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

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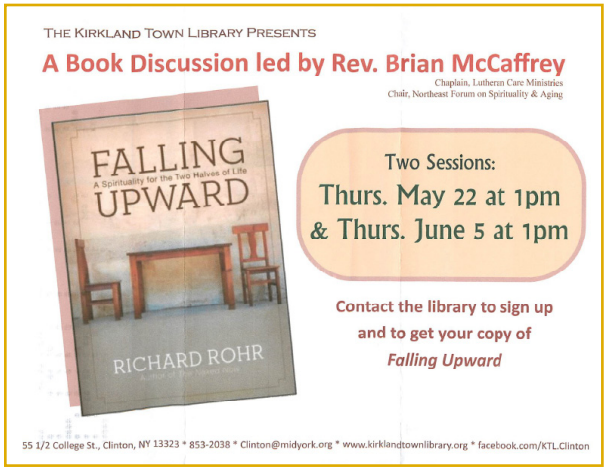
May 2014
Newsletter

Do you want to look like this is the St. James photo directory?

If not, see the article inside about our new church software program and how you can get your picture in it. There will be 2 more after-church presentations this weekend. More sessions may be offered this spring/summer depending on interest.



St. James' Episcopal Church

NEWSLETTER

May 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 • Beth Davis

Laura Stoll • Randy Pinto • Werner Schmalz • Randy Wilson

Treasurer: Jan Wilson • Assistant Treasurer: Blair Jones

Webmistress: Patricia Jue

Newsletter: Pat Evans

Leadership Group Chairs:

Outreach: John Pick

Worship & Formation: Tim Reger

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

More and more popular books on spirituality are borrowing ancient ideas and presenting them with great success by avoiding the loaded, sometimes problematic, traditional religious language. The goal of a lot of this popular teaching these days is to get people connected to their Source so that we can live loving lives that are peaceful within, while we practice kindness toward others, and that we can become a source of healing and service to other people.

Connected to this Source, we discover the meaning of life. We discover our purpose or mission here on earth. We discover the truth. Sometimes, in this popular language, this Source is spoken of as Spirit—as a life partner, available to assist and help us always.

To activate the power of the Source or this Spirit in our lives, we must do something—we need some sort of discipline. This discipline requires that we pursue wisdom, that we be more deliberate and intentional about lovingly serving our fellow human beings, and that we learn some path, such as intentional meditation or prayer each day, to surrender to a power greater than ourselves.

There are, however, certain things which keep us from consciously living lives connected with the Spirit, mostly stemming from the self-serving ego's—sometimes called the false self's—hold on us. Some of the ego's holds that we must learn to let go of are:

- being offended so much, and learning not to take things personally
- the need to win and the need to be right,
- the need to be superior,
- the need to have more,
- defining ourselves by our achievements,
- our need for a good, outstanding reputation.

As we let go of these confining ego strongholds, we open ourselves up more for life with and in the Source. Part of this realization is that we are more than our bodies, that indeed, we are Spirit and that our lives are somehow connected to the eternal. An awareness of our connection to the eternal nature of life helps us overcome anxieties and fears that we have about death. We are Spirit within bodies for only a short time; but Spirit is eternal.

When we fail to live connected with the Source, our lives become filled with anxiety, anger, competition, stress, busyness, and compulsive work—often robbed of joy and peace. This secular language perhaps gives us greater insight in to what we have traditionally believed about the the workings of the Holy Spirit. While this popular spiritual language can, at times, seem a bit too focused on self-help, it creates an opening to appreciate the scriptural witness, which provides an even more expansive understanding of the Spirit.

The best known passage about the Holy Spirit is probably the second chapter of the Book of the Acts of the apostles. It reminds us that the early Christians found the Holy Spirit in community, not just through individual discipline. Luke, the author of Acts, says that the early Pentecostal church was an experience both of chaos and unity. Though people were from different nations, speaking different languages, there was a oneness among all who were blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Those given the Holy Spirit also grew in their understanding of the gifted nature of each of their lives. They shared their gifts with one another in service and ministry. They experienced community in small groups in each other's homes and also in the large group of the temple. There was an ostensible contagion about this early Christian movement that spread like wildfire and many became part of it.

In the letters of Paul, he tells of the unity that the presence and power of Holy Spirit brings to all those in Christ. Paul articulates, quite clearly, the conviction that some manifestation of the Holy Spirit is given to every person to accomplish good.

