

January 2018  
Newsletter

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



St. James' Episcopal Church  
**NEWSLETTER**

January 2018

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: Monday - Friday: 9am - Noon**

***Staff:***

Rector: Father Gary Cyr • Minister of Music: Richard Lloyd • Sexton: Mustafa "Mujo" Salkic  
Administrative Assistant: Tacie Languain • Godly Play Program Director: TBD

***Vestry:***

vestry@stjamesclinton.org  
Senior Warden: Karen Anderson • Junior Warden: Pat Davis  
Kathy Collett • Chris Fox • Randy Grant • Sue Hecklau  
• Deb Lucas • Terry Neil • John Crossley • Randy Wilson  
Treasurer: Jan Wilson  
Webmistress: Laura Stoll  
Newsletter: Tacie Languain

***Leadership Group Chairs:***

Communications: Kathy Collett  
Fellowship: Terry Neil  
Finance: Mike Baldwin  
Investment: Craig Heuss  
Outreach: Pat Evans  
Property Management: Sharon Williams  
Worship: Kathy Collett  
Youth: Rahel Elmer Reger



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."

## Rector's Corner

About this time last January, I was preparing to make my first visit to Clinton to meet with the Search Committee with whom I had spoken several times via Skype. Little did I know, at the time, that the journey from the Southwest to the Northeast would result in changing my professional path from an academic pursuit to one of parish ministry. When one follows where the Spirit leads, one must be prepared to risk transformation. That, for me, is the heart of my faith journey: constant transformation.

I have come to define my ministry as a priest as one of invitation and inclusion, working with liturgical language to bring into conversation with the Christian story the voices of those who have been silenced or sidelined over the ages. Such change is for some very uncomfortable as it alters the familiar. During the past year, I have sought to bring into our common life such language and have listened to those for whom such changes are difficult. Working with a lay team of people has been one of the great blessings of being your priest. These individuals are folks I can discuss our shared ministry with. Adjustments have been made, but not without cost. That is the price of taking a Spiritual risk. But we learn together and we grow in faith, trusting the Spirit is at work among us.

As a new year begins to unfold before us, I remain committed to a ministry of invitation and inclusion. A new year also offers us a time to reflect on our past. To that end, I want to share with you a blog post that was sent to me during Thanksgiving last November. It has a timeless message that I feel needs to be shared and the author of the blog has given his permission to repost it.

Jesus reminds us to “fear not” for he is always with us. Therefore, let us, in faith and courage, look forward to what the Spirit is calling us to be; let us, in faith and courage, walk together in the shared ministry that God is calling us towards.

Shalom,

Fr. Gary+

Trapped In Amber

By the Rev. Philip Gulley, Grace Talks at <http://www.philipgulley.com/trapped-in-amber/>

This was our first Thanksgiving without Mom, which put everyone in a funk, except for Madeline, who seemed not to notice her great-grandmother's absence and was therefore her usual cheerful self, pulling the rest of us out of the dumps by the sheer force of her personality, as only a two-year-old can. She was assisted by Joan, who was not content to let sorrow have the final word, and ministered

to us through the sacraments of turkey and pumpkin pie. I began the day driving into town past my childhood home on Broadway Street, remembering when Dad would cook the turkey on the Weber grill out in the barn, while Mom conducted her symphony of baking in the kitchen. Lee and Mary Lee Comer's son and his family live there now. I know them well, and almost stopped in to visit, I know they would have welcomed me, but I didn't want to contaminate their holiday with my gloom, so just slowed to a stop at the curb and looked at the house and thought about when Mom was with us and how much she hated Thanksgiving, until a dozen or so years ago when it moved from her house to ours and she became its greatest champion.

My mother was never one to lose herself in the good, old days, never one to be trapped in the amber of time. Nostalgia is thick this time of year, which I used to enjoy, though now I confess to feeling suffocated by it. After 56 Christmases in Indiana, I'm growing weary of tradition and would be quite happy to find myself in the Caribbean on Christmas morning with Joan, sitting on the beach, staring out at the crystal water, our pale, pasty Midwestern bodies darkening in the sun. Our son Sam will be in Miami this Christmas, happily flaunting convention. A Quaker in the army spending Christmas at the beach. I never saw that coming, but there you have it. And I say, “Good for Sam!”

