



The Letter of Saint James'

St. James' Episcopal Church

Pray Hope Dream

The parish of St. James' ministers to all people in the name of Jesus Christ

February & March 2019

Saturday morning, January 19th The Vestry met with our Transition Consultant

Bevan Stanley, to start the process of putting together a transition committee in the first step towards calling a new Rector.

The two main teams we need are discernment and recruitment with two smaller teams for prayer and hospitality.

Briefly, the discernment team's goal is to put together a profile of where we see our Parish moving forward. What are we looking for in a Rector? To this end this team will be reaching out to everyone in the parish so that all voices may be heard. When their work is done the diocese will then be able to put a "job description" together so that recruitment of candidates can begin. The diocese will vet any candidates before sending names for the recruitment team to consider. This team will narrow the search down to three names and pass these on to the Vestry who will then make the final decision.

At the time of time of our meeting on the 19th the Vestry had received 6 letters of interest for the Transition Committee. Our task that morning was to prayerfully go through our parish directory and see who else might God be calling us to reach out to. At the end of the morning we had a great list.

Hopefully by the time this newsletter goes out we will have called the people on our list and asked each one to prayerfully consider serving on the Transition Committee. May God continue to bless this wonderful community of Saint James'.

Addendum

By the grace of God, we hope to announce the names of – and commission – our Transition Team members during worship on Sunday, February 10.

From Your Interim-Priest-in-Charge Who is a Member of this Parish?

One of the administrative tasks of an Interim is to help your next Rector have an up-to-date Parish Directory and a clean list of parish members. Perhaps now is a good time to remind ourselves *just who IS a member* and *how does one BECOME a member* of this wonderful community of faith?



Whenever someone asks: “*so what do I have to do to join this church?*” I am quick to quip: “*just come worship and be a part of us and we’ll go from there.*” The truth is, there are many levels and aspects to being an official member of this parish. And as I continue to clean up our official Parish Register, your help in confirming where you stand would be much appreciated!

Basic definition of member: Anyone who has received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism (with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit), whether in this Church or in another Christian church, and whose baptism has been duly recorded in this Church, is a member. So, if you were baptized at St. James or if you came from another church and presented some evidence of your baptism, you *should be* recorded in our Parish Register as a member.

Sounds simple, right? Well . . .

Inactive Members: These are individuals whose names *are* in the Parish Register but who have not been present with us in worship for more than 12 months. Unfortunately, this can happen when we lose track of someone, and many of those recorded are no longer traceable.

An inactive status does not include homebound parishioners who are unable to be with us for physical reasons. Our Eucharistic Visitors help us stay connected!

Newcomers: These are individuals who are new to the parish and are invited to join in worship and participate in all other parish events, as they take a prayerful time to decide if this is to be their faith home.

If you are a newcomer and choose to become an official member, we ask that you fill out a contact information form including an indication of whether/where you were baptized, and confirmed. If you are coming from another Episcopal Church, please ask me to request a Letter of Transfer from your previous parish. If you come from another Christian faith tradition, information about your baptism/confirmation is sufficient. In this way, you will be added to our Parish Register.

Confirmed Members: The Church as a faith tradition hopes that all adult members (age 16 and above) will make a mature public affirmation of the vows their parents and godparents made at their Baptism, confirming their faith and commitment through the Episcopal Church to the responsibilities of their Baptism, and will have been confirmed or received by the laying on of hands by a Bishop of this Church or by a Bishop of a Church in communion with this Church. Those who have previously made a mature public commitment in the Roman Catholic or Lutheran Church may be received by a Bishop of this Church, rather than confirmed.

Communicants: All members of this Church who have received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding year are to be considered Communicants of this Church.

Communicants in Good Standing/Voting Members: All Communicants of this Church who for the previous year, have been faithful in corporate worship, unless prevented for good cause, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the Mission of God through St. James' are considered Communicants in Good Standing. Communicants in Good Standing 16 years and older are Voting members.