In John's gospel, Jesus imparts the Holy Spirit, not fifty days after his Resurrection, as the Acts story tells, but Easter night. Jesus identifies one of the reasons for granting the power of the Holy Spirit: that the Christian community might become a community of forgiveness. Implicit in his words, Jesus seems to say that forgiveness is something that is very hard to do on our own; but only through the power of the Holy Spirit acting within us, can we become people of forgiveness and reconciliation.

To draw again from the popular language, the Holy Spirit seems to be that life partner that has the power to connect us with the intention to accomplish great spiritual deeds that we cannot do on our own. I hope that we as individuals and as a community, can become much more aware of the life we share in the Holy Spirit, given to empower us for great things.

We have five teenagers at St. James who are to be confirmed at the end of this month: Connor D'Angelo, Nick Williams, Rachel Evans, Brooke Wooldridge, and Suzy Phillips. I hope as a community of faith, we can somehow communicate to them that their lives have ultimate meaning and purpose and they share in God's eternal life.

Imagine how different their lives could be if they embraced that fully. How different would your life be, if you embraced that? We live in a very pluralistic culture, but our own faith tradition is rich and were we open to it, we would experience the power of intention and meaning, rooted in a divine source. Let the words spoken over a person being confirmed be spoken over all of us, "Strengthen, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit, empower them for your service; and sustain them all the days of their life." And as Jesus said to his disciples, as the Spirit was given…"Peace be with you."

Young Artists Enjoy Ukranian Egg Workshop

On Saturday April 5, St. James hosted a very well attended Ukrainian Egg workshop with 37 kids – both members and friends of St. James. There were a variety of activities available for kids, including the traditional wax and dying of the Ukrainian Eggs using a special batiking method. Six dozen blown eggs were available for the kids to decorate using paint, dye, marker, crushed egg shells, paper and beads. Also available to attendees were centers including building a rocket ship for your egg, exploring designs, sewing Easter Eggs and J2A volunteers Amy Davis and Isabella Pinto patiently created baked snacks in the kitchen. This was a great afternoon event for kids and even some parents decided to stay! I appreciate all of the snack and craft material donations. I also appreciate the help of Mary Beth Schmalz and Alison Peto who helped blow all six dozen eggs for the kids and volunteered to help out during the party!

– Emily St. Clair-Lee

Godly Play Program Expands

Great news for Godly Play and St. James: we have just received shipment of a reasonably large quantity of thematic elements for our growing program! What are thematic elements? Well, they are sometimes biblical figures or depictions; sometimes representations of Saints; or sometimes symbols of our rich scriptural and liturgical heritage. What is important is these figures allow children to interact in a meaningful way with the depth of our tradition and faith in the Episcopal Church. The ability to "play" and experiment with these almost archetypal symbols and figures develops an inner appreciation and relationship to the most important aspects of our faith—namely, a relationship with the story of God and God's everlasting Grace.

With our limited budget, we are slowly beginning to acquire more of these interactive resources that are powerful connectors to our spiritual tradition. In this shipment of materials, we received a carved set of the Holy Family, a few sets of the Saints, which we discuss each month, a representation of the Last Supper by Leonardo DaVinci and the symbolic wooden shields of each disciple. We are in need of expanding our materials in support of our program. If you would like to make a donation or learn more about how the children interact with these materials, please see Emily St. Clair-Lee, Fr. Tim or one of the Wardens.

April was a very busy month for our Godly Players. The children spent some time with the story of Jesus's last days and how he entered Jerusalem on a donkey that he borrowed from a friend. They heard how the city was full of people who had come to celebrate Passover, who thought that Jesus was coming to be King. They waved palm branches which were a sign of Kings. The children listened to the story of how Jesus had come to Jerusalem to teach. Each evening he would gather with his 12 disciples in "the upper room." Jesus would say to the 12, "Whenever you break bread like this and share it, I will be there." And he would give thanks for a cup of wine and say, "Whenever you share a cup of wine like this, I will be there." We talked about how he was betrayed by his friend Judas on Thursday evening, when the Temple Guards came out of the darkness and captured Jesus.

Godly Play did not meet on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday was celebrated with an Egg hunt held outside on such a beautiful morning, after the service.

A blessed Easter season to everyone!