The word nostalgia has its roots in the Greek language, derived from the words meaning “homecoming” and “pain.” Nostalgia was for centuries considered a debilitating and sometimes even fatal medical condition manifesting itself in extreme homesickness. Isn't that interesting? The ancients believed you and I could literally nostalgia ourselves to death. Then the meaning of nostalgia shifted a bit, to Bing Crosby singing I'll Be Home For Christmas in 1943, and got all wrapped up with warm, fuzzy memories of childhood, so that over time we forgot what the Greeks knew so well—that our obsession with the past can jeopardize our future. I never fully appreciated that until this Thanksgiving morning when I was sitting like an idiot in front of my childhood home instead of being home with my wife anticipating the arrival of our family and friends.

Our obsession with our past can jeopardize our future. Especially when our grip on the past is so tenacious, so resolute, we cannot reach toward the new. I recently watched a documentary about Lyndon Johnson, in which several of his cabinet members spoke about his inability to move America out of the Vietnam War, because he could not admit his previous understandings of the war had been mistaken. The footage revealed a man dying inch by

inch. It made me think of the times in my own life when I could not embrace a new vision because I was so wedded to an old one. Our obsession with our past can jeopardize our future.

When Abraham Maslow spoke about our hierarchy of needs, he said our most basic ones were food, water, warmth, and rest. While it is true those things are essential to life, it is also true we must have a dream, a goal, something to reach toward, lest we be trapped in the amber of time and tradition.

The problem with nostalgia is that it tells only a half-truth. It remembers the simplicity, but not the difficulty. Nostalgia sands smooth the rough edges, sweetens the bitter, until our past seems infinitely superior to our future. But it is an incomplete remembrance. I've been reading Gary Paulsen's book, *Father Water, Mother Woods*, in which he recalls his childhood in northern Minnesota. While he describes his outdoor adventures in rich detail, he dispensed in a half-sentence what drove him to the woods—the violent alcoholism of his parents. It is an incomplete remembrance.

If you must choose between the past and the future, choose the future. For we must have a dream, a goal, something to reach toward. Jesus had a dream—to bring good tidings to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to proclaim God's kindness.

When he shared that dream at his hometown synagogue, he was ridiculed.

What do you want to bet that if Jesus had promised to make Nazareth great again, they would have cheered him on?

It's that all-important word again that would have done it. The appeal to nostalgia. A summons to the past, not the future. But that past is always an incomplete remembrance.

This past Thanksgiving, sitting in front of my childhood house, I forgot about Madeline. I forgot I had a son getting married this summer. I forgot Joan. I forgot all of you. I forgot Spencer's dream of being a farmer. I forgot I had a book to write, a church to pastor, a world to better. I forgot my duty to the future, which is humanity's greatest duty.

Trapped in the amber of time, I forgot that which should never be forgotten—that nostalgia requires no faith, no confidence in God, no trust in humanity's dedication to a better world. Nostalgia demands only that we remember imperfectly, that we forget the shadows of our past in order to elevate a perfection that never was.

Thus, does fear invariably say, "Look back."

While faith says, "Look forward."

## Day School News

The New Year at St. James' Day School began on a sad note as we had to say farewell to one of our students who is moving back to Costa Rica with his family. We will miss our friend but we plan to keep in touch and hope that he will return to our community again someday.

During the month of January we will be exploring winter themes focusing on building snowmen, playing in the snow, dressing for cold weather, and learning to match pairs of items such as socks, boots, and mittens. We will have a pajama day during which students will be allowed to wear their pajamas to school and bring in a special blanket or stuffed animal. We will also be working on snowman collages which will be on display at the Kirkland Town Library on Saturday, February 3rd as part of their annual Preschool Art Show. Please come by the library for the show to see artwork by our students as well as students from various area preschools.

Also, please note that registration for the 2018-2019 school year is now open to St. James' Church members. If you are a family with a child who will be 4 years old by December 1st of this year, please contact Elise Morford at 315-269-5422 for information or send an email to [sjday-school@gmail.com](mailto:sjday-school@gmail.com). Thank you, and may you have a happy and blessed new year. . - *Elise Morford*



## Godly Play

We would like to hire a Godly Play Instructor. This job is 10 hours per week and involves developing and leading the Godly Play program for our youth. Training is available. For a complete job description see Father Gary or Karen Anderson. We currently need volunteers during Sunday worship who would be willing to read a story to our youngest members and supervise while they complete artwork. We are looking for 1 or 2 adult volunteers to cover our nursery and Godly Play room during worship on Sunday mornings through the month of November. No training needed. Sign up sheets are available in the back of the church and Parish Hall. Please consider helping out one week!

## Vestry Corner

January is a time of new beginnings, and so it is with the leadership of St. James'. Our annual meeting will take place on January 21st and we will elect a new Vestry for the coming year. I will be ending my tenure as Senior Warden and I would like to take a moment for some personal reflections.