What if someone has not yet been baptized?

This is a very lively and intentional conversation being had at both the National Church level and within the Episcopal Church in CT. Membership in a church is more than just fellowship in a warm and welcoming community. Stay tuned for some Lenten conversations about the meaning of our baptismal identities.

So for now,

Please contact Dilsa through the Parish Office (203/748-3561) if:

- 1) you consider yourself (or a family member) to be a homebound member of this parish and are not receiving our home devotion mailings and announcements to help you stay connected;
- 2) you (or someone you know) were once a member of this parish, have found a new church home but have not requested an official Letter of Transfer;
- 3) you have come to us from another Episcopal Church and you want to make sure you have an official Letter of Transfer on record;
- 4) you have come to us from another faith tradition and you want to make sure you have been duly recorded as a member in our Parish Register;
- 5) you want to seek baptism for yourself or a family member; or
- 6) you would like to pursue and adult confirmation of your faith.

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE PARISH: *if you recently have changed your physical or e-mail address, or your phone number, please call Dilsa to make sure our Parish Directory is up-to-date.*

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you to everyone who donated soup cans and soup packages to our annual Souper Bowl of Caring soup drive to support the Daily Bread food pantry. Your donations have made a difference in the lives of so many people right here in our own community and this event could not have happened without your support.



A big thank you to the Church School students for helping to gather and count all of our soup cans and soup packages at the conclusion of our Souper Bowl of Caring drive on February 3rd.

Godly Play

We spent the month of January focusing on our Godly Play lessons of Epiphany and Baptism. At the end of January until Lent, we begin my favorite lessons of our Church School year, which is our parables. The children really enjoy the stories of The Parable of the Good Shepherd, The Parable of the Good Samaritan, and the Parable of the Mustard Seed, in addition to the other parables that we cover in Godly Play class. This will be my second-year teaching parables in Godly Play, and I am already looking forward to the children's excitement about these lessons and our conversations that we will have as we tell and share these wonderful stories together. After the parables, we will then go forward in the church calendar and spend several weeks on our Lent and Easter lessons, which will bring us into April. I look forward to make alleluia crafts with the children in class, and then burying them once Lent arrives. The children will also receive mite boxes, where they will contribute allowance or tooth fairy change to donate during Lent to St. James.

Blessings and Peace,
Kerry Santoro
Director of Religious Education, St. James'

Growing in Faith

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I hope you all had a blessed Holiday and made your New Year's resolution! This will be my last News Letter to you as Chair of Growing in Faith. I have enjoyed being on the Vestry team of Saint James Church Family. I have learned so much from Growing in Faith committee members, Reverend Carolyn, Denise, Janet, Cheryl, Carole, Joanne, Mimi and Brenda. Thank you for your laughter and spirit. We meet every Monday reading the holy scriptures together. We are a small group but we are mighty in the Holy Spirit. From Matthew 18: 20, " When two or three are gathered in my name, there I am".

On January 26, 2019 at 5 pm we had our first Movie night sponsored by Parish Life and Growing in Faith. The movie, "All Saints", was based on a true story of an Episcopal Church in Tennessee. Facing financial struggles, lowering attendance, and the threat of closure, this parish found their eyes opened to their refugee neighbors and discovered new life and purpose. A wonderful conversation followed the movie viewing. Stay tuned for future opportunities!

Immediately following our Jan 27 Annual Meeting, our new Chair, Jeanne Todaro, was inducted to Growing in Faith. Jeanne has a lot of exciting plans to enhance our spiritual journey. Hope to see you at Bible Study.

Blessings and Peace,
Karen

Worship

As a kid Lent was my least favorite season of the church calendar. It was so somber and gloomy to my mind. Today I look forward to it as an opportunity to get closer to God. To reflect on what he has done for me. Then to think how I can respond to such an abundance of love. This year it coincides with our journey of discernment for a new pastor, so we have a unique opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God both individually and together as a worship community. This moment of quiet reflection build into the church year, has a soulful peaceful beauty and is meant to refresh us and prepare us for the joys of Easter.

