

**ST. JAMES CHURCH
WELCOMES YOU**

9 Williams Street
Clinton, NY 13323
www.stjamesclinton.org

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This e-version of the newsletter has been modified slightly from the published version. Children are identified by initials only. In some cases, adults are identified by first name and last initial. Private telephone numbers and e-mail address have been removed.

Print versions are mailed to our parish families and can be picked up from the back of the church or from the church office.

Newsletter Guide

Church Staff (2)
Wardens & Vestry Members (2)
Group Leaders (2)
Worship Times (2)
The Way I See It (3)
Vestry Corner (3)
Annual Giving Campaign (4)
Flowers for Christmas (4)
Treasurer's Corner (4)
Music (5)
Day School news (5)
Advent (6)
 Advent prayer
 Advent Vesper services
Christmas at St. James (7)
 Christmas Pageant
 Christmas Caroling
 Greening of the Church
 Christmas Even Candlelight services
 Christmas I Candlelight Evening Prayer
 Lessons and Carols
Children's Ministry (8)
Resource Management (8)
Worship and Formation (9)
 Healing Service
 Spirituality Groups
 Lectionary Group
Outreach (10)
Servers' Schedules (11)
Prayer list (11)
December Calendar (12)

December



The Coming of the Christ Child

St. James Church

December 2007 – Newsletter

*Our mission is to welcome all, reach out to others
and grow in faith.*

The Rev. Jenny Montgomery - Rector
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Other names to know...

Mr. Richard Lloyd – Minister of Music
Mrs. Sandra Love – Church School Director
Mrs. Diana Stevenson – Temporary Office Administrator
Mr. Christopher Evans – Sexton

Wendy Weber - Senior Warden, Chris Fox - Junior Warden

Vestry: Diane Baldwin, Roberta Dawes, Randy Ericson, Pat Evans, John Fehlner,
Steve Havlovic, John Hecklau, Patricia Jue, Barbara Swetman

Mary Lou Iles - Vestry Clerk
Jan Wilson - Treasurer, Blair Jones - Assistant Treasurer

Leadership Group chairs
Kathy Collett & Terry Neil - Parish Life,
Karen Anderson - Outreach
Don Potter - Resource Management,
Jenny Montgomery - Worship & Formation

Regular Services of Worship

Saturday, 5:15pm	Holy Eucharist - Rite II First Saturday of the month - Rite I
Sunday, 9:30am	Holy Eucharist - Rite II Nursery care provided Church school (4 yrs to 6 th grade) also at 9:30am

The Way I See It
By Jenny Montgomery

One of the things I most appreciate about being your rector is the opportunity I have of hearing your stories. Whether it is at Coffee Hour, a Fellowship Dinner, a private conversation in my study, in the grocery store, or around town I enjoy hearing what is happening in your life through stories. To hear a story of personal success or family celebrations is exciting — your vacation was the best ever, another grandchild is on the way, the adoption was approved, the right job came along at just the right time, your daughter is engaged, your son played a great soccer game, the baby slept through the night (finally). Through sharing these joys I can see God at work in your life. Likewise, I consider it a privilege to hear your stories of pain and suffering because these stories are often the ones that come straight from the heart. Granted it often breaks my heart to hear them but they too point to the realities of life—your marriage is falling apart, the test results are not good, your sister had a miscarriage, a parent dies, your teenager is in trouble, you are without a job. Through sharing these disappointments and failures I also see God at work in your life. Which brings me to a story.

The other day I was raking leaves when a member of the church pulled into the rectory driveway. Glad for a break we chatted about a couple of things and then he asked if he could tell me a story. He first prefaced the story by saying that he knew he was not supposed to ask God for anything. (I'll get to that part in a minute.) As the story unfolded he said his knee was causing him tremendous pain and the pain was becoming so debilitating he could hardly get around. So that morning, not being able to take the pain any more, he threw up his hands and prayed to God for help. He told God that he had had it and needed to be relieved of the pain in his knee. About an hour later the phone rang. It was the doctor calling. His appointment for the following week to see about the knee had to be rescheduled. Seeing that this window of opportunity might just be his answer to prayer, he asked if he could be seen that very afternoon. This was possible, so in he went, had his knee injected and within a couple of hours never felt better—the pain was completely gone. (He actually came back to help me rake!) But to the part about not asking God for anything.

