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November 2017  
Newsletter

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St. James' Episcopal Church  
9 Williams Street  
Clinton, NY 13323



# A Time For Giving Thanks



St. James' Episcopal Church  
**NEWSLETTER**

October 2017

St. James' Episcopal Church  
9 Williams Street • Clinton, New York 13323 • 315-853-5359  
www.stjamesclinton.org • office@stjamesclinton.org

**REGULAR SERVICES:**

**Saturday, 4pm • Sunday, 9:30am, nursery provided, Sunday School 9:30am**  
**Church office hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - Noon**

***Staff:***

Rector: Father Gary Cyr • Minister of Music: Richard Lloyd • Sexton: Mustafa "Mujo" Salkic  
Administrative Assistant: Tacie Languain • Godly Play Program Director: TBD

***Vestry:***

vestry@stjamesclinton.org  
Senior Warden: Karen Anderson • Junior Warden: Pat Davis  
Kathy Collett • Chris Fox • Randy Grant • Sue Hecklau  
• Deb Lucas • Terry Neil • John Crossley • Randy Wilson  
Treasurer: Jan Wilson  
Webmistress: Laura Stoll  
Newsletter: Tacie Languain

***Leadership Group Chairs:***

Communications: Kathy Collett  
Fellowship: Terry Neil  
Finance: Mike Baldwin  
Investment: Craig Heuss  
Outreach: Pat Evans  
Property Management: Sharon Williams  
Worship: Kathy Collett  
Youth: Rahel Elmer Reger



St. James' is a community where we come together in Christ to develop spiritually; find opportunities for outreach; receive comfort when in need; and engage in sacred experiences through our liturgy, music, fellowship, and mutual ministry."

## Vestry Corner

The Vestry will send 4 members plus Father Gary to the Diocesan Convention Nov. 10 and 11. It will be the first time in a few years that we have a complete team representing the parish. We will worship, listen to presentations and conduct the business of the diocese.

We hope that everyone is enjoying the new sound system. As it “settles” into the space, some more adjustments will be made, but so far it seems to be a nice improvement.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we have much to be thankful for at St. James’. Our staff works hard each week to create a safe, clean space for community meetings, as well as worship services that are inspiring and up-lifting. Thank you to each of you for your contributions to our mission. As we look to the future I hope that you will continue your support and if possible, even increase it. Find a friend and host coffee hour on a Sunday; volunteer to rake leaves; join a team sponsoring a class at St. Paul’s in Haiti; join the ushers, lay readers or Eucharistic Ministers; run for a term on the Vestry. There are many ways to contribute to our worship and ministry in Clinton and beyond. As you discern your financial support of St. James’ consider this: “The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” (2nd Corinthians 9:6b-8). God has indeed blessed St. James’ and we have much to look forward to in the future. May we offer God our gratitude by sharing our abundant blessings with all.

- Karen Anderson

## Womens’ Spirituality

The Women’s Spirituality group is reading the second half of *Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight (The Christian Practice of Everyday Life)*, by Norman Wirzba. The second part is called “The Sabbath in Practical Context”; you can read that, or the whole book, or just skim a few chapters -- if you’re interested, come and discuss it in any case! We will be meeting on November 20 at 7:00 pm in the library room. -Kathy Collett

## Godly Play

**We would like to hire a Godly Play Instructor.** This job is 10 hours per week and involves developing and leading the Godly Play program for our youth. Training is available. For a complete job description see Father Gary or Karen Anderson. **We currently need volunteers** during Sunday worship who would be willing to read a story to our youngest members and supervise while they complete artwork. We are looking for 1 or 2 adult volunteers to cover our nursery and Godly Play room during worship on Sunday mornings through the month of November. No training needed. Sign up sheets are available in the back of the church and Parish Hall.

**Please consider helping out one week!**

## Day School News

November will be a month to focus on sharing, learning about harvesting and preparing for winter as well as a time to give thanks. Our students will be learning about Native Americans, their customs and artwork as well as creating examples of their own Native American themed artwork. We will have Scarecrow Day where the students will be encouraged to come to school dressed as a scarecrow and use their creativity to make some scarecrow themed crafts. During the week of Thanksgiving students will bring in food items that they will share as a part of our preschool-style mini feast, which has been a long tradition at St. James Day School. The children will work together to prepare food for their feast and will also donate canned goods to the Country Pantry food bank. At the end of the month we will take a walking field trip to the Kirkland Town Library to see the annual production of *The Nutcracker* puppet show. We would like to wish everyone a happy harvest and a time of grateful sharing with family and friends.