– Emily St. Clair-Lee

Bingo Season Ends

Friday April 25th the St.James youth hosted their final Family Bingo Night for the 2013-2014 youth calendar year. This was the first year that this youth fundraiser event took place. There were 5 Family Bingo Nights in all. These events were very well attended by members of St. James and families in the area with kids looking for something to do on a cold winter evening. It was fun to watch the excitement build as people began to find treasures around their houses to donate. At one point there was a large red dog sitting in the volunteer office that ended up finding a new home, before making it to the bingo table.

The purpose of Bingo Nights was meant to serve as an event to be organized by our teen youth. As their schedules began to grow tighter, I was really impressed by how quickly it seemed to become something that the Godly Play group took over with excitement! The Godly Play group invited friends and family, donated their own toys and books, and even baked some exemplary treats for the baked sale component of the fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who donated treasures, sat at the baked goods table, announced numbers, helped to set up and clean up and showed up to support the evening. We did a great job keeping the momentum going for the calendar year!

Stay after church on Sunday, May 18 for a special St. James spring clean up day. Wear outdoor clothes and bring rakes and gloves. Hopefully we will have some warm and sunny weather and can spend an hour making St. James look bright and springy.

Behind the scenes at St. James: Nightwatch

In this series, we bring you a "behind the scenes" look at things happening at St. James. This month, journey along on Rite 13 and J2A's trip to Nightwatch at St. John the Divine in New York City.

Kaela and Samantha Ellis, Isabella Pinto and Elizabeth Fehlner drove to the city on Friday, May 2, chaperoned by Randy Wilson, Mike Baldwin, Nicole Popplewell and Laura Stoll. After a delicious (and very cheesy!) dinner of New York style pizza, we ventured inside the enormous cathedral for Nightwatch.

During the evening, we got to know other teens from Chappaqua, New York, Marblehead, Massachusetts, and Basking Ridge, New Jersey. There was live music by a six-piece band, an organ demonstration, a poetry workshop, poetry slam, labyrinth walk and meditation. The interfaith program was designed to teach us about different spiritual practices and beliefs. Following Eucharist at midnight, we tucked into our sleeping bags (along with 50 other people) in the church's gym. It was a restless night's sleep!

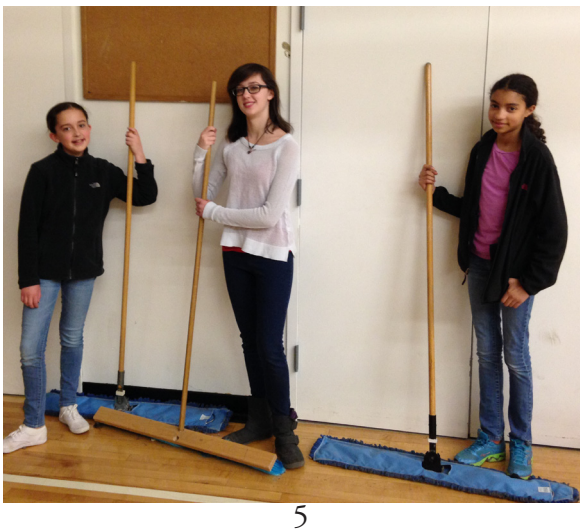
Larisa, the leader of Nightwatch, woke us at 7am with a song and we packed up our things and had a quick breakfast. The St. James crew was responsible for sweeping the gym during clean-up time. Then, we learned about the architecture and history of St. John the Divine before walking around the beautiful grounds, where we saw a few peacocks! Bleary eyed, some of us headed downtown for the rest of the weekend while some got back in the car for the drive back upstate.

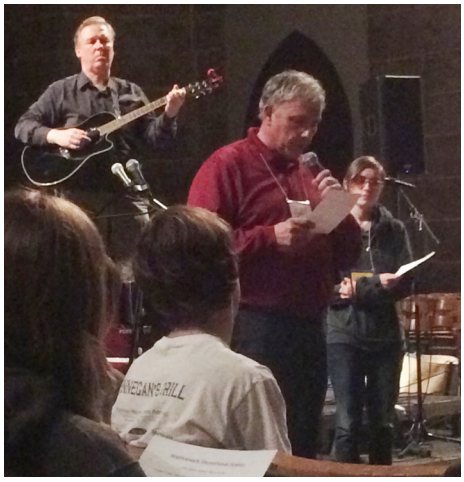
Besides the many spiritual lessons we learned at Nightwatch, we learned a lot about each other. Did you know that of the St. James crew...