The way I see it God heard the desperate prayer of this one who was in pain. God, I believe, actually likes for us to share our lives through prayer and to ask for help. God is very pleased, I believe, when we ask for things like guidance, wisdom, strength, courage, joy, and help. Life is hard. We know this and God knows this. Saying our prayers, crying out to God, asking for help is one way of sharing life with God. By inviting God to share our lives we acknowledge that God can help, wants to help, and is with us as we celebrate our successes and celebrations as well as our pain and suffering. The true story that is told at Christmas is God's ultimate response to our cry for saving help.

Emmanuel—God With Us. May it be so for us all this Christmas.

Vestry Corner

We are pleased to report that that we have received approval from the New York Landmarks Conservancy of a \$10,000 grant to help offset the cost of the new slate roof for the church. The work on the roof could begin as soon as December. Again, thank you to all who have made pledges to cover the remaining costs of the new roof.

With respect to the Lewis House, the Vestry believes the two most viable options are first, to work with a non-profit agency such as the refugee center for use of the house, which would require at least some repair and renovation, and second, to sell the premises. Other options — demolishing the building and being a landlord renting for fair market value — have been eliminated.

The Vestry also received a report from the Personnel Task Force.

To help the Vestry with the budgeting process, please return your pledge cards as soon as possible. Thank you!
Chris Fox, Junior Warden

Vestry Leadership Retreat

Hold the Date!

The Vestry, staff and leadership of the Ministry Groups will be meeting on Saturday, January 26th for a half day planning session. At this time we will review our Mutual Ministry Goals and set priorities for the coming year.

2008 Annual Giving Campaign

Celebrating What We Can Do with the Gifts We Have Been Given

Yes, it is that time of year when the leadership of this church asks each one of us to make a generous pledge of our financial giving to this parish for 2008. Six weeks into our campaign 63 pledge cards have been returned totaling \$99,550. To meet our 2008 budget needs we need twice as many pledges and double this amount in order to maintain our current level of spending. So if you haven't returned your pledge card, please do so. Asking for money is never easy and making sacrifices doesn't come naturally for most of us but God is doing wonderful things at St. James in and through us and in order to continue being a vibrant, vital parish in this community, generous giving is required of us all.

Treasurer's Corner

The end of the year is a very important and busy time for the Church vestry, treasurers and financial staff. We are finalizing all accounting for 2007 and planning for next year's budget. You can help by keeping up (or catching up!) with your 2007 pledges. During their next meeting on December 12, the vestry will work on the 2008 budget which will be presented at the Annual meeting on January 20th. You can help by turning in your pledge cards for 2008, if you have not already done so.

We now have the ability to collect your pledges through direct deposit. You might want to consider this option for the new year. If you are interested, please see Jan Wilson for details.

Wish List Items

Our wish list contains three new items:

- organ tuning
- speakers for the new electric piano
- donations towards the new copier.

And continues to contain three items:

- 50% scholarships at St. James School for \$375
- Church school furnishings: \$300
- Donations to offset ramp repair

Flowers for Christmas

Those wishing to provide a Christmas plant for the altar may do so by using the special envelopes in the pews, calling the church office at 853-5359 or completing the following form. If you would like to take your plant after the service, please note this on your envelope or check; we will mark your plant with a card and set it aside for pickup. A minimum donation of \$10 is requested. Checks should be made payable to **St James' Church Altar Guild** with the notation "Christmas plant."