- Elise Morford



## Marks of Mission

The Episcopal Church's Five Marks of Mission give us our marching orders for stewardship, especially in Marks 3-5:

- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Specific actions we are called upon to do, to address the Third Mark of Mission especially, include outreach to both Puerto Rico and Haiti. Puerto Rico has an acute need now, to which Episcopal Relief & Development, among others, is responding (<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/press-and-resources/press-releases/2017-press-releases/episcopal-relief-and-development-responds-to-hurricane-maria#october11>). But as we heard, Haiti has a desperate and on-going need, which we can address in a small way (but with a large impact) by supporting our partner, St. Paul's School/Church in Beaudin Jean Pierre.

The fifth Mark of Mission tells us that we should be working to protect God's creation. The liturgy, hymns, and especially Father Gary's homilies during Creation Season have all been pointing us in this way, too. There are many actions you could choose to address this Mark of Mission. One option is to choose a piece of creation to cherish for a period of time, maybe a year, and see where it leads you. For instance, you could choose a watershed, a neighborhood, a creek, a grove of trees. Biblical storyteller Pamela Grenfell Smith suggests, "we are meant to be in the world as cherishers, as conveyances of God's tender regard - we change things by cherishing them, perhaps, but we also change ourselves, we deepen our capacity for empathy, for compassion." This idea fits in well with Diane Wheatley's Safe Walks with God, it seems to me. It also fits in with Norman Wirzba's point that we need to participate in God's delight in creation (Living the Sabbath).

Here are some suggestions for other actions we can (and do) take in response:

**Respond to Mark of Mission #3** through local organizations like Country Pantry, Hope House, and directly with our neighbors;

**Respond to Mark of Mission #4** by working against violence and for justice in our communities and in the nation;

**Respond to Mark of Mission #5:**

- Try to live more lightly on the earth
- Eat less meat, especially beef

Eat local, sustainably raised food as much as is feasible

Sign up to get electricity from renewable sources/get solar panels

Reduce waste; compost; reduce, reuse, recycle

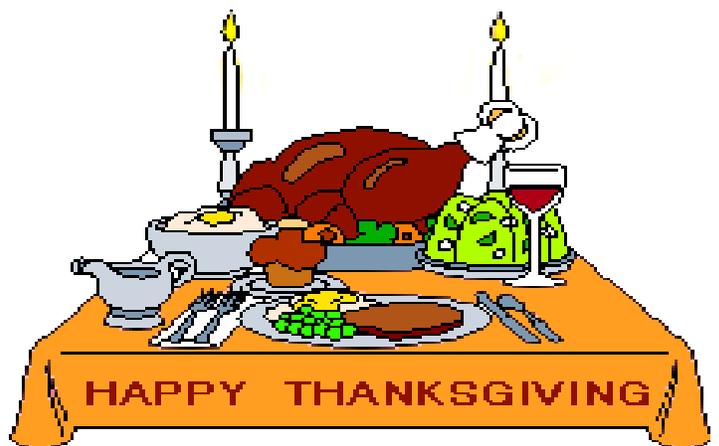
Reduce the carbon footprint of your transportation

Work to eliminate pollution and reduce climate change in the whole system by supporting policies that will safeguard the integrity of creation and supporting organizations that sustain and renew the life of the earth.

## Worship

### Thanksgiving Day Service

Join us for a short Thanksgiving worship service Thursday, November 23 @ 9:30 am. Consider bringing some Thanksgiving food to be blessed, and then take it with you to share with your family and friends. Remember those less fortunate; bring some canned items for the Country Pantry if you are able.



### Advent Blue

We hope to purchase a set of blue hangings, chasuble and stole for Advent. Those wishing to contribute to a specific items should contact Patricia Jue, chair of the altar guild, in person or through [communication@stjamesclinton](mailto:communication@stjamesclinton). General donations towards the purchase can also be made. Checks should be made to "St. James", with "Advent altar set" in the memo line. If donating in memory of a loved one, please include a note, or let Patricia, or Tacie-St. James office administrator-know. We have received donations to purchase a white chasuble and stole in memory of Jean Ashforth. These will be blessed on the Festival of Christ the King, Sunday, November 26th, during the 9:30 am worship service.

## Outreach Haiti

As we reported at the September potluck, our trip to Haiti was very informative. If you missed the presentation, our partner parish/school St. Paul's in Beaudin Jean Pierre has no water, power, sanitation or books. The school serves 150-160 students in grades Pre-K thru 7. We knew that St. Paul's needed our help, but did not realize until we met the staff in person that we are the sole support for them. The teachers have worked without much compensation for the past couple of years.

