



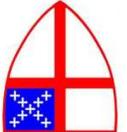
Deliver to Addressee or Current Occupant



**February 2014
Newsletter**

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Clinton, NY
Permit No. 24

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



St. James' Episcopal Church



February 2014

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:

Mon., Wed. & Fri: 9-Noon; Tues: 9-11am; Thurs: 9-2pm.

Staff:

Rector: The Rev. Timothy S. Reger

Minister of Music: Mr. Richard Lloyd • Children's and Youth Ministries Director: Ms. Emily St. Clair-Lee

Sexton: Mr. Christopher Evans • Administrative Assistant: Ms. Laura Stoll

Vestry:

vestry@stjamesclinton.org

Senior Warden: Sharon Williams • Junior Warden: Mark Linderman

Irma Davis • Nicole Popplewell • Ken Iles • Richard Lloyd • Werner Schmalz

Laura Stoll • Randy Pinto • Tom Hebert

Treasurer: Jan Wilson • Assistant Treasurer: Blair Jones

Webmistress: Patricia Jue

Newsletter: Pat Evans

Leadership Group Chairs:

Outreach: John Pick

Worship & Formation: Tim Reger

Property Management: John Crossley & Chris Evans, Co-Chairs

Finance Committee: Craig Heuss

Investment Committee: Mike Baldwin

Communications Committee: Kathy Collett



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."

From the Rector

At St. James, our missional focus is becoming more and more rooted in invitation and welcoming. We recognize the need to grow, not only to sustain the work of our ministry, but to share our gifts of spiritual vitality with others, welcoming them to a larger experience of community and providing opportunities for growth and transformation. To sustain our focus, it is important that we be aware of the factors influencing people's openness either to return to church, or come for the first time.

Generally, people seem to have break-through, transformative experiences—what we loosely call, spiritual growth—at times of significant life transitions and tension. A transition refers to an external life change, such as relocating one's residence; losing or changing jobs; becoming single again after divorce; being promoted; having a reduction in job responsibilities, and so forth. Tension refers to the inner experience of pain in one's life: dealing with stress, depression, grief, illness, financial difficulty, addiction, etc..

In other words, people often need to experience the loss of a false sense of security before they begin to turn to God for a new kind of security. William James, who studied conversion in his classic "Varieties of Religious Experience," written over a hundred years ago, says that often conversion is preceded by a crisis. In the crisis there are painful emotional experiences of doubt, guilt, shame, not feeling whole, feeling divided, feeling wrong or sinful, feeling misguided, lost, without meaning. Then through some experience, James says, there is surrender to, a breakthrough to, a greater power. This greater power brings wholeness, assurance, new direction and salvation.

The scriptures are filled with many stories of humans experiencing religious transformation. You may recall Abram's encounter with Yahweh or how Peter, James and John have a profound mountaintop experience, seeing Jesus in an entirely new way. Notice that in both these religious experiences, the blessing of God is a kind of assurance in the face of weakness, doubt, limitation, and humanity.

We can practically draw from both scripture and the research into conversion by paying attention to where, in our lives, we are experiencing transitions, tensions or crisis. These are the points at which God can be at work in us. Paradoxically, it is in the moments of death, in the experience of doubt, uncertainty, and suffering, that God is calling forth within us new life. Far from what might feel like God's absence, these experiences are opportunities for us to cooperate more deliberately with God's grace, and facilitate discovery of the new life inherent in our suffering and loss. Where are you experiencing transition or tension in your life? Whatever our spiritual discipline, it ought

to lead us more deeply through these experiences to the new energy, life, grace and experience that God wants to bless us with.

Another practical application, as we, at St. James, focus more deliberately on invitation and welcoming, is that we should have better concerted efforts to reaching out to people, without a faith community, experiencing transition, tension and crisis. Often in the midst of such painful experiences, there can be a kind of bewilderment, a confusion; the person is not remotely aware of the spiritual potential of their experience. In such experiences, the community can provide a network of support for a person in the process of transformation. The community, through its ministry and worship, assures the person in crisis that God is ever at work deep within them. As I've suggested several times in these articles, invitation is as simple as inviting someone we know in transition, tension or crisis to share in the vitality of our parish community. The parish as a system and all of us as individuals can do more of this outreach to vulnerable people.

