided a taco bar prior to heading out to Bath for the walk. A total of \$692 was collected to help end hunger one step at a time. Twenty-five percent of what was collected benefits Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry at St Gabriel's in Hammondsport. Thank you for donating or walking.

**Dinners** – submitted by Karen Derr

Italian Dinner	1151.60
Smorgasbord	971.60
Chicken & Biscuit	<u>956.00</u>
	3079.20*

\* Note: 30% transferred to Mission \$923.76.

*Athlete's Dinners.* We held two free dinners for Hammondsport School athletes. Average attendance was 65.

**Giving Tree & Christmas Socks**

Donna Noteware and Esther Kowulich-Covell

The Food Bank let us know that personal hygiene items are needed more than food items. We also adopted two families from the high school for gifts with two youth each and collect personal hygiene items for the Food Bank. Stars and Doves are placed on the tree- the Stars have specific items requested and the doves have personal hygiene items. The Angel ornaments that replace the Stars and Doves were donated by Nancy French several years ago. Terry Channing donated a tree, which is kept in the shed. The tree was put up November 26, the gifts given on December 10<sup>th</sup> and more than 300 personal hygiene items were donated to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generosity.

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 304 pr, bringing our cumulated gift to 2654 pr. That's a lot of happy feet!!! VA expression of appreciation is warm when these socks are unloaded. Thank you for participating.

**Greening of the Church** – submitted by Donna Noteware  
December 17, 2017

Greens were donated by Esther Kowulich-Covell, Tom Noteware, and some from Bean Station Tree Farm: Donna Noteware had saved the bows for the last three years- they are hanging in a closet at her home. There are 14 bows for the swags, 16 small bows for the candle holders and 3 large bows for the huge swag around the altar. The candle holders are stored in the room off the kitchen- hanging behind the door. Donna made the swags the first couple of weeks in December. There were placed on the tables on December 16. Sunday Morning the congregation had the swags on the window sills and

the candle holders up quickly. Leah Nichoporuk ordered the poinsettias and the garland, which we also placed with many helping hands. Thank you for helping.

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

Total \$3660 + \$2640 from congregation = **\$6300**

Plus apportionment \$7862 (Total \$14,162)

*Local*

Elizabeth Albright, Cru mission trip (\$100),  
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry (\$200)(\$160),  
Hammondsport Vacation Bible School (\$200),  
Darlene and Rich Armstrong (\$200 Tops gift card),  
Bamba's House (Corning Hospice \$500),  
Welcome Basket for Abi John, Church of the Good Shepherd (\$800+ \$300 from congregation).

*Regional*

Reynoldstown Mission, Atlanta, GA; Doug Graulich (\$500)  
Diocesan Apportionment \$7862

*National*

Episcopal Relief and Development for hurricane relief (\$1000 + \$2340 from congregation = \$3340)

*The Mission Committee is grateful for the unbounded generosity of the people of St. James!*

**Music Notes** – submitted by Ellie Boutwell

The music ministry at St. James had another noteworthy year. We give thanks for new choir members and for the loyalty of all the singers who add to the worship each week. Carol and Tom add so much with their praise choruses and we thank them for their help. It is always nice to have Kelly Pietsch play the piano and we thank Sandy Young for joining us for an anthem. If you like to sing, please join us. If you have a favorite hymn, just let us know and we will sing it. Thank you for being so supportive of our ministry.

**Rummage Sale – submitted by Leah Nichiporuk**

Our summer 2017 rummage sale brought in approximately \$470.00. Thank you to all who donated and also those who helped on Friday and Saturday selling. I thought we had two good days, the weather cooperated and we sold lots of treasures. The items we did not sell we donated to the Focus Pregnancy Help Center in Rochester.

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

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

These meetings discuss resolutions that will be presented to the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester at their annual Convention. Budget proposals are discussed as well as a general overview of the budget for the upcoming year. Reports on the State of the Diocese, as well as guest speakers may be on the agenda. The 86th Convention of

the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester was held on October 28, 2017 at Rochester Institute of Technology. The meeting was chaired by Bishop Prince Singh.

A vote to bring the South Wedge Mission into the Rochester Diocese passed. The main address to the convention was given by Bishop Singh. He told us the Rochester Diocese grew by 1.3% last year. He said many accept the decline in membership as normal - but not us. His talk focused on Leadership, Relationships and Stewardship.

