St. James' Episcopal Church

Newsletter

November / December 2019



St. James' Episcopal Church is a community of faith where we come together in Christ to develop spiritually through worship and Spirit-led action. We experience the sacred through our liturgy, music, hospitality, and shared ministries. As part of our outreach mission to the greater Clinton area, the parish campus is used by various community groups as a place of meeting and fellowship. We are continually and prayerfully exploring ways to transform the world through loving faith-filled service.

Staff

The Rev. Gary Cyr, Rector
The Rev. Bev Jones, Deacon
Father Mike Jones, Associate Priest
Richard Lloyd, Minister of Music
Mujo Salkic, Sexton
Caitlin Richer, Office Administrator
Terry Neil, Interim Treasurer

Vestry

vestry@stjamesclinton.org

Ken Iles, Senior Warden Pat Davis, Junior Warden Malinda Abraham, '21 John Crossley, '20 Mark Linderman, '20 Terry Neil, '20 Jennifer Potter-Hayes, '21 Gail Prentice, '21 Mary Seyse, '22

Leadership Group Chairs

Charles Abraham, Hospitality
Malinda Abraham, Hospitality
Chris Fox, Outreach
Patty Fox, Outreach
Rev. Bev Jones, Youth Ministry
Patricia Jue, Altar Guild
Greg Neil, Property Management
Jennifer Potter- Hayes, Finance
Investment

Guiding Team Members

learncom@stjamesclinton.org

Charles Abraham, Karen Anderson, Kathy Collett, Deb Mott, Terry Neil

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:

M/Tu/W/F 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Th 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (315) 853-5359 office@stjamesclinton.org

Rector's Corner

"...go forth to love and serve the Lord, which I hear as our worship is over, our service has just begun."

hat is the difference between a service club, a non-profit and a church? Sounds like there ought to be a punch line to that question, but there isn't one. Each organization has its purpose and particular focus and each benefits the wider community. However, they must not be confused with each other.

Service organizations gather likeminded individuals to share in a common ethos to raise awareness of societal needs. Part social and part charitable, they do good work in fundraising for community projects of various sorts while providing for social networking within its membership. Focused on fundraising, non-profits function primarily in a tax-exempt environment within religious, educational, scientific, or another domain. These enterprises often serve the common good, but are not limited to such, and the social aspect is less than that of a service organization.

While churches may have components that seem similar to service groups and non-profits this does not make a church either of these organizations. The word itself gives voice to the distinction between the three groups. Stemming from the Greek *ecclesia*, the word we now translate as "church" simply means "those called out, or the assembled. "This implies that those who are members of a church are called out of the world-at-large to give witness to the tenants of their faith as written in their scared writings and embodied ritually. As members of the Episcopal Church we see this in our two primary sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion, something neither of the above-mentioned organizations contain. As such, we are called to be the Body of Christ in the world.

Unlike the aforementioned organizations, the Church has no charter or raison d'être other than being the Body of Christ. To be such, the Church is organized according to the mandate Jesus gave his disciples on the eve of his impending death. Taking on the role of a servant, he washed their feet commanding them to do likewise. After all, that is the way of love embodied throughout Jesus' ministry. Our servant ministry is to bear this love out into the world: to do justice and love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. In doing so, we participate in God's mission to reconcile all things in Christ. God has a mission, which has a Church whose ministry is to partake in Christ's liberating work to free all from sin and death so we can become the human family of God where love prevails. As the old hymn based on John 13.35 says, "they will know we are Christian by our love!"

These words, along with the words sited above from Micah 6, together with John 14, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," have informed and shaped my ministry as a presbyter in the household of God. My identity as priest is rooted in the Eucharist and focused outwardly into the community: both parish-life and the world-at-larger. All of this is consummated in the dismissal when the Body of Christ is tasked to go forth to love and serve the Lord, which I hear as our worship is over, our service has just begun. We are sent out into the world in service to others, just as in Jesus' mandate to his early disciples. It is a forward and outward ministry.

