



The Letter of Saint James'

St. James' Episcopal Church

LIVING GOD'S LOVE

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

January 2018

FROM THE RECTOR'S OFFICE

Dear friends of St. James':

As you know, this will be the January AND February edition of the "monthly" newsletter (kind of like Midnight Mass will be at 11 PM). Most communication from the Church will happen in e-blasts, if you receive them, and the weekly Sunday Bulletin. You can also check the website

as well as our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram which is updated very often. If there is anything of great consequence, we will send a special mailing to those who do not receive electronic communications.

Communication is a difficult thing. There is an old joke about a couple from Vermont (apparently native Vermonters are known for being people of few words.) One day the wife says to her husband, "You never say you love me anymore." The husband responds, "On the day we were married 35 years ago I told you I love you. If anything changes, I'll let you know." Sometimes the less said the better.

Even in terms of this article which I write every month, the "experts" say it should be short and sweet. So, for this newsletter, I will keep it as short as possible.

Jesus loves you. If you feel that anything changed about that let me know.

Joseph+

A **NEW YEAR**
is the *perfect time*
to make a
CHANGE

OFFICIAL NOTICE
PARISH ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, February 4th, 2018

St. James' Episcopal Church will have its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 4th, 2018 following the 10 AM Service (about 11:15 AM) in Luckenbill Hall. All voting members of the parish are encouraged to attend. The Canons of the Episcopal Church in CT define voting members as: "Members of the Parish entitled to vote at any Parish meeting are those adult communicants who, for at least six months prior to that meeting have been faithful attendants at the services of the Church in the Parish, unless for good cause prevented, faithful contributors to its support, and faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God" At the Annual Meeting we will hear the reports of the Parish, review the financials for 2017 and review the budget approved by the Vestry for 2018. We will also elect three members to the Vestry for three-year terms as well as two Wardens, a Clerk of the Vestry, and a Treasurer. At this time the nominations are not complete. The slate will be posted in the weekly Bulletin and in e-Pistles.

BISHOP AHRENS TO VISIT ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018

As you know, we are a part of *the Episcopal Church*. The word "Episcopal" means ruled by Bishops. In Connecticut, we now have two Bishops, the Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas, our Bishop Diocesan, and the Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens, our Bishop Suffragan.

As a part of their ministry, the Bishops visit each parish in the Diocese about once every two years. The purpose of the visit is to "catch up" on what is happening in the Parish, to bring news of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT), and to Confirm, Receive, and Baptize.

We are very pleased that our former Rector, Bp. Ahrens, will be with us on Sunday, March 11. At the least she will be at the 10 AM Service. It is her prerogative to attend the 8 AM Service, but she always has! (We'll let you know via the Sunday bulletin and ePistles if she will attend both.)

CONFIRMATION is the reaffirmation of your Baptismal Vows as an adult with the inclusion of the laying on of hands by a Bishop. This year we have no young people being Confirmed. There will be at least one adult Confirmation, however.

If you have never been Confirmed by a Bishop, this is your opportunity to do so. Please speak with the Rector as soon as possible to discuss education which will include the Bible Study on Monday evenings led by Deacon Carolyn.

RECEPTION is for those who have been Confirmed by a Bishop in another denomination and want to “officially” become Episcopalians. Again, it involves the laying on of hands by a bishop. The education for Reception is the same as Confirmation. Again, please speak with the Rector as soon as possible.

LEARNING TO LEAD MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

Two of the ancient Services of prayer for the Anglican Communion and Episcopalians are Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, also called the Daily Office. Both of these Services are so important, that they are included in every Book of Common Prayer throughout the world since 1662.

At various times throughout the year, we steep the stones of the Chapel with the Daily Office. While these beautiful Services are relatively simple to lead, they do take some instruction.

On Saturday, January 13, 2018, from 9 AM to noon in the library, Denise Holl will give instruction on how to officiate at the Daily Office. She will go over how the Service flows as well as where to find the various Scripture readings and Psalms appointed for the day. All are more than welcome to join us.

ASH WEDNESDAY February 14th, 2018

We will Worship at:

7:30 AM in the Chapel

Noon and 7:30 PM in the Church.

Please make every effort to join us so that you can begin a holy and life-giving Lent.

ST. JAMES' QUIET DAY
SATURDAY, February 10
9 AM to noon

The next Quiet day will be on Saturday, February 10, 2018 in the Chapel. This month we will concentrate on the book *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence. Amazon says of this wonderful book: For nearly 300 years this unparalleled classic has given both blessing and instruction to those who can be content with nothing less than knowing God in all His majesty and feeling His loving presence throughout each simple day.