A presentation was given by Alan Ziegler of Rochester, "A Conversation on Race." Racial reconciliation and healing was the theme of their presentation. It was very enlightening as well as inspiring.

## Programs 2017

- *Adult Faith Formation* (Lynne Sharp)
  - Bible Study met most Mondays (except holidays) at 4:00. This year we focused on reading through the book of Romans with the help of N. T. Wright's study guide, and are now working our way through the Prophet Isaiah.
  - The Book Group met the first and third Monday of the month at 5:30 and we are working our way through the Book of Common Prayer.
  - The Lenten study read through portions of the Gospel of Matthew. Each week we looked at different themes within the Gospel and have a brief Bible study using one of the readings. We had time to engage the Scripture, enter into discussion, and ask questions.
  - The Advent Study, held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 was entitled "Watching and Waiting" and told some of the stories of our faith about those who watch and wait, while looking at how we watch and wait in our daily lives. This Advent education included a mixture of prayer, Scripture, music, readings, and discussion.

- *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 2017:

January 6,	Bath First Presbyterian Church
February 3	Bethel Assembly of God
March 3	Curtis Baptist Bible Church
April 7	Centenary United Methodist Church
May 5	Bath First Presbyterian Church
June 2	Bath Baptist Church
July 7	St James Episcopal Hammondsport
August 4	Wallace Wesleyan
September 1	Avoca United Methodist
October 6	Bath First Presbyterian Church
November 3	North Urbana Church
December 1	Mitchellsville United Methodist Church

Average attendance: 60-80

- *I Love to Tell the Story*, free and open to the public was held at St James on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. It was interactive telling of the stories and music of our faith using the Scriptures of the Easter Vigil, traditionally held after dusk on the eve of Easter, and led us from the story of creation through the triumphal entry into Jerusalem in word, song, and dance. We were pleased to have One Pulse, a Christian dance group offering their gifts. “One Pulse uses Christian music with biblical messages. Its study and performances focus on worship, enriching the Church, and freeing a broken world to experience the healing and joy of Jesus Christ.”
- *Media Update*  
 Church website: [www.stjames14840.org](http://www.stjames14840.org)  
 Domain name: stjames14840.org  
 Web hosting: MacHighway ([www.machighway.com](http://www.machighway.com))  
 Church e-mail: stjames14840@gmail.com  
 Online Calendar: [www.brownbears.w.com/cal/sj14840calendar](http://www.brownbears.w.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) –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 meets once a month from September through to May alternating between the Methodist Church and St James for students in Grades 7-12. Attendance ranges from 7-20 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 2017 year, and the many folks of St James who also offered snacks. We thank Tom Bidwell for his musical direction with the youth. 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 Mary White, Warden, Donna Noteward and Jimmy Nichoporuk their service to the Vestry as they retire from the Vestry. I 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, Counters, Treasurer, Clerk of the Vestry, and 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.

Thank you to everyone who made the restoration and renovation of the Stained Glass windows a reality. Thanks to everyone who donated their time, talent, and treasure to make sure we could make our Sanctuary shine.

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 29, 2017

At 9:00 AM Rev. Lynne called the meeting to order with prayer.

Karen Derr introduced the following nominees to the vestry: Jim Grillo for junior warden, Jimmy Nichiporuk, Leah Nichiporuk and Tom Pietch.

As there were no nominatons from the floor, Gregg Learned moved, seconded by Charlie Skinner to close the nominations.

Nick Forenz moved to elect by acclamation the slate of nominees to the vestry, seconded by Jerry Lange. Carried.

The Rector's Report was included in Rev. Lynne's sermon. (see attached)

Jim Grillo moved to accept the minutes for the 2016 Annual meeting, seconded by Gladys Palmer.

Karen Derr presented the Treasurer's report and the 2017 budget for St. James. It was noted that there was an increase in the anticipated plate offering, a 25% increase in pledges and an expected decrease in electricity due to the Food Pantry's relocation, as well as an increase in clergy salary because of Rev. Lynne's call to full time.

There has been a 4.3% increase in St. James financial assets.

There was no response to the attached committee reports, therefore Charlie Skinner moved to accept the committee reports, seconded by Jim Piersons. Carried.

Jim Piersons moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Torp. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Bidwell, Clerk of the Vestry