Ash Wednesday is March 6th this year. Be sure to join us for this start of our Lenten journey and take some time to consider how you respond to God's love. God Bless You!

Jeanne Todaro

Music Ministry

THANK YOU!! Joanne would like to thank all those who participated in the music during this past Christmas season. Many people offered their musical and organizational talents and I greatly appreciate it!

Thank you to David Katz who generously donated CDs of his professional music work for sale to help with seed money for our Red Doors Concert Series. There are still some CDs available at a reduced price of \$5. Please speak to Joanne Archibald (joannearchibald@saintjamesdanbury.org) to arrange purchasing CDs.

Thank you to the Chorister parents who helped with costumes and preparing the children for the Christmas Pageant.

Thank you to all who supported the December 30 Christmas Concert by your presence and monetary gifts to help fund the Red Doors Concert Series.

RED DOORS CONCERTS

St. James' Episcopal Church Red Doors Concert Series

25 West Street Danbury, CT 06810

Sunday, March 17, 2019 at 2pm

The Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus
Irish Tunes and Traditional Barbershop Harmonies



Saturday, 5/18/19 at 7pm

The well-known Chime In! Community Handbell Choir from Bethlehem, CT.

Saturday, 10/5/19 at 7pm

Hans Uwe Hielscher, Carillonneur and Organist from Germany

Saturday, 11/30/19 at 7pm

The St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble (a cappella quartet) from Russia

A free will offering will be taken to help fund future concerts in our Red Doors Series

#prayhopedream #saintjamesdanbury



The first concert of our 2019 Red Doors Concert Series will feature the award winning Danbury Madhatters Chorus directed by Joseph Hudson. This is an a cappella chorus of 30+ men from the Danbury area. They will entertain us with Irish music and traditional barbershop harmonies. Please invite your family, neighbors, and friends! There will be a free-will offering taken to help fund our Red Doors Concerts.

CHORISTERS SCHEDULE

The Church School Choristers will be singing and ringing their bells several times this spring. Here is the proposed schedule of rehearsals and worship services in which they will be singing.

Rehearse (in sanctuary following 10am worship service) **Feb. 3, 10, 24**

Sing during 10am worship service on **March 3rd** (bury Alleluias day) - warm up rehearsal at 9:30am in sanctuary that day.

Rehearse (in sanctuary following 10am worship service) **March 10, 17, 24**

Sing during 10am family worship service on **March 31** - warm up rehearsal at 9:30am in sanctuary that day.

Rehearse (in sanctuary following 10am worship service) **March 31, April 7, April 14**

Sing during 10am **EASTER** service on **April 21** - warm up at 9:30am in sanctuary that day.

THE MONTAGE QUARTET will be returning to enhance our worship on Sunday, March 24 at 10am. Deidra Woodend sings with this quartet and is arranging for them to sing several pieces for us. You may remember the Latin Mass they sang for us in the past. Please join us in welcoming them!

HOLY WEEK/EASTER CHOIR will begin rehearsing on **Thursday, March 28th at 7:30pm in the Choir Room**. Please join the Chancel Choir as we prepare for this most holy season.

Ritual Reasons Why

Rite I and Rite II – words matter to our theological imaginations

Part of our intentional Transitions work is to become more aware of why we do what we do. Take our liturgy, for example. Our 8 o'clock worship uses Rite I and our 10 o'clock worship uses Rite II. Do we know the difference (other than Rite I being a bridge from the 1928 Prayer Book when our "new" Book of Common Prayer was approved in 1979)?

The difference between Rite I and Rite II is not just a matter of variation in language. Yes, the most obvious distinction is the use, in Rite I, of Elizabethan English, a language that is wonderfully poetic and adds a sense of mystery that can enhance and deepen the experience of worshipping our awe-inspiring, transcendent God. Rite II uses more contemporary language and more easily engages worshippers in understanding just what we are saying about the closeness of our God who walks every moment with us.