Having an awareness of the spiritual potential of tension, transition and crisis allows us to be mindful of the many places in life needing transformation by God. Where are our relationships in need of transformation? What family relationships or family systems in this community are in need of deliberate work in cooperation with God's grace? What friendships have gone south on us, either because of some failure of ours or another person's? Is it appropriate to try to renew such relationships? Is there still the possibility of life, love and mutuality in some of these relationships?

In the parish, I believe that we have been self-critical in healthy ways are genuinely open to the process of transformation. Our new Vestry is now engaged in building on its work last year on the process of invitation by considering how we understand and experience community. At the heart of our mission at St. James is our fundamental communal identity, but this extends far beyond what once was thought of as those who gather in the pews on Sunday morning.

On Saturday, March 1, we are hosting a district-wide Open Space meeting, entitled Fixing the Church, about the future of the church and its present role in community. This will be unlike any meeting you've ever attended! The intention of this meeting is to make room for transformation of the church to happen. There are four principle promises of this meeting: 1) Every issue of concern to everyone will be raised; 2) All issues will receive full discussion, to the extent desired; 3) A full report of issues and discussions will be distributed to all participants; 4) Priorities will be set and action plans be made. I hope many of you will attend, not out of a sense of obligation, but rather with a faith filled intention to try to discern constructive strategies for the future of our Church. I am very hopeful about this time and eagerly await what the Spirit will do with us!

Children's Ministry

I would like to compliment all of our Godly Players who brave the oppressive cold on these Sunday mornings to join the group. It is always wonderful to see everyone.

In January, we began a new season on our church calendar, Epiphany. During Epiphany our focus comes to us as a parable. In Godly Play we present these parables in gold boxes that look like gifts or presents. Parables were given to us long ago as presents. Even if we don't know what a parable is, the parable is already ours. We don't have to take it, or buy it, or get it in any way. It already belongs to us.

Each parable introduces the same character, "There was once someone who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people followed him. They couldn't help it. They wanted to know who he was, so they just had to ask him." Our first parable introduced The Good Shepherd. "I am the good shepherd," said this amazing person. He searched for the greenest meadows and the cleanest water for his flock. He knew each of his sheep by name. He led them away from danger. When one was lost, he patiently searched the meadows, streams and all of the dangerous places until he found the missing sheep and with compassion, carried the sheep home, safely. He is the Good Shepherd.

In our next parable of The Good Samaritan, our amazing character was asked, "What is the most important thing in life?" He replied, "You already know." We follow several people on a journey from Jerusalem down to Jericho. Along the journey robbers attack and hurt a man and leave him injured on the side of the road. Many people pass this man, hurriedly, to

get to Jericho. Finally, someone stops to help this man. He puts the man on his donkey and leads him to a place to be cared for. He pays for the care of this man and he pays for its continuation until he is well again. How beautiful. How thoughtful. We wondered how the two men felt after offering and receiving help.

In February we will hear some more wonderful stories. We will also celebrate the life of St. Valentine of Italy who loved for God.

Thank you all for your excellent support of our Godly Play program.

— Emily St. Clair-Lee



New and veteran acolytes celebrate with pizza and bowling on Feb. 2.



Family Dinner Night



On Friday January 10th, St. James held its first Family Dinner night of 2014. Once again we had a great turnout from families at St. James and friends in the community. Invitations are usually extended to families and people in Clinton who might have an interest in our programs and might like to get to know our members in a less formal atmosphere. Host families also work together to shop for and

prepare the meal, decorate and help clean up before and after the festivities. It is a very fun evening for kids and adults to be able to talk and enjoy each other's company. If you would like to volunteer to help host or donate something festive and delicious for our "Mexican" themed dinner on Friday, March 14th at 6:00pm, please contact Emily St. Clair-Lee at Emily@stjamesclinton.org or 919-522-6236.