A while back Brother Geoffrey Tristram, of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, wrote the following as a reflection upon nostalgia: "Living too much in the past, filling our days with nostalgic memories, remembering past experiences which are no more, can actually be very damaging to our emotional and spiritual lives. The Scriptures are shot through with this theme and come with a warning: Once you have begun a journey, don't look back."

I have these words posted in my office where they continue to remind me that we are all on a spiritual journey, that God is at work in our midst, often in ways we have yet to fully appreciate or understand. Along with these words I also have posted a chart comparatively listing the differences between a Church in maintenance mode and a Church that is missional. You will find a copy of that in this newsletter (page 3).

These two instruments have guided me throughout my ministry with you and led to the leadership of St. James participating in a two-part visioning workshop this past summer. Vestry members, committee chairs, along with the Guiding Team gathered with outside counsel who facilitated the sessions to prayerfully reflect on where God is at work in our community, what are our strengths, our weakness, and our potential. The result of this exercise can be found in summary form in this newsletter (page 4).

The purpose of all this work has been in preparation for a Mutual Ministry Review to be held this fall, which will also be facilitated by outside council. If we are as a parish to move forward into God's mission, we need an honest assessment of our ministry/ministries. Our service to others has only begun and I ask your prayers for the parish leadership as we engage in mutual discernment.

All of this is offered to the glory of God, but also as a means of beginning a conversation. Prayerfully reflect on the information contained in this newsletter and share your thoughts with a Vestry member, or a committee chairperson, or someone from the Guiding Team (who's who is found on page 1).

May the blessings of the season be with each and every one of you.

Shalom,

Fr. Gary+

Maintenance of the Church	Engagement in the Mission of God		
Inwardly focused	Outwardly focused		
Keep up the church	Find Jesus		
Scarcity – Protecting what God has given us	Abundance – Sharing what God has given us		
Buildings, program, business, rules	People. We act out our love and identity.		
Take Communion	Live in communion		
Membership	Discipleship		
What are <u>we</u> going to do?	What is <u>God</u> going to do?or may already be doing		
What are we going to <u>do</u> ?	Who are we?		
Transactional We do this and maybe people will "join the church"	Relational We do this because this is what God's people do		
Service projects that meet needs	Mutually transformative relationships		
About The Church	About God		
Vestry are in charge of parish business	Vestry are spiritual leaders of the parish		
Meetings are about deciding, declaring Running an organization	Meetings are about discerning, listening How to be the incarnation of the Risen Christ		
Fraternal or service organization that prays	Praying community that supports each other and gives to the community		
Religious convenience store	Incarnational community		
Past	Present		
Entitlement	Grace		
Private religious club, approved guests	Open doors, open table, open hearts		
You are not like us, but we will tolerate you because we are supposed to.	We are like you. You are family. Welcome to the table.		
Noblesse oblige – we are responsible for taking care of the less fortunate.	We minister to others because we see in them the Christ, and we belong each to the other.		

MEETING OF VISIONING FOR ST. JAMES JUNE 17, 2019

What kind of church community are you hoping for? Common themes for our future

Leaders of church gathered for two sessions to discuss what Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT analysis) of St. James currently are and to imagine what the future of St. James might look like in light of these analyses.

The meeting on June 17 with Deacon Bev, Ken and Mary began to pull together common themes from the newsprint that carried over into the above question.

SUCCESS

Prayer flags Music New liturgies Animal blessings

OPPORTUNITIES

Increase involvement in community to discover and address needs of the surrounding community, e.g. homeless, veterans, hungry

Invite congregants out of their comfort zone

Major challenge is growing into smaller size parish

More diversity of gender, age and race

THREATS& WEAKNESSES

Lack of apparent congregant buy in - sense of ownership - Disconnect between saying and doing Let children be children Maintaining status quo

HOW WILL REVITALIZED ST. JAMES IMPACT CLINTON AND THE AREA?