The Quiet morning consists of Morning Prayer, meditating on God's Word using what is known as the Lectio Divina, silent meditation, discussion of the book, and noonday prayers. There is lots of time for private prayer. Everyone is welcome to join us for this spiritual journey.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

The St. James' App will no longer be available. Please do not use the App or the link on the website to make your donations. All donations must be made either by check, cash, or by having your bank submit it monthly or as you wish it to be sent."



Starting January 14th, we will be collecting cans of soup in front of the church for our annual Souper Bowl of Caring event through February 4th. The Souper Bowl of Caring is people across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. All cans of soup donated by St. James will go to

Daily Bread. Please support this wonderful cause. If you would like to learn more about The Souper Bowl of Caring, please check out souperbowl.org.

A Book Report **by Nancy Alaire Lorenz**

The library at St. James' is modest but its open shelves extend generously across a long wall and hold much of interest to feed the mind and perhaps quicken the soul. That the library is located in the ground floor dining room where small groups gather to meet and eat seems most appropriate—books provide essential nourishment for meaningful thought and conversation.

There are many Bibles in the library, of course, and these are sorted by edition (the *Jerusalem Bible*, for instance) and the groups of editions are placed at intervals throughout the shelves. A commonly used alternative is to shelve all the Bibles in one section. That is an alternative with categorical logic but in a smaller library, shelves of Bibles can establish a ponderous effect on the eye and consequently add an impression of heaviness to the mind and spirit. The Bibles, therefore, are gathered by edition, and editions are shelved conveniently to hand wherever a group may be sitting. Reshelfing should be fairly straight forward, rather like remembering a parking spot. If the interval method proves unsatisfactory, it will be easy enough to rearrange the shelves and put the Bibles in soldierly rows.

As the topical arrangement of the books in the library proceeds, labels will identify the various shelves and the card catalog will be updated. While the topical arrangement is underway, there is a necessary confusion between sorted and unsorted bookshelves. Also, pending an updated book inventory/card catalog, books will circulate on an honor system. A basket called "Book Notes" has been placed on the shelves and contains paper, pencils, and a note pad. Comments about books and records of books borrowed are welcome and should include a name and phone number or email address. Enjoy!

Poetry is on the upper left shelf of the first tall book shelf, and after poetry comes commentaries and reflections on the poetry and narratives of the Bible. Churchly administration comes next with handbooks for vestries and organizers. Reference books and study guides are grouped on the bottom shelves. History, theology, and philosophy are grouped nearby. Testimony and witness, devotions, prayers, and inspiration are grouped together near the space reserved for Stephen Ministry books. A nature and nurture section contains books about healing, raising children, aging, sociology, and psychology. Novels are collected on the other side of the doorway, on the low shelves nearest the window. Audio books and videos are included here. Picture books, read-aloud books, and books for young readers are also on these shelves.

Hospitality



Now that the New Year is here, let's look back at the evolution of this committee: First of all, the committee name over the past few years has changed from Welcoming and Communications to Church Growth to Hospitality.

This committee's objectives are to welcome those who are already parishioners, as well as invite others from the community into our parish. We do this through the team of greeters, advertising and publicizing events, updating parish literature, and providing welcome bags and baskets.

- In 2017, the narthex was repainted, a beautiful banner was hung above the doors, and the area was generally spruced up by many parishioners to welcome everyone to a bright space.
- Visitor and newcomer bags were created with a few "gifts" and information about St. James'.
- A newly-formed greeter team of 10 have been welcoming parishioners and newcomers every Sunday at the 8:00 and 10:00 services, providing name tags, answering questions, and escorting them to coffee hour. We have been acquainted with many new faces! Thank you to our new greeters.
- New postcards and invitations were created to send to visitors and those new to the area. These may be sent out beginning in February.

Look around the church and in the pews for an updated St. James' brochure with pictures and information on all we do here at church!

In 2018, we will be working on some exciting projects. We have a list of those parishioners who have joined St. James' within the past year, and we will acknowledge them with a hospitality basket. We also plan to target those who are new to the area by sending them a postcard to welcome them and invite them to our services. We will also continue to advertise via different methods more events coming up this year.

Thank you to all on the Hospitality Committee, as well as others who have volunteered as greeters, and those who have volunteered for projects that will happen in 2018. Everyone at St. James' is part of Hospitality, and this commitment will lead to an even more welcoming parish. You are invited to our committee meetings, usually held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in Luckenbill Hall. For questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Beth at cox4000@sbcglobal.net.