Rite 13 & J2A

On January 24th, the Rite 13 and J2A youth groups hosted their second Family Bingo Night fundraiser. The event started at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. It was very exciting to see the event so well attended with people volunteering their time, treasures or talents to make this event a success. We had a large variety of prizes for winners of all ages. The entry fee for a family to play for the evening was \$10.00. There was also a table of baked goods and popcorn for sale. We really appreciate all of the support from our youth, their parents, church leaders and friends of St. James who helped make this Family Bingo Night so much fun. Our next Family Bingo Night is scheduled for Friday, February 28th, 7:00-9:00pm. If you have a treasure to donate as a prize or are interested in baking something (remember we are peanut free!) please feel to contact Emily St.Clair-Lee @ Emily@Stjamesclinton.org.



Bingo! As Andrew Lee calls numbers, friends from St. James and the community check their cards to see who will be the next winner.



St. James' youth had a great time tubing at Woods Valley on January 20. Everyone agreed that the best part was joining in groups of old friends and new friends to slide down the hill together. The nice guys who worked at Woods Valley patiently strapped together five tubes (or more!) and sent us whirling and twirling down the hill at once.



FIXING THE CHURCH



WHAT IF OUR CHURCH DOESN'T MAKE IT?
 HOW CAN WE KEEP OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY?
 CAN WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER THROUGH TIMES OF CHANGE?

- Bring your concerns, visions and experience
- Discuss with the group and collaborate
- Set priorities and make an action plan

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2014, 9^{AM} – 3^{PM}

THERE IS NO FEE TO ATTEND; LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED
 ST. JAMES, CLINTON 9 WILLIAMS STREET, 13323
 RSVP: T: 853-5359; E: OFFICE@STJAMESCLINTON.ORG

Vestry News

With the fresh perspective as new senior warden, I have the privilege of seeing St. James' in new and fuller ways. It is clear that we are a church in transition, a transition demanded by large external forces, but also a transition that we at St. James' are directly embracing, right here in our little yellow church at 9 Williams St.! We are engaged in a lot of necessary and healthy change. We are blessed with having Tim as our rector, whose gifts include pastoral sensitivity, a vision for a changing church, intelligence, and energy. Countless wonderful works are happening all the time: at the group level—such as our loyal altar guild, choir, committees, and youth leaders, and at the individual level—someone quietly cleaning the bathrooms every Saturday, people doing good works for others, tidying the kitchen, bringing food for the Country Pantry, praying for each other, providing coffee hour treats, The lists of caring works can go on and on.

As members of St. James', we all are blessed to be part of an inviting and growing community of faith, and 2014 brings us exciting new opportunities for personal and community growth. Think about the questions that Mike raised last month: "What is 'church' to you?" "What do you want our 'church' to become?" To these questions I add, "How can each of us participate in developing our communal vision and growing our community in 2014?"

– Sharon Williams

Outreach

With the Christmas season coming to a close and the long winter upon us, there is a tendency to stay warm and await the coming of spring. However, with the cold of winter, the needs of those less fortunate among us do not take a break for the weather! The numbers served by the Country Pantry and Hope House increase during these hard times. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers and giving. It is no doubt warmer in Haiti, but please continue to buy our Singing Rooster coffee. All of the profits go to the relief efforts in that country.

Again, thank you all for the tremendous outpouring of giving during the Holiday season. Please keep up the good work!

– John Pick

We welcome Craig & Kathy Heuss as new ushers. Anyone interested in joining this ministry, please leave a message in the office.

Abraham House Benefit



Third Annual

"Singing Sensations" Talent Show

Featuring our area's most talented singers
 Ages 5-18 years old

Friday, March 14, 2014
6:30 p.m.