2007 Christmas Flowers

Name: _____

☐ In Memory Of or ☐ In Thanksgiving for



Will take plant after Sunday's service?: Yes: _____ No: _____

Please complete this form and return it to the parish office with your minimum donation of \$10. Thank you.

Christmas plants will also be delivered to shut-in members of the parish so they may 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. Please also tell us if you would like the plant delivered before Christmas or after the Christmas celebration. If you could also volunteer some time to deliver a plant to a shut-in member of the parish, we would greatly appreciate it. Simply select a name from the sign-up sheets in the back of the church and make arrangements to visit. Thank you.

Music

This is the month we finally get to sing the St. Martin's Psalter – in fact twice. You will remember that in the previous newsletter, I explained how the ticks which separate the words of the psalm in this Psalter help us to know where we are in the music. Having dealt with these details already, I can now talk about the bigger picture. A verse or pair of verses is alternated between the cantor and the congregation. Of course, for those of you who attended the November 18th service, you may recall that we sang a Simplified Anglican Chant that was patterned in the same way – and this is very recognizable as the way we often speak the psalms, a back-and-forth between the leader and the congregation. However, just to make it a bit more challenging, an antiphon has been added as well:

Congregation sings bold, indented type on verses; all sing Antiphon:



Advent



Advent is the beginning of the Church Year in the Episcopal Church. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day (this year December 2nd) and ends at the Christmas Eve Service.

The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival” and symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation as we wait for the coming of Christ into the world, of the “Word made flesh” and dwelling among us.

Historically, the primary color of Advent is purple, the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King. The purple of Advent is also the color of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week and this points to an important connection between Jesus’ birth and death. The nativity, the Incarnation, cannot be separated from the crucifixion, the Atonement.

During Advent we affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power and great glory. So it is that Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation and of longing for Christ to burst into our darkness yet again. May it be so!

Advent Prayer

*Look upon us, O Lord,
And let all the darkness of our souls
vanish before the beams of thy brightness.
Fill us with holy love,
and open us to the treasures of thy wisdom.
All our desire is known unto thee,
therefore perfect what thou hast begun,
and what thy Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer.
We seek thy face,
turn thy face unto us and show us thy glory.
Then shall our longing be satisfied,
and our peace shall be perfect.
Augustine of Hippo (354-430)*

Advent Vesper Services

Thursdays 6:30pm--November 29, December 6, December 13, December 20

These services last about 30 minutes and will be held in our Parish Hall. Led by Richard Lloyd with participation by Colleen R C, Brian C, Mark L, and Jan W these contemplative services offer us all, in the busyness of the holiday season, a time to pause, reflect, and enjoy the quiet of Advent.

Christmas 2007 at St. James

Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 16th at 9:30am

One of our favorite St. James' traditions is the Pageant. The Pageant is inter-generational and a wonderful way of hearing the Christmas story.

Following worship, we'll have a party in the Parish Hall.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 16th at 5pm

All ages are invited to come and go Christmas Caroling. With plenty of singers we divide up and walk or drive to visit our shut-ins and others in the parish.

Cookies and hot chocolate are enjoyed afterwards at the Rectory.

Please bring a flashlight and dress warmly.

Greening of the Church

Sunday, December 23rd following worship

At the end of worship we will hang the greens Christmas, inviting the congregation to take an active part this year.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Monday, December 24th 5pm and 10:30pm

Family and friends are especially invited to attend worship on Christmas Eve.

The 5pm service is our Family Service and Nursery care is provided.

Special music is enjoyed in both services.



Christmas 1 Candlelight Evening Prayer

Saturday, December 29th 5:15pm

As we continue to celebrate the twelve days of Christmas, we will say Evening Prayer together in this Saturday service.

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 30th at 9:30am

The Season of Christmas will continue with a service of Lessons and Carols as we sing more of our favorite Christmas Carols and hear the lessons of Christ's coming.

Holy Eucharist will be shared. Hot-spiced cider to follow for Coffee Hour.

