

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS
JANUARY 27, 2019

Nominations for Election – submitted by Nancy Folts and Marilyn Dowdle
On January 27, 2019 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.

Senior Warden: Connie Van Houten

Junior Warden: Tom Pietsch

Vestry: (select three)

Joan Rogerson

Gregg Learned

Charlie Skinner

Alternate to Deanery Delegate: open

Altar Guild – submitted by Leah Nichiporuk

Many thanks to Connie Van Houten, Mary White, Janetmarie and Charlie Skinner for serving on the altar in 2018. Thanks to the parishioners who gave donations for our Easter and Christmas flowers, memorial or in thanksgiving. Appreciation goes to Stella Pulver for the fresh flowers on the altar this past summer, and Leahbella Quigley for her fresh arrangements on the side altar.

Thanks to Nick Forenz on furnishing the altar candles, James Nichiporuk for the altar wine and Mary White and (filling in) Carol Bidwell for our communion bread.

Please consider joining this small group. You may sign up for a month, or if you wish, you may sign up on a weekly basis. Please contact Leah at 569-2055.

BCP and Hymnals

Through your astounding generosity, we purchased and dedicated 103 Book of Common Prayer plus eight large print copies to replace the older editions which were actually the “Proposed” copies of the BCP printed for trial use. We were also gifted with twenty-seven new hymnals, and five copies of Lift Every Voice and Sing for choir use.

Buildings and Grounds – submitted by Nick Forenz

There were no major projects related to Buildings in 2018 however, some smaller projects and the day to day activities that keep the church and its surrounding ground in good shape were fairly numerous.

Dean Fry Sunday School Room:

A new altar and accessories were added to the Sunday School. Thanks to Gladys Palmer and her husband for their efforts.

Video Recording:

We are now recording the Sunday services and they are available to watch on our Facebook page: “St James Hammondspport” and you can listen to recordings of the services from our website: <http://stjames14840.org/>

Tower Door Repair:

The tower door was repaired, and it now is a lot easier to open and close. Some more repairs are needed but, it we are able to use it with relative ease until those are made. Thanks to Tom P. for making the adjustments to the door.

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 and mulching 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 hope to tackle in 2019:

- Complete the repairs on the Tower Door [when the weather breaks]
- 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 – [scheduled]
- 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 😊) [scheduled for Spring]

So, as you can see 2018 was a busy year from a maintenance and grounds-keeping perspective even without any major projects. Our workforce is small but, mighty and we seem to be able to get a lot being accomplished. This year we lost one of our workers, supervisors, and all around advisor in everything related to outdoor work. Bob Hunn will be missed and remembered every time we edge the sidewalk, water the lawn, or spread some much.

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 2019 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

St James and the Hammondsport Youth group walked on October 14th. Pastor Eleanor Collingsworth from the Methodist Church in Bath was the contact person for the Sponsor Sheets and posters.

Thank you to Karen and Jim Derr and the people of St James who provided a Taco Bar luncheon prior to the CROPW Walk. Registration was at 1:00 however, all the other groups came and started earlier. Refreshments were provided by St Thomas. We had 21 walkers – 9 adults and 12 young people. Online contributions were \$320 and checks and cash totaled \$440. Approximately \$190 which is 25% of the total returns to the Loaves and Fishes food pantry. It was a beautiful fall day – 55 degrees and sunny. Thank you for donating or walking.

Dinners – submitted by Karen Derr

We held three fundraising dinners in 2018, the Italian Dinner, the smorgasbord, and the chicken and biscuit dinner. Average attendance is 100. A total of \$3,280 was raised; \$696.67 went into loan repayment, which is now a savings account, \$1,564.50 went into Evangelism, and \$1,018.83 went into the Mission account. We are so blessed that so many volunteer their time and donate so that we can hold these dinners.

Athlete's Dinners

We also held two free Athletes' Dinners for HCS students and coaches of winter sports. Average attendance was 75. This is a wonderful outreach to kids in our community. Thank you to all who donated and/or volunteered.

Youth Dinners

St James hosted four Youth Group meetings which include lunch, for the CROP Walk, and dinner at the other meetings. Students and adult leaders enjoy the delicious meals prepared and served by St James volunteers. One of the favorites each year is the traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

Overtime Party

In September, we held an Overtime Party for HCS students after the Homecoming soccer and volleyball games. Twenty-five students came and enjoyed food and games.