Religious Education

Godly Play

In Fall 2017 St. James began a Godly Play program as part of the Church School Curriculum, where the children learn Bible stories through a Montessori storytelling approach. I am really excited to continue Godly Play with them in 2018. Much thanks to Marion Liberati, Jim Hughes, Pat Pearson, Karen Montecalvo, Vicky Crea and the Godly Play Church School Families for your support and assistance in the Godly Play program this school year. A very special thanks to Susie Sarkisian and especially Father Joseph for your commitment, vision, and dedication to the Godly Play program.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group will be meeting on January 7th. In November, the Youth Group put together an informational video for continued sponsorship of Maria, our student that St. James has been sponsoring at El Hogar in Honduras. Much thanks to Logan, Leah, Melissa, Daniel, Julia, Bob Pearson, Christine Di Meglio and Father Joseph, for your commitment and excitement for this wonderful project. We will be showing our video throughout January during coffee hour and at our Annual Meeting. Our Youth Group will continue to meet each month where we will continue to work together on projects and discussions, as well as a potential field trip.

Happy 2018! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with your families and friends and I wish you a very happy, healthy, and cherished year!

Blessings and Peace,

Kerry Santoro
Director of Religious Education, St. James

St. James' Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting - Tuesday, December 19, 2017



Father Joseph called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM with prayer.

Red Doors Wide Open: It was decided not to put the hymns into the bulletin. Beth Cox will remove the old St. James brochure and refill with the new ones. To be continued.

Approval of Minutes from the November Vestry meeting: Bill Ostrand made a motion to approve the minutes. Vicky Woody seconded. The Vestry approved.

Kitchen Update and Financing: These are natural wood cabinets and will never match perfectly. To be continued until Shrove Tuesday – early February.

Rectory Property Boundary: The proposal they made is unacceptable. We are making a counter-proposal to sell them the strip of land in question. To be continued.

Phone Hacking Issue: Joe Walkovich spoke with his contact. Joe suggested that we wait until after the first of the New Year to pursue this matter. To be continued.

Final Presentation of 2018 Budget Proposal: Last month, the Vestry was presented with the proposed 2018 budget which had a \$45,203 deficit and asked where we can make cuts, what has to stay and whether or not we should have a Capital Campaign. The last capital campaign was in 1998.

Linda Spaziani spoke at length explaining the details of next year's budget proposal, where we might decrease or remove budget line items. We talked about opportunities to grow our income via pledges. How do we tell the people of St. James' the seriousness of our situation and how much do we need to balance the 2018 budget while eliminating and reducing budget line items?

Items reduced from the 2018 budget include:

- Plate can be increased to \$17,000.00.
- Youth / Education was reduced by half.
- The carillon can be tuned and inspected every other year instead of annually.

Items removed from the 2018 budget include:

- The line item for Office Vacations / Temporary Help has not been used, so was removed.
- Deanery as it does not exist.
- Acolyte luncheon

- Mother's Day Breakfast
- ARC – they have a designated month on the Mission envelope schedule
- Youth / Confirmation
- Annual Parish Picnic
- Parish Life Committee
- Social Media line item of \$10,000.00 will be done by volunteers. It was added to the Hospitality Committee.
- Visiting Clergy which are the supply clergy for when the rector is on vacation, was removed. Lay People will perform Morning Prayer on the five Sundays the Rector is away.

Joe Walkovich made a motion to accept the 2018 final budget. Bill Ostrand seconded and the Vestry approved a 2018 budget with a \$20,559.00 deficit. So ordered.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee is made up of Suzanne Carley, Pat Pearson, Bill Hutchinson, Jihad Sabagh as the "member at large". Lyn Myers will become the Chairperson of Stewardship. Jeanne Tedaro will become the Chairperson of Worship. We need a candidate for Pastoral Care.

Parsonage Allowance: Joe Walkovich made a motion to accept the proposal. Bill Ostrand seconded and the Vestry approved.

Old Business

2018 Newsletters: January, March, June, September, December
 Newsletter deadline for January 2018: All articles need to be in tomorrow.

6:30 PM Evening Prayer will be held on Wednesday, December 20th for the final time before Christmas.

There being no further business, Robert Mondello offered Closing prayers. A motion was made by Bill Ostrand to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vicky Woody. Approved by the Vestry. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM. The next Vestry Meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 19th, 2018. Victoria Woody will offer Closing Prayers in January.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Clerk

"If it's not about love, then it's not about God."
Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, The Episcopal Church



PARISH CYCLE OF PRAYER – January 2018

"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:

