

St. James' Episcopal Church Newsletter

January / February 2019



“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.”

Staff

The Rev. Gary Cyr, *Rector*
Richard Llyod, *Minister of Music*
Mujo Salkic, *Sexton*
Caitlin Richer, *Office Administrator*
Terry Neil, *Treasurer*
Laura Stoll, *Webmistress*

Vestry

vestry@stjamesclinton.org

Ken Iles, *Senior Warden*
Pat Davis, *Junior Warden*
Malinda Abraham
John Crossley
Randy Grant
Sue Hecklau
Terry Houtz-Neil
Deb Lucas-Mott
Jennifer Potter-Hayes
Gail Prentice
Randy Wilson

Leadership Group Chairs

Malinda Abraham, *Hospitality*
Charles Abraham, *Hospitality*
Mike Baldwin, *Finance*
Kathy Collett, *Communications*
Pat Evans, *Outreach*
Sharon Williams, *Property Management*
Craig Heuss, *Investment*
Patricia Jue, *Altar Guild*

Father Gary's Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
or by appointment
(520) 444-8617
fathergary@stjamesclinton.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
(315) 853-5359
office@stjamesclinton.org

Rector's Corner

The Christmas gifts are all unwrapped and in use; Christmas trees have been taken down and the seasonal decorates are now packed away until next year when another holiday season will be upon us. It's a reflective time as the new year dawns pregnant with possibilities and filled with optimism. In a Christian perspective, this optimism stems from our relationship with Christ Jesus and our desire to live more fully into our baptismal covenant, which lies at the heart of our spiritual lives. We are, after all, people of God.

June of 2019 will mark my ninth year of ordained ministry, seventh as priest. Over the course of those years, I have served as Rector, Assistant Rector, and associate priest. Much of my service has been volunteered as I pursued educational opportunities, with each parish setting being a chance to witness and grow together. Regardless of the situation, these past nine years have been one of living a consecrated life, a life dedicated to Christ and witnessed to in service to others. Though I am reflecting on the past eight years, I look forward to the ninth and working with each of you to deepen our shared faith and giving witness to Christ's love in service to the wider community.

Thus, I am deeply thankful for the past year – its challenges, its disappointments, its joys, and even its aggravations. Together we have grown and I sense a deep willingness to move forward. It's as if the parish has turned a corner and a real sense of hope has taken hold. I am thankful for the individuals who have taken part in the Diocesan Learning Community Initiative. Our dedicated Guiding Team has offered us opportunities to be more visible in the wider community, to engage with scripture in thought

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On December 21, 2018 Father Gary presided over *The Longest Night* service along several clergy members from the Clinton Area Ministerium (CAM).

The Longest Night service was held for community members who were experiencing grief during the holidays. For those who are missing loved ones, the holidays can be especially difficult. The service was held on the evening of the winter solstice, the longest night of the year.

With the support of CAM and St. James parish members who volunteered their time to decorate our town with fliers, *The Longest Night* service was able to bring support to around 34 community members.

Several people who attended the service shared their compliments with members of CAM. Some found comfort in being with others, some came to support the service, but all were glad that they came.

Scott Leonard from Stone Presbyterian (a member of CAM) shared pictures from the service.



Candles were lit in memory of lost loved ones.

provoking ways, and I give thanks for their willingness to continue in this covenant for the coming year and look forward to new expressions of faith and engagement that will arise from their prayerful work. I am grateful for the Stephan Ministers in our parish who brought to my attention this past holiday season the need for a service of hope and remembrance. That enabled the parish, along with our ecumenical brothers and sisters, to offer a service – *The Longest Night* – to the wider community. I am prayerful that our parish will work with and engage more with Stephan Ministries. I look forward to deepening our relationship with the Clinton Ministerium as well as working with the Interfaith Coalition of Greater Utica. I am deeply appreciative of the many volunteers in the parish who give of their time so that the church is cared for, music is shared, hospitality is provided, and who give beauty to our worship services. These dedicated individuals also give of their time to other outside charities through which evangelism occurs (I know Episcopalians don't like the word evangelism, but that's what giving witness to Christ's love is all about!).

I am prayerful, therefore, that as the New Year begins, each of you will take time for reflecting upon the many gifts God has blessed you with, and with open heart and a generosity of spirit, we each humbly give thanks to the Source from which all things flow. God's gracious spirit bless each of you this Epiphany season.

Blessings,

Fr. Gary+

A Note from Outreach

Thanks to all who took stars from our Giving Tree and brought gifts of blankets, socks and gloves to be distributed to the needy through the Country Pantry and Hope House. We also thank you for the many food contributions for the Country Pantry and the toiletries for Hope House throughout the year.

-Pat Evans

Rise Against Hunger Update



"It is with great pleasure that we announce the destination of the Rise Against Hunger meals you helped package on 9/ 29/ 2018. A shipping container, holding 285,120 meals, has been sent to Burkina Faso (West Africa) for our partner Catholic Relief Services...