**Mohawk Valley Community College
 Theater
 (Information Technology/Conference
 Building)
 1101 Sherman Drive, Utica**

Tickets: \$10.00 Adults; \$5.00 for 18 years and under

A Family Event to Benefit Abraham House

**MARCH
 MEATBALL
 MADNESS!**



Sunday, March 2, 2014
Noon-3:00 p.m.
Hotel Utica

102 Lafayette Street, Utica
Meatball Eating Contest at 2:00

Tickets: Adults \$10.00 Kids 6 – 17 \$5.00 5 & Under FREE

Community News

March Lenten Study Group

A lenten study will be held at St. Margaret's House, 47 Jordan Road, New Hartford, on Tuesdays starting on March 11 at 1pm and 6:30pm. Sister Mary Ellen Schopfer, CSJ, and Deacon Barbara Groves will present "Approach to Prayer." For more information or to reserve a spot, call St. Margaret's House at 724-2324 or e-mail smhec47@aol.com.

Fair Trade Shoppe Schedule

The Building Stones Fair Trade Shoppe at Stone Presbyterian Church, 8 South Park Row, Clinton, will be open every Thursday during February from 10am to 6:30pm and on Saturday, February 8 from 10am to 4pm. Hand-made items from artisans and farmers around the world are featured. Our prayer labyrinth will also be available for use. For more information, check our website at www.stonepres.org, call 315-853-2933 or check us out on Facebook.

Bereavement Support Groups

Hospice & Palliative Care offers several bereavement support groups and workshops open to the community. All groups meet at the Hospice office at 4277 Middle Settlement Road, New Hartford. There is no charge; donations are always appreciated. For a complete list of groups, call 735-6484 or visit www.hospicecareinc.org.

Abraham House Volunteer Training Class

Abraham House will be offering a free one-session volunteer training class Wednesday, February 12 and Wednesday, March 5 from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. at Abraham House located at 1203 Kemble Street, Utica. Interested volunteers only have to attend one of the sessions. No prior healthcare experience is needed. Abraham House provides a secure and loving home without charge to the terminally ill.

For more information call Abraham House at 733-8210 to pre-register or register on-line at www.theabrahamhouse.org.

St. James Day School

The Day School finished January with a fun pajama day at school. The students really love coming to school in their pj's with their stuffed animals and special blankets and we made the climber into a bunk bed!

February is busy with "Animals in Winter" and "Alphabet Soup" themes. We will highlight the great author Jan Brett and enjoy *The Mitten*, *The Hat*, *The Big Hungry Bear* and more of



Pajama Day



her wonderful books. Of course Valentine's Day is always enjoyed by all. We will be focusing on writing and learning the ABC's and will be writing our

names, our friends' names, and our family member's names on Valentine's Day cards and gifts.

Look for raffle tickets on sale in March for a grand prize of a \$100 gift certificate for the fabulous restaurant "The Tailor & the Cook" located in Baggs Square, Utica.

Registration for the fall is under way; if you know anyone interested in information please leave a note in the Day School mailbox or call 853-5359, or email sjdayschool@gmail.com.

February Cycle of Prayer

Please pray for the families of:

- Feb. 1 Colleen Ring & Alistair Campbell, Eleanor Carmen, Ann Clark, Bruce & Sondra Coe, Brian & Kathy Collett
- Feb. 8 Dick & Joan Compson, Fran Conway, Patsy Couper, Bud & Patty Cratty, John & Piper Crawford
- Feb. 15 Karen Crawford, John & Cynthia Crossley, Dan & Kate D'Angelo, Irma Davis, Jim & Beth Davis
- Feb. 22 Alicia Davoli, Andrew & Bonnie Dawes, Helen & Stephen Dick, Don & Heather Drum, Diek & LaDonna Elliot