Now that we know this we have set some big goals for our partnership with St. Paul's. Our past contributions have been used to purchase a 4 room building and the surrounding land, paid for some lunches for the students and very meager salaries for the teachers. We are hoping to form 10 teams who will raise \$2,500 each to sponsor a class at St. Paul's. This support will ensure a meal for each student every day that school is in session (for some students that could be the only daily meal they eat), plus pay the teachers' salary.

So far we have 4 teams formed. They are led by Ken Illes, Kathy Collett, Pat Evans, and Karen Anderson. If you are interested in leading a team, or joining a team please speak with Karen. We would love for involvement from outside of St. James' parish as well, so please recruit your family and friends to form a team. Along with forming teams to support this school year, we have some long term goals identified. We would like to provide potable water, and sanitary latrines, and electrical power to the school.

Karen and Randy have given a presentation to the New Hartford Rotary Club about the trip and received a very generous donation of over \$250 from them to put toward our efforts. We are happy to present to any group that might be interested in learning about our trip. Karen will be presenting at the Diocesan Convention on Friday November 10th. The Diocese has donated over \$5,000 to St. Paul's through the Global Mission Fund over the past 3 years. We hope they will continue to help us make a difference in Haiti.

Along with your financial contributions, we ask you to continue to pray for Père Fred and the students and staff of St. Paul's school. They are grateful for all that we do for them.

- Karen Anderson



## Collecting for a Cause

St. James is helping the Clinton Central School collect plastic bags and thin plastic film items. Place clean, dry items in the box in the parish hall lobby through December 17. Acceptable Items (must be CLEAN and DRY) include:

- Grocery bags
- Bread bags
- Case overwrap
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Ice bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Ziploc & other reclosable bags
- Produce bags
- Bubble wrap
- Salt bags
- Cereal bags



The production of thin film plastic requires considerable use of energy and non-renewable materials. (Want to know more? Ask Patricia Jue, polymer chemist!) The difficulty in recycling means most end up in landfills. Help us live out one of the Marks of Mission: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. Switching to re-usable bags for shopping saves resources and energy. We offer a free re-usable shopping bag to each family unit, or individual, who contributes time, talent and treasure to St. James.

### Winter Coat Drive

Hunt Realty, on College St., is collecting women's, men's, and kids' winter coats for the Utica Rescue Mission. As you may know, the Rescue Mission provides donated clothing to clients at no charge. The coat drive runs thru November. Clean out your closets!



### Greeting Cards for the Kirkland Senior Center

90 seniors using the senior center would appreciate donations of greeting cards for them to send. Needed are birthday, wedding anniversary, get well, and sympathy cards.

Blank cards and Christmas cards are **Not** needed.

Please place the cards in the collection box in the Parish Hall Foyer.

### Outreach

At our latest meeting the committee voted to send \$4000 to Pere Fred for school lunches for St. Paul's School in Beaudin Jean Pierre. See Karen Anderson's update on the fundraising project for the school. Thank you to all who have responded.

We are also preparing for the annual Christmas Giving Tree which will be placed in the sanctuary after Thanksgiving. We will be helping three local organizations: Thea Bowman has requested canned hams; Hope House is again looking for warm (new) adult socks; and the Country Pantry is in need of towels, washcloths and blankets. You can select a star (or two) on the tree reflecting these options which will have details relating to the gift and time and place to return them. - Pat Evans

### Flowers for Christmas

Christmas plants will be delivered to shut-in members of the parish so they know that we think of them and include them in our celebrations. If you would like to receive a plant or know of someone who would like one, please call the church office. If you can deliver a plant to a shut-in member of the parish, we would greatly appreciate it. In mid-December, select a name from the sign-up sheets in the back of the church and make arrangements to visit.



## Rector's Corner



Recently, I had the opportunity during my October holiday week, to travel back to my home state where I got to visit and reconnect with friends I hadn't seen in nearly five years. Traveling through New England in the Fall is always a blessing as the foliage is often breathtaking in its colorful majesty. For whatever reason though, my drive this Fall, into the heart of Maine, was not what I expected as the trees lacked their usual vibrancy and many had already shed their leaves while others were still green. Was nature confused? I'm sure there's a rational explanation, but that doesn't alleviate my disappointment in not experiencing, what is for me, the highlight of my favorite season.