Giving Tree & Christmas Socks

This year the tree was up November 18th (thanks to the Bidwells), decorated with doves listing personal hygiene items needed for the Food Bank. The Angel ornaments quickly replaced the doves and the 186 pounds of items were collected thanks to the generosity of the congregation.

We also had the names of one family with three teenagers with items that they would like. I placed Stars on the tree indicating the sizes, etc. The stars were quickly replaced with angels. Mary White delivered the gifts to the one family with three teens and the Grandparents were very grateful.

Before Christmas arrived two more needy families were added. Thanks to St James three families had a Merry Christmas.

I took the ornaments off the first week of January. Carol and Tom took the tree down and put it away.

I keep the doves, stars, and ornaments at home.

St James 'socks' it to the Bath VAMC

Jane Aeschbacher and husband Paul were active volunteers at the Bath VA, at St. James and at the Presbyterian Church. After Jane's death, in 1999, with Paul's blessing, St. James continued to collect white socks for the veterans, in Jane's memory.

Including this year we have gifted the Bath VA veterans with 2754 pairs of socks! Dry, healthy feet are important to all, critical to our veterans and very much appreciated. We collected more than 300 pairs this year 2018!!!

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry – submitted by Leah Nichiporuk

The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry has 20 volunteers. We are open on Tuesdays from 3 – 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:30 – noon. The food pantry provides food, personal care products, and household needs to 1,230 people: 435 households, 652 adults, 358 children and 215 seniors.

For the Thanksgiving holiday, households received a turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce and yams. One hundred and twenty Christmas boxes were made up on a sign-up basis – with 59 Food Pantry sign ups, 50 school sign ups and 7 extra adults from the Arbor apartments.

Along with the area Churches, Food Bank, the Boy Scouts, National Honor Society, Hammondsport School District, Tops Grocery, area farmers and individuals all contribute to the food pantry.

We are fortunate that St James has provided many pounds of food and other household products this past year. Along with J. P. Oliver's, Run for Food, which included \$2,841.49 in cash and a collection of food and individual donation, and the giving tree, St James has supported this much needed mission.

We are ever so grateful for your support. In anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Leah Nichiporuk.

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.

Mission Committee Report – submitted by Carol Bidwell

<p>LOCAL</p> <p>Hand of God Ministries \$1000 Hammondsport VBS 200 H'port Volunteer Ambulance 500 Pregnancy Resource Center 200 Rector's Discretionary Fund 200 Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry 500 School Clothes 345 Baby Café-Dormann Library 80 \$3025 Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry J.P. Oliver's Run \$2564.75 • Food Pantry: dessert mixes & personal care items • VA-socks (337 pair) • PRC-baby items • Backpacks • Giving Tree (184 pounds) • Christmas Family • Baby Bottle Drive \$147 • >100 containers of turkey gravy • Christmas tree, lights ornaments Total Local \$5736.75</p>	<p>REGIONAL</p> <p>Donella's Family-Hurricane \$1000 Florence Family Life Ministries 200 House of Mercy 200 Potters Hands Foundation 200 Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes 200 \$1800 • Red Hats for Newborns (17+) • White Elephant & Craft for Episcopal Relief & Devel 1269.25 Total Regional \$3069.25</p>
<p>NATIONAL</p> <p>Direct Relief (Carr Fire) \$200 Matthew 25: Ministries 500 (Camp Fire) Shriners Hospital 100 Reynoldstown Mission F'shp 500 (Doug Graulich) Total National \$1300</p>	<p>INTERNATIONAL</p> <p>Bill Cook Foundation \$100 Princess Basma Center 200 Doctors without Borders 200 CROP Walk 100 (+\$145 donated) Episcopal Relief & Devel 500 (Puerto Rico) International Justice 250 People Against Poverty 250 World Vision Water Walk 300 Shoes That Grow (budgeted amt) \$500 Total International \$2545</p>

Total Financial Giving 2018: **\$12651 !!** + Diocesan apportionment of \$8255 **\$20,906 !**

Music Notes – Make a Joyful Noise – submitted by Ellie Boutwell

We do make a joyful noise and we enjoy doing it. Our dedicated choir members sing solos, duets, or three/four part anthems every Sunday. Sincere thanks to Audrey, Connie, Kris, Luanne, Richard and Tom. 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 join us as a soloist and pianist.