Catholic Relief Services is an organization that nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in Burkina Faso. To learn more, please visit our partner/ country spotlight on the Impact Stories tab and click and drag on our World Aid Map at <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/world-aid> . Ending hunger is only possible if we continue to grow the movement. We encourage you to share the news about this shipment. Since 2005, volunteers like you have helped us distribute over 310 million meals worldwide. We can end hunger by 2030, but we can't do it without you. "

Learning Communities Initiative

Over the past year St. James' has participated in the diocesan Learning Communities Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to encourage us to "be church" in a way we have not done it before. As you have watched and participated, our "experiment" was to have a presence in the village during the farmer's markets. We set up shop and invited people to fill out a prayer flag. The flags are currently hanging from our balcony in the church. Over the course of this experiment we read scripture, learned to listen and reflect on what we heard and read, and had the opportunity to meet our neighbors.

The St. James' folks involved in the initiative (Charles, Karen, Kathy, Patricia, Deb, Terry, and Father Gary) have all had a positive experience and we feel we should re-up for next year. If you are interested in participating, please speak with any of the participants. We would love to double the number of parishioners who take part in this endeavor.

- Karen Anderson

Property Update

Here's an update on recent projects completed by Property Management:

Day School: installation of sump pump, repainting of some areas, and installation of electronic doorbell (*Ring* security system)

Building Interior:: updating of outlets and lighting in Library kitchenette, leveling of altar platform, and repainting a portion of Parish Hall

Building Exterior: cutting/ raking of shrubs and perennials, sealing the topmost portion of belfry, and repair and repainting of belfry tower and the exterior kitchen wall

-Sharon Williams

Helping Haiti

You may recall that our dear friend Pere Fred has been reassigned to a new parish in Haiti. We are continuing to send the funds we have raised for St. Paul's in Beaudin Jean Piere, but we would also like to help raise funds to put a roof on St. Matthias, where Fred is now stationed. As you can see from the photo, the building is in pretty rough shape. Fred tells me that when it rains, they have to cancel worship services.

Your generosity with Haiti has been a blessing to them, and to us. Our visit to Haiti allowed us to see first hand the conditions our brothers and sisters are living in, but more importantly, it provided us with the opportunity to make connections with the people of Haiti. That is what living the Gospel is all about - loving our neighbors.



There are many ways you can help our efforts to improve life in Haiti. You can make a special donation to St. James, marked Haiti on the memo line, or you can purchase some Haitian coffee for \$10 a bag. We have decaf, and medium roast and French roast available. These make lovely host/hostess gifts. Thanks to the donation of one of our parishioners, the entire cost of the coffee goes to Haiti. Buying coffee helps Haiti in two ways, we help the growers in Haiti and we help Pere Fred's congregation. Please consider purchasing some coffee. If you have questions, please speak with Karen Anderson.

We hope to bring Pere Fred to Clinton soon, and we are planning a trip back to Haiti, to see his new location and meet new friends. If you are interested in joining us, let Karen know.



SINGING Rooster

Diocesan Events

January 11: Episcopal Night at Syracuse Crunch Hockey; Open to everyone in the diocese. Youth attending the skating event the following day will have the option to stay overnight after the game.

January 12 & 13: Youth Skating Overnight; This event is free; for more information please visit <https://cnyepiscopal.org/event/2019-skate/>

February 17-20: Youth Winter Retreat at St. Margaret's in New Hartford. Details and registration to be announced. <https://cnyepiscopal.org/event/youth-winter-retreat-2019/>

THE WAY OF LOVE

Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

**READY FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL
IN THE NEW YEAR?**



Join the Diocese of CNY for a free workshop on the Episcopal Way of Love. Explore how you can use the Way's practices to deepen your own spiritual life. Plus, why and how to share the Way of Love in and beyond your congregation.

Register: cnyepiscopal.org/way-of-love-2019

ENDICOTT | FEB 5 | 6 PM

ONLINE/LIVERPOOL | FEB 27 | 10 AM

WATERTOWN | FEB 28 | 6 PM

Difficult Conversations Workshops



[cnyepiscopal.org/
difficult-conversations](https://cnyepiscopal.org/difficult-conversations)

Emotions get heated. Tensions rise. The subject matter gets challenging. How can we have fruitful conversations in this time of increasing incivility?

"Difficult Conversations" workshops will build your capacity to engage in faithful, respectful conversations with others—even when there's deep disagreement. You'll gain conflict resolution skills and learn how to encourage civil dialogue.

There's three opportunities to attend, in Oneida, Ithaca, Liverpool or online, and the workshop is free.

Parish Events

Epiphany Party

On Sunday, January 6th at 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Beverages will be provided, Sign up sheet is in the Parish Hall.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 20th after the Sunday service. Please bring a food item to share. We will hear reports from committees and prepare for 2019.

Wine and Cheese

On Saturday, February 9th we will be having a wine and cheese night at 5p.m. (after the Saturday service) See you there!

INVITATION TO JOIN THE WORSHIP SERVERS

Members of St. James Church are all invited to become Ushers, Lectors, and/or Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs). We are short of people needed to serve at Church. We need more of each kind of Server especially Ushers.