- Jan 1 Sean & Janis Flynn & Family; Marcia Folderauer; Scott & Dawn Ford
- Jan 2 Helen Gallo; Theo Gammie; Wayne & Doreen Geist; Tancy Gemza
- Jan 3 Francis & Judith Toth; Carole Conaway; Lillian Heering; Dick & Mary Lou Johntson
- Jan 4 Frank Giarratana & Family; Melissa & Nicholas Gieda & Family; Doreen Gilliland
- Jan 5 Richard & Ruth Goetz; Vanessa Grant & Family; Scott & Michelle Grayson & Family
- Jan 6 Barbara Greene; Russell & Judith Griemsmann; Karen Haddad
- Jan 7 Erland Hagman; Cheryl Harewood; Ernest Harrington & Lyn Meyers
- Jan 8 Linda Harrison, Mark & Kathryn Harrison & Family; Jean Hassen
- Jan 9 Dorothy Hoagg; John Hofmann; Denise Holl; Virginia Huff; Stephen Huntley
- Jan 10 William & Vicki Hutchinson; Linda Immarigeon; Delores Ireland; Lillian Heering
- Jan 11 Catherine Jaber-Kreiger; Edith Janesky; Carl & Susan Johnson; Catherine Johnson
- Jan 12 Amanda Johnson; James Johnson; Robert Johnson; Robert & Leslie Johnson
- Jan 13 Deborah Kaufmann; Denise Kaufmann; Carol Kelly; Margaret Kelly
- Jan 14 Yvonne Kiddoe; Nancy Kinkade; Robert & Linda Kovacs; Nancy Haplin
- Jan 15 Joseph Krasinski & James Hughes; Christopher Kuell & Cristine DiMeglio
- Jan 16 Nicholas Kuell; Grace Kuell; Harry & Jill Kuhn; Adam & Sherry Kyriacou & Family
- Jan 17 Kevin & Susan Lally; Sheila & Richard Landis; Roma Landry; Pat Larsen
- Jan 18 Ethel Leahey; Laura Lee & David Katz; Daniel & Marion Liberati; Kerlen & Letty Lim
- Jan 19 Walter & Louise Liston & Family; Lillian MacBain; Francis Mann & Maureen Bent
- Jan 20 Wendi McCabe; David & Ingrid McCarthy; Jane McGarry; Ashwin Robin Raj
- Jan 21 Harold & Maria McGowan; John & Loretta McLaughlin; Suzanne McLean
- Jan 22 Mark Meyer & Family; Margaret Mirabito; May Molinaro; Linda & Robert Parker
- Jan 23 Robert & Deborah Mondello & Family; Elise Montanari; Albert & Karen Montecalvo
- Jan 24 Franklin Moore & Carlos Diaz; Doris Morgan; George Mosher; Kathleen Mould
- Jan 25 Dan & Gretchen Mullin; Su Murdock; John & Virginia Murphy; Elizabeth Mussnug
- Jan 26 Alexander Nahas; Sandra Nichols & Family; Victoria O'Connor; John O'Hern;
- Jan 27 William Ostrand & Marco Ostrand-Costa; Donald & Maryellen Owens & Family
- Jan 28 Betsy Pankulis; Andy & Nena Pankulis; Jeannie Parille; Barbara Parks
- Jan 29 Robert & Patricia Pearson; Julia Pearson; Etura Pierce; Sally Pierce
- Jan 30 Whitney Pratt-Cote; Richard & Erma Rausch; Richard Rausch & Luciana Correia &
- Jan 31 Family; Christina Ray & Amy Lionheart; Patricia Reynolds; Robert Reynolds

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

Marion Liberati

Vestry

William Ostrand (2019)

Susie Sarkisian (2020)

Karen Montecalvo (2019)

Bill Hutchinson (2018)

Suzanne Carley (2018)

Victoria Woody (2020)

Pat Pearson (2018)

Beth Cox (2020)

Robert Mondello (2019)

ECCT Delegates

Dan Cox

Marion Liberati

Rector

The Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Krasinski

joseph@saintjamesdanbury.org

Deacon

The Reverend Carolyn Legg

sealeg@sbcglobal.net

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper

Dilsa Quade

welcome@saintjamesdanbury.org

Director of Religious Education

Kerry Santoro

dre@saintjamesdanbury.org

Director of Music

Joanne F. Archibald

welcome@saintjamesdanbury.org

Sexton

Jose Lopez Sanz

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

We will be having our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in Luckenbill Hall at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, February 13th. Pancakes, sausages, and fruit cocktail will be served as well as orange juice and decaf coffee. There will be a 5.00 donation to attend the Shrove Tuesday Supper. Please email

kerrysantoro@usa.net if you are interested in volunteering for this event. A very gentle reminder that if you will be attending the pancake supper, please make every effort to attend an Ash Wednesday service the next day.



ASH WEDNESDAY
February 14th, 2018

We will Worship at:

7:30 AM in the Chapel

Noon and 7:30 PM in the Church

Saint James' Episcopal Church
25 West Street
Danbury, CT 06810