Both are aspects of our relationship with God but neither, by themselves, can adequately express both the closeness to us of the God who enters into the world, and the infinite mystery of the God who created it.

In terms of theology (that just means “words we use to talk about God”), the emphasis of Rite I leans more heavily on the (Late Middle Ages’) understanding of human sin and God’s judgment. Rite II attempts to restore the emphasis (of the Early Church) on human thankfulness for God’s love and forgiveness. Here, again, both are aspects of our relationship with God, and neither can stand alone.

Even our physical stance during worship differs between Rite I and Rite II. In Rite I, we find ourselves more on our knees. And why not? When we are awed by the incomprehensible glory of God, we most likely are drawn to get down on our knees out of reverence, wonder, and admiration. In Rite II, we are invited to stand more often. Standing symbolizes our new life in Christ and the congregation’s anticipation in the invitation to walk with Christ out into the world.

The use of Rite I versus Rite II was never intended to be an “either/or” proposition. Both are wonderful expressions of God’s love for us, and our heart-felt response. And yet, no one set of words – no matter how comfortable they feel – can draw us into all that God longs to be for us. For several years, now, the Episcopal Church has authorized another liturgy called Enriching Our Worship. How open might we be to “try-on” new words” – perhaps during Lent? – to help us experience an intentional self-reflection about our relationship with God and with each other? Let’s talk!

*If you have a question about things we do in our liturgy, just drop a note to the Rector
If you are wondering, chances are other people are too!! Be a voice for others!*

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday – March 6

Tues Mar. 5 - **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** 6pm
Wed Mar. 6 - **Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes** Noon & 7 pm

Sundays in Lent – Preaching Series on Baptismal Covenant/Way of Love

Still in planning process –

- Lenten Adult Formation on The Way of Love (Wednesdays w/light meal?)
- Lenten Quiet Day with Labyrinth prayer rug and guided meditation

Just for a Chuckle . . .

You'll know you're an Episcopalian, if . . .

- when you watch Star Wars and they say "May the force be with you", you automatically reply "And also with you".
- you recognize your neighbor, or rector, in the local liquor store AND go over to greet him/her.
- you think the height of haute cuisine is a little, triangular cucumber sandwich on white bread, crusts excised, stuck together with a toothpick.
- you have totally memorized Rite I, Rite II and the first three episodes of The Vicar of Dibley.
- words like: "vouchsafe", "oblation", "supplications", "succor", "bewail", "wherefore", "dost" and "very" (in its archaic sense) are familiar to you even if you don't have a clue that they mean.
- you can pronounce "innumerable benefits procured to us by the same."
- you ever find yourself saying, "Oh, but we've never done it that way before."
- you know that a sursum corda is not a surgical procedure.
- you don't think Agnus Dei is a woman.
- you know that the nave is not a playing card.
- your friend said "I'm truly sorry..." and you replied, "and you humbly repent?"
- know that the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden are not positions in the local prison.
- And finally...
if you reach a point when you're not sure about anything theologically but you still feel completely at home at the altar rail and somehow know you're meeting God there, even though you can't begin to understand how.

The ministry of the people of St. James' Episcopal Church is led by
the Wardens and Vestry and assisted by the Clergy and Staff.