First of all, I would like to thank the "behind the scenes" people who work so hard to make St. James' function. We often do not even realize just how much activity takes place in order for services to be held, or pot-luck suppers to commence, or meetings to convene. I have watched the Altar Guild perform the preparation and clean up of the Eucharistic elements, and the ushers counting and recording the collection, and the finance team inputting pledge information and writing checks for services rendered, and making deposits, and balancing the budget week after week, every month of the year. I have watched volunteers who serve on various committees, or who just step up when needed to change out lighting elements, paint walls, move furniture, fold bulletins, "green" the church, then "de-green" the church, trim the shrubs and flowers, rake leaves, purchase kitchen supplies for coffee hour, lead activities for children and youth, organize the Christmas pageant, read the weekly lectionary, serve as Eucharistic ministers and visitors, oversee our investment policies, host coffee hour and lemonade on the lawn, deliver collected goods to the Country Pantry, cook for ecumenical gatherings, act as liaisons for the Day School, organize pot-lucks and other gatherings, wash countless dishes, decorate the All-Saint's room, hang shutters, make repairs, create the monthly newsletter, and organize and update our website and social media. All of those tasks and the many others I have not listed happen because someone volunteers to complete it.

On top of that, I would like to show my appreciation for the more obvious folks, like Richard and the Choir who use their talents to enhance our worship services. For our Office Administrator and Sexton who work to create a clean and safe environment for us to worship and meet in and who prepare the weekly bulletins and emails that keep us informed. Without their hard work, our worship experiences would be very different. For the folks who volunteer to serve on the Vestry. Without their leadership, things would not run as smoothly as they do.

Thus far, I have intentionally excluded individual names, for fear that I will inadvertently leave someone off the list, but I would be remiss if I did not thank Pat

Davis for her wonderful work as Junior Warden. Pat often chooses to be one of those quiet, behind the scenes workers preparing food and cleaning up in the kitchen, but her contributions to both the search committee and as warden have been tremendously valuable. As a long time Episcopalian and a relative newcomer to St. James' she has added insight that has been honest, straightforward and beneficial for us as a parish. I have come to count on her expertise and her friendship.

As long as I am naming names, I would also like to thank Father Gary for his leadership as our Rector. This is Gary's first Rectorship and it has been filled with challenges. I believe he has learned a great deal and has been willing to listen to those of us who have gone to him with our concerns. I have said this publicly to Father Gary, but I will repeat it here. I believe that the search committee misread the congregation's readiness for change. We thought that the creative liturgy Father Gary presented to us was going to be embraced and welcome, so we encouraged him to make changes. Based on the feedback we have received, we now know that was not the change people were seeking. After much discussion between Father Gary and the Wardens, the Transition team and the Vestry, it has decided to return to a liturgy that is more traditional. However, I hope that we will all be willing in the future to embrace language that is inclusive and inviting to all.

If I could ask two things of each of you, they would be this:

1. Talk to Father Gary. Over the past few years we have gotten into the habit of leaning heavily on our Wardens to get things done. Father Gary is a good man. Allow him the opportunity to serve as our priest by sitting down and discussing your concerns with him. We have to work together for St. James' to thrive.

2. Participate in one new ministry at St. James' in 2018. No matter how active you have been in the past, I encourage you to choose one new thing you can do this year to help St. James' move forward. It can be a one time task like hosting coffee hour or joining in spring clean up, or better yet, it could be a recurring task like joining the Altar Guild or Property Management group, or volunteering to fold the weekly bulletins, ushering or reading the lectionary. Whatever you choose will be a welcome addition to the day to day functioning of our little yellow church on Williams street. Because we are the church - together - the laity and the priest, neither one can exist in the Episcopal Church without the other. Together we will move forward to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in Clinton and beyond.~ *Karen Anderson*

# Worship

## Liturgical Time in January

In January we move from festive white as the season of Christmas (December 25-January 6) ends to a short green season of Epiphany before Lent begins on February 14 in 2018. Although the church hasn't yet officially made January 15 a feast day for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., local practice across the church honors his legacy on or near this day. It's worth telling the story of the faith that inspired his work for justice. During the season of Epiphany, on our Facebook page, we explore some of the people (saints) who shaped the global church; visit <https://www.facebook.com/St-James-Episcopal-Church-176764195708492/>



# Outreach

Sister Luanne and Jane Domingue of the Thea Bowman House express their heartfelt thanks to all who contributed canned meat for their Christmas food collection. Together we donated 36 cans of chicken breast, 28 canned and refrigerated hams and 6 cans of tuna.