Children's Ministry

IT'S DECEMBER!! In the world outside our doors it means the biggest retail season of the year. "*What* is that!" you ask yourself in amazement when Christmas decorations appear in the stores at Halloween!! "Why it's Christmas!" the world answers. For the children of St. James, my heart-felt mission for December is to direct their attention and excitement to the "reason for the season". Every Sunday in December is devoted a special activity that points the way to Christmas Day.

Sunday, December 2nd, chapel time for grades Pre-K ~ 6th grade, our attention is given to the Season of Advent through history, hymns, and scripture.

Sunday, December 9th, we give our talent and attention to the creation of Christmas cards for the sick and shut-ins.

Sunday, December 16th, our annual intergenerational Christmas pageant followed by a very special Christmas coffee hour.

Sunday, December 23rd, Sunday school plans for the Epiphany celebration starring the children as Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, and Wiseman. No speaking lines, just a chance for the children to play their favorite role. There may be 10 little girls as Mary to one little boy as Joseph, and there maybe one, two, or three extra Wiseman...

Monday, December 24th, Christmas Eve service at 5:00 PM with the children's choir.

Tuesday, December 25th, on this day we welcome Christ, the newborn King, in our churches, in our homes, in our hearts, and around the world.

Merry Christmas, and may God continue to bless our children, Sandra Love

Intergenerational Pageant 2007



Be a "star"! Be in the pageant this year. There are still a few parts that have not been cast for angels, shepherds, and stars.

Full cast rehearsals follow the fellowship coffee hour in the church at 11:15am on 12/2 and 12/9.

Other times will be scheduled for the various groups taking part as "stars-that-sing", "stars-that-talk", narrators, etc.

The pageant this year is "The Littlest Star". It is about the star that shines over Bethlehem on Christmas. It was presented many years ago but will be new for some of us. Call Sandra at _____.

Clinton Youth Group

Youth in grades 6th-9th from the area churches along with Hamilton College students will be making Christmas cookies on Sunday, December 2nd from 3-5pm. Carrie and Chris E. are our St. James adult sponsors. Please give them a call at _____ for more information.

Resource Management

New York Landmarks Conservancy has awarded St. James \$10,000 towards our roof project, far less than we had hoped for but still a significant help for which we are grateful. Actually, the grant comes from the Sacred Sites Program, not the Wilson Challenge grant and it is contingent upon a favorable report from our structural engineer, Peter Nelson, who is examining the carrying beams and supports for the roof. To put this grant in perspective it is easy to see why we were not awarded more: we raised \$111,097 from a generous congregation; the contractor's charge will be \$102,413. This gives us an excess of \$18,684 (including the Landmarks grant) for Nelson's fee and contingencies. The timing of the roof job will be addressed at our next meeting.

The Lewis House is being winterized for the season as there is no heat in the house. Electricity remains connected. The Vestry has addressed several key options for the future of the house which are reported in this issue of the Newsletter.

Don P

Worship and Formation

Healing Service

The monthly healing prayer service is on Wednesday, December 5th at 7pm in the All Saints Room. The healing service is a quiet time of prayer, reflection, laying-on-of-hands, and sharing in the Lord's Supper. All are invited to attend this service of prayer as we pray for ourselves and for others.

Women's Spirituality Group

The monthly Monday group will meet on December 3rd in the Parish Hall and we are reading through Chapter 8 of Brian McLaren's book, A Generous Orthodoxy. Reading is not required! This group is open to the community and it is hoped women feel free to come in and out of the group at any time.

Men's Study Group

Friday Mornings 7:30-8:30am

The Men's Group is open to men of all ages. Randy Wi and Phil McK are glad to answer any questions about the group. All are welcome and invited. Coffee is provided.