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 music ministry.

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 four times a year. Our delegates are Gladys Palmer, Charlie Skinner and Luanne Graulich.

The district meetings cover a number of items. Among them: Parishes can request grant money for various projects, resolutions are discussed that will be presented at the next convention of the Rochester Diocese, budgets are reviewed and proposals for the coming year may be discussed, reports on the State of the Diocese, as well as guest speakers may be on the agenda. The meetings are always preceded with a Pot Luck supper.

The District project for 2018 was “Shoes that Grow.” The shoes cost \$15.00 but can be adjusted to last for 5-6 years. They requested support in the amount of \$500.00 from each Parish, and our mission committee responded and contributed this amount.

The 87th Convention was held in October at the Islamic Center of Rochester. This year’s theme was becoming “Beloved Community.” Our Diocese is made up of 46 very diverse parishes. The guest speaker was the Bishop of Alaska, the Rt. Rev Mark Lattime. The Bishop was originally from this area and he compared what life was like in our parishes to that in Alaska.

Our Bishop, the Rt. Rev, Prince G. Singh has just established a new task force, the “Commission on Racial Reconciliation, Healing and Justice.” Rochester has long had a climate of racial tensions. “The overall goal is to help us intentionally to learn together and support the ministry of this Commission.” (Bishop Singh)

Village Events

During the past few years St. James has been open for tours during the Art Show and the Craft Show, plus we have given out free water to both human and canine passers by. Since we are located near the park where they are held, we get a lot of foot traffic by our church and we thought it would be a good time to introduce our beautiful building to people and perhaps give people a chance to ask questions about the building or about our faith.

This year it was decided to expand our effort and include the sale of baked goods, craft items, and Fair Trade items to raise money for mission projects. We had a tent in the side yard on Main Street during the Art Show which was July 7-8 and during

the Craft Show which was August 18-19. Approximately \$250 was earned at each of these events and donated to mission.

On August 12th we held our First Annual Community Worship at the Head of the Lake. We brought our lawn chairs and invited the whole community to come and worship in Depot Park. We had about 60 people gather with Pastor Nate Cooper offering the message, Tom and Carol Bidwell leading the music, Rev Lynne presiding at the table, and Stella and Ann offering abundant cookies and drinks.

We also participated in the Hammondsport Cookie Walk on December 2nd and we give thanks to Karen Derr for making 200+ cookies again this year, and the sticky team who frosted, sprinkled, bagged, and tagged the cookies. We opened the doors from 10:00 – 3:00 and welcomed people into the Sanctuary. ARC also gave away cookies in the Parish Hall, where people had another opportunity to buy beaded and Fair Trade items.

White Elephant, Craft and Bake Sale— submitted by Joan Rogerson

In a desire to participate in the June 2nd Hammondsport Community Wide Yard Sale, St. James decided to host a White Elephant, Craft, and Bake Sale with proceeds to be given to Episcopal Relief and Development. We had a large variety of White Elephant goods - AKA Yard Sale- Items donated by our congregation including bicycles personally tried out by Jim Derr and Gladys Palmer. Jim and Marietta Piersons generously donated many items from their store as they were downsizing and knew we could use them for our sale.

Baked goods were also prepared and donated by the congregation including sweet warm buns made at the church which allowing their scent to draw people to our sale. Craft items and Fair Trade items were also available. The total donated to ERD from the day's sales was \$1,269.

Programs 2018

- *Adult Faith Formation* (Lynne Sharp)
 - Bible Study met most Mondays (except holidays) at 4:00. This year we focused on completing reading the Prophet Isaiah, and began reading the letters of Paul beginning with 1 Corinthians.
 - The Book Group met the first and third Monday of the month at 5:30 and after working our way through the Book of Common Prayer began reading God's Joyful Surprise by Sue Month Kidd.
 - For the Lenten Study we used the materials *Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World* created by Max Lucado is based on Philippians 4:6-7 "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*". "Stop letting anxiety rule the day. We joined Max on the journey to true freedom and experience more joy, clarity, physical renewal, and contentment by the power of the Holy Spirit." Each week included prayer, Scripture, a 20-minute video presentation, time for discussion, and preparation for the following session.