Outreach to surrounding communities after ascertaining needs Music
Known as a spiritual, emotional and immediate crisis resource
Healthier co-existence inside parish and with area
More diversity

COMMON THREADS ARE

More awareness and outreach to community needs More personal and transparent approach to outreach

NEEDS FOR ST. JAMES

Healing of past injuries, acknowledgment of past and move forward There seems to be a lack of apparent spirituality - Where is God in all this?

Overall, we agree that our opportunities are more boundless than our weaknesses.

Diocesan Events

You're invited to #ReviveCivility

Sunday, November 3rd



The Episcopal Church is an official partner in Golden Rule 2020: A Call for Dignity and Respect in Politics, taking place Sunday, November 3rd, exactly one year before the U. S. 2020 election.

On this day, you're invited to pray for the healing of divisions in our country and to help promote the application of the Golden Ruler to political discussions. There are many ways you or your congregation could participate. Find resources at <u>revivecivility.org</u>

Bishop and Canons "On the Road"

Tuesday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. − *4:00 p.m.*

Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe, Canon John Crosswaite, and Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent are going on the road to connect with you!

Join them for bible study, fellowship, and/or office hours in Utica on Tuesday, December 3rd at Grace Episcopal Church (6 Elizabeth Street).

10:00 a.m. Bible study (please bring your bible, the day's Gospel reading is Matthew 21:12-22)
12:00 p.m. Brown bag lunch
1:00-4:00 p.m. Office hours*

*Appointments advised to avoid a wait. Please contact Kathleen McDaniel at (315) 474-6596 or kmcdaniel@cnyepiscopal.org.

Diocesan E-newsletter



Sign up for the Diocesan e-newsletter to stay up to date with information! To sign up <u>click here</u>.

Parish Events

Youth Weekend

Kids are invited to participate in coloring and activities during the worship service. Father Mike and Rev. Bev always bring a special guest to give a puppet sermon! Join us during regular worship services Nov. 2 / 3 and Dec. 7 / 8 for Youth Weekend!

Multi- Generational Supper & Craft

The second Wednesday of each month is an event for all ages! Join us on November 13th, 5:30-7 p.m., for supper, a craft, and a lesson, organized by our Youth Ministry volunteers. The December event is scheduled for December 11th, 5:30-7 p.m.

Wine and Cheese Fellowship

Our wine and cheese fellowship evenings are hosted by the hospitality committee. Our next event is Saturday, November 16th at 5:15 p.m. following the Saturday service. Everyone is welcome to attend; stay for a few minutes or an hour, we'd be happy to get to know you! Our fellowship events are great way to get to know fellow parishioners who attend different services.

November 3, 2019 All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day, celebrated November 1 or the nearest Sunday afterward, is characterized by the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) as a Principal Feast, "taking precedence over any other day or observance" (BCP, 15). The day is set aside to remember and commend the saints of God, especially those who are not recognized at other points in the church year.

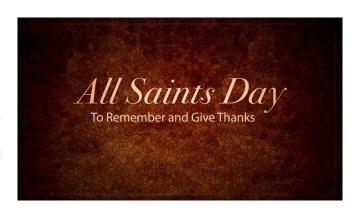
According to Holy Women, Holy Men, in the tenth century, it became customary to recognize on a single day "that vast body of the faithful who, though no less members of the company of the redeemed, are unknown in the wider fellowship of the Church" (Holy Women, Holy Men, 664). Over time, the day became associated with special remembrances of an individual's family and friends.

While several churches abandoned the commemoration during the Reformation, the Feast of All Saints was retained on the Anglican liturgical calendar. All Saints' Day began to assume the role of general commemoration of the dead: all Christians, past and present; all saints, known and unknown. Because of the day's association with the remembrance for the dead, many churches publish a necrology. This reading of the names of the congregation's faithful departed may include prayers on their behalf. Such prayers are appropriate, as the Catechism reminds us, "because we still hold [our departed] in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is" (BCP, 862).

The day is often characterized by joyful hymns, including such favorites as "For All the Saints," "Who Are These Like Stars Appearing," and "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God." These hymns share motifs of rest, fellowship, and continued, joyful service to God—salient indeed on this day, as we remember "those of dazzling brightness, those in God's own truth arrayed, clad in robes of purest whiteness, robes whose luster ne'er shall fade"!