- Three of us are poets?
- Despite their small size, two of us can eat a lot?
- One of us gets an A+ in city driving?
- Two of us are first class travelers with a fancy air mattress?
- Two of us are Nightwatch alumni?
- One of us really wanted to play in the Nightwatch band?
- One of us braved the weekend without eyeglasses?

On behalf of the group, we are so thankful to all at St. James who made the trip possible, especially Randy Wilson for being our leader and head driver!

- Laura Stoll





Vestry News

Did you happen to see the recent NYTimes article "Hello Stranger?" It's fascinating. We all know that the accepted wisdom on the best way to interact with strangers is not to interact at all. No eye contact, nothing. Stay apart. Two behavioral psychologists decided to test this assumption by asking Chicago subway commuters to interact positively with a stranger—make eye contact, smile, or offer a brief comment ("have a nice day"...). Nothing extravagant, just semi-friendly. The amazing thing is that the commuters who engaged in some positive interaction reported a more positive experience from their commute than the control group who followed the usual behavior and did not interact with any strangers. Here's the take away point: casual interactions can make us happier.

There really isn't any point to belabor the obvious connection to us at St. James'. There are all sorts of moments when everyone one of us can 1) be social with those we don't know, and 2) feel HAPPIER DOING SO! How great is this?!!! Smile, feel happy, and go forth into the world happy spreading happiness. So simple an act, and yet so profound.

– Sharon Williams

♫ ♫ Music ♫ ♫

In the last newsletter article, I spent some time talking about the Adult Choir, and what a great group it is. Well, the same can be said about our other two choirs—the Children's Choir and the Youth Choir. I want to give special credit to Jan Wilson and Brian Collett, who take very seriously their commitment to our youth. Jan has a real understanding of what works well in terms of music for the children. Not only does she lead the practices and conduct the choir, but she also chooses the music, which clearly the kids love to sing, and we love to hear!

Brian has for the most part taken over the rehearsing of the Youth Choir, calling me in when they are getting close to a performance. If you happen to leave by way of the sanctuary after a Sunday service coffee hour, you will see and hear the members of this choir hard at work learning new pieces (or having fun programming that digital "piano" to accompany them with some VERY strange sounds, indeed). On Sunday, May 11th, there will be a youth service at the church. Both the Children's Choir and the Youth Choir will sing anthems, with the Youth Choir also singing the psalm. All the hymns will have been chosen by our youth, melodies I'm sure we'll greatly enjoy singing. Though I will only speak for the music, I know for a fact that there will be lots of other youth involvement in the service, as well. So, come and support our very successful youth ministry, and enjoy what you see and hear!

– Richard Lloyd

Outreach

The numbers are in!! Thanks to all of you, we will be donating $4,000 to Haiti. This will allow two schools to provide student lunches for two full months. These lunches are, for many of the children, their main meal of the day. This is a truly wonderful thing you have all done. If the need persists, we hope to keep this a Lenten tradition at St. James.

With the Lenten season coming to an end, the summer season will soon be upon us. Country Pantry Kids Paks will soon be available. They will be placed near the entrance to the sanctuary. As in the past, the items will be listed on the front of the bags. All can be purchased at the Dollar Store if you choose. Please try not to deviate from the requested items.

Also, we will be preparing supper meals for Hope House on Tuesday, July 1 and Tuesday, July 29. This is a chance for everyone to get involved in a really positive local outreach experience. We need people to cook and/or serve the meals at Hope House. More details will be forthcoming. Have a great Spring and again, thank you all!

– John Pick

Church Member Link and Me: Why Should I Want It?

Thank you to the many people who stopped by on April 26 and 27 to learn more about Church Member Link, St. James' new church management software! The program will be a great help to the church office but there are several ways in which parishioners will directly benefit, too.

Photo Directory. Lots of people have expressed interest in having a new parish directory with photos; the last one is from a number of years ago. Church Member Link will provide an easy way to get a new directory made. We will be taking photographs of parishioners and helping you upload them - or you can use a favorite photo you already have. We will also e-mail you your photograph for your own use. If you have a photograph you want to use that is not digital, we can even scan it for you.

The directory will be accessible online by members of the parish, and we will also print out copies for any parishioner who wants a paper copy.

Get the most up-to-date information. Through Church Member Link, you control the information on your profile and who can see it. If you change your e-mail address, you can update it in the program and everyone at St. James will know right away of the change. No more bounced e-mails! If you need to call someone or send them a letter, you can look up their information online right away. No need to call the office!