# Holiday Giving

## Re-usable bags

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the thin-film plastic collection, including the many, many... use-once plastic grocery bags. Pick up your reusable shopping bag from the parish hall lobby while supplies last!



## Five Marks of Mission

At St James, we are thinking about how well we model the five marks of mission. They have been used by parishes and dioceses around the world as a practical “checklist” for understanding mission and ministry:

They have been used by parishes and dioceses around the world as a practical “checklist” for understanding mission and ministry: They are:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Luke Diteswig, Episcopal monk of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, suggests “that these five marks may be summarized as TELL, TEACH, TEND, TRANSFORM and TREASURE:

**Tell:** We’ve received good news. Repentance is a gracious invitation to change and grow. In response to such love, how can we keep from singing?

**Teach:** Always children of God, we keep learning how to live resurrection. We strive for selfless serving rather than scrambling for security, for forgiving rather than retaliating, and honoring rather than hating.

**Tend:** Flowing from our relationship with Jesus, we serve others with loving kindness in many ordinary ways. We listen deeply to each person, respecting Christ already present and at work. We stand in loving solidarity with generous intercession and prayerful action.

**Transform:** Everything is being renewed and restored. Paying attention to something local allows us to participate in a small part of God’s great work of transformation.

**Treasure:** All of creation is a gift to be cherished. We are in an ecological crisis. Let’s do something together, even with a small patch of earth at our doorstep.

He states “.. What we treasure is telling. How we tend it teaches others and transforms us. The five Marks of Mission all go together, communicating our common connection to Christ, for we are marked as God’s daughters and sons, beloved brothers and sisters. How do you tend what you treasure?” That is a great question. Do you treasure your family, and your friends? Do you treasure the people around you, yes, all of them—even (or especially) the least of them? Do you treasure this community of St. James? Do you treasure the air we breath, the ground that supports us and the water we drink? All of these are gifts from God. We are stewards.

How are you supporting and nurturing these gifts? References: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/five-marks-mission> and <https://www.ssje.org/2016/08/23/tell-teach-tend-transform-treasure/>



# January 2018

(Subject to change on a weekly basis)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30am Lessons & Carols Service	1 New Year's Day	2 8:00pm AA Meeting	3 11:30am Lectionary Study	4 6:00pm Women of Grace 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice	5	6 5:00pm Epiphany Party
7 Confirmation 9:30am Worship Service	8 3:00pm Zumba Gold 6:15 R. Murray Painting Group	9 8:00pm AA Meeting	10 11:30am Lectionary Study	11 7:30am Men's Group 6:00pm Women of Grace 6:30pm PM Meeting 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice	12	13 4:00pm Worship Service
14 9:30am Worship Service	15 3:00pm Zumba Gold 6:15 R. Murray Painting Group	16 8:00pm AA Meeting	17 11:30am Lectionary Study 7pm Vestry Meeting	18 7:30am Men's Group 10am Fiber Arts Guild 6:00pm Women of Grace 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice	19	20 4:00pm Worship Service
21 9:30am Worship Service 11:00 St. James' Annual Meeting	22 3:00pm Zumba Gold 6:15 R. Murray Painting Group	23 8:00pm AA Meeting	24 11:30am Lectionary Study	25 7:30am Men's Group 6:00pm Women of Grace 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice	26	27 4:00pm Worship Service
28 9:30am Worship Service	29 3:00pm Zumba Gold 6:15 R. Murray Painting Group	30 8:00pm AA Meeting	31 11:30am Lectionary Study	1 7:30am Men's Group 6:00pm Women of Grace 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice	2	3 4:00pm Worship Service

## January Server Schedule

Date	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Ushers/Greeters
Sat. Jan., 6			
Sun. Jan.. 7	Mary O'Neill	Randy Wilson	Karen Anderson & Wendy Seifried
Sat. Jan., 13	Ted Johnson	Karen Anderson	Karen Anderson & Wendy Seifried
Sun. Jan.. 14	Lorna Grant	Gail Prentice	Don Neil & Pat Davis
Sat. Jan.. 20	Kathy Heuss	Patricia Jue	Craig & Kathy Heuss
Sun. Jan...21	Pat Evans	Brian Collett	Ben Fehlner & Laura Stoll
Sat. Jan.. 27	Chris Fox	Patty Fox	Chris Fox & Chris Evans
Sun. Jan... 28	Margaret Jones	Kathy Collett	Claire Hayes & Karen Anderson
Sat. Feb.. 3	Ted Johnson	Karen Anderson	Karen Anderson & Wendy Seifried
Sun. Feb., 4	JoElyn Wakefield-Wright	Barbara Swetman	John & Cynthia Crossley