Wardens

Joe Walkovich

Janet Brown

Treasurer

Linda Spaziani

Clerk

Sandra Nichols

Vestry

Class of 2022

Deborah Kaufmann

Jehad Sabbagh

Gary Rogers

Class of 2020

Beth Cox

Susie Sarkisian

Victoria Woody

Class of 2021

Carolyn Flynn

Lyn Meyers

Jeanne Todaro

ECCT Convention Delegates

Dan Cox & Marion Liberati

Interim Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Dr. Lisa D. Hahneman. Tel. Ext. 14

ldhahneman@sbcglobal.net

Deacon

The Reverend Carolyn Legg

sealeg@sbcglobal.net

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper

Dilsa Quade. Tel. Ext. 10

Director of Religious Education

Kerry Santoro. Tel. Ext. 17

dre@saintjamesdanbury.org


Director of Music

Joanne F. Archibald. Tel. Ext. 16

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Sexton

Jose Lopez Sanz



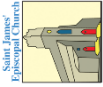
PARISH CYCLE OF PRAYER – February & March 2019

***"I urge that supplications, prayers,
intercessions and thanksgivings be
made for everyone"***

I Timothy 2:1

Each month in our newsletter we include part of our alphabetical listing of the members of our congregation in the Parish Cycle of Prayer. This month you are asked to hold the following members in your prayers:

Franklin Moore & Carlos Diaz; Doris Morgan; George Mosher; Kathleen Mould
Dan & Gretchen Mullin; Su Murdock; John & Virginia Murphy; Elizabeth Mussnug
Alexander Nahas; Sandra Nichols & Family; Victoria O'Connor; John O'Hern;
William Ostrand & Marco Ostrand-Costa; Donald & Maryellen Owens & Family
Betsy Pankulis; Andy & Nena Pankulis; Jeannie Parille; Barbara Parks
Robert & Patricia Pearson; Julia Pearson; Etura Pierce; Sally Pierce
Whitney Pratt-Cote; Richard & Erma Rausch; Richard Rausch & Luciana Correia &
Family; Christina Ray & Amy Lionheart; Patricia Reynolds; Robert Reynolds
Roderick Rigby; Edward & Kathleen Rogers; Gary Rogers; Sally Roscoe; Jill Sousa
Barbara Ruiz; Howard Rusk; Jihad & Kathy Sabbagh; Anthony & Victoria Sanches &
Family; Leslie Sanford; Ricky Lopez & Family; Mark & Susan Sarkisian & Family
Sayers Family; Michael & Toni Scalzo & Family; Duane Schirmer & Vicky Crea-
Schirmer & Family; Linda Schmidt-Giannini; Nancy Schofield; Richard Shaboo
Michael Shellman; Joanne Siergiej & Family; Connie & Michael Sih; Irene Simonelli
Jill Simonelli; Simonelli Family; Elaine Sleath; Calista Smith; Donna Smith
Ernest Smith; Kevin & Debbie Smith; Domenic & Linda Spaziani
Anthony Spaziani; Leonard & Anita Staib; Kelly Stein; Ann Stephenson; Mark Stirling
Lorraine Subryan; Sueiro Family; David & Kathi Swanson; Jeremy & Jeanette Rivera
Switzer Family; Glenna Tagliavento; Matthew Talley; James & Susan Tarrant & Family
Joan Tarrant & Family; Bill & Laurie-Jean Thalman; Roland Thibodeau
Arthur Tuttle; Constance Tyrell; Ann Velazquez Ruiz; Joseph Walkovich
Joseph Ward; Janice Webb; Lewis Westfall; Gregg & Kathleen Wilbert;
Harold Williams; Robert Wirag; Dawn Doty & Justin Doty; Dean Berardo
Carnell & Victoria Woody & Family; John & Nora Zahner & Family; Edward Long
Jason Anders; Martin & Janis Anderson & Family; Jason & Meghan Flynn & Family
Linda Arbitelle; Joanne, Archibald & Family; Richard & Harriet Arthur & Family
Battiste Family; Raymond & Karen Beaudry; Harold & Marie McCarthy
Katie & Ryan Beaudry & Family; Richard Becker; Kim Malara & Betsy Bergeron
Deidra & James Beschle & Family; Lloyd & Patricia Best; Agnes Uvanga
Cathleen Blasco; Robert Bloss; George Bogart & Jana Draper
Mildred Boughton; Allan & Janet Brown; Mary Lou Brown



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