February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:30am Worship Service 11am Acolyte Training	3 9:30am Zumba 3:30pm Zumba 7:30pm Women's Spirituality	4 9:30am Yoga 8pm AA	5 12pm Lectionary Study 5:45pm Zumba	6 3:30pm Brownie Troop 7:30pm Adult Choir	7 7:15am Yoga 7:45am Men's Group	8 4pm Worship Service
9 J2A Trip to Syracuse 9:30am Worship Service 11am Outreach Mtg. 4pm Rite 13 4:30pm Body & Sex in Christianity	10 9:30am Zumba 3:30pm Zumba 7pm ABC Board Mtg.	11 9:30am Yoga 4pm Singing Group 6:30pm Tapestry 6:30pm Practicing Presence 8pm AA	12 12pm Lectionary Study 5:45pm Zumba 6:30pm Practicing Presence 7pm Finance Mtg.	13 6:30pm Property Mgmt. 7:30pm Adult Choir	14 7:15am Yoga 7:45am Men's Group	15 8am Vestry Retreat 4pm Worship Service
16 9:30am Worship Service 5pm Paul the Apostle	17 9:30am Zumba 3:30am Zumba	18 9:30am Yoga 6:30pm Tapestry 8pm AA	19 12pm Lectionary Study 5:45pm Zumba	20 9:30am Fiber Arts Guild 3:30pm Brownie Troop 7:30pm Adult Choir	21 7:15am Yoga 7:45am Men's Group	22 9:30am Sacred Harp 4pm Worship Service 5pm Wine & Cheese
23 9:30am Worship Service 11am Pastoral Care 4pm Rite 13/J2A 4:30pm Body & Sex in Christianity	24 9:30am Zumba 3:30pm Zumba	25 9:30am Yoga 4pm Singing Group 6:30pm Tapestry 6:30pm Practicing Presence 8pm AA	26 10:30am Handiworks 12pm Lectionary Study 5:45pm Zumba 7pm Vestry Mtg.	27 7:30pm Adult Choir	28 7:15am Yoga 7:45am Men's Group 7pm Family Bingo Night	1 9am-3pm Utica/Rome District Open Space 4pm Worship Service
2 9:30am Worship Service	3 6pm Senior Line Dancing 7:30pm Women's Spirituality	4 9:30am Yoga 5:30pm Shrove Pancake Supper 6:30pm Tapestry 8pm AA	5 12:00pm & 7pm Ash Wednesday Services 12pm Lectionary Study 7pm Sacred Harp	6 3:30pm Brownie Troop 7:30pm Adult Choir	7 7:15am Yoga 7:45am Men's Group	8 4pm Worship Service

February Server Schedule

Date	Acolytes	Nursery	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Ushers/Greeters
Sat. Feb 1	Suzie Phillips		Matt Weber	Wendy Weber	Sharon Pick
Sun. Feb 2	Margaret Jones, Kylie Evans, Ben Lee	Audra Williams, Isabella Pinto	Charlotte Jones	Mary Lou Iles, Gail Prentice	Karen Anderson, Don Neil
Sat. Feb 8	Ben Lee		Wendy Weber	Matt Weber	Wendy Weber
Sun. Feb 9	Charlotte Jones, Erin Iles, Andrew Lee, Liam Schmalz	Margaret Jones, Isabella Pinto	Tom Hebert	Barbara Swetman, Bill Kistner	Karen Anderson, Werner Schmalz
Sat. Feb 15	Sandra Love		Sharon Pick	John Pick	Sharon Pick
Sun. Feb 16	Audra Williams, Sydney Evans, Olivia Peto, Louis Pinto	Isabella Pinto, Sophie Pinto	Jackie Medina	Art Spencer, Randy Wilson	Cynthia & John Crossley
Sat. Feb 22	Suzie Phillips		Patty Fox	Chris Fox	Patty Fox
Sun. Feb 23	Charlotte Jones, Kylie Evans, Jane Lee, Anna Reger	Margaret Jones, Erin Iles	Mary O'Neill	Kathy Collett, Alistair Campbell	Mike Baldwin, Don Neil
Sat. Mar 1	Connor D'Angelo		Ted Johnson	Rahel Reger	Ted & Janet Johnson
Sun. Mar 2	Amy Davis, Anna Reger, Morgan Dawes, Nick Pinto	Isabella Pinto, Audra Williams	JoElyn Wakefield-Wright	Judy Logan, Mary Lou Iles	Randy Wilson, Don Neil
Sat. Mar 8	Ben Lee				
Sun. Mar 9	Audra Williams, Samantha Ellis, Elizabeth Fehlner, Henry Fehlner	Kaela Ellis, Margaret Jones			

February Altar Guild: Sharon Pick & Blair Jones

>>> DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER: MARCH 3 <<<