Group management. If you are a member of any sort of group at St. James' - acolytes, altar guild, a small-group ministry group, etc. - the new software will make staying in touch easier. It includes Parish Posts, where any member of a group can set up a private group discussion board to enhance communication. Or, you can set a Parish Post message up to only appear on the website, where group members can read it when they visit the site.

Worship & Formation

One of our parish members visited another church for Easter service. She was very proud to tell everyone about vibrant St. James with so many children, youth and young families. Yes, indeed, look around St. James. We have parish members who faithfully assist with the family Friday suppers and community bingo night. Our youth learn to live out their faith through our Rite13 and J2A programs. Recently, they voted to donate funds to our Haitian lunch outreach program.

As mentioned in a recent newsletter, we have 12 new acolytes, joining our already large contingent - thanks be to God! And, thanks to those who, over the years, donated to the Memorial Fund, we were able to purchased new acolyte robes. Our littlest ones are no longer tripping over hems 5" too long. Each Sunday, an acolyte leads the choir procession with our larger St. James cross. Another follows the choir with a smaller cross from Church of the Good Shepherd, Oriskany Falls. Often, we use a chalice given to our care from Grace, Waterville. While it is sad that nearby churches have closed, we at St. James should be honored to serve as stewards of these gifts that were given to the glory of God, and in honor of loved ones. It is our privilege (and duty) to help remember those saints who are no longer with us, to encourage and support each other, and to nurture the growing generation. Let us thank the Lord for all that happens at St. James, and may each of us be an active part of it. Look for ways you can support the community; host a coffee hour, assist in the Spring clean up, attend Safe Church Training, be part of one or more of our ministry group, help keep our common spaces tidy (and guide our young ones to do the same)…and, if you, like me have been a little "forgetful" about keeping up with your stewardship pledge, now is the time to "catch-up." (Yes, Jan, the envelope is in the mail…)

– Patricia Jue

Safe Church Training will be held at St. James, Clinton, on May 31 from 9am - 12:15pm. ***The training is required of all those who are working with children and youth, as well as all Vestry members and clergy.*** The program is open and encouraged for all. Once you complete the program, certification is good for five years. If the last time you had training was here at St. James, it is time for your five year renewal. If you need to confirm when you last took Safe Church Training, please contact Father Tim or the church office. Pre-registration is required; call the office at 853-5359 or send an e-mail to office@stjames-clinton.org. Coffee and continental breakfast will be available.

Day School News for May

Spring is here and we are busy getting ready for special events like Mother's Day, visiting the Utica Zoo, and Beach Party Day.

"Graduation" is the 29th of May (a "Fun School" will be in session for the first couple weeks of June). We have certainly enjoyed our class this year. They are a happy, creative, bright, thoughtful and kind group of boys and girls. We have seen these children grow taller and wiser while making new friends and getting ready for a life full of learning.

The St. James' Day School teachers really appreciate the support of the Day School Board, the St. James' Church vestry and members plus the families of our students for a very successful year.

There are spots available for the September class – tell your friends with 3 ½ - 5 year olds. Email sjdayschool@gmail.com or call for more info.

Eric Carle was featured in April at the Day School.

May Cycle of Prayer

Please pray for the families of:

May 3	Joyce Burns, John & Bonnie Buschmann, Stacy Butcher, Alistair & Colleen Ring Campbell, Eleanor Carmen, Richard Lloyd & Louise Charbonneau
May 10	Ann Clarke, Bruce & Sondra Coe, Brian & Kathy Collett, Tim & Marsha Collett, Joan & Dick Compson, Fran Conway
May 17	Bud & Peggy Cratty, John Crawford, Karen Crawford, Piper Crawford, John & Cynthia Crossley, Dan & Kate D'Angelo
May 24	Beth & Jim Davis, Irma Davis, Patricia Davis, Alicia Davoli, Andrew & Bonnie Dawes, Helen & Steve Dick