This is what the Servers do:

LECTORS: Sit in the congregation and come up to the Lectern to read The Lesson – First Reading and then The Psalm (unless the choir is singing the psalm).

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (LEMs): Before Church, put on a Robe and 10 minutes before the Service, light the Candles in the Church. You will process into the church with the Priest and sit in the Choir Pew behind the Lectern. You will read the Lesson – Second Reading and Prayers of the People. At the Offertory, you go to the Altar with the Priest, give out and receive the Collection Plates and assist the Priest in preparation for Communion. Then you serve as a Chalice Bearer. After the Dismissal, you extinguish the Candles.

If you join us as a LEM, Gary will meet with you to teach you how to do everything.

USHERS: Come to church early and hang the flags outside. Greet people as they enter the Church and give them a Bulletin. 5 Minutes before the Service begins, Ring the Steeple Bell. Count the number of people attending and write the numbers down. At the Offertory, take the Bread and Wine or the Collection Plates and the Number of People to the Priest on the Altar and then Collect the Offerings from the Congregation. Return the Offerings to the Altar. At the Communion, open the side doors to the Altar and then Show them when to go to the Altar. After church, take the Collection Plate to the Library with the other Usher and count the money. Then remove the flags from outside and return them to the closet.

If you join us as an Usher, you will be scheduled to Usher with another Usher who will work with you to show you how everything is done. Two Ushers are always scheduled to work together.

If you are going to join us as a Worship Server, please email me or call me with:

Your Name

Your Email Address

Your Home and Cell Phone Numbers

Tell me if you will be an Usher, a LEM or a Lector.

You can be One or All of Them!

THANK YOU SO MUCH AND PLEASE JOIN THE GROUP!

Gail Prentice

gailpren@twcny.rr.com

H: 315-841-4109, C: 315-725-6620

Just so you know, I send an email to all Worship Servers the month before I make the Schedule asking you to let me know if you are unavailable for the dates listed.

Celebrating Christmas at St. James

Our annual Christmas pageant took place Sunday, December 16th during the worship service. Parish members of all ages participated. The pageant was organized by Sandra Love.



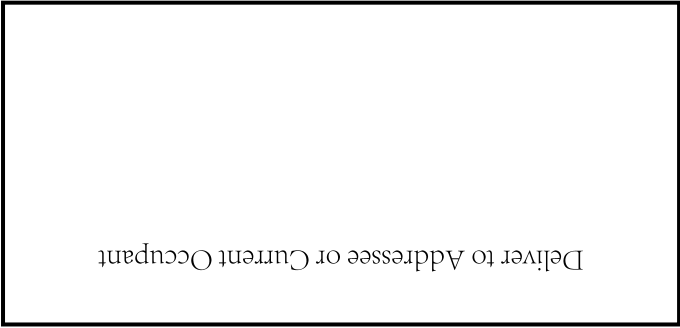
The Christmas Eve services welcomed over 250 people through our doors. Bill Elliot played violin and flugelhorn, the youth choir sang, Father Gary gave a children's sermon, St. Nicholas visited on his busiest night of the year, and beautiful hymns were sung by all.

The Christmas Day service was attended by few, but enjoyed by all.



Top Left: congregation; Top Right: Bill Elliot playing the violin prelude; Bottom Left: Father Gary giving the children's sermon and a visit from St. Nick; Bottom Right: Youth Choir

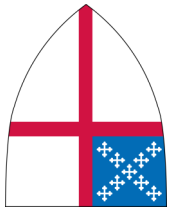




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St. James' Episcopal Church
9 Williams St.
Clinton, NY 13323



St. James' Episcopal Church
9 Williams Street · Clinton, NY 13323 · (315) 853-5359
www.stjamesclinton.org · office@stjamesclinton.org

Regular Services
Saturday 4:00 pm · Sunday 9:30 am



January / February Server Schedule			
Date	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Ushers/ Greeters
Saturday, Jan. 5	Ted Johnson	Karen Anderson	John & Cynthia Crossley
Sunday, Jan. 6	Pat Evans	Mary Lou Iles	Ken Iles & Randy Wilson
Saturday, Jan 12	Chris Fox	Patty Fox	Chris & Patty Fox
Sunday, Jan. 13	Gail Prentice	Bill Kistner	Karen Anderson & Wendy Seifried
Saturday, Jan. 19	Malinda Abraham	Charles Abraham	Malinda & Charles Abraham
Sunday, Jan. 20	JoElyn Wakefield-Wright	Person Scheduled	Don Neil & Randy Wilson
Saturday, Jan. 26	Kathy Heuss	Person Scheduled	Craig & Kathy Heuss
Sunday, Jan. 27	Mary O'Neill	Gail Prentice	Pat Davis & John Crossley
Saturday, Feb. 2	Ted Johnson	Karen Anderson	Wendy Seifreid & Karen Anderson
Sunday, Feb. 3	Person Scheduled	Brian Collett	Ken Iles & Don Neil