What my trip to Maine offered was an opportunity to spend a day on the coast, walking my favorite trail on Mount Desert Island and sharing the experience with another. With its rugged coastline and churning ocean waves crashing on the rocks, this special place regrounds me emotionally and spiritually; getting to share this with a close friend only further deepened my emotional and spiritual well-being.

I am grateful for having the ability to take time away from routine to rejuvenate and restore my sense of being. In my previous occupation, such opportunities were rare, if they happened at all. Having a holiday week away isn't something everyone can enjoy and why I feel this is a personal blessing, one I hope to never take for granted.

Maybe it's the month of November, but I'm starting to feel thankful for the varied gifts and blessings that surround me daily. I know I need to have gratitude and thanksgiving in my heart every day; but there is simply

something about late autumn and November that fuels my awareness in a way no other season can.

Since September when I introduced the Season of Creation, and following through the months of October and November, we have focused on the meaning of Stewardship and the ways each of us are invited to share of our resources. Guiding us along the way have been the Anglican Marks of Mission that help center us in our Baptismal promises. The Stewardship Working-group has further provided visual reminders of how this past year's budget line items align with the five Marks. The posters are hanging in the parish hall, and I invite each of you to stop and reflect on the work that your support enables. It is through your generosity of giving – both of time and money – that ministry here at St. James' is supported and will carry on. Each of us has been blessed by God with skill and reason, by which we labor and provide for ourselves and loved ones. Whatever our life circumstances are, each of us is invited to give in thanksgiving for the grace of God's blessings in our lives. Through your generosity of heart, ministry here at St. James' will continue faithfully.

May God's grace be with each of you as we enter this season of gratitude and Thanksgiving.

Blessings,  
Fr. Gary+

## Property Management

Help with Fall Cleaning! Looking for folks to help cut down the hostas and hydrangeas for the season and do some raking. Weekdays or weekend help is welcomed.

Please call or email Sharon Williams to let her know when you have a little time to give.

Thank you!! [swilliam@hamilton.edu](mailto:swilliam@hamilton.edu).



# November 2017

*(Subject to change on a weekly basis)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:30am Worship Service	30 6:15 R. Murray Painting Group	31 6:30pm Tapestry 8:00pm AA Meeting	1 11:30am Lectionary Study	2 7:30am Men's Group 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice	3	4 9:30am Montana Memorial Service 4:00pm Worship Service
5 All Saint's Sunday 9:30am Worship Service	6 6:15 R. Murray Painting Group	7 6:30pm Tapestry 6:30pm Transition Committee Meeting 8:00pm AA Meeting	8 11:30am Lectionary Study	9 7:30am Men's Group 6:00pm PM Meeting 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice	10	11 4:00pm Worship Service
12 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am Outreach Meeting	13 6:15 R. Murray Painting Group	14 6:30pm Tapestry 8:00pm AA Meeting	15 11:30am Lectionary Study 7pm Vestry Meeting	16 7:30am Men's Group 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice	17	18 4:00pm Worship Service
19 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am Outreach Meeting	20 6:15 R. Murray Painting Group	21 6:30pm Transition Committee Meeting 6:30pm Tapestry 8:00pm AA Meeting	22 11:30am Lectionary Study 6pm Mohawk Valley Dog Training Club	23 7:30am Men's Group 9:30pm Thanksgiving Service	24	25 4:00pm Worship Service
26 9:30am Worship Service	27 6:15 R. Murray Painting Group 7:00pm Women's Spirituality	28 6:30pm Tapestry 8:00pm AA Meeting	29 11:30am Lectionary Study	30 7:30am Men's Group 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice	1	2 4:00pm Worship Service 5pm Wine & Cheese Fellowship

## November Server Schedule

Date	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Ushers/Greeters
Sat. Nov. 4	Karen Anderson	Karen Anderson	Bruce & Sondra Coe
Sun. Nov. 5	Pat Evans	Bill Kistner	Don Neil & Chris Evans
Sat. Nov. 11	Kathy Heuss	Patricia Jue	Craig & Kathy Heuss
Sun. Nov. 12	Mary O'Neill	Randy Wilson	Karen Anderson & Pat Davis
Sat. Nov. 18	Ted Johnson	Matt Weber	Holly Horner
Sun. Nov..19	Pat Evans	Brian Collett	John & Cynthia Crossley
Thurs. Nov. 23	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sat. Nov.. 25	Chris Fox	Patty Fox	Chris & Patty Fox
Sun. Nov. 26	Kate Marquardt	Gail Prentice	Don Neil & Randy Wilson