Lectionary Reflection Group

Wednesdays, Noon-1pm

In the village running errands at lunchtime? Got a lunch hour from work? You are invited to join the Rector and others in the library to reflect on the upcoming Lectionary Readings. Together we will reflect on what we hear in the readings. No preparation is needed, various Bible translations are welcomed and feel free to bring your lunch! *We will not meet December 26th.*

Important Acolyte Training

Sunday, December 9th 5pm-6pm

All Acolytes should attend. Pizza to follow.

Parish Life and Dates to Remember

Thursdays of Advent (November 29, December 6, 13 and 20) – Advent vespers at 6 6:30pm

Sunday December 16 – 9:30 am Christmas Pageant, Pageant party during coffee hour;
Sign up sheets for goodies for the Pageant party will be posted in the Parish Hall and back of the church.

Sunday December 16 – Christmas Caroling at 5 pm

Sunday December 23 – Greening of the Church following worship

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 – Christmas Services at 5 and 10:30 pm
(No services Christmas Day.)

Saturday, December 29 – Candlelight Evening Prayer at 5:15pm.

Sunday, December 30 – Lessons and Carols at 9:30am (No Sunday School or Children's Choir).

Sunday, January 6 – Epiphany service at 9:30am with Children's Epiphany Party following worship and Adult Potluck Champagne Epiphany Party at 6pm, last names A-F dessert, G-L main dish, M-R salad, and S-Z appetizer. Sign up sheets will be posted so we have a head count for set up.

Sunday, January 20 – Annual Meeting after the 9:30am service; Continental Coffee Hour; sign up sheets will be posted so we have a head count for set up and for contributing continental breakfast goodies.

Outreach

To everyone who supported and contributed to the Ham Dinner & Bazaar to benefit Outreach in October we give many, many thanks. The proceeds from the combined efforts raised \$1536 for outreach projects.

Outreach has made a \$1,000 contribution to ERD for help with rebuilding the gulf coast following Hurricane Katrina in response to a request from Bishop Adams. We also made contributions of \$300 each to the Food Bank of Central NY, and the Rescue Mission of Utica to help with holiday meals. We allocated \$300 for UNICEF to purchase mosquito netting needed in the fight against Malaria in Africa. Another donor, doubling its impact, matched this donation.

Thanks to all those who participated in the Clinton Crop Walk October 28th; especially Heidi Philley for putting out the signs, Sue Hecklau who serves as Treasurer of the event, and Jenny who walked.

“One” Sunday and the MDGs

If you were in church on November 25th you heard about “The One Campaign” and the Millennium Development Goals. In 2000, leaders from the US and 190 other nations came together to develop a plan to cut extreme global poverty in half by 2015. The 8 MDGs were created to help guide this work along. We are nearly half way to the goal date and yet many people have never even heard of the MDGs. They are:

1. To Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education for Children
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
8. Create a Global Partnership for Development



Expect to hear much more about the Millennium Development Goals in the future, or better yet, if you would like to help St. James “reach out to others”, please join us at the next Outreach Meeting December 2nd at 10:45 in the All Saints Room.

Cards to Soldiers

Here is a way that each of us can “reach out”! Regardless of your politics or your opinion of the war, the Holidays can be very lonely for our troops. When you send out your cards this year please consider sending a card to the address below. It is not necessary to know a name, the hospital will distribute the cards to some service member who is recovering. Isn’t that the true spirit of the miracle of Christ’s birth? I hope many of you will participate and please feel free to pass the idea on to others.

A Recovering American soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

Giving vs. Receiving

As we approach the Holiday/Christmas Season, it is truly appropriate to remind members of our community that “it is more blessed to give than to receive” their life saving donation of blood. Receivers are in need of whole blood transfusions or blood medicine products because of a wide variety of health problems from accidents, diseases, surgery required conditions, etc.

Givers, donors, are in short supply because of the increasing number of conditions which reduce our eligibility to donate blood. A recent study estimates that only 37% of the general population is eligible to donate blood because of an ever increasing number of reasons which make our blood not safe to give to others.