No 4pm worship service on Saturday, June 7 because of the KAC Run/Walk

May 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 9:30am Worship Service 11am Outreach Mtg. 4pm Rite 13/J2A	**5** 9 & 10am Aerobics 5:30pm Zumba 7pm Sacred Harp 7:30pm Women's Spirituality	**6** 9:30am Yoga 3:30pm Brownie Troop 6:30pm Tapestry 8pm AA	**7** 9 & 10am Aerobics 12pm Lectionary Study	**8** 10am Fiber Arts 11am Day School Lunch 6:30pm Property Mgmt. 7:30pm Adult Choir	**9** 7:15am Yoga 7:45am Men's Group 9 & 10am Aerobics 5pm Clinton Youth Foundation	**10** 9am Fixing the Church 4pm Worship Service 5pm Church Software Orientation
11 9:30am Worship Service 11am Church Sofware Orientation	**12** 9 & 10am Aerobics 5:30pm Zumba 7pm ABC Board Mtg.	**13** 9:30am Yoga 4pm Singing Group 6:30pm Tapestry 8pm AA	**14** 9 & 10am Aerobics 12pm Lectionary Study 5:45pm Zumba	**15** 10am Fiber Arts Guild 3:30pm Brownie Troop 7:30pm Adult Choir	**16** 7:15am Yoga 7:45am Men's Group 9 & 10am Aerobics	**17** 4pm Worship Service
18 9:30am Worship Service 11am Spring Clean-up 4pm Rite 13/J2A 5pm ABC Dinner	**19** 9 & 10am Aerobics 5:30pm Zumba	**20** 9:30am Yoga 6:30pm Tapestry 8pm AA	**21** 9 & 10am Aerobics 12pm Lectionary Study 5:45 Zumba 7pm Vestry Mtg.	**22** 3:30pm Brownie Troop 6:30pm MVDTC Mtg. 7:30pm Adult Choir	**23** 7:15am Yoga 7:45am Men's Group 9 & 10am Aerobics	**24** 4pm Worship
25 9:30am Worship Service	**26** 9 & 10am Aerobics 5:30pm Zumba	**27** 9:30am Yoga 4pm Singing Group 6:30pm Tapestry 8pm AA	**28** 9 & 10am Aerobics 10:30am Handiworks 12pm Lectionary Study 5:45pm Zumba	**29** 9am Day School Graduation 3:30pm Brownie Troop 7:30pm Adult Choir	**30** 7:15am Yoga 7:45am Men's Group 9 & 10am Aerobics	**31** 9am Safe Church Training 4pm Worship Service Wine & cheese after service
1 9:30am Worship Service	**2** 9 & 10am Aerobics 5:30pm Zumba 7:30pm Women's Spirituality	**3** 9:30am Yoga 6:30pm Tapestry 8pm AA	**4** 9 & 10am Aerobics 12pm Lectionary Study 7pm Sacred Harp	**5** 3:30pm Brownie Troop 7:30pm Adult Choir	**6** 7:15am Yoga 7:45am Men's Group 9 & 10am Aerobics	**7** KAC Run/Walk NO SERVICE

May Server Schedule

Date	Acolytes	Nursery	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Ushers/Greeters
Sat. May 10	Benjamin Lee		St. James Youth	St. James Youth	Nick Williams
Sun. May 11	Benjamin Lee, Anna Reger, Louis Pinto, Henry Fehlner	Erin Iles, Sophia Pinto	St. James Youth	St. James Youth	Randy Wilson Chris Evans
Sat. May 17	Connor D'Angelo		Patty Fox	Chris Fox	Patty Fox
Sun. May 18	Amy Davis, Sydney Evans, Gigi Pinto, Mia Davis	Audra Williams, Sophia Pinto	Jackie Medina	Judy Logan Skip Beardsell	Werner Schmalz Bruce Coe
Sat. May 24	Charlotte Jones		Kathy Heuss	Wendy Weber	Craig Heuss
Sun. May 25	Benjamin Lee, Kylie Evans, Jane Lee, Evelyn Dawes	Margaret Jones, Erin Iles	Jeff Wooldridge	Barbara Swetman Gail Prentice	Chris Evans Don Neil
Sat. May 31	Suzie Phillips		Sharon Pick	John Pick	Sharon Pick
Sun. June 1	Audra Williams, Anna Reger, Andrew Lee, Morgan Dawes		Blair Jones	Karen Anderson Brian Collett	Randy Wilson Ben Fehlner
Sat. June 7	--NO SERVICE--				
Sun. June 8	Charlotte Jones, Erin Iles, Porter Dawes, Nick Pinto	Sophia Pinto, Elizabeth Fehlner	Sharon Williams	Randy Wilson Alistair Campbell	Karen Anderson Bruce Coe

May Altar Guild: Sondra Coe & Blair Jones

Next wine & cheese gathering after service on May 31. If you'd like to bring finger food to share, it is appreciated, but not necessary. Sign-up sheet in back of church.

>>> DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER: JUNE 2 <<<