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In celebration of All Saints' Day, we take a moment during our services to remember our loved ones that are no longer with us:

> Ron Agosti Ellen & Everett Bingham Megan & Robert Broedel Claire Burns **Bud & Peggy Cratty** Allen Darman Ann Dunham **Frannie Evans** Jill Gates Elizabeth Hansen **Craig Heuss Ruth Hoffman** Ronald S. Lee Sigmund & Marion Majka Lorena Moore **Elaine & Rudy Prentice** Walter & Eileen Richer Philip Rogers, Jr. Paul & Helen Seyse Anne & Ray Shea **Judy Snow** Mike Solensky Antoinette & Edward Swetman Clara & Edward Swetman, Jr. **Dave Walker**

Outreach

The Rise Against Hunger packing event was held September 28 in the high school gymnasium. About ten of us from St. James joined approximately 200 volunteers from area churches and civic organizations, packing 47, 520 meals in two shifts. Each meal serves a family of four. Like last year, those of us who participated found the packing to be a lot of fun as well as rewarding. The funds to pay for the ingredients for these meals had been raised by the various churches and groups involved. St. James' parishioners and funding from the Outreach Committee budget provided \$3000 of the \$15,000 raised. The meals that are packed during these events are sent to areas in the United States as well as other parts of the world desperately in need of food, due to droughts, floods, military conflict, and transitioning political situations. The Rise Against Hunger goal is to end hunger by 2030, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Goal #2 of "Zero Hunger." The food that was packed at our September 28 event has been shipped to the Rise Against Hunger in-country partner of ARAHA (American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa), to be distributed in Somalia.

In the last newsletter, we apprised you of our cooking and serving a meal for Hope House on August 16. On August 30, we cooked another meal for Hope House. Thank you to everyone who helped!

Please be watching for upcoming announcements regarding our collection of gifts for local charities for the holiday season!

Patty and Chris

Worship Server Scheduler

Gail Prentice is retiring from scheduling Worship Servers after the December scheduling is completed. Gail has served as our scheduler for two years for regular weekend services as well as holidays! We appreciate everything Gail has done for us and for her service and dedication to St. James'.

We are looking for someone to take over scheduling worship servers. They would be responsible for scheduling lectors, lay eucharistic ministers, and ushers for our services. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, or would like more information, please contact Gail (gailpren@twcny.rr.com), Father Gary (fathergary@stjamesclinton.org) and Caitlin (office@stjamesclinton.org).

The Jesus Creed

We have faith in and aspire to the Higher Power, God, the Overarching Truth, One Force with many names which is sometimes named as All That Is. And we long to gain access to the bounteous creativity, wisdom, and love, which flow from a cosmic plane of Existence surpassing Human ability to fully comprehend. We are followers of Jesus of Nazareth, the transcendent physical & spiritual Entity who today is called The Christ and who revealed to Humankind through his own Human life and death a superior way of life and the narrow path He called Unconditional Love. We strive to embody and to deliver the Spirit of All That Is, the Essence of God within Humanity, the Inherent Truth of Jesus, The Christ, providing perpetual light and inspiration to the Earth. We embrace the scriptures and traditions of our Ancestors while we pray in the blessed name of Jesus that we always humbly and selflessly employ our life energy and our reason, anticipating the World defined by truth, justice, and joy. Amen.

The Jesus Creed was written by a St. James' parishioner who asked to remain anonymous

June Vestry Meeting Highlights

Call to Order: The Vestry meeting convened on June 21, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the St. James' Conference Room. Father Gary opened with a prayer.