- St James hosted “Five Critical Estate Planning Documents” on March 8th. Through the Cooperative Extension an attorney came and walked us through critical estate documents, and made suggestions for other ways to plan for the future. We then had a follow-up session “Funeral Planning and Planned Giving” in April where people were invited to come and work on final wishes and funeral planning.
- During the Easter Season we explored what it means to be Disciples in our “5-Minute Discipleship for 50 days” program. Each day we read the passage from Forward Movement Day-by-Day, read one Chapter of Genesis, then each Sunday explored the Scripture, daily prayer, a 5-minute mission activity, and other aspects of discipleship.
- Active Shooter Training for Congregations offered by the Steuben County Sheriff’s office was hosted on May 8th and was attended by people from a variety of local congregations. As a result of this training we have formed a Safety Committee: Gladys, Marilyn, Nick, Joan and Jim to create best practices and suggestions. Gregg will look into getting an AED and training for St James.
- *Of Creeds and Creating* on Sunday August 19th was an extraordinary experience the stories of our faith through song, dance, art, music, and drama. This year Hannah brought together friends and parishioners for a concert of faith with opportunities for many to participate in readings, the Creed, and hymns.
- Advent education this year was a 5-part series “The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem”. We joined author Adam Hamilton with his book and video and followed the events which led up to Jesus birth in Bethlehem, focusing on prayer, scripture, personal stories, and following the lives of Joseph, Mary, and Elizabeth.
- *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.
- *First Friday Fellowship* (Tom Bidwell)
In 2018 we met 11 times in 10 different churches with one cancelation due to weather in March. Average attendance varied from 60-80 with many people bringing musical instruments. Read more about this ministry at our website: WWW.FFFSHIP.COM
January 5, 2018 - St. James' Episcopal - Hammondsport
February 2, 2018 - Bethel Assembly of God - Bath
March 2, 2018 - - canceled due to weather
April 6, 2018 - Savona Federated Church
May 4, 2018 - Bath First Presbyterian Church
June 1, 2018 - Curtis Baptist Bible Church
July 6, 2018 - St. James' Episcopal - Hammondsport
August 3, 2018 - North Urbana Chapel

September 7, 2018 - Wallace Wesleyan
October 5, 2018 - Bath First Presbyterian Church
November 2, 2018 - Christ Community Church
December 7, 2018 - Mitchellsville United Methodist Church]

- **Media Update**
Church website: www.stjames14840.org
Domain name: stjames14840.org
Web hosting: MacHighway (www.machighway.com)
Church e-mail: stjames14840@gmail.com
Online Calendar: www.brownbearsw.com/cal/sj14840calendar (editable with PW)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/St-James-Hammondsport-701314666632130/
Church WiFi PW protected
- **Social Media Sunday – September 30th:** Every year Christian communities nationwide post pictures of their worship with captions on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. For the fourth year some of the people of St James participated and showed the world why they go to church, and that we are much more than a beautiful building with closed doors.
- **Sunday School (Lynne Sharp)** –We give thanks that Gladys Palmer continues 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 for the last five years!. 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 ranged this year from from 5-20 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 2018 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. .

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 as 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 Jim Grillo for his service as Senior Warden and Nick Forenz for his service to the Vestry as he retires 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.

**St. James Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting
January 28, 2018**

Rev. Lynne called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and opened with prayer.

Donna Noteware presented the nominees to the vestry: Connie VanHouten as junior warden, Nancy Folts, Gladys Palmer, Marilyn Dowdle and Karen Derr . There were no nominees from the floor.

Charlie Skinner moved to close the nominations for vestry, seconded by Jim Piersons. Carried.

Jerry Lange moved, seconded by Donna Noteware, to accept the nominees by acclamation. Carried.

The Rector's report was given during the sermon time. (see attached)

The meeting resumed at 10:04 AM.

Tom Pietch moved, seconded by Leah Nichiporuk, to accept the minutes of the 2017 annual meeting. Carried.

Karen Derr presented the financial report, indicating that there was a 4.8% increase in expenses for the coming year, but also a 10.6% increase in the church's assets.

Charlie Skinner moved to accept the financial report, seconded by Bill Torp. Carried.

There were no comments regarding the attached committee reports.

Leah Nichiporuk moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Piersons.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM; the congregation was dismissed by Rev. Gary Edmister.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Bidwell
Clerk of the Vestry