Our good health is a true blessing, and at a time of year when weather related accidents increase blood product needs, and bad weather can reduce donor attendance and even cancel bloodmobiles, we really need each eligible person’s donation. The free mini physical will confirm your good health or alert you to a medical condition that needs attention.

Bill Rudge, Kirkland Bloodmobile Committee

St. James Server Schedule

Please see the print version for the server schedule.

Prayer List

For those seeking wholeness & healing: **Joan, Chuck, and Ed** . For our family & friends: **Jim Kristina, Beverly, Linda, Allison, Peter, Dennis Rich & Beryl Abich, Phyllis, Sally, Anders, Robin, Barbara and Conrad, Elizabeth and Jean, Maria, Noreen, Agnes, The Bornick family, Bob, Hannah and Jan.**

(Please notify the church office when names may be removed.)



December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 2 9:30 am Holy Eucharist and Sunday School (nursery provided) Coffee Hour and Pageant rehearsal follows. Outreach meeting after Coffee Hour 6:15-9pm Tapestry Rehearsal	Dec 3 6:30pm Girl Scouts leaders meeting 7:15pm Womens' spirituality group 7-10pm Mohawk Valley Scrabble Group	Dec 4 8:30pm AA	Dec 5 Noon-1 pm Lectionary reflection group 7pm healing service	Dec 6 6:30pm Advent II vesper service 7:30pm Adult Choir	Dec 7 7:30am Men's Study Group	Dec 8 5:15pm Holy Eucharist
Dec 9 9:30 am Holy Eucharist and Sunday School (nursery provided) Coffee Hour and Pageant rehearsal follows. 3-5pm Sacred Harp 5pm Acolyte trainin 6:15-9pm Tapestry Rehearsal	Dec 10 7 pm ABC meeting 7-10pm Mohawk Valley Scrabble Group	Dec 11 8:30pm AA 7 pm book club	Dec 12 Noon-1 pm Lectionary reflection group 7pm Vestry meeting	Dec 13 9 am- 2pm Fiber Arts Group 6:30pm Advent III vesper service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	Dec 14 7:30am Men's Study Group	Dec 15 5:15pm Holy Eucharist
Dec 16 9:30 am Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist (nursery provided) Pageant party follows 10:45am Children's choir rehearsal 5pm Christmas caroling 6:15-9pm Tapestry Rehearsal	Dec 17 7pm Resource Mgm't. Group 7-10pm Mohawk Valley Scrabble Group	Dec 18 8:30pm AA	Dec 19 Noon-1 pm Lectionary reflection group	Dec 20 6:30pm Advent IV vesper service 7:30pm Adult Choir 7 pm Mohawk Valley dog training club	Dec 21 7:30am Men's Study Group	Dec 22 5:15pm Holy Eucharist
Dec 23 9:30am Holy Eucharist Coffee Hour follows 10:45am Children's choir rehearsal 10:45am Greening of the Church 6:15-9pm Tapestry Rehearsal	Dec 24 5pm Christmas Eve candlelight service 10:30pm Christmas Eve candlelight service	Dec 25 Christmas Day	Dec 26	Dec 27 7:30 pm Adult Choir	Dec 28 7:30am Men's Study Group	Dec 29 5:15pm Candlelight evening prayer
Dec 30 9:30 am Lessons and Carols NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR NURSERY 6:15-9pm Tapestry Rehearsal	Dec 31 7-10pm Mohawk Valley Scrabble Group	Jan 1 8:30pm AA	Jan 2 Noon-1 pm Lectionary reflection group 7pm healing service	Jan 3 7:30 pm Adult Choir	Jan 4 7:30am Men's Study Group	Jan 5 5:15pm Holy Eucharist
6:15-9pm Tapestry Rehearsal	Patsy Couper	Bud & Peggy Cratty	John & Piper Crawford	John & Cynthia Crossley	The D'Angelo familiy	John & Alice Dahlin