Vestry Members/ Officers Present:

Marcia Williams, Malinda Abraham, Terry Houtz Neil, Jennifer Potter Hayes, Mary Seyse, John Crossley, Gail Prentice

Absent:

Ken Iles, Mark Linderman

Staff Present:

The Rev. Gary Cyr

Reports:

Review & Approval of May Vestry Minutes

Abraham / Prentice with corrections. Unanimous approval

Treasurer's Report

Crossley / Seyse. Unanimous approval

Committee Reports:

- 1. Guiding Team has stand at Clinton Farmer's market every other Thursday, June-August
- 2. Property management: Vestry discussed meeting minutes that were provided by P.M. chair, Sharon Williams. Between the P.M. meeting and Vestry meeting, the toilets discussed in item 1 of their minutes were fixed.
- 3. Finance / Investment: meeting with Andy Burns in July
- 4. Hospitality: Malinda Abraham reported for Hospitality. Need to define/ put written policy in place for Hospitality services that includes what services will and will not be provided by our hospitality volunteers, a fee for services, any additional fees (cost of dry cleaning), etc. Upcoming events were scheduled at calendar planning earlier in June and have been added to the church calendar.
- 5. Outreach: reviewed February meeting minutes that were provided by co-chair, Chris Fox

New Business

- 1. Audit 2018: we have \$1,000 set aside to have an outside review done
- 2. Budget 2020: Terry Houtz Neil presented the preliminary budget; further discussion will take place in August

Old Business

- 1. Committee chairs: Father Gary, Marcia Williams, and Ken Iles will meet to discuss policies and procedures
- 2. Diaconal Ministry: Rev. Bev will serve as Deacon; she has agreed to take charge over our youth ministry. Father Mike will serve as our Associate Priest. First full weekend of every month will be youth weekend. Fr. Mike and Rev. Bev will have children's sermon with puppet (s)
- 3. St. James' Day School is extending their hours to be more accommodating to families and hopefully bring in more interest in enrollment

Next meeting will be in August-time and date TBD; meeting will be in executive session

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. after a closing prayer read by Father Gary.

September Vestry Meeting Highlights

Call to Order: The Vestry meeting convened on September 18, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the St. James' Conference Room. Father Gary opened with a prayer.

Vestry Members/ Officers Present:

Ken Iles, Marcia Williams, Malinda Abraham, Terry Houtz Neil, Jennifer Potter Hayes, Mary Seyse, John Crossley, Gail Prentice

Absent:

Mark Linderman

Staff Present:

The Rev. Gary Cyr

Reports:

Review & Approval of June Vestry Minutes

Crossley / Neil. Unanimous approval

Treasurer's Report

Abraham / Hayes. Unanimous approval

Committee Reports:

- 1. Property Management: Significant rot on the exterior wall of the Couper Room facing the rectory garage. Sharon Williams is resigning as chair. She will follow through on the completion of current major projects. She has asked Greg Neil is be chair, and he has accepted. Malinda Abraham reported that our insurance will not cover the Meelan's invoice for the work they did following the water damage in the Day School; the invoice should be submitted to Accounts Payable.
- 2. Finance- Investment: Jennifer Hayes says a financial meeting will be scheduled before the end of the year that will be open to parishioners
- 3. Hospitality: Malinda Abraham has nothing to report
- 4. Outreach: Rise Against Hunger is 1 week from Saturday, and the committee is encouraging people to donate to ERD (Episcopal Relief and Development) to assist victims of Hurricane Dorian
- 5. Guiding Team: Vestry discussed that the Farmer's Market went well. Handed out a lot of bags, raised around \$200 from good will donations to purchase school supplies. Current members of the Guiding Team are feeling burned out; more parishioners need to get involved.

New Business

- 1. Preliminary Budget 2020: discussed ways to cut expenses
- Preliminary 2020 Income Proposal
 Our target goal for income received through pledges and plate donations is \$155,000 for the year 2020
- 3. John Crossley made note that the deadline for completing the state mandated sexual harassment training is October 9th. All employees are required to complete training.

Next meeting will be October 16th at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. after a closing prayer read by Father Gary.

November / December Server Schedule						
Date	Lectors	LEMs	Ushers/ Greeters	Altar Guild		
Sat. 11/ 2 4:00 p.m.	Dick Compson	Joan Compson	Bruce Coe Sondra Coe	Sue Hecklau Person Scheduled		
Sun. 11/3 9:30 a.m.	Mark Linderman	Kathy Collett	Mary Lou Iles Ken Iles			
Wed. 11/6 11:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Eucharist		Mary Javorski Karen Anderson			
Sat. 11/ 9 4:00 p.m.	Ted Johnson	Dn. Bev Jones	Bruce Coe Sondra Coe	Members of the Altar Guild		
Sun. 11/ 10 9:30 a.m.	Mary O'Neill	Karen Anderson	Don Neil Pat Davis			
Wed. 11/ 13 11:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Eucharist		Members of the Altar Guild			
Sat. 11/ 16 4:00 p.m.	Kathy Heuss	Person Scheduled	Kathy Heuss	Members of the Altar Guild		
Sun. 11/17 9:30 a.m.	Diane Baldwin	Bill Kistner	Karen Anderson Claire Hayes			
Wed. 11/20 11:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Eucharist		Members of the Altar Guild			
Sat. 11/ 23 4:00 p.m.	Charles Abraham	Karen Anderson	Malinda Abraham Charles Abraham	Members of the Altar Guild		
Sun. 11/24 9:30 a.m.	Jackie Medina	Person Scheduled	Ernest Williams Sharon Williams			
Wed. 11/ 27 11:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Eucharist		Members of the Altar Guild			
Thurs. 11/ 28 9:30 a.m.	Gail Prentice	Brian Collett	Don Neil Pat Davis	Members of the Altar Guild		
Sat. 11/30 4:00 p.m.	Chris Fox	Patty Fox	Chris Fox Charles Abraham	Members of the Altar Guild		
Sun. 12/ 1 9:30 a.m.	Deborah Mott	Barbara Swetman	Randy Wilson Ken Iles			

Parish Communications

Weekly E-news

Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter to stay up to date about parish news, read sermons, learn about diocesan events, find out what's going on in our community, and more!

<u>Click here</u> to sign up or contact the office at (315) 853-5359.

The newsletter is sent out Friday morning. The deadline to submit content is Thursday at noon. Please e-mail article submissions to the office at office@stjamesclinton.org





Coffee Hour is a great fellowship opportunity after our Sunday service, and we need volunteers to help make that happen. The sign up sheet is located in the parish hall.

Church Directory





WELCOME

to St. James' Episcopal Church

Use this site to update your contact information, connect with other St. James' members, access a photo directory,

St. James has an on-line password protected directory for active parish members.

Simply go to our website www.stjamesclinton.org and click on the red Church Member Link square. Alternatively you can get to the directory using www.churchmemberlink.com/directcommunicator/sjec The username is your first and last name separated by the underline character; for instance Mary_Smith. If you are uncertain of your password, there is a handy "Forgot your password" link.

If you are new and would like to be added to our directory, or are uncertain about how to connect to and use the directory, contact our church administrator, Caitlin Richer, or members of the Communication group, Kathy Collett and Patricia Jue.

For our up-to-date calendar visit www.stjamesclinton.com/calendar.

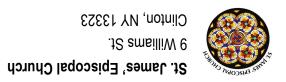
Christmas Flowers & Greenery

1	
Donations may be made towards the cost of altar flowers, greens, and wreaths in memory of loved ones,	or to
honor the birth of Jesus, the Christ. Please complete the form below and return it, along with your donation	on, to
the office by December 15th. Please make checks out to St. James with "Christmas plants" in the memo lir	ne.
Parishioner's Name:	
In memory of:	
Will you take plant after the 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service? Yes: No:	

Christmas plants that are not taken after that service will be delivered to home bound members of our parish so that they know that we think of them and include them in our celebrations. If you would like to receive a plant or know someone who would like one, please contact the church office at (315) 853-5359 or office@stjamesclinton.org

Deliver to Addressee or Current Occupant

November / December Newsletter





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



Regular Services
Wednesday 11:30 am · Saturday 4:00 pm · Sunday 9:30 am







Family Worship Service December 24th at 4:00 p.m. Choral Worship Service December 24th at 